

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF FOWLMERE PARISH COUNCIL
HELD AT ST MARY'S CHURCH DOROTHY PLUCK ROOM ON TUESDAY 6TH MAY 2014, AT 7:30 PM**

PRESENT: Cllr L Wragg - Deputy Chairman, Cllr T Bearpark, Cllr J Bottrill, Cllr J Peacock, Cllr M Sunderland.
Mrs J Wright – Parish Council Clerk

IN ATTENDANCE Mrs H Mepham – Headteacher, Fowlmere School, Mr M Bates, Chair of the Fowlmere Village Hall Management Committee, Mr Flynn, Mrs Gilpin, Mr Rowley, Mr Pile, Mrs Flynn, Mr Neal, Mr Peacock, Mr Deans.

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllr D Roberts who was unable to attend, due to unforeseen circumstances when her grandchild had to be rushed to Addenbrookes and Cllr E O'Regan

2. MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF 7TH MAY 2013

The minutes were agreed as a true record and signed by the Deputy Chairman. Cllr Bottrill proposed and Cllr Bearpark seconded and all agreed they are a true and accurate record.

3. FOWLMERE SCHOOL - Mrs H Mepham, Headteacher

Fowlmere Primary school mission is that:

'We exist to inspire children to love learning and achieve excellence in all they do within our caring village school'.

Our school motto is: 'love learning, achieve excellence'.

We continue to serve the Parishes of Fowlmere, Great Chishill, Chrishall Grange and Heydon. Those living out of catchment are from Foxton, Stapleford, Little Shelford and Shepreth. The current roll is 96 pupils. We have 12 children leaving to attend secondary schools at Melbourn Village College, St Bede's Inter-Church school and Sawston Village College. The intake for the Reception class in September 2014 is expected to be 20, which will increase our roll to 104.

The end of Key Stage results for the academic year 2012/13 resulted in very good attainment at the end of EYFS, with outcomes exceeding Cambridgeshire and National. At KS1 assessments showed an increase in reading, writing and mathematics on the previous year. Attainment at KS2 increased in mathematics on the previous year. Progress of pupils from the end of KS1 to the end of KS2 was good, with 88% pupils making a minimum of 2 levels progress in reading and writing, and 94% in mathematics. 35% pupils made 3 levels progress in reading.

Looking back over the last year –

The children have participated in a wide variety of sporting activities and competitions, including Kwik cricket, athletics, swimming, rugby, football, netball, hockey, tennis, gymnastics, dance, cross country

We have enjoyed visits to:

Whole school to Pantomime; Class 4 to Classical museum, Science day at Sawston Village College, MVC for storytelling bazaar; Class 1 to Toy museum at Stansted; Class 2 Castle Hedingham.

...and/or visitors from:

Rev. Linda Church, Harvest Festival, Rev Trudie Morris, monthly assemblies, (both from the Anglican Church), Mrs Tess Maddin, monthly assemblies, (Methodist), Mrs Carole Pearl, Remembrance Day (United Reformed Church), and the GenR8 team from Royston. Visitors also include Denny Abbey, 3 Authors, a storyteller, MVC band on the bus, History Off the Page, Nick Juett MVC art teacher (art project with class 4),

We have organised:

Science Fair, treat days (wheels day, cooking day, outdoor day), KS1 nativity, KS2 Christmas concert, school discos, Global reading challenge, Children Challenging Industry project with Johnson Matthey and the University of York, Mothers' Day lunch, Fathers' Day lunch, waste free lunch (eco-team), and we achieved the Eco-schools Bronze national award.

Easter egg hunt, World Book Day event, Charity events for Children in Need, East Anglia Air Ambulance, Phillipines Disaster Appeal and Magpas.

At the end of the summer term 2013, we held a special performance of the KS2 play, based on World War 2, for the older members of our school communities. We provided afternoon tea, and the audience joined the singing and flag waving during the performance.

Christmas was celebrated and enjoyed through a range of activities. The younger children performed their version of the Nativity, whilst the older children performed musical and spoken items in a concert at Fowlmere United Reformed Church.

Small teams of children have participated in Gifted and Talented events organised by Bassingbourn Primary school, in maths, writing, poetry and dance. We also took part in the Local Authority organised Maths Challenge for Y5 pupils.

We teach French throughout the school, and last summer took a small group of Y5/6 children to the Auvergne for a week. The highlights of the week were a visit to Padirac caves, we made croissants in a Boulangerie, spent a day in the primary school, visited an accordion museum and a goats cheese farm. The remainder of the class went to Eaton Vale, just outside Norwich, for an outdoor pursuits week where they canoed, climbed and abseiled and encountered a range of team problem-solving activities.

We have again hosted trainee teachers from Cambridge and Bedford Universities, providing guidance and support to the training of the next generation of primary school teachers.

Our House team events include a writing day, a dance competition, a singing day, Christmas and Easter quizzes. House buddies made a giant friendship jigsaw, prepared and seeded the garden plots, planted fruit trees (Hugh Fearnley Whittingstall), and read to one another on World Book Day.

We belong to the Cluster of schools that feed into Melbourn and Bassingbourn Village Colleges. One of the cluster schools events was a storytelling project, which involved a storyteller working with children across the schools and culminating in a storytelling bazaar at MVC.

The Reception aged children have enjoyed their weekly visits to the Round Moat in Fowlmere for Forest schools. Unfortunately the strong winds in February have rendered the area unsafe, so we are temporarily using the trees at the top of the Butts as a temporary site.

I hold a termly Parent Focus Group meeting to discuss a range of topics and issues with parents. Our most recent meeting focused on homework with discussions around school, pupils and parents perspectives.

We are one of few primary schools that provides voluntarily-run after-school clubs. The clubs are organised by the teachers, parents and community members, and sporting governor bodies. We offer a range of spots and non-sport clubs. We also benefit from classroom support from parents, and members of the community. Cambridgeshire Music provides piano, flute, recorder and violin tuition to a growing number of children.

We are extremely fortunate to benefit from the fund-raising efforts of the PTFA. They raise an extraordinary amount to benefit the children at Fowlmere School.

Our new rising 5s will be visiting the school for messy play during this term. The teachers visit the pre-school providers and ensure a smooth transition for the children into school in September. September will also see the introduction of a new National curriculum in KS1 and KS2. I am pleased that we have appointed an Assistant Headteacher, Mr Philip Atkin, who will be supporting me in leading the work of the school.

We were expecting an Ofsted Inspection this year, but have recently received notification that we have sustained our Good performance, and will not be inspected before summer term 2015. We have plenty to do in the meantime, and it continues to be a privilege for me to be leading Fowlmere school.

Finally, our Annual Art Exhibition is this weekend (10/11th May). Please do come along to see the work of local artists and support the school.

Cllr Wragg thanked Mrs Mephram for coming to the meeting, there are a lot of exciting things going on with the school.

Mrs Mephram added that the school will have a vacancy soon for a Community Governor and 2 x midday supervisors, so please get in touch if you are interested.

The Clerk was asked to look into the availability of the reports and making them public. Clerk to ask SCDC if draft unapproved minutes could be circulated.

4. REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PARISH COUNCIL – Cllr Roberts

Cllr Roberts was unable to attend the meeting and asked for her annual report to be included later

5. COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT – Cllr P Topping

Cllr Topping did not attend the meeting or send a report.

6. LOCAL POLICE REPORT – James Lynch PCSO

Mr Lynch was unable to attend the meeting but sent in the following report:

01/02/02

Fowlmere nature reserve, persons stopped by officer and searched for cannabis – served with a penalty notice.

07/02

Late evening Cassandra CI – Theft from a vehicle.

13/02

Barrington Rd, Foxton – day time burglary, no forensics.

01/03

13:45 - Fowlmere cemetery - Theft from a vehicle, again a handbag stolen from the vehicle.

12/03

13:30 Burglary in Cambridge Rd, Foxton. Owner of property has disturbed an attempt break in whereby offenders have used a blue Vauxhall Astra – crime enquiries are still on-going for this.

18/04 Fowlmere nature reserve - another theft from vehicle.

Please keep your eyes open and look out for your neighbours if they are out or away, as a lot of the burglaries are happening during the day.

Also with summer coming up please take all valuable belongings out of your vehicle if you are attending beauty spots. It is very common for vehicles to get broken into whilst out walking.

Here are the results from the OP Oakland operation:

164 Home Security Surveys

11 Shed Security Surveys

5 insecure vehicles identified

12 insecure homes identified

Last but not least with the summer coming up I am sure you will be holding fetes etc. I am more than happy to pop along with a police car for the kids if I am on duty please let me know the dates.

7 DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT – Cllr D Roberts

Cllr Roberts was unable to attend the meeting and asked for her annual report to be included later

8. PARISH COUNCIL PLANNING COMMITTEE – Cllr D Roberts

Cllr Roberts was unable to attend the meeting and asked for her annual report to be included later

9. PARISH COUNCIL FINANCE REPORT – Cllr E O'Regan

Cllr O'Regan was unable to attend the meeting and the Clerk circulated the figures for the proposed Precept 2014/15.

Fowlmere Parish Council	Actual 2013-2014	Exact 3% increase	Proposed 2014-2015 (rounded)	SUGGESTED.
Salary	£7,333.0	£7,552.99	£7,553.00	£7,550
PC Comms	£328.00	£337.84	£339.00	£340
Grass Cutting (Village)	£8,086.0	£8,328.58	£8,329.00	£8,330
Seniorlink	£1,200.0	£1,236.00	£1,236.00	£1,240
Street Lighting	£1,748.0	£1,800.44	£1,800.00	£1,800

Public Areas (CW)	£3,183.0	£3,278.49	£3,278.00	£3,280
School Grass	£424.00	£436.72	£437.00	£440
Protected verges	£1,167.0	£1,202.01	£1,202.00	£1,200
Play Equipment	£500.00	£515.00	£515.00	£520
Cemetery Bills	£424.00	£436.72	£437.00	£440
Hire of Halls	£382.00	£393.46	£393.00	£390
Stationery / Postage	£212.00	£218.36	£218.00	£220
Training	£150.00	£154.50	£155.00	£160
Chairs Allowance	£150.00	£154.50	£150.00	£150
Audit / Bank fees	£424.00	£436.72	£437.00	£440
Legal Fees	£500.00	£515.00	£500.00	£500
Insurance	£1,273.0	£1,311.19	£1,311.00	£1,310
CPALC	£370.00	£381.10	£381.00	£380
P'ground Inspection	£196.00	£201.88	£202.00	£200
Bus Shelter	£500.00	£515.00	£500.00	£500
Donations	£450.00	£463.50	£450.00	£450
PC Laptop	£100.00	£103.00	£100.00	£100
Misc	£2,900.0	£2,987.00	£2,900.00	£2,900
Village Hall/fund allocn	£1,000.0	£1,030.00	£1,000.00	£1,000
	£33,000.	£33,990.00	£33,823.00	£33,840

10. VILLAGE HALL REPORT – by Mr M Bates, Chair of the Fowlmere Village Hall and Recreation

The year since the last Annual Parish Meeting in 2013 has been a difficult one with significant changes for the Village Hall.

The Hall continues to be used for a series of community activities run by volunteers and for all age groups ranging from Mothers and Toddlers, Brownies for girls, and through to Senior Citizens for the over 65's. In addition there are a number of leisure activity groups ranging from Aerobics to Badminton, to Bowls, to Ballroom Dance, to Bingo and Ceroc modern dance etc. Local groups such as the Fowlmere and Thriplow Gardening Club hold some of their regular meetings alternating between our hall and Thriplow Village Hall during the year. There are three football clubs based at the hall and using the facilities, Fowlmere Football Club (two teams – first and reserves) and Fowlmere Metals Football Club and Royston Town Youth FC. It is good to see that cricket continues to be played at Fowlmere with a team from Thriplow Cricket Club involving younger players. The hall user groups are either community groups or groups run on a more commercial basis.

The changes referred to include the closure of the Women's Section of the Royal British Legion, where due to advancing years, no-one felt that they could continue to organise the activities. Also a commercial activity Kreepie Krawlies Soft Play ceased operations because they became un-economical for the organisers.

The change which has caused the most difficulty has been the closure of Fowlmere Sports and Social Club which had used part of the premises for many years and operated seven days weekly. Unfortunately, the Village Hall Management Committee has been compelled to require the closure of the club due to their failure to comply with the terms and conditions of the Occupational Licence and that they had incurred serious levels of debt to the Village Hall. As a registered charity the Village Hall cannot legally support a business, such as the Sports and Social Club had been. It was unfortunately necessary to engage a solicitor in the process of re-possessing the premises and the cost of this was met from hall funds and a contribution of £200 from our Parish Council, to whom thank you.

The debt remains unsettled, despite attempts to engage the people concerned in discussions about repayment. In the absence of repayment, the Management Committee has decided, for the moment, to leave the debt on the books.

In the meantime the Committee is working to bring alternative use of that part of the building into place. To that end the Management Committee distributed a circular to every household inviting suggestions for the future use of the hall and is taking account of the suggestions made.

Before the premises can be returned to use, it has been necessary for considerable time and effort from Management Committee members and friends to be put to making the building habitable again. Thanks to committee members and friends for this work.

The Village Hall issues a periodic newsletter distributed to all households giving up to date information about current and forthcoming activities to keep our community aware of what happens. The Village Hall also has a web site which is updated periodically.

The hall is run by a Management Committee made up of representatives of user groups and local people elected because of their interest in local community life and keeping the hall and its facilities available for local people. The Committee has met usually on the first Wednesday of each month to deal with the on-going business with the necessary organisational activities in the meantime carried out by the Elected Officers – Michael Bates – Chair, Vice – Chair currently vacant, Secretary Sylvia Bates (recently resigned), Book-keeper/Treasurer Jane Cryer, with support in the production of the accounts from Chris Neild. Bookings Clerk duties have been handled by another volunteer - Katie Gregory and thanks to her for that work.

Thanks go to the Officers and the Management Committee for their work.

The Committee has a development plan and is working to improve the hall which opened in the 1980's and is slowly being modernised. Such work is expensive and requires the financial means to that end. In helping to achieve progress to date grateful thanks go to the Fund Raising Group – Chair, Mandy Thornton, Rachel Collins, Christine Lawrence, Carol Sims, Jane Cryer, Pat Flynn, Jeannie Grisoni, Kate Stevens and Lamorna Thomas (and their respective partners where involved). Without their sterling work organising the range of interesting and stimulating community activities, such as Farmers' Markets, Jazz Evenings, Ceilidhs, Quiz Nights, Outdoor Theatre Performances, Afternoon Tea with Entertainment and more the hall would not be in the healthy position it is today, indeed could not continue to operate at all. The finances are dealt with on behalf of the Committee by Book-keeper/ Treasurer Jane Cryer and Financial adviser Chris Neild who report to the regular meetings and thanks are to due them.

Pursuing the upgrading programme, the hall has been further improved in recent months making the building more attractive, comfortable, environmentally friendly and economical to run. The most recent work was the improvement to the acoustics of the main hall which has achieved what was intended and added to the enjoyment of hall users at recent events. Thanks are due to Christine Lawrence who made the necessary arrangements. Since that work, at the suggestion of Councillor Deborah Roberts, Christine, for the Village Hall Committee, has made a further application to South Cambs District Council for a grant to complete the acoustics work and has now been notified that a grant of £1,500 from the council's Community Chest programme has been awarded.

Following the completion of the first phase of replacement of the doors and windows programme, which saw doors and windows in the main hall, the utility area, the kitchen and the meeting room together with the main entrance door replaced, a further application was made to the Big Lottery Fund Awards for All programme who kindly provided the funds necessary and the completion of the remaining work replacing doors and windows in the rest of the building has been achieved. Thanks go to the Awards for All grants programme.

The work has eradicated the draughts previously being experienced and is reducing the burden of increased utility charges, which was a primary reason for the improvements.

The hall can only continue to function meeting the needs of the local community if it is used by we the local people and there is space available to accommodate more community activities. Existing user groups would welcome newcomers to their activity and anyone wishing to set up a new activity should approach the Chair and or the Bookings Clerk Katie Gregory to talk about their idea or make the booking.

A key issue is the alternative use of the area formerly occupied by the Sports and Social Club. The sports groups wish to continue to have their after games refreshments etc and with improvements, the area has the potential for much wider use than was previously possible, daytime Monday to Friday as well as at weekends for a greater range of activities.
at the end result.

Cllr Wragg thanked Mr Bates for his report and for all his hard work and the work his committee members have undertaken too. Mr Deans thanked Mr Bates for his work, Mrs Flynn added thanks to Mrs Bates too. Cllr Sunderland asked about the frequency of the VH newsletter. Mr Bates said it is overdue and they have relied on the FATN in the interim. Cllr Bottrill asked if there was progress with the FA on the changing area. The requirement is very stringent and have referred the VH to Sport England and initial enquiries have suggested this is a more extensive project and neither the Football Club or VH feel able to move forward with this at this stage. The Village Shop idea for the Social Club does not seem viable due to the location of the VH.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Clerk updated the meeting on the ongoing situation with a PO service in the village. The wheels are still turning but the person who was to provide the service on behalf of the PO has retired and they are looking for

a replacement. Lisa Turner is still trying to make the project viable, to run in the Dorothy Pluck room at St Mary's and the PC are grateful for the church committee for their tenacity.

Mr Rowley asked about a replacement for the Village Map and the Clerk reported that this is underway.

Mr Pile asked why do the mowing contractors not include the round moat area? The Clerk explained about the change in governance for the Moat area and suggested that in the future, this may now be possible.

Mrs Gilpin asked about the cutting of SCDC areas of grass, which will be taken to the meeting on 20th May.

Mr Neal asked about the expense of the affordable housing, Cllr Wragg reported that the PC historically required predominantly rented housing and that was the basis the project started under Circle Anglia several years ago. It passed to a different HA provider, BPHA that they couldn't sustain the scheme for rental 8:2 split and the PC strongly argued against this. The funding is not available to HA's and this is why the quotas have changed and the PC feels like it has been betrayed. Mr Bates added that a ransom strip should have been included and the demand from village people has been low for the part buy properties which is a disappointment. Cllr Wragg added that it is a demonstration of how little control the PC has over such matters.

Mrs Flynn asked about the unevenness of the footpath at the Jackson's Way into the High Street and the Clerk explained again that this had been reported to CCC. Mrs Flynn thanked the PC for her leaving letter but wished it could have been signed by the Chairman instead of the Clerk PP it for the Chairman in her absence.

Mr Deans mentioned that he thinks that Foxton has changed the boundaries of their village envelope and asked if the Village Plan is set in stone? Cllr Wragg added that there is probably a legal process an individual could set in motion with SCDC but he is not aware of details of such. Mr Neal questioned how the District Cllr can vote at both a Parish and District level. Cllr Wragg explained this is perfectly legal, above board and an open process and suggested he writes to SCDC with his views if he wishes to do so. Mr Deans also expressed his opinion that Cllr's shouldn't have 'two bites of the cherry.. Mr Bates once again explained to Mr Deans how Cllr Roberts and any other Cllr who covers positions at both the local and district level is entitled to make those two opinions.

Mrs Gilpin asked further about the Local Plan and how the land was released. Cllr Wragg explained the only exception is 'Exception sites' being allowed 'outside' of the Local Plan.

Mr Bates commented that it would be interesting to see the breakdown of the expense of the BPHA Affordable Housing project. Mrs Flynn commented on the further restrictions of the Village Envelope.

Mr Flynn asked about disabled access for the rear of the church, which Cllr Sunderland will speak to the Committee at St Mary's about..

Everyone was thanked for attending and the meeting closed at 20:45pm.

Clerk to the Parish Council: Mrs J Wright
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