

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF FOWLMERE PARISH COUNCIL
HELD AT ST MARY'S CHURCH DOROTHY PLUCK ROOM ON TUESDAY 10TH MAY 2016, AT 7:30 PM**

PRESENT: Cllr L Wragg - Deputy Chairman, Cllr T Bearpark, Cllr S Crowther, Cllr J Houghton, Cllr D Roberts, Cllr M Sunderland, Mr M Vinton and Mrs J Wright – Parish Council Clerk

IN ATTENDANCE Mrs H Mepham – Headteacher, Fowlmere School, Mrs Dorothy Woods - Chairman of the Fowlmere Village Hall Management Committee, Peter Topping – County Councillor, Mrs J Fletcher, Mrs P Flynn, Mr R Pile, Mrs J and Mr R Dring, Mr K Allsworth, Mr and Mrs W and M R Binns, Mr M Bates, Mr C, H and H Wright, Mr J Jackson, Mr J Pymer

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllr C Howe, Cllr S Crowther and Cllr S Wells

2. MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF 5TH MAY 2015

The signing of the minutes was deferred until later so people could read the draft minutes.

Cllr Topping gave his report early because he has another meeting to attend:

This included the 'Vetspeed' application, this will be decided upon this week. There is concern over the A505 and the CCC is to do a future-proofing survey on it this Summer and local villages should comment on what we want to see.

Highway Bid – Fowlmere was unsuccessful this year but the committee will be structured differently next time which should help in the process and Cllr Topping will work with FPC to hopefully achieve a successful bid this time.

The Highways and Roads team has had a refresh and there is a willingness to help, so they should be invited to walk around Fowlmere and see what can be done.

Questions/Comments from parishioners:

Cllr Wragg thanked Cllr Topping for coming.

Cllr Roberts the quality of the pot-holing in the village has been very well done of late.

3. FOWLMERE SCHOOL - Mrs H Mepham, Headteacher

Heather Mepham attended the meeting and gave the following report:

"As usual, I start with our mission statement, because it captures our core purpose:

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

- *We believe that literacy and mathematical skills are the fundamental building blocks to wider learning.*
- *We believe that an enriched curriculum provides our children with real and meaningful learning opportunities, using diverse resources within the local and global environment.*
- *By creating an open, stimulating, challenging, environment children will leave the school as well rounded individuals, prepared for the next steps of their lives*

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

We continue to serve the Parishes of Fowlmere, Great Chishill, Chrishall Grange and Heydon. Additionally, we attract some families living out of catchment from Foxton and Melbourn. The current roll is 100 pupils. 9 children will be leaving at the end of July to attend secondary schools at Melbourn Village College and Sawston Village College. The intake for the Reception year in September 2014 is expected to be 11, therefore the school roll will remain steady.

The end of Key Stage results for the academic year 2014/15 resulted in good attainment across EYFS (5 year olds), KS1 (7 year olds) and KS2 (11 year olds). Our focus on mathematics reaped its rewards and was reflected in the results.

Last year I reported that we were awaiting an Ofsted Inspection, having received notification that we had sustained our 'Good' performance, and would not be inspected before summer term 2015.

In November we received the call, and were inspected under the new Ofsted Framework. We received a 'Requires Improvement' grading which, whilst disappointing, we found that almost all the inspections that had taken place in the Autumn term had downgraded the schools in Cambridgeshire. We have however accepted that judgement and risen to the improvement challenge and were pleased that our HMI monitoring visit at the beginning of this term recognised the progress we have made, and reported that 'School leaders and governors are taking effective action to tackle the areas requiring improvement identified at the recent Section 5 inspection in order to become a good school'.

The children have continued to participate in a wide variety of sporting activities and competitions. We had a number of pupils who were placed amongst the fastest runners in both the Y3/4 and the Y5/6 cross country competitions. Our girls' cross country team achieved 22nd position out of 103 teams in the annual cross country competition in St Neots, and came 4th out of 23 small schools in the event. Our netball team has enjoyed considerable success, and has moved through the competition ranks to representing South Cambs. in the County Finals competition which will be held in July. Our Year 5 team came third in a recent heat of the Local Authority-organised Maths challenge, narrowly missing a place in the finals. Our English team reached the County finals of their competition which was held in Ely Cathedral.

This year we took the KS2 children to one of the Young Voices events at the Genting Arena in Birmingham. Young Voices is a charity that organises large-scale high-quality singing events for schools. We sang with Laura Wright (who opened the World Cup Rugby and the Invictus Games singing the 'World in Union' song) as part of a 6,000 strong choir. It was a magnificent opportunity and we hope to enter again next year.

Our Community involvement includes:

Monthly assemblies with Revd. Angie Melaniphy, (Anglican), also with Mrs Tess Maddin, (Methodist), and termly assemblies from the GenR8 team from Royston. We have raised funds for a number of charities including Jimmy's Nightshelter, Children in Need, Red, White and Blue Day for Armed Services charities, Save the Children Fund, Marie Curie, and Beads of Courage.

We have once again taken part in the Children Challenging Industry initiative with Johnson Matthey and the University of York.

The children have enjoyed all sorts of activities including Mothers' Day lunch, Fathers' Day lunch, an Easter egg hunt, Cooking day, Class Christmas parties, Cycling Proficiency training, and school discos to name but a few. They have been on a range of school visits including Wicken Fen, Burwell House and to the British Museum in London by train.

Madame Veronique Sanders from Melbourn Village College has continued to teach French throughout the school, and we have been able to provide a range of after-school clubs for the children including choir, chess, drama, lego, games and a range of sports. The clubs are organised by the teachers, parents, and sporting governing bodies.

Cambridgeshire Music provides piano lessons to a number of children in school.

Our new rising 5s will be visiting the school for messy play this term. The teachers will also visit the pre-school providers and make home visits to ensure a smooth transition for the children into school in September.

Finally, we are extremely fortunate to benefit from the fund-raising efforts of the PTFA. They raise an extraordinary amount each year to benefit the children at Fowlmere School, and are currently planning a ball for the Autumn term. Please do come and support us if you can.

We currently have vacancies for a Caretaker/cleaner and for a mid-day supervisor. If you know of anyone that might fit the bill please do let them know."

Questions/Comments from parishioners:

Cllr Wragg thanked Mrs Mephram for attending the meeting and Cllr Roberts commented how hard the teaching staff and governors work, it really is a happy school, we as a village should be very grateful for our excellent school.

Mr Allsworth asked about the attendance levels? They are above national average, at 96%

Mrs Fletcher asked about SATS? KS2 tests have continued with a new curriculum with criteria that is unknown - the tests at age 7 have been made more formal when before they were less so.

4. REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PARISH COUNCIL – Cllr L Wragg

Cllr Wragg reported on the year:

"I am delighted to report that we have operated with full council of 9 members. It has been a varied and active year. Finance and Planning will be reported separately by their respective Chairmen.

Cemetery:

We have reviewed the rules to bring in line with best practice, and visited Melbourn to consult the PC there on how they operate their cemetery. We have planted new trees in the extension, and provided for future work and had a new bench installed (a gift from the Mulholland family). The war grave stone has been re-engraved and the gates cleaned and repainted.

Trees, Grass & Hedges:

The grass cutting contracts have been renegotiated. All PC trees will be re-surveyed in the summer when in full leaf. The planting is now complete in the Savile Way area. The Protected Verges will continue to be cut by Fowlmere PC and special attention given to them. The PC also removed a large fallen tree from Dovehouse Close.

Sustainable Parish Energy Partnership:

Two Cllrs had training at SCDC and subsequently borrowed thermal camera, and assessed a few houses – this was difficult because the outside air was too warm! We will borrow cameras again in the autumn and will organise an event then, along with a display of energy saving bulbs etc.

Traffic:

Fowlmere PC is participating in a one-week survey with neighbouring villages to record traffic volumes to and from the A10. We had again unsatisfactory experience with CCC Local Highway Improvements committee (resulting in a formal complaint). We will consider alternative ways to make traffic safer in village. We have arranged for the white lines to be repainted near the War Memorial.

Pipes under Chapel Lane:

The ditch leading to the pipe has now been excavated by SCDC, and our County Councillor has undertaken to make sure that CCC clears the silt from the pipe under the road, which should prevent further flooding.

Playspace:

In response to requests from parents in The Triangle, we have investigated a number of possible sites for additional playspace for children at that end of village, but none have been found to be available so far unfortunately.

PC Website:

Following requests, we now have draft PC minutes on website. We have also added more information to the web with more plans for enhancements this year.

Queen's Head Public House:

After the pub closed, and after consultation with CAMRA, Fowlmere PC successfully applied to SCDC to have the pub listed as an Asset of Community Value. This gives residents a limited time to make a bid if they wish to acquire it on behalf of the village. Nothing concrete yet although the Clerk advised of an expression of interest earlier that day which will be followed up.

HM Queen's Birthday:

After many requests for interest, there is now going to be a celebration with modest financial contribution from PC.

Donations:

Donations have been made this financial year to the following charities: Royston Community Transport, Fowlmere Friendship Club, British Legion (wreath for Remembrance Day) and Melbourn Youth Club (which needs more members from Fowlmere)."

Cllr Wragg thanked his colleagues on the Parish Council, and also the District and County Councillors and the Clerk.

Questions/Comments from parishioners:

The Clerk reported on the 11th hour nomination regarding the Asset of Community Value process re the Queen's Head Public House.

Mr Teasdale - Cambridge Road – there is a real issue with speeding, despite the movement of the 30mph sign. The PC is committed to try and change driver behaviour for the better.

Cllr Flynn – Is there such a thing as Traffic Police? Cllr Topping – you can ask the Police if they will do a survey in the village.

Mr Jackson – Speed camera article in Gloucestershire. Cllr Wragg explained that the PC wrote to all 4 PCC candidates about the possibility of repeating this initiative in Fowlmere.

Mr Bates – Sleeping Policemen are a successful measure? Mr Jackson - The B classification of the road would possibly prevent this? Cllr Topping – speed bumps in the village are not effective and disruptive for residents. Raised humps at the outskirts of the village could form part of a bid to the minor highways scheme.

My Pymers - Chicanes can be useful to bring traffic to a halt and it avoids damage to cars.

Mr Jackson asked about the moving of the 30mph speed limit outside Newlands. Cllr Topping was asked about the legislation to change speed limits – has that come into place? It can form part of the bid process. To go on the next agenda.

5. COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT – Cllr P Topping

This item was covered earlier in the agenda

6. LOCAL POLICE REPORT – PCSO Lindsay Gardiner

PCSO Samuel Kennedy was unable to attend the meeting but sent in the following report:

“Relevant crime

Burglary- 4x confirmed/attempted reported 01/05/2015- 06/05/2016

Theft from motor vehicle- 2x reported 01/05/2015- 06/05/2016

Coursing/poaching- 14 x reported 01/05/2015- 06/05/2016 (however these are incidents, which may be reporting the same incident but recorded as a duplicate)

Op hunter force priority:

Operation hunter is a force lead priority campaign targeting criminal activities in relation to burglary. The police are raising awareness of crime prevention in local communities by engaging with members of the public through social media.

We are encouraging are members of public to participate in the big bad wolf test, where by the strength of their home security can be assessed and if identified particularly vulnerable given the opportunity to have a home visit. Crime prevention advice can then be given first hand. Below is a link to access the online test. Please use code 7156 when prompted.

<http://tinyurl.com/bad-wolf-test>

We also encourage that you pass on to your colleagues and members of public regarding signing up to ecops. The link can be accessed via the force website. This enables people to sign up to daily updates in your area regarding crime that has occurred in the last 24hr period. It's free to sign up!

Recent anti-social behaviour in Fowlmere

This has come to my attention and is in hand. An offender has been identified and enquiries are ongoing. Criminal damage has occurred and is now being investigated by a police officer colleague. I would suggest you urge residents to contact the police directly via 101 (non-emergency line or 999 for emergencies). The asb was reported via the village facebook account before I was made aware. To maximise efforts to prevent/detect crime it needs to be reported to police. We have had complaints of youths using Butts Lane recreation ground to take nitrous oxide. Evidence of this has been left at the location in the form of metal canisters. We are keen to speak to the young members of the community about the dangers of carrying out such activity so if you see any gatherings of youths then please call 101 stating the reason for requested assistance."

The PC thanks Mr Kennedy and look forward to meeting him at the next PC meeting which he should be invited to...

7 DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT – Cllr D Roberts

Cllr Roberts spoke about the year:

She is still serving on 4 committees: Licensing, Civic Affairs, Full and Planning. Cllr Roberts chairs the Licensing Committee which has many important implications with very regular update training.

An example of her working week – Monday - visiting residents in Fowlmere and Foxton, read through paperwork (250 plus pages) for later in the week, Tuesday – on site visits for the Planning Meeting on Wednesday by 9:30am including a training session and she'll be there all day. Thursday – a matter to see to in Fowlmere and read e-mails in the afternoon. Friday Licensing Panel meeting.

The Local Plan is on hold despite hopes it would be agreed by now. A session is planned for June 2016.

The Boundary Commission is looking at the wards, 57 members will become 45 from 2018. All elections will be at the same time, every 4 years.

Devolution – areas are to be regionalised, Cambridgeshire could go in with Suffolk and Norfolk with an elected mayor which goes against Localism.

The Local Plan in relation to Fowlmere – all over the district, there are huge amounts of speculative planning applications being submitted which causes a great deal of concern in parishes. Possibility of an application for the Welding Alloys site in Fowlmere.

Questions/Comments from parishioners:

Mr Jackson – if the Local Plan has not been implemented, then SCDC has brought it upon themselves. Cllr Roberts – it's a very complex process with an enormous amount of work. SCDC needs truly affordable social housing. We are looking to find another smallish site for something similar to The Triangle as that is what is needed. 15 Council houses being built in Foxton as a result of a lot of hard work.

Mrs Flynn asked about the Welding Alloys site – affordable does not necessarily mean cheaper housing.

8. PARISH COUNCIL PLANNING COMMITTEE – Cllr D Roberts

Cllr Roberts spoke about the year:

We meet on a regular basis and thanked all colleagues for their attendance at meetings. The PC makes a recommendation; it does not get to say 'yes' or 'no'. The powers of delegation at SCDC have changed and a request has to be put in.

Questions/Comments from parishioners:

Mr Bates – it is offering a wide range of properties and if social housing can be part of that, it would be beneficial, as well as other potential sites in the village. The Local Plan can be challenged. There must be potential in the village. Cllr Roberts – we have achieved this in The Triangle. Some are part buy-part rent and some are purely rental. The PC have to work to a plan (the Local Plan) and the village has been designated as a group village. Welding Alloys has an amber light. Ion Science could have moved on to the existing employment site of Welding Alloys, to sustain the employment opportunities.

Cllr Flynn asked about the people who live in The Triangle – Cllr Roberts explained the criteria again.

9. PARISH COUNCIL FINANCE REPORT – Cllr M Sunderland

Cllr M Sunderland gave the following report:

“Good evening, I'm Mike Sunderland and I'm chair of Fowlmere Parish Council Finance Committee. All members of the Parish Council are welcome to be members of this committee with meetings usually every 3 months and the meeting usually precedes a full Parish Council meeting.

The task of the committee is to oversee the management of funds held by the Parish Council and to make and decide upon proposals for expenditure.

There is a whole raft of things that form the regular annual spending of the Parish Council. These include exciting items such grass cutting, monitoring and maintenance of trees for example, in the Round Moat. There are more riveting matters such as Street lighting and protected verges.

We have also overseen the purchase and installation of an all-weather table tennis table at the Butts and new play equipment for the younger children. We have a responsibility to ensure that all these "toys" at the Butts are maintained in a condition of safety, refurbishing and replacing as appropriate. We have given money towards improvements at the Village Hall and we now pay for 3 further Seniorlink alarms.

All of the above need to be factored in to the Precept each year and we have managed to keep the increase to households in Fowlmere at just 2%. Jackie, our excellent Parish Clerk has had a new laptop, we have provided a new noticeboard on the Butts, 3 new village maps in strategic places and 2 new benches for people to sit on. The chairman has already mentioned a few examples of donations we have made to local organisations.

We have received from South Cambs Section 106 monies following the erection of new houses in the village and this money is designed to be spent on Village amenities for the people of Fowlmere. We have in the past asked for suggestions of things which could be bought – suggestions have included such things as the table tennis table and the train for youngsters at the Butts. We are always open to further suggestions.

Let me finish by saying that we were able to remain in budget in the Year 2015– 16 and we fully expect to do so in the current year – a prognosis that I am very happy with."

Questions/Comments from parishioners:

Mr Jackson commented on the balance of the banks, this is made up of £40,000 which is ring-fenced as section 106 money – a restrictive reserve.

10. VILLAGE HALL REPORT – by Mrs Dorothy Woods, Chairman of the Fowlmere Village Hall Management Committee

Mrs Woods attended the meeting and gave the following report:

"The year since the last Annual Parish meeting has been very busy at the Village Hall.

The hall continues to be well used on a daily basis for a number of community activities, (including Little Ducklings, Brownies, Fowlmere Friendship Club, 2 bowls clubs, two Badminton clubs, Aerobics, ballroom dancing, and Ceroc. Fowlmere & Thriplow Gardening continue to use the hall for their annual show and hold some of their regular meetings alternating between Fowlmere & Thriplow. Latest booking is for a weekly Fitness Training session at the hall, which means the hall is in use each weekday.

Fowlmere Football Club, Metals Football club and Thriplow Cricket Club continue to use the grounds. Also this past season Foxton Dynamos (Youth) and Cambridge Youth teams have been using our grounds.

Other bookings are looking very healthy with bookings for 2017 already being taken. (including a wedding and caravan rallies)

Thanks to donations from Ion Sciences, Sheldrick Farms, KWS in Thriplow and South Cambs District Council we have been able to renovate the kitchen adjoining the Pavilion Room. This means we are now able to offer a very nice facility for smaller groups or parties. The Village Hall can now accommodate varying sizes of events from very large groups through to smaller ones. Our thanks also to the Parish Council for donating towards the cost of new tables for the village hall.

We have recently had WiFi installed at the hall.

The defibrillator cabinet has been fitted and the defibrillator is available for use by the whole village. Training will be given to those interested.

As reported last year the debit to the Village Hall committee from the former Fowlmere Sports and Social club still remains unsettled and at the moment is still on the books.

We are gradually working through the items on our Development Plan for the hall as funds permit. (included in this plan is refurbishing the serving area in the Pavilion Room, replacing the old chairs in the main hall, decorating the entrance halls and corridors etc).

The next big project is to refurbish the changing rooms for the sports facilities for which we will need to obtain funding. The VHMC are consulting with the Parish Council on this project and a feasibility study has been carried out for further discussion.

A flyer has been produced to advertise the village hall and also various mailshots have been sent out to caravan clubs and businesses in the vicinity. Our website is being updated (again thanks to a volunteer). Our secretary publishes a regular update in Thriplow and Fowlmere News.

Lastly, thanks must go to all the Officers and Management Committee members, and other volunteers who have contributed greatly to maintaining the hall. Special thanks go to the group of Fundraisers who work so hard organising events and the very popular Farmers Market.”.

Cllr Wragg thanked Mrs Woods for her report and Cllr Roberts commended Mrs Woods on her efforts with moving the Village Hall forward.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The minutes from the 2015 meeting were agreed and signed.

Mr Bates – can the draft minutes will be put on the web-site? Copies of the minutes to be signed and agreed.

Mr Pile – Elm Gardens needs gravelling because it's muddy. Mrs Dring - this does not work well with pushchairs or wheelchairs and the mud does dry quickly.

Mr Allsworth – the Chequers might open a small shopping facility – has a newsletter yet been produced? Cllr Roberts – she believes it is forthcoming.

Mr Pile - Why is there not a bench at the American War memorial, he could volunteer a bench – it was explained it is private not parish land.

Cllr Wragg thanked all for attending and invited all attendees to share in the refreshments. The meeting closed at 9:25pm.

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