

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF FOWLMERE PARISH COUNCIL HELD
IN THE SCHOOL ROOM, UNITED REFORMED CHURCH, CHAPEL LANE
17TH NOVEMBER 2009 AT 7.30 PM**

PRESENT: Cllr D Roberts (Chairman), Cllr M Bates, Cllr P Cook, Cllr A Eades, Cllr P Flynn,
Cllr E O'Regan, Cllr N Schonken , Cllr D Woods, Mrs J Wright (Clerk)

IN ATTENDANCE: Cllr T Stone, Mr Lester, Mr Jelley, Mrs Thornton and Mrs Wooldridge

		Actions
1.	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Apologies were received from Cllr Kohler	
2.	DECLARATION OF INTEREST IN AGENDA ITEMS: No items were declared	
3.	SIGNING IN OF NEW PARISH COUNCILLORS: The new Councillors were welcomed by the Chairman, signed in and completed all the necessary paperwork. Cllr Roberts also asked the new Councillors if they could both consider what other committees they may like to take part in ie Planning and / or Finance.	
4.	MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF 20TH OCTOBER 2009: The minutes were agreed and signed as a true record.	
5.	MATTERS ARISING: There were no matters arising which would not be addressed in the agenda. Item 6a (3) - Cllr Roberts noted that the planning appeal was lost at 3 Cambridge Road. Item 12b - Dates of Finance Meetings. Cllr Woods said that two of the proposed dates weren't suitable and she would suggest changes.	Cllr Woods
6.	COUNTY COUNCIL AFFAIRS: Cllr Tim Stone gave his report: <i>"Waste: The Mechanical Biological Treatment (MBT) Plant opened last week. It is the first of its kind in the country and will sort and recycle much of the waste that normally ends up in landfill from people's "black bag" rubbish.</i> <i>The plant is the length of three football pitches and houses giant shredding machines called Terminators and the latest mechanical sorting equipment which removes material for recycling before turning the rest of the waste into compost-like material for use on non-food crops or a fuel. Waste which is normally not recycled will be sorted at the facility.</i> <i>Guided Busway: I have been unable to get a date for the start of operations on the southern part of the guided busway. The northern section has hit snags and both the County and the contractor are full of regrets. There are clearly technical problems, though how serious these are is not disclosed. There are also rumours of problems with the contract itself but none of these is yet substantiated. In any event, no guarantee that it'll all be over by Christmas.</i>	

Hanley Grange: The timetable for comment to Cambridgeshire on the emerging Regional Spatial Strategy, which takes us to 2031, is now over. Opposition has collapsed with fewer than 50 responses to the County on Hanley Grange.

The East of England Regional Assembly consultation remains open until 24th November, so it is absolutely key to produce a better response to the EERA consultation. The response form can be found on www.eera.gov.uk.

It is worth remembering that the Hanley Grange proposal is actually contained in a subsidiary document: Cambridgeshire Sub-area Profile. This is made quite clear in the EERA consultation document. Question 7 specifically mentions the Sub-area profile.

As yet no parish council in the Duxford Division has made any comment to EERA and as far as I can see only two parish councillors from Hinxton have responded. I have today e-mailed them all on the subject. The County will be doing a press release tomorrow.

The more opposition we can stoke up the better. While neither the County nor the District is in favour of Hanley Grange, should Marshalls not move from Cambridge airport for any reason, you can be sure that Tesco will not hesitate to propose Hanley Grange as an alternative.

School places: The local press has reported the lack of primary school places - especially in Cambridge. There are other areas such as Cambourne where numbers of children have outstripped the County's predictions. You could wonder why the County was unable to pick up on the number of births some years ago which get us into this predicament but that's another story. I've checked to make sure that we don't have a problem in our part of the world. I am told that all our local primary schools are within capacity.

Cambridgeshire Advisory Freight Map: The County has published a draft Cambridgeshire Advisory Freight map, and this will be sent to parish councils for consultation shortly. The advisory routes are divided into Strategic Routes and Local Routes. The M11, A11, A505 and the A1307 as well as the A1301 south of the A505 and A11 respectively are proposed as Strategic Routes. The A1301 and A1307 north of the A505 and A1307 are included as Local Routes. I have already protested that it is ridiculous to publicise the road through Fowlmere and Newton but got nowhere. We risk spending a great deal of time getting cross about these routes. As they are advisory only they can't stop lorries using inappropriate roads. And lorries which use local routes are mostly local anyway and are unlikely to pay the blindest bit of notice.

Community Engagement: The County has to show that it is engaging with local communities. It has now launched a consultation which you can find on www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/communityengagementconsultation Despite the enormous work which has gone into it, I think it's far too opaque. But do give it a go if you can really prioritise seven items including such things as supporting community involvement in shaping places and coordinating our community engagement activity.

	<p><i>In view of the Hanley Grange result after I had published and had delivered the best part of 4,000 leaflets, I wonder if people are suffering from consultation fatigue. I am trying to arrange a meeting with the Audit Commission to discuss the problem. It is the Audit Commission who check on how well councils engage with communities.</i></p> <p>Burglaries: <i>Apparently people are being encouraged to cash in their unwanted gold by sending it of to www.cashyourgoldnow.co.uk. I know this because I got a card through the door telling me so. I also know that thieves are trying to casherpeople'sgoldnow.uk. by breaking in and stealing it. We had an incident in Great Abington only a fortnight ago. So residents should be on their guard.</i></p> <p>Roads: <i>The bellmouth to Cassander Close floods. I have a meeting there with Mike Cooper there next Monday 23rd November at 2 pm. He says that the problem is caused by the Cassander Close road surface not having been completed but I'm not so sure.</i></p> <p><i>Last month you asked me to look into the provision of a barrier at the end of Jacksons Way onto the High Street. I did but Cambridgeshire Highways say that the pavement is wide enough there for there not to be much of a risk. Being budget-strapped they will not intervene.</i></p> <p><i>The County has published its list of bids for the Traffic Management and Safety Scheme Programme for South Cambridgeshire in 2010/11. We don't know what the budget is and in any case there is nothing scheduled for this end of the Duxford Division. The road layout improvements with a reduction of the speed limit at Flint Cross are still expected to be delivered late this year or early next year."</i></p> <p>It was agreed the Council would respond to the web-site regarding Hanley Grange. The Clerk to organise.</p> <p>Cllr Stone welcomed the two new Councillors and asked the Clerk to provide him with their contact details.</p> <p>Cllr Bates reported that the County Council have put in a further drain at the end of the Butts (Westfield Road) and have done some 'patching up' on the road but there are still some pot holes that need some attention. Cllr Stone has already reported this to Mike Cooper at Highways.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>
7.	<p>PLANNING COMMITTEE: There were no planning minutes to report.</p>	
	<p>The Meeting was then opened to members of the public and press and the following issues raised, which will be addressed in the relevant agenda items:</p> <p>Mr Lester reported that he had been involved in some correspondence with English Heritage, which he will copy to the Clerk for information but in essence the contact he had spoken to (which isn't the contact the Parish Council have, David Kenney) said there shouldn't be a problem with reducing the trees etc if funding can be achieved and a reputable contractor is used who adheres to all the H&S guidelines etc. Mr Lester reiterated the resident's offer of contributing financially to the cost of the work.</p> <p>Cllr Bates gave an update at this stage. He is still in negotiations with English</p>	

	<p>Heritage and had not dealt with the contact in Mr Lester's letter. The PC has a verbal agreement that English Heritage will provide the £1200 required for the survey but the written contract has not yet arrived. They will undertake the survey as soon as possible and then the PC will approach the subject of the possibility of residents contributing to the cost of whatever needs / wants to be done.</p> <p>Mr Lester said that he had a quote for the work required from 'Care for Trees' and he said that quote was acceptable for his and his next-door neighbour. Cllr Bates agreed they were a reputable company which the PC had used in the past but finances are finite and an agreement over funding will eventually be reached.</p> <p>Cllr Roberts reminded residents that there is heavy demand on 'tree work' and all work will need to be prioritised. Cllr Bates concluded by saying that the paperwork for the Government, is still on-going, with advice being sought on filling them in.</p> <p>Mrs Thornton enquired who would conduct the survey (an arboriculturalist on behalf of English Heritage) and she is keen to ensure that the person responsible gets to look at the trees from the perspective of the residents, ie from their gardens and properties, so please can they be notified of the date of the survey. Cllr Bates reassured residents that they would be informed of the date, once the PC have been told.</p> <p>Mrs Thornton also added that, given the current windy weather conditions, the trees can be quite frightening, as there is always the worry that branches will blow down and considerably damage their property.</p> <p>Cllr Roberts concluded that she hoped residents could see that things are moving. If trees are dangerous and need to come down, they will have to be the priority but she hopes we can develop a programme of work that satisfies the residents' requirements.</p> <p>Mrs Wooldridge added that it was very dark at the Chapel end of Chapel Lane and could anything be done? Cllr Roberts said unfortunately there is no spare money at the County Council level for new street lighting, and even the PC now have to pay the electricity for the street lights.</p>	
8.	<p>BURIAL BOARD: The Clerk reported that a payment had been made in recognition of a Memorial Stone for Dorothy May Jones (H J Paintin) and an enquiry had been made for a memorial stone for Ron Payne (PA Hibble, Stonemason).</p> <p>The ceremony for the interment of Derek Burgess also took place this month.</p> <p>The Clerk also reported that Chris Wall had said he would soon be planting the new hedge.</p>	
9.	<p>TREES, GRASS AND HEDGES: a) Update on the Moat: Cllr Bates has already updated the PC on developments in the Moat. Cllr Roberts once again thanked Cllr Bates for his continued efforts with this work.</p> <p>Cllr Roberts also reported that the overgrown hedges by the bungalows in Chapel Lane had started to be worked on. The ones that have not yet been 'tamed' will be receiving a secondary reminder letter from SCDC.</p> <p>Cllr Eades reported that the house on the corner by the school entrance had overgrown vegetation which made it difficult for drivers and pedestrians to see safely. Cllr Roberts reported that the house in question is on the SCDC maintenance list but</p>	

	she'll also take a look to see the current situation, in case the work had very recently been done	Cllr Roberts
10.	<p>FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES: Cllr Woods reported that Hardy's price will increase by 3% next year. The PC do not have to go out to tender next year, as it is a 2 year contract and Hardy's didn't increase their prices last year, so this seems reasonable.</p> <p>At the last meeting, Councillors were asked to consider any extra projects for inclusion in next years precept. Cllr Flynn has already suggested the new swings, which she can provide the quote for.</p> <p>Cllr Schonken and Cllr O'Regan agreed that the web-site needed some renovation and were aware of the current agreement in place with Tony Peck. Cllrs O'Regan and Schonken to confer over what improvements could be made and report back their recommendations to the PC. The Clerk to pass on details of Mr Peck.</p> <p>Cllr Woods reported that money may be available through the Community Capital Grants Programme for play facilities. Cllr Roberts suggested she check that it's valid for villages with more than 500 residents as that has been the criteria before. Cllr Woods to check.</p> <p>Cllr Woods also suggested the Village Map Stone, which had been previously quoted at £2500.</p>	<p>Cllr Schonken and Cllr O'Regan (Clerk)</p> <p>Cllr Woods</p>
11.	<p>CORRESPONDENCE: It was agreed that Cllr Roberts would attend the Representatives Meeting with the Council Cabinet on 25th November and asked if any other Councillors would like to attend, it may be especially useful for the new Councillors. The Clerk to circulate the e-mail with information.</p> <p>It was agreed that Chris Wall should be asked to quote for the undercutting of the trees alongside the open space in Savile Way, as requested by Hardy's the grass-cutters. This would then be considered in line with all other tree work next year.</p> <p>It was also agreed that Chris Wall should be asked to build a replacement bench for the corner of the Butts by the school /shop, at a quoted cost of £120.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>
12.	<p>OTHER MATTERS: a) Village Hall. Cllr Bates clarified the current situation at the Village Hall regarding the PC volunteering to pay for the new digital video recorder: Following the last meeting at the Village Hall, which Cllr Bates attended, Tom Ginty (committee member) called Cllr Bates to say the images on the existing cameras were not of sufficient quality to identify anyone so there was no point in renewing only part of the system. Cllr Bates suggested they look into the additional costs and the PC will review this once they receive it.</p> <p>Cllr Schonken asked how the Village Hall committee knew what was needed – was it the insurance company who attended the break in – and asked if the previous recorder had been claimed for? Cllr Bates said the old recorder wasn't covered as it was too old. Cllr Roberts suggested the Clerk writes to the Chair of the Village Hall, seeking a clarification of the situation and problems preventing the purchase, including who has actually identified the problems with the current equipment.</p> <p>Land at 1 Ryecroft Lane. Cllr O'Regan declared a personal interest as she is a</p>	<p>Clerk</p>

