

MINUTES OF THE **MEETING OF FOWLMERE PARISH COUNCIL HELD**
 IN THE SCHOOL ROOM, UNITED REFORMED CHURCH, CHAPEL LANE
19TH OCTOBER 2010 AT 7.30 PM

PRESENT: Cllr D Roberts (Chairman), Cllr J Peacock, Cllr M Sunderland, Cllr L Wragg, Mrs J Wright (Clerk)

IN ATTENDANCE: Cllr Tim Stone.

		Actions
1.	<p>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Apologies were received from Cllr Bates, Cllr A Eades, Cllr O'Regan and Cllr Webb. Cards to be sent to Cllr Bates and Cllr O'Regan to wish them a speedy recovery.</p>	Clerk
2.	<p>DECLARATION OF INTEREST IN AGENDA ITEMS: No items were declared.</p>	
3.	<p>MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF 21ST SEPTEMBER 2010: The minutes were agreed and signed as a true record.</p>	
4.	<p>MATTERS ARISING: There were no matters arising that were not covered in the agenda.</p>	
5.	<p>UPDATE ON THE VILLAGE HALL: Cllr Roberts attended the Village Hall AGM. They gave an update on the present financial situation and the books are balanced for this year due to their considerable fundraising efforts. There are still a lot of things that the VH would like to be done, ie improvements to the building.</p> <p>Cllr Roberts reported that SCDC have now awarded grants for this year which will leave a potential maximum of £30,000 in the pot for next years' applications and the maximum awarded is 35% of any application, which could be problematic for the VH. Mrs Goodfellow has been asked to let the PC know the total amount of money required for their wish-list of improvements and an order of priorities (Clerk to chase). The PC may be able to support them for a smaller item, given the restriction of SCDC only providing 35% of any project cost.</p> <p>The Clerk was asked to provide a copy of the deeds to Cllr Wragg for his consideration.</p>	Clerk Clerk
6.	<p>COUNTY COUNCIL AFFAIRS: Cllr Stone gave the following report:</p> <p><i>"Big Society</i> <i>Tomorrow we hear more of where the axe will fall on local councils. But the main item of interest until then is David Cameron's continued insistence on The Big Society. Most people don't seem to have much of an idea as to what it means and I've already been sent two surveys to ask my opinion. I don't think I replied to either.</i></p> <p><i>I've attended a conference of Cambridgeshire ACRE, where the Big Society themes seemed to be a right to build, a right to bid and a right to buy. I've also attended a</i></p>	

	<p><i>helpful drop-in session at Great Shelford Library, where two county councillors were very pleasant but frankly didn't know much more about the Big Society than I did. We shall see more when the Localism Bill is published later this month. The mood at Cambridgeshire ACRE focused on the fact that all our volunteers are getting old and we needed more of them to get things done in our villages.</i></p> <p><i>One important question is the extent to which parish councils want to have things devolved to them. And if so, what.</i></p> <p>Flint Cross <i>Now that the work at Flint Cross has been completed I have had a number of comments that it is very difficult to cross the A505 when trying to get to Royston. I'm not too sure what can be done about that – even if there is something which can be done – but I'd welcome your comments.</i></p> <p>Quango fire <i>The government has announced its intention to scrap a very large number of quangos, ranging from the Aircraft and Shipbuilding Industries Arbitration Tribunal to the Disabled Persons' Transport Advisory Committee. More recognizable ones include Cycling England.</i></p> <p><i>At the same time the government has abolished National Indicators, which councils use to judge their performance against their peers and Local Area Agreements, which we were getting used to as local authorities try to join up some of their services.</i></p> <p><i>We shall see how many of these will have to be reinvented. It may seem on reflection that quite a few valuable local babies have been thrown out with the national bath water. But at least the cost of any replacement will be placed on local authorities rather than central government. We have some experience of that trend locally with our streetlights."</i></p> <p>Cllr Wragg mentioned that it seemed unnecessarily complicated having different speed limits on the A505 yet not restricting the Fowlmere to Royston section to 50mph. Cllr Stone mentioned that this had been looked at in the past but there were no grounds to change it.</p> <p>Cllr Bates will be unable to attend the Duxford Neighbours Meeting – Cllr Stone will kindly pass on his apologies.</p> <p>Cllr Stone to speak to Fowlmere resident Tony Deans regarding the issues of access from his property.</p> <p>The Clerk to chase SCD Highways regarding the mis-flashing school signs.</p>	<p>Cllr Stone</p> <p>Cllr Stone</p> <p>Clerk</p>
7.	<p>PLANNING COMMITTEE a) AFFORDABLE HOUSING IN FOWLMERE UPDATE Cllr Roberts updated the meeting that two local residents had sought agreement with the Thriplow Triangle landowners to purchase a strip of land between themselves and the area to be developed for Affordable Housing. The PC understands from the</p>	

	<p>Housing Association that the land owners are not wishing to sell any more land. The PC is waiting to hear that a formal planning application has been made to SCDC regarding the site.</p> <p>Cllr Roberts has had some communication from SCDC regarding another Housing Association wishing to explore another site in Fowlmere. Cllr Roberts told SCDC that she would speak to the Cllrs at the next PC Meeting and seek their opinion. The site in question is the one in Long Lane, outside the village envelope. Circle Anglia put this site to the PC as a possibility for development, and the PC felt that this site was less preferable to the one now chosen on the Thriplow Triangle. The PC agreed that they would like to see one site developed as an Exception Site and as thus filled with only Fowlmere residents before looking to support an additional application. Cllr Wragg added that the PC need to prove that the concept really works and phase these developments and this may take a year or so once houses are filled. Another village survey might be an option to seek opinion.</p> <p>It was also mentioned that the infrastructure in the village ie the school, transport etc would be stretched to support a huge increase in the village. The PC agreed that they have a long term plan and this site is not part of it at present. All agreed that Cllr Roberts will go back to SCDC to say that the PC do not want to meet with a new Housing Association as we already have an application in process but to reiterate that the Parish Council is committed to providing affordable housing for Fowlmere residents.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">The meeting was then opened to members of the public and press</p>	Cllr Roberts
8.	<p>BURIAL BOARD: The Clerk was asked to put up notices regarding daffodil planting following the donation of bulbs.</p> <p>The back door to the Chapel needs to be repaired and repainted (there is currently only an undercoat). The Clerk to approach Fowlmere Joinery and Wetzl Construction to provide a quote.</p> <p>The Clerk to look for previous quotes regarding supporting the rear wall of the Chapel.</p>	Clerk Clerk Clerk
9.	<p>TREES, GRASS AND HEDGES: The Clerk reported that Gardencare had quoted £219 for undertaking maintenance / tidying work to areas in Ryecroft Lane and Jacksons Way. Cllr Sunderland proposed the PC go ahead with the work. Cllr Wragg seconded the proposal and all agreed. The Clerk to contact Gardencare.</p> <p>Cllr bates had pointed out that one of the benches in the Churchyard belongs to the Church, not the PC, so they shouldn't progress with repair work. The Clerk to let the PCC know the cost or repair for their consideration. The Clerk to confirm which benches Gardencare are to repair.</p> <p>Regarding the diseased chestnut trees on the Butts, the Clerk had sought 3 quotes for providing a report on their condition and Acacia trees gave the most competitive quote. Cllr Peacock proposed the PC go ahead with asking them to complete the report. Cllrs Sunderland and Wragg seconded and all agreed. The Clerk to contact Acacia and ask for a swift response.</p>	Clerk Clerk Clerk
10.	<p>FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES: a) NEW VICE CHAIRMAN</p>	

Cllr Wragg was voted in as Finance Vice Chairman at the last Finance Meeting. The necessary paperwork was completed.

b) MINUTES FROM 12TH OCTOBER 2010

Minutes of the meeting of **Fowlmere Parish Council Finance and General Purposes Committee** held in the Dorothy Pluck Room, St Mary's Church, Fowlmere, Tuesday 12th October 2010 at 7:30pm.

Present: Cllr O'Regan (Chair), Cllr M Bates, Cllr D Roberts, Cllr M Sunderland, Cllr N Webb, Cllr L Wragg and Mrs J Wright (Clerk).

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Peacock

2. Minutes of previous meeting/Matters Arising

The previous minutes of 27th July 2010 were agreed and will be signed at the next PC Meeting.

The Clerk reported that the roadsign for Rectory Lane has been ordered and the flashing school signs have been reported as being badly timed but she has not received confirmation of either.

Cllr O'Regan reported that the see-saw had been subject to a delay at the manufacturers and was to be delivered in the first week of November. It was suggested a photo is sent to the local press to publicise it.

3. New Vice Chairman

Nominations were asked for Vice Chairman of Finance. Cllr Roberts nominated Cllr Wragg and Cllr Webb seconded. There were no further nominations and Cllr Wragg kindly accepted the post.

4. Review of income and expenditure

The Councillors were given an explanation of the accounts and there were no unexplained or unexpected items and they were within budget.

5. Precept

The Councillors discussed a possible budget for the 2011-2012 precept. It was agreed that Councillors felt strongly that they didn't wish to see the precept increase, other than in line with inflation but there are some potential new costs to consider namely tree work in the Moat and the Village Hall. The proposed budget will be refined and brought to the next PC meeting. The Clerk to check the submission date with SCDC.

6. Trees, Grass and Hedges

a) Repair of village benches

Following a quote from Gardencare, it was agreed that they should be asked to carry out all repair work to the village benches and

then the PC can decide where to add or replace any new/donated benches.

The Clerk was asked to chase on progress re the diseased tree in Dovehouse Close, noting the dead one had been removed.

It has been noted that the hedge in Ryecroft Lane, opposite the mouth of John's Close needs cutting back and tidying up. The Clerk to ask Gardencare to quote for the necessary work.

There is an overgrown area of pathway at the rear of Jacksons Way. The Clerk to ask Gardencare to also quote for tidying this up.

It was suggested by Cllr Bates to mention to the contractor who cuts the school field that they should also be including the verges on the Butts.

The Chapel door barge-boards on both the front and rear doors need replacing. The Clerk to ask Fowlmere Joinery and Wetzl Construction to quote for the repairs.

The Chapel also has some broken windows – the Chairman of Finance to arrange a quick visit there to assess the damage and possible repair work.

7. Future Projects

In previous meetings, there have been suggestions for a roundabout to be added to the play equipment on the Butts but in a difficult financial climate, this is not a priority. Cllr Webb suggested putting together a working party for new play equipment and involve the school, playgroup etc

There will also need to be work done on the Moat trees (although funding is being sought for this) and a potential contribution to village hall projects.

8. Other Matters

There were no other matters and the meeting closed at 8:40pm.

9. Date of next meeting

The date of the next Finance Meeting is to be Tuesday 11th January 2011 at 7:30pm at the Church.

The minutes were agreed as a true and accurate record.

c) 2011-2012 PRECEPT UPDATE

In principal the PC have looked at the figures and will ratify it at the November

	<p>meeting.</p> <p>d) UPDATE ON PLAY EQUIPMENT The Clerk reported the see-saw will be coming in the first week of November.</p>	
11.	<p>CORRESPONDENCE: There were no matters arising from the Correspondence List</p>	
12.	<p>ACTION LIST UPDATE: The action list was updated accordingly. Cllr Roberts mentioned she would be unable to attend the Remembrance service in November and asked if Cllr Eades could attend as Vice-Chair. The Clerk to report back with the exact timings.</p>	Clerk
13.	<p>OTHER MATTERS:</p> <p>The meeting dates for 2011 were agreed.</p> <p>The Clerk suggested putting together a newsletter/update for the village and will start to put one together for Cllr's comments.</p> <p>Cllr Roberts had a call from Pat Flynn regarding some white goods on the land in front of the houses in Jacksons Way (which belongs to the Jackson family). As this is private land, Cllr Roberts said it is upon the landowner to seek to get things removed but she will check that with SCDC.</p> <p>Cllr Sunderland reported that there was evidence of damage and intruders at the chicken sheds towards Manor Farm. The Clerk to speak to the PCSO about it, mentioning the landowners for them to get in contact.</p> <p>The next meeting will be at 7:30pm on Tuesday 16th November 2010 at the URC in Chapel Lane. Cllr Wragg gave his apologies.</p> <p>The meeting closed at 9:10pm</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Cllr Roberts</p> <p>Clerk</p>