HERRINGSWELL PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Office: 10 Newport Avenue, Fordham, Ely, Cambridgeshire CB7 5NX

Tel: 01638 721485

Web: www.herringswell.onesuffolk.net
Email: herringswellpc@yahoo.co.uk

Minutes of Meeting held on Tuesday 25th August 2015 at

Herringswell Village Hall 7.00 pm

Present: Liz Marchington (Chairman)

Selina Boyce (Vice Chairman)

Garry Brown Gloria Hicks

In attendance: Cllr Lisa Chambers

Su Field (Parish Clerk)

Members of the public: 4

1 Welcome: LM welcomed everyone.

2 Apologies: Steve Griffiths, Lance Stanbury

- 3 Minutes of Previous Meeting (30th June 2015): The minutes were approved and signed.
- **4 Public Participation**. Allowed throughout the meeting. Four residents in attendance.
- Police Report. Due to cuts in the police budget no report would be sent from Mildenhall SNT in future. A PCSO would not attend further meetings either. This matter was raised at the recent Town and Parish Forum and it was agreed that this was a cause of major concern to all parish councils. Attendees at the Town and Parish Forum thought that it might be advantageous if a local PCSO was invited to attend councillors surgeries (for those who held them) and this was going to be communicated by the relevant councillor. It was also noted that there had been no visible presence of a PCSO in the village for some considerable time.

AGREED to write to Tim Passmore to convey the Parish Council's disappointment and to request a presence either in the village or at meetings.

6 District/County Report.

District Council

CL – In response to LM's question concerning non-consultation on permitted development and the non-appraisal of parish councils, CL confirmed that the Senior Planning Officer does not feel that consultation/appraisal would be possible due to the number of applications received. The Clerk confirmed that notification had been received from FHDC that the planning application received list would be circulated as it had been historically. CL informed the meeting that she had attended a solar heating meeting concerning whether FHDC may 'buy in' to a local solar farm. Funding for this would come from capital budget. No further details could be discussed at this time due to the commercial/confidential nature of the proposal.

County Council

LC – confirmed that a new contact found at Anglian Water and that a letter has been written requesting assistance signed by herself and the two District Councillors. The smell has not abated at all. Despite promises of garden cleaning nothing has ever been done.

Historic issues were raised in relation to the original report and the following points were highlighted:

- When the original report was written, no surveyor visited the site.
- FHDC appear to be relying on the original report within the new consultation to recommend more development at Red Lodge. LC is hopeful that the new contact will be able to clarify exactly which flows go where.
- Why did no-one ever come on site?
- It is a major issue.
- LC will chase the contact and will pursue this. LC is meeting with SCC officers re FHDC consultation.
- Believed that the original HYDA report is "full of holes".
- Repositioning the pumping station?
- Quality of life affected.

GH requested an update on the status of the programmed repairs to The Street outside The Bee Hive – when is it going to be repaired? LC has received an email from Guy Smith stating that it is in the work programme. It is believed that there is an actual leak which would fall to Anglian Water to be fixed. LC has reported both issues (drain and potholes). LC will pursue the matter again on behalf of GH.

Education – two areas had seen unprecedented growth. Forest Heath up 15% - schools almost up to capacity. New schools are due to be built in Red Lodge and Lakenheath and SCC is working towards the sites being delivered. The locations are not in the public domain due to discussions still ongoing with landowners. Red Lodge is down to two possible sites with one being favoured. Commercial sensitivities prevent the sites being publicly identified.

LC confirmed that a second school must be open by September 2017.

St Christopher's school is due to be taken over by an Academy Trust in the next few months.

New school will be built in phases to take it up to 420 capacity.

It is not possible to forecast/predict with the American residents (who have a right to use the primary schools).

The question was raised as to whether St Christopher's is going to be at capacity when the term starts? LC will provide the figures.

Work will be done to ensure that St Christopher's is brought up to a higher standard before the new school opens to obviate the possibility of all the pupils just move across to the new one.

7 Matters Arising:

a. <u>Churchyard and Suffolk Wildlife Sanctuary</u>

Since the last meeting work has continued down at the churchyard. It was formally acknowledged that there were two sides to this issue and residents were in attendance to put both of these.

A representative of the Church Committee highlighted the following points:

SWT churchyard area plan to be attractive for the future.

Always said that the first year would be a difficult year – it would be allowed to grow to find out what is there.

Have had to have the churchyard growing to find out.

Difficult part now gone through so now a plan can be developed cutting the bindweed (for example) out and cultivating the good plants.

It is a Suffolk wide scheme.

SWT intended for this plan to go forward this way.

Areas containing flowers will be enhanced.

Managed cutting will take place.

The desire is to generate interest in the churchyard and ergo bring more people to the church.

There are some people who tend graves who love what is happening.

LM – historically the churchyard used to be cut every 6 weeks and residents are not happy with how it currently looks. The arguments need to be balanced.

Question raised as to who decided that this experiment would take place. The issue of no minutes of Church Committee meetings being available for public scrutiny, most residents unaware of when meetings take place.

Residents present highlighted the following points:

The area looks exceptionally unloved and untidy.

Everybody has the right to have their graves maintained. It is disrespectful what is being done.

Garry – There would not appear to have been a full/open/frank discussion about whether all residents were in agreement for this experiment to take place.

People are having to request that paths are cut in order for them to actually access their family graves.

AGREED that not everyone is happy with the experiment.

Options need to be formulated and discussions need to be had with the church over the way forward. One suggestion was a letter drop to all resident and those people affected by the experiment asking for a vote as to whether the experiment should continue or not.

It was acknowledged that the Parish Council only provide the funding so one option available would be to withdraw funding.

AGREED that there should be a meeting between the parish council and the Church Committee before the next meeting.

ACTION: Clerk to write to Church committee to request a meeting prior to the next parish council meeting when the parish council will report back.

b. The Phone Box

Approach Boyd Nicholas to see if he would fund paint.

c. Planning Application Notices

Covered earlier.

8 Planning Applications:

DC/14/1230/FUL – variation – no comment from Parish Council. Responded within timescale.

DC/15/1549/EIAS — Anaeobic digestion plant — EIR consultation. Letter has been despatched to FHDC planning department outlining HPC's belief that an EIA is required because of its proximity to Red Lodge and the impact on the small rural road network amongst other issues.

The Manor – conservation and tree issues were raised so the application has been deferred to September meeting.

9 Meetings.

Parish & Town Forum (LM attended with LC).
MOU with Robin Millar still ongoing. Next meeting 23rd September.
SIR out for consultation at moment. Open meeting at Red Lodge on 19th September.

10 **Correspondence**: Sent by email.

11 Payments:

Village Hall Hire £20.00

A V Nunn – Grass Cutting:

Month	Amount
June 2015	£140.00
July 2015	£260.00
August 2015	£140.00

12 Any other Business: None

13 Date of next meeting: 13th October 2015.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.15 pm