Minutes of meeting held at St Ethelbert’s Church, Herringswell , Thursday, 14th June 2012

Meeting attended by;

Ven. Dr Archdeacon David Jenkins

James Halsall

David Sherlock

Boyd Nicholas - FHDC

Rev. Ronni Mechanic

Priscilla Upton - Church warden

Suzannah Taylor – Church Warden

Irene Swainson - PCC member

Jean Wolff – PCC member

Liz Marchington – Herringswell PC

Gloria Hicks – Herringswell PC

Garry Brown – Herringswell PC

Introductions were made and the Church representatives were asked to outline how they had arrived at this point to date. RM spoke on behalf of the Church Wardens, stating that they wanted to protect the windows from flint chippings when the grass was cut and to protect the windows from acts of vandalism from the road side.

DJ pointed out that work of this nature requires permission from the DAC in the form of a faculty. He pointed out that the grilles were materially of the wrong construction and that they were erected incorrectly causing damage to the stone work of the church.

BN confirmed that, as the grilles had altered the external appearance of the building, planning permission from FHDC would be required for any further grilling.

RM confirmed that the Church wardens have since submitted permissions for the work retrospectively.

The PC were invited to present their concerns. LM stated that there appeared to be no proven need for the grilles, there had been no acts of vandalism occurring to the windows, the village was extremely quiet and isolated and it was possible to deal with the issue of flying flints in ways which did not involve such drastic measures. GB stated that the first the PC or residents were aware of a need to grill the windows was once the installation had taken place.

An inspection of the windows by the DAC was undertaken.

It was noted that fixings for the grilles had been made into the stonework and not into the mortar, that the grilles were made of an incorrect grade, were not black powder coated, that significant damage had been caused to many of the windows and that the grilles should be inset directly over the glass. Swift boxes and speakers were also observed with a wire passing through the stonework of one of the windows.

It was agreed by those present that the existing grilles should be removed as soon as possible and the damage to the windows to be repaired. Archdeacon DJ and the rest of the team agreed that they would oversee this work and that it was essential that an expert carry out the work.

RM asked what the process would be to re-erect some further grilles once the damage had been repaired, if it was decided by the PCC that they were still felt necessary.

Archdeacon DJ stated that, assuming the idea to re-grill was a good one, the PCC would need to apply for a faculty, providing a Statement of Need and undergo consultation with other interested parties; Parish Council and District Council, as it has a major impact on the street setting. As the case stood today, however, he was unconvinced that there was a need for this work as flying flint could be dealt with in other ways, it would not prevent burglary and there was no previous history of vandalism.

BN advised the PCC that there were some funds available to assist them in the cost of carrying out the remedial work to the masonry but they would have to act swiftly to obtain them. He is going to send the relevant forms to the Church Wardens for completion.

The PC thanked the DAC for attending the meeting and for requesting the removal of the grilles.

RM requested a copy of the minutes be circulated by the PC to those in attendance.