

Present: M T Davis (Chairman), Mrs P Amos (Clerk), Cllrs: Clarke; Dent; Gupta; Crawford; Wright

Margaret Moulton; Mrs E Clarke; John Gowing; Sally Jones – RSPCA: Inspector Will Davis;

Number	Title		Action
0062/17	Apologies for Absence	Cllr Rose; PCSO Holloway; Cllr Knowles; Cllr Connor	
0063/17	Absentees	None	
0064/17	Declarations of interest	None	
0065/17	Confirmation of minutes	RESOLVED – that the minutes of meeting held on 12 th April 2016 were correctly recorded and that they be signed as being a true record. Proposed: Cllr. Dent Seconded: Cllr Clarke	
0066/17	Representations guest speakers:	Inspector Will Davis, March Police: Introduced himself. He said he had put in place a process whereby each PCSO would visit every school and care home within Fenland. Wisbech has 14 homes which is a high proportion due to the good value of property. However, as the residents are usually difficult cases, they often go missing, so this is why the PCSO's visit regularly and build up rapport. However, the PCSO's were trying to change shift to attend PC meetings, which is why he stopped PCSO's attending PC meetings, but they would supply a written report every month. He asked if we do get a regular report and do we know who our PCSO is? The meeting agreed that we did know our PCSO. Cllr Davis asked if we now have enough PCSO's and he replied that we did but a recruitment drive was up coming, to employ more. He said that the issue with 101 was that the HR dept. was now a merged centre with Fire Ambulance and Police, this created difficulty at first, this has now been resolved. Cllr Davis asked whether the report last night to 101 that it appears that someone had been trying to take the lead from the Chapel roof, would be dealt with quickly, he answered that unfortunately reports have to be prioritised on risk. Cllr Crawford as asked whether hare coursing was classed as a priority, he replied that when Police had been called by farmers, they did try to support complainants and prioritise this crime. Cllrs Wright and Coulson said that the Police response had been superb, which was appreciated, however, Inspector Davis said that he knew that sometimes coursing could not come first. He also said that the Police are looking to engage directly with communities, Cllr Davis said that PCSO Holloway does offer an engagement afternoon and the Parish Council along with PCSO Holloway does advertise this. Cllr Davis asked whether the PCSO could attend the Neighbourhood Watch meeting, which he agreed she could, but said that it was a possibility that they could have a community meeting at Supermarkets. Speeding was a big problem for all. Cllr Davis told him that we have just been awarded a grant to install flashing speed lights, and that Speedwatch had just bought their own equipment, which he was very pleased about. He said that schools were also involved by getting children out and about with high vis. Tabard, looking at infractions. Ms Sally Jones Block Fen RSPCA: Sally asked if all knew where Block Fen was – it was built in 2003 on 70 acres. And is one of 17 regional centres. They have 29 staff in total. The vet nurses' only treat animals which have been brought to the centre and do not treat the public's dogs. They have 50 volunteers who give about 500 hours each month, who range from small animal carers to dog walkers, gardeners and fundraisers. They can accommodate 63 dogs, 72 cats, 38 rabbits and any number of miscellaneous small animals, Block Fen have the largest number of Rabbits to anywhere else in the country. 90% of animals which come to the centre come via an RSPCA inspector, there is a waiting list of animals waiting to come to the centre. A lot of these animals are sick ie cat flue, who have not been treated by their owners, or injured animals, whose injuries are suspicious, or are victims of cruelty or neglect. In 2016 they rehomed 189 dogs, 240 cats, 106 rabbits, 61 guinea pigs, and 94 other animals, such as gerbils, hamsters etc. which is 96 more than in 2015. They are open daily 11-3.30, except Wednesday when they are closed, next one is on Easter Sunday - and have event days – go to their web site for more information. Cllr Davis asked if they are funded locally or nationally – answer - nationally but they have to have local fundraising events to increase income. Cllr Wright – Cats Protection group: – the group covers an area from Huntingdon to Wisbech and is solely for helping people with advise and also the costs of neutering their cats. The group work hand in hand with the RSPCA. They can supply vouchers to help families who have low income, to have their pets neutered. They also neuter feral cats and in this area, where we are lucky that there are a number of farms who will take feral cats. Cllr Wright asked that all attendees pass on the message to friends and family, that help is available to people with the right criteria, for neutering their cats and to direct them to the Cats	

		Protection group. There is a nationally funded centre at Downham Market but there is a waiting list of cats needing to go in to the centre. Once neutered cats are less likely to fight or become injured, making their life healthier. Cllr Wright had cards and poster for anyone to take and display. She also said that they would rather help people to neuter their cats and that they should not feel uncomfortable about asking for help to pay for this. Peter James St. Peter's church warden: was unable to attend due to illness, however Cllr Davis read out a report from him. – see appendix 1 Rev. Ian Brady, St. Peter's Church: was unable to attend the meeting in time.	
0067/17	Chairman's report	See appendix 2 from Cllr Davis	PA
0068/17	Financial report	The clerk reported that: Amounts of £118.53 and £107,607.22 were held in the Parish Council's Treasurer's and Business bank accounts, as at 1st April 2017. We also have £50,000.00 in a Norwich & Peterborough savings account. The Lloyds Business account figure includes the first precept payment from FDC, of £30,994.90. There are no unrepresented cheques. This gives us a grand total of £157,758.38. For the financial year 2016/17, we have received a net income of £88,118.55, and an expenditure of £47,987.93 has been recorded. Whilst these are healthy figures, the village street lights are yet to be paid for. Unexpected expenditure, which was not allowed for separately in the budget were the drainage works at the Cemetery, which so far has amounted to £4,002.00, with final works yet to be completed and the software accounts package, which cost £751.80 net. Also, the installation of a Fire Alarm System and new emergency lights in the village hall which cost £1595.00 net. One VAT claim had been made in the 2016/17 financial year, with a second one to be done, which will reclaim a further £3,402.06.	
0069/17	Open forum	In response to a question Cllr Davis then explained the current position regarding the street lights.	
0070/17	Date of next meeting	Tuesday 9th May 2017 – AGM Meeting closed at: 20.05	