

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF FOXTON PARISH COUNCIL

HELD ON MONDAY, 1st NOVEMBER 2010, AT 7.45 p.m.

PRESENT

Dr Oakley, Dr Grindley, Mr Allars, Mr Barnes, Mr Bentinck, Mr Sutton

County Councillor Susan van de Ven

District Councillor Deborah Roberts

IN ATTENDANCE

2 members of the public

APOLOGIES

Dr McKeown and Mrs Macintyre

Dr Oakley welcomed all to the meeting.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

All Parish Councillors have received a dispensation from the SCDC Standards Committee to permit them to discuss, without prejudice, matters concerning Foxton Recreation Ground Trust of which they are all trustees and thus have a personal interest.

There were no other declarations of interest.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

One amendment was needed.

On page 51, under “Any Other Business”, last paragraph, the wording of the first sentence needed to be altered to read “Mr Barnes suggested white lining at the blind corner near the Oast House: this remedy was thought to be effective”.

With this amendment, Dr Oakley proposed that the Minutes of the previous Meeting, held on 4th October 2010, be signed as a true record. Dr Grindley seconded the proposal and all were agreed.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Recreation and Amenities Report

(i) *Solar light at end of Illingwrorth Way path to the Recreation Ground*

Mr Allars said that this light was still not oriented correctly. Mr Bentinck said he would see that this matter was attended to.

(ii) *Cricket Square*

Dr Grindley said that photographs showed that the cricket square had become rectangular and had clearly been extended.

(iii) Fundraising for the Play Area

Mrs Roberts said that SCDC still had some funds remaining for grants but that any request would need to be submitted quickly.

Finance Report – cheques for payment

Mrs Roberts said that Fowlmere PC made an additional donation to the Royal British Legion Poppy appeal beyond the cost of the wreath.

Correspondence –Letter from Land Registry (item 5)

As this was the second letter the council had received recommending registration of property, the clerk was asked to write saying that the council had already registered its property.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR’S REPORT

Dr van de Ven reported as follows:

1. Removal of dead trees in Station Road/A10

Dr van de Ven had been in correspondence with the County Council on getting this job done; the response was that there is a six month delay on the removal of dead and dangerous trees, but that the council would do its best to act as quickly as possible.

2. Timing of implementation of double yellow lines in Station Road

Karen Lunn, County Highways Department, had reported that she was looking at a “batch implementation process”, ie clustering this project with several others in order to bring down the legal cost of Traffic Regulation Orders, and was therefore “looking to get the ball rolling in the New Year”.

3. Rail Users Group (RUG)

The next RUG meeting would be held on 8th December and would be attended by Alan Neville, who had spearheaded efforts at National Express stations to tackle anti-social behaviour at rail stations through gardening and “adopt-a-station” projects. Dr van de Ven had been to March and Ely stations where these schemes had been tried. She also said that Passenger Focus, the National Rail Watchdog group, had been in touch to ask for any useful feedback from Friday night’s First Capital Connect Foxton fiasco (*a train held up outside Foxton Station for hours*) and asked that anyone with anything to contribute get in touch with her.

4. Youth Club

Melbourn PC had decided to support in principle the financial requirement for keeping the youth club open, but would be seeking advice on how to go about setting up a system of proportional contributions from other parishes that feed into the youth club. The youth club itself was looking to reinvent itself in terms of becoming financially independent and more would be learned about this in due course.

5. Winter Gritting of Shepreth Road

Dr van de Ven had attended the CCC cabinet meeting last week when the gritting list was debated. The criteria for the gritting list did include “bus routes with a five times weekly service” so that, technically, Shepreth Road should have been included on the basis of being on the route of the Number 26 bus. In the cabinet papers, the representation she had made on this matter had been responded to with a factually incorrect answer – CCC placed Shepreth Road in Shepreth. Their mistake had been

pointed out and today was the date when the new list must be published. She had put the facts in writing again and hoped that this matter would be corrected. Dr van de Ven said, however, that a number of scheduled bus routes were mistakenly omitted from the list and the Council was nervous about the length of the list. There had been a host of representations about the omission of school bus routes but the response is that the Council has never had a policy to grit school bus routes and that this would “open the floodgates”.

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR’S REPORT

Mrs Roberts said that the new blue bins were now in use and that there had been no complaints so far, although providing them had cost £1.25 million. *Mr Barnes said that the plastic battery bags were not being replaced.*

Mrs Roberts said that a meeting had been held last Tuesday at the SCDC offices about the financial situation and possible staff redundancies and commented that the new building was costing a lot more to run than the previous one.

Due to the present financial situation, grants in support of projects might be affected.

Mrs Roberts also mentioned that the Burlington Press application was on the agenda for the planning meeting at SCDC on Wednesday. After some negotiation, County Council Highways Department had withdrawn its objection to the new access from the High Street provided it was used only for vehicles entering the site from the High Street but not exiting that way. It therefore appeared that the application would be approved, although Mrs Roberts alleged that there had been some inappropriate lobbying to which she would refer at the forthcoming meeting.

County Councillor Susan van de Ven left the meeting at this point.

PARISH PLAN

Mr Allars reported that he, Mr Hockley and Dr Grindley had met to discuss the planning contribution to the Parish Plan. Dr Grindley had summarised his thoughts on an extended conservation area for the village and reported on his discussions with SCDC officer, David Bevan, on this matter. The action plan chapter of the parish Plan was presently being collated from the reports of the working parties and significant responses from the questionnaire. The action section of the Planning Committee’s contribution would be expanded as a result of the projected extension of the conservation area and would be incorporated in the Parish Plan action chapter.

Dr Grindley said he had obtained some necessary maps from SCDC and that work on possibly extending the Conservation Area would follow the publication of the parish plan, with the council, the SCDC Conservation Department and, possibly, the Historical Society, working together.

Mr Allars said that the contribution about policing was still needed and that it was hoped to produce the draft finished version of the Plan by the end of the year.

REPORTS FROM THE WORKING PARTIES

RECREATION AND AMENITIES

Mr Bentinck reported as follows:

1. Illingworth Way Solar Light

The light would be re-aligned.

2. Grass cutting

CGM had increased their cuts and would carry on until the schedule was completed. The clerk had received a quotation for applying fertiliser on the Recreation Ground although the council had not requested such a quotation. *The clerk was asked to write to CGM to let them know the quotation had been sent in error.*

3. Work carried out by the Village Warden

Mr Salmons had submitted two large bills but they included 15.5 hours labour in relation to the removal of the cricket container to the sports compound and the installation of a water stand in the sports compound and a ramp to the new container.

4. Trees on the Recreation Ground to the rear of 28 Illingworth Way & at Vicarage Corner

Three quotations had been received for the felling of two trees to the rear of 28 Illingworth Way and reducing the height of trees at Vicarage Corner, the cheapest of which was from Eastern Tree Surgery. *Mr Bentinck proposed accepting this quotation, Mr Sutton seconded the proposal and all were agreed. The clerk was asked to write to Eastern Tree Surgery to accept their quotation.*

5. Skip to remove hardcore etc from the Recreation Ground

Mr Bentinck had e-mailed councillors about the possibility of the council hiring a skip to remove the broken concrete (from the hut and the original ramp to the cricket container) from the Recreation Ground and had asked Andrew Cambridge to look into the cost. Mrs Roberts said that Clive Onslow of Seearo had helped the council in the past and might be willing to remove the concrete. The council was happy for Mrs Roberts to approach Mr Onslow.

6. Proposed letter to the Sports Clubs

Dr Oakley said the letter would include the problems caused by parking in the High Street. It was agreed that he and Mr Bentinck would draft a letter for approval by the council. *Mr Allars asked what was the total cost to the council of the works in connection with the installation of the two containers in the sports compound. The clerk was asked to copy all Mr Salmons' invoices detailing work in relation to the sports compound and pass them to Mr Sutton.*

7. Brambles along the A10 cycleway towards Shepreth

Mrs Macintyre had asked for this matter to be raised. *The clerk was asked to refer the matter to Dr van de Ven by e-mail.*

FINANCE

Mr Sutton gave details of the Bank Accounts as follows:

Deposit Account	£10,239.33
(This included £6,900 being the 2 nd half of the 2010/11 precept)	
Current Account	£46.32

Standard Life Bank
Premium 10-day Notice Account £30,000.00

Mr Sutton then proposed approval of the following cheques for payment:

T J Austin (cutting dovecote hedge)	£52.87
Foxton VHT (hire of meeting room 6/9)	£14.50
CGM (Cambridge) Ltd (grass cutting 15/10)	£70.50
D Salmons Fencing Services	
VW duties, October	609.50
Work in sports compound	<u>220.00</u>
	£829.50
J E Burns (salary October & November)	£619.55
J E Burns (expenses September/October)	£68.60
HMRC (tax on clerk's salary for 3 months to 5/10/10)	£144.20

Request to transfer £1,805 from the Deposit Account to the Current Account.

Dr Oakley seconded the proposal and all were agreed that these payments, totalling £1799.72, be made and that £1,805 be transferred from the Deposit Account to the Current Account.

Mr Sutton reported that he and the clerk had, as obliged to, submitted the annual tax return on-line for the first time on 19th May. There was nothing to indicate that the return had not been submitted successfully but the council had recently been issued with substantial Notices of Penalties. The return had now been successfully submitted, and it was agreed that the letter in mitigation already sent to HMRC would be copied to Andrew Lansley MP.

Dr Grindley had circulated councillors with a summary of project costs for the provision of training lights on the Recreation Ground that showed, after deduction of the various grants and donations towards the cost, a shortfall in the funds needed of £2,260. Mr Sutton proposed that the council meet this shortfall and Dr Oakley seconded the proposal. Before a vote took place, Mr Allars asked about access to the lights. It was confirmed that they would be available for all residents and Mr Allars requested that this be made clear to the village. Dr Grindley abstained from voting on the proposal to which all remaining councillors agreed. Dr Oakley proposed a vote of thanks to Dr Grindley for all his work on this project.

PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT

Dr Grindley reported as follows:

The Planning Committee had met on Tuesday, 12th October when the following tree applications were considered:

Mr R Pepper	Application No. C/11/40/030 for removal of two conifers in the rear garden at 23 High Street Recommended removal without the need for replacement owing to small size of the garden
Mr A Studd	Application No. C/11/17030/04 for removal of Beech tree at rear of 4 Shepreth Road

Recommended removal due to abundance of trees on the site

Other matters considered were:

1. Letter from CCC re proposed revision of the Local Validation List for applications for planning permission
The committee felt the proposed list did not achieve any significant reduction in applicant cost as desired by the Killian Pretty review. It also had concerns about the independence of advice submitted when such matters were left solely to the applicant's agents to report.
2. SCDC/CCC Consultation on North West Cambridge food store provision:
Option B was preferred as being more self-sufficient as a local centre development and the committee felt it would have less impact on the local highway network.
3. Land to the rear of 18, Rowlands Close:
SCDC had written asking the council's views on a request it had received from the owners of 18, Rowlands Close to purchase a small area of District Council land to the rear of their property to be incorporated as part of their garden and involving extension of the existing wall. The committee responded on behalf of the council that the visual impact of the proposed high wall would be detrimental to the surrounding parking area and would also block the rear access to No. 20 Rowlands Close. It was pointed out that the car parking facility in this part of Rowlands close serves the entire development. The letter in response concluded by saying that FPC wished the land to remain in the ownership of the District Council and therefore, as the proposal stood, recommended refusal.

Dr Grindley further reported as follows:

Planning permission refused:

Amber Homes Ltd

Application No.S/1154/10/F for a dwelling (revised design) at 7 Mortimers Lane

Permission was refused on the grounds that the proposed single storey extensions to plot 7 were considered to be unacceptable and harm the wider setting of the neighbourhood listed building at 3 Mortimers Lane.

The increase in the footprint of the dwelling and the proposed increase in bulk towards the listed building would compete with the modest size of the listed building and have a cramped appearance to the detriment of the listed building. The proposal was therefore contrary to the requirements of Policy CH/4 of the LDFD control Policies adopted in 2007 to protect the wider setting of listed buildings.

Mrs Roberts said that she would keep an eye on the proposed development on Mr Mead's land as Amber Homes were interested.

There would be an SCDC Planning Meeting on 3rd November at which the retrospective application from Goreway Holdings re the new access from the High Street to the Burlington Press site at which Dr Grindley was willing to speak on

- 5) Luminus News Autumn 2010 and Annual Report.
- 6) Publicity material from Record RSS and Wicksteed (play equipment) and Barcham Trees.

VISITORS' QUESTIONS

Mrs Howell said that it was her perception that cars were being parked outside the village shop all day

Dr Oakley said that all efforts would be made to persuade motorists to use the Hardman Road car park.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mr Bentinck said that he, Dr Butler and Mr Ranner had hosted a music quiz in October that raised £420 towards the upkeep of the Village Hall.

Dr Oakley had been asked whether Foxton parish Council would wish to have a gov.uk website that would be overseen by SCDC. All were agreed that this possibility should be pursued.

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

It was confirmed that the next meeting would be held on **Monday, 6th December 2010 at 7.45pm** in the **Meeting Room** of the **Village Hall**.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.55pm.