

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF FOXTON PARISH COUNCIL

HELD ON MONDAY, 7th DECEMBER 2009, AT 7.45 p.m.

PRESENT

Dr Oakley, Dr Grindley, Mr Allars, Mr Barnes, Mrs Macintyre, Dr McKeown, Mr Sutton

IN ATTENDANCE

3 members of the public

APOLOGIES

County Councillor Susan van der Ven, Mr Bentinck

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.

Mr Barnes declared an interest in a planning application to be considered later in the meeting.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

As no amendments were needed, Dr Oakley proposed that the Minutes of the previous Meeting, held on Monday, 2nd November 2009, be signed as a true record. Dr Grindley seconded the proposal and all were agreed.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Address by Circle Anglia

It was agreed that this would be discussed during the Planning Committee Report.

Recreation and Amenities Report

i) *Dog bin on The Green*

Nothing further had been heard about exchanging the present dog bin for a more aesthetically pleasing one.

ii) *Mr Lloyd's tree*

Mrs Macintyre reported that she had seen a tree surgeon and the pruning had been effected.

Traffic calming measures

Dr Oakley reported that he had been told by Richard Preston (CCC) that a speed-check was unnecessary before installing speed cushions.

Correspondence – SCDC Parish Council Liaison Meeting

Dr Oakley had attended the meeting and said it had been reasonably interesting. Apparently, under section 106 agreements, local council's should receive approximately £3,000 for each new house built in their parishes for use in providing recreational facilities; this could include play equipment. This arrangement did not apply to low-cost housing.

Any Other Business – Damage to FPC Notice Board

The clerk said she had found the correspondence address for Zippo's Circus on the Internet and would write to complain about the damage caused by people forcing the door of the Notice Board to insert one of their posters.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

The County Councillor had submitted her report by e-mail. It was taken as read at the meeting and is given in full below:

“Richard Preston's meeting with Network Rail has been rescheduled, so an item I'd asked him to pursue – lack of signage on the Barrington side of the A10 directing pedestrians and cyclists using the 'dual-use path' on how to get from one side of the tracks to the other and on to the path again. I've noticed people crossing the A10 itself, which is unnecessary and of course not very safe.

First Capital Connect came out to look at cycle rack installation and discovered they couldn't put any on the platform – too narrow. They lack land. They asked about the triangle of land adjacent to the north platform, abutting the A10; it doesn't belong to Network Rail and I have taken the liberty of inquiring about ownership via the District Lands officer who's now pursuing the matter. It would be an ideal place for cycle racks. Sorry this may seem like a wild goose chase but we may end up learning useful things, and still get the cycle racks.

Mike Cooper tells me that he responded to residents' drainage concerns at the convergence of Fowlmere Road and the High Street last August, by jetting. If there are still problems please let me know.

Congratulations to staff and students at Foxton Primary School following publication of League Tables: Foxton recorded the highest average points score in the county and the 28th (equal) in the country with 31.8.”

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Mrs Roberts had not submitted a report.

PARISH PLAN UPDATE

Mr Allars said that activity was suspended until all reports had been received. *Although it was important to get the detail right for the Planning Report, it was thought that some compromise might be necessary as Cambridgeshire ACRE (who were part-funding the project) had made a request for an update.*

REPORTS FROM THE WORKING PARTIES

RECREATION AND AMENITIES

Mr Bentinck had e-mailed a few notes to the clerk that she relayed to the meeting as follows:

1. Play Area Improvements

Two volunteers had come forward to help with this project, Philip Atkin (with experience of primary school teaching and fund-raising) and Anna Elliott (Foxton Pre-School). It was thought that either of these people might lead a group to further the project. *Mr Allars volunteered to host an inaugural meeting.*

2. Encroachment onto the Recreation Ground

The resident in question had been having a bonfire (albeit on council land) so it appeared that he was undertaking removal of the materials placed on the Recreation Ground.

3. Lights for the Youth shelter

Schoolscapes seemed unable to obtain the lights needed and Mr Bentinck had asked Mr Salmons to look for any old boxes or parts of lights in his father's barn. He had also asked to have one of the cages (for the lights) so that he could try to find lights that would fit in D I Y shops.

4. Solar Light at the Corner of the Allotments

Mr Bentinck said this had not been on lately. *It was thought that the light may have been stolen and Mr Allars agreed to establish whether this were so.*

5. Cricket Cover and Roller

Matt Grey had said he would move these items.

Dr Oakley read out a letter from a resident referring to land he had cultivated on the Recreation Ground. It was agreed that the council would reply by repeating its request that this resident remove all materials etc that had encroached on the Recreation Ground and enclosing copies of recent correspondence on this matter.

FINANCE

Mr Sutton gave details of the Bank Accounts as follows:

Deposit Account	£24,220.40
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Current Account	£653.48
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(This included a grant from SCDC of £500 towards the cost of the bike track and a rebate from H M Revenue and Customs of £99.34 for the tax deducted from the council's Cambridge Building Society Account for 2008/09)

Mr Sutton proposed the following cheques for payment:

CGM Cambridge Ltd (additional grass cutting November)	£143.75
Foxton VHT (hire of Meeting Room 5/10/09)	£13.50

Cambridgeshire County Council (rent for Dovecote)	£50.00
N Oakley (2 nd half Chairman's Honorarium)	£80.00

Dr Grindley seconded the proposal and all were agreed that these payments, totalling £287.25 be made and that £310 be transferred from the Current Account to the Deposit Account.

PLANNING

Mr Barnes reported as follows:

Planning permission granted:

Mr Gary Cannon	Application No. S/1284/09/F for the erection of a cycle store at 4 Rowlands Close Usual conditions
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Planning applications considered at the meeting:

Mr Simon Bugey	Application No. S/1574/09/F for part conversion of garage to living accommodation at 9 Edis Way Approved
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At this point Mr Barnes left the room as he had declared an interest.

Mrs Payne	Application No. S/1510/09F for extension of garage and workshop to form annexe at 59 Fowlmere Road Refused
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It was explained to Mrs Payne (present in the visitors' seats) that the council could not support the application because it did not comply with SCDC planning policy.

Mr Barnes returned to the meeting.

Response to the Regional Strategy

The Planning Committee had not responded to the consultation due to the lack of time to make a considered response.

POLICE LIAISON REPORT

Mr Barnes reported having received a letter of complaint about disturbance in the Community Building car park arising from football being played there and mopeds being driven round. The police were aware of the problems and said the matter was progressing. Mr Barnes had also received a visit from the local Transport Police who said that a youth had been zigzagging on his moped/motorcycle between the level crossing gates.

Other incidents for concern were:

- A parishioner being knocked down on the Recreation Ground by a group of 12-14 year-olds
- A break-in at the school

Both these cases had been reported to the police.

Two incidents on the A10, one a hit-and run, were being followed up by the Transport Police.

Finally, it was confirmed that no one had responded to the article in “The Laurentian” on the need for a Neighbourhood Watch organiser.

RECREATION GROUND TRUST REPORT (RGT)

Dr McKeown reported as follows:

The RGT met on 24th November with six Trustees present. Tessa Howell, representing the Village Hall Trust, was also present for part of the meeting.

The Village Hall Facilities Manager had submitted a report that showed progress on maintenance and highlighted some areas for repair. The meeting asked that he obtained quotations for the necessary work and also noted that modification to the showers was necessary and proposed that this be done in early summer. A suggestion for adjusting the size of the areas for showers and changing was received from Andy Cambridge and this would be assessed at the same time as seeking quotations for the work on the showers.

The Facilities Manager’s log was circulated so that the Trustees could appreciate the nature of the call-outs and routine work necessary to keep the Hall in good running order. It was decided that a formal review of the work should be carried out next Spring.

The Meeting was alerted to the fact that Cambridgeshire County Council was constructing a claim for overpayment of utilities during the time that inadequate metering was in place: it also agreed to the suggestion of the Hon. Treasurer that an escalation of 5% continue to be applied to the maintenance charge made on CCC.

Progress had been made with regard to facilities for the storage area. Dr Grindley reported that Welch and Co was prepared to offer a 40ft container and to use one of its cranes to position both this and the existing smaller container within the compound. This could not occur until the ground had hardened in Spring.

EDF had surveyed the area where the Sports Clubs intended to erect training lights and the fee for this would be deducted from any installation cost, which was estimated to be around £1000. Dr Grindley had obtained a sponsorship promise from Welch and Co and was hopeful of at least one other offer.

Suggestions for re-siting the ball wall and for the provision of an all-weather practice area were held over for future consideration.

The Hon. Treasurer pointed out that income had fallen substantially due to lower interest rates for savings. He proposed to leave one bond for a further 12-month period with the current provider, and this was agreed. The insurance policy giving public liability cover to the RGT was due for renewal and the correspondent stated that he had sought alternative quotations but had not improved on the offer from the current provider. The Meeting agreed to continue with this insurer.

DOVECOTE/MEADOW REPORT

There was nothing to report at the present meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE

Dr Oakley had received an e-mail from Sarah Lock about public access to Foxton Woods: the five-bar gates were nailed shut and it was difficult for her toddler to get over the stile. It was confirmed that the wood belongs to County Farms. Dr Oakley agreed to get back to Mrs Lock and to contact Dr van der Ven about this matter.

The clerk then summarised the correspondence received in the past month, which is given in full below:

- 1) Letter dated 6th November from the Society of Local Council Clerks offering a Continuous Professional Development course.
- 2) Letter dated 13th November from Andrew Lansley MP regarding the issue of the provision of youth facilities in South Cambridgeshire and asking for the council's views on youth provision in Foxton. *It was agreed that the clerk would liaise with SB in replying to this letter.*
- 3) Letter dated 18th November from CCC Rights of Way Officer re the Parish Paths partnership for 2010/11 with "Frequently asked questions" information sheet.
- 4) Letter dated 27th November from CCC Environmental Services Department re consultation on a Countywide Advisory Freight Map: comments to be received by 5th February 2010.
- 5) Letter from the Manager of Royston & District Community Transport about this registered charity and requesting a donation: leaflet enclosed.
- 6) Letter from the SCDC Communications Officer enclosing a leaflet and posters about household waste and recycling collections over Christmas and the New Year.
- 7) Information from CPALC including:
 - Bulletin for Autumn 2009
 - Recruitment poster for School Governors
 - Information sheet on the Big Lottery Fund
- 8) Local Council Review, Winter 2009.
- 9) "Clerks and Councils Direct" magazine, November 2009.
- 10) CCC magazine "Your Cambridgeshire" for November 2009.
- 11) Publicity material from SMP, ASM, and Sovereign (play equipment and safety surfaces), Glasdon, Rekk (youth shelters), Littlethorpe (bus shelters), Neatastreet (benches, salt bins etc)

VISITORS' QUESTIONS

Mrs Payne asked for confirmation (given) that the council's failure to support her planning application was due to it failing to comply with District Council Planning Policy.

Mrs Mitchell (Station Road resident) raised queries about the proposed development to the rear of the Press cottages and studied the plans with members of the Planning Committee.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The clerk said that she had telephoned the Donelly's to establish what the problem was with the fence and hedge bordering his property at 1, St Laurence Road. Mrs Donelly seemed to think that the fence was not their responsibility and said that the hedge (on the outside of the fence) was causing damage to the fence. Dr Grindley agreed to investigate.

The clerk also mentioned that she had received a telephone call from the County Council enquiring about the ownership of the stretch of footpath leading from Caxton Lane to the farmland beyond. The present tenant of the farmland wanted to convert the footpath to a bridleway and to proceed with this CCC needed to know who owned the section of the footpath already referred to. Dr Oakley agreed to look into this.

Mr Sutton asked if there was anything further to report on the request for a cycle rack at the station. The clerk said she would forward Dr van der Ven's report to councillors.

Mr Sutton also said that a large estate car had been part-parking on "The Green" Mr Allars volunteered to put "polite notices" on cars parking on "The Green" asking them not to park there.

Mrs Macintyre said that the Highways Department did not believe that the Cherry tree in Station Road required any work on it at present.

Dr Oakley asked that his report on emergency planning be made an agenda item for the next meeting.

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

It was confirmed that the next meeting would be held on **Monday, 4th January 2010** at **7.45pm** in the **Meeting Room** of the **Village Hall**.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.15pm.