

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF FOXTON PARISH COUNCIL

HELD ON MONDAY, 2nd JULY 2012 AT 7.45 p.m.

PRESENT

Dr Oakley, Dr Grindley, Mr Bore, Mr Elliott, Mr McCreery, Mrs Macintyre, Mrs McFadzean and Mr Sutton

County Councillor Susan van de Ven (arrived slightly late)

District Councillor Deborah Roberts

IN ATTENDANCE

4 members of the public

APOLOGIES

Mr Barnes

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.

New legal requirements to register members' interests came into force on 1st July and councillors were each issued with a new form to be completed and returned to the SCDC Monitoring Officer by 28th July. It was not clear whether the council would still need a dispensation with regard to the Recreation Ground Trust and Mrs Roberts was asked to look into this.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

One amendment was needed:

On page 21, District Councillor's Report (1st paragraph), the first sentence should read "Mrs Roberts said that committees remained politically represented proportionately etc".

Dr Oakley proposed that, with this amendment, the Minutes of the previous Meeting held on Monday, 11th June be signed as a true record. Mrs Macintyre seconded the proposal and all were agreed.

MATTERS ARISING

None

As Dr van de Ven had not yet arrived, the chairman asked Mrs Roberts to give her report.

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Mrs Roberts reported that the appeal relating to the application at 2 Hall Close had been dismissed.

The amended application from Goreway Holdings for a house adjacent to No. 7 Station Road would be considered at a meeting of the SCDC Planning Committee on Wednesday, 4th July. The original application had been refused on objections from both Foxton Parish Council and SCDC: it had subsequently gone to appeal with the appeal having been dismissed. The amended application had received officer approval and Mrs Roberts said she would be attending the meeting and recommended that an FPC member also attend. Dr Grindley was willing to attend and all were agreed.

Mrs Roberts said there had been an eight-hour SCDC meeting on the Local Plan and a consultation document would be coming to parish councils. Small villages had not been picked as locations for development. It had been suggested that Foxton and Fowlmere might form a sub-committee to consider the plan.

An exception site for affordable homes might be available and Mrs Roberts had held a site meeting with the landowner.

Dr van de Ven had by now arrived at the meeting and was asked to give her report.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Dr van de Ven reported as follows:

1. Drainage at St Laurence Road/High Street Corner:

Mike Cooper (CCC Highways Department) had responded by saying that, whilst there might be significant nuisance pooling at this location, it did not constitute more serious risk and therefore action was not warranted. Dr van de Ven said that if there were more serious issues it would be helpful to know so that she could refer them back.

2. Lorry movements in Foxton

Dr van de Ven had received another complaint from a different resident about heavy commercial Vehicles in Foxton, and had arranged to meet the relevant officer, together with the parish council chairman, in early September.

3. Two consultations requiring parish council input

i) Thameslink Franchise (post First Capital Connect):

Dr van de Ven had asked the clerk to circulate the Meldreth, Shepreth and Foxton Rail User Group's draft response for comment; and she said the parish council might also wish to respond directly to the Department for Transport.

ii) County Council South Cambs and Cambridge City Transport Strategy:

Dr van de Ven said that at last a transport strategy was taking shape, in conjunction with the tremendous growth of the Cambridge southern fringe. She said this was the time to make the case for a high quality A10 cycle path and car parking for the railway station, among other things. (Web link: www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/tscsc).

4. Meeting with Network Rail's Managing Director

Dr van de Ven said that at her meeting with Network Rail's Managing Director (NR MD) and two county council officers on June 14, the NR MD announced that NR would be carrying out (and fully funding) a feasibility study on all options for addressing safety issues at Foxton Level Crossing, in the broadest possible terms. This commitment went way beyond expectations and indicated the seriousness of NR's current attitude. Dr van de Ven said that this continued to be a step-by-step process and that there were no guarantees.

5. Cambridgeshire Future Transport (CFT)

Dr van de Ven had accepted an invitation to join the countywide Governance Group for this project, which was all about what would follow the cuts in bus subsidies. She continued to be very critical of the handling of the project and had urged the group to be more transparent and communicative about its work, and also queried various governance issues. The group had met recently and its members were asked to alert community transport providers in their area to the fact that CFT has £516K in one-off government grant money to spend on Community Transport, and for their ideas – though no criteria for this allocation of funds had been established. Dr van de Ven had raised concerns.

6. Bike Bank and Community Connect

The Bike Bank pilot project, which teaches bicycle maintenance skills to young people on a six-week course based at Melbourn Village College on Tuesday evenings, was going very well.

Through the Bike Bank initiative Dr van de Ven said she had continuing contact with the county's adviser for young people who were "Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET)"; the adviser was doing a very effective job in the local area and had made a special request to local businesses to be receptive to training and apprenticeships for young people.

7. Rail User Group

Dr van de Ven said the group now had young people involved in weekly gardening, and its Minutes had been taken by a young person looking to develop her administration skills. The group was now accommodating students from Melbourn Village College doing Duke of Edinburgh skills and volunteering, and a young person who is "NEET".

8. Affordable Housing and a Community Hub in Melbourn

A planning application had been received for affordable housing and a community hub in Melbourn (which would house the Melbourn Library Access Point) that would go to the SCDC Planning Committee on Wednesday. Dr van de Ven had requested to speak on county-related aspects of the application (the library service) but this had

been declined. All parish councils in the Melbourn county division were now supporting the Library Access Point. Dr van de Ven said that if the parish council wished to make a representation there was still time to do so.

REPORTS FROM THE WORKING PARTIES

RECREATION AND AMENITIES

Mr McCreery reported as follows:

1. Play Area

The Playgroup Initiative received the grant from AmeyCespa on Monday, 25th June. The Buildings Inspector from SCDC had carried out his inspection and the grant had been passed for payment and was therefore shortly expected.

Mr McCreery had advised Kompan of the delay in receiving grants and the company had agreed to a delay in the payment of its invoice. Kompan had provided the guarantees and technical data on the new equipment together with details of a proposed maintenance schedule. In addition to visual checks by FPC as the owner of the equipment, Kompan could provide maintenance packages at three levels, one annual inspection plus 1, 2 or 3 operation inspections at an effective cost of £250 per visit i.e. packages are £500, £750 or £1,000 per annum.

There had been some problems with the giraffe swing, which had needed U-bolts to be replaced twice.

2. Half Pipe

The July issue of the Laurentian would ask for feedback on the proposal for a half-pipe and for views on retention of the existing BMX track. A survey on the issues was also being carried in the senior classes of the Primary School. Mr McCreery had received a response from one resident who was interested in creating a fund-raising committee.

3. Litter-Pick

Mr McCreery said that the litter-pick would be held on Sunday, 15th July when volunteers would meet at 11.00am in the Village Hall car park. Notices would be posted asking for helpers in addition to the mention in the Laurentian.

4. Solar Lights

The new solar light on the corner of the allotments appeared to be working well. The R&A group would now like to set up a similar light in the Dovecote Meadow. *Mr McCreery said that 2 solar lights might be needed for the Dovecote meadow and proposed one light in the first place with a second to follow at a later date. Mrs Macintyre seconded the proposal and all were agreed. The overall cost would be about £100.*

5. Street Lighting

Mr McCreery said he had attended a meeting at Comberton where the County Council had explained its revised procedures for implementing the upgrading of street lighting.

Details of the programme would be issued in September for the 5-year replacement project. The schedule for the project stated that FPC would be notified 6 months prior to work commencing. After FPC's views were made 2-3 months ahead leaflets would be sent to residents. Designs would then be drawn up and letters sent to residents 2-4 weeks ahead with the designs marked on the street 1-2 weeks before commencement of the work.

A plan was already available on the web. The new lighting would be white and there would be an overall reduction in street lighting units of 10%, rising to 30% in some residential areas, with no reduction on through traffic routes. The new poles would be 6 metres high and the majority of Foxton's poles would be replaced. Where CCC light poles were not replaced, the lamps would be upgraded. Mr McCreery said there were about 20 lighting units in Foxton owned by SCDC that would be unaffected by this programme although Balfour Beatty would maintain these under a separate contract. Residential lighting would be dimmed at 10.00pm.

6. Trees

Mr McCreery said that some further tree work and hedge cutting was required and the group would be requesting David Salmons to deal with most of this. In addition, after canvassing council members, permission had been given to the Tennis Club to cut one tree (part of the hedge bordering the tennis courts) down to the level of the hedge.

The clerk said that all but one of the annual response forms re access to the Recreation Ground had been received and it was agreed that Mr McCreery would contact the resident concerned after receiving the details from the clerk.

FINANCE

Mr Sutton gave details of the bank accounts as follows:

Deposit Account		£14,362.80
(This included interest of £2.13 for the period 5/3/12-5/6/12)		
Current Account		£51.04
Barclays Bank Premium 10-day Notice Account		
	£30,799.95	
Add: monthly interest	<u>28.49</u>	£30,808.52

Mr Sutton proposed the following cheques for payment:

Npower Ltd (charges for 1/5/12-31/5/12)	£5.74
J E Burns (salary June and July)	£632.15
J E Burns (expenses & allowances May and June)	£111.03
HM Revenue & Customs (tax on clerk's salary for 3 months to 5/7/12)	£131.60

Mr Bore seconded the proposal and all were agreed that these payments, totalling £880.52 should be made and that £880 be transferred from the Deposit Account to the Current Account.

Mr Sutton said he had made a gift of wine, as agreed, to Mr Matthews (at a cost of £44) as a token of appreciation for carrying out the internal audit of the council's accounts for the past four years.

Mr Sutton concluded by saying that he had passed two invoices from the Cricket Club (in respect of grass cutting on the Recreation Ground) for scrutiny by Mr McCreery.

PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr Bore reported as follows:

The Committee had met on 26th June with apologies from Mrs Macintyre and Mr Sutton.

Mr Manning, son of the applicant at 65 Station Road, was the only member of the public present.

There were no declarations of interest.

Applications considered at the meeting:

Mr Mervyn Manning	Application S/1213/12/FL for addition of pitched roof to freestanding garage at 65 Station Road
	Approval recommended

Approval was recommended subject to the usual conditions regarding hours of work and that construction and tradespersons' vehicles should not be allowed to park on Station Road at any time.

Mr F Cattle (agent)	Tree Application C/11/40/030 for reduction of crowns of 5 Cherry trees at 8-10 High Street
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The committee was unable to give any advice or recommendation, since the application site did not appear to be correct as stated. The application showed a plan of the trees between Nos. 8 and 10 High Street, but when the committee visited the site it found that no. 10 High Street did not exist, and there appeared to be no set of Cherry Trees in the area that matched the description with the possible exception of some trees behind No. 12.

The clerk had been asked to point out the error to the SCDC Trees Officers. It was later confirmed that the trees in question were at Pear Tree House in High Street and that the reduction of the crowns had been given officer approval.

Correspondence

The committee considered a letter from South Cambs District Council regarding the options available for hosting a parish council web site. Two options were given; a gov.uk web site specific to the parish council, or a set of web pages as part of the www.scambs.co.uk domain. The options for each appeared to be broadly similar, and the committee agreed that a separate web site would be preferable. However there appeared to be no mention of the clickable mapping pilot scheme that SCDC had already set up in consultation with Dr Grindley, and it was not clear how this fitted into either of the available schemes. Dr Grindley agreed to contact SCDC to ask them about this.

E-mails had been received from NALC regarding the legal position on the ownership/transfer/development of land on and behind Station Road. These were passed on to those committee members present to read and consider. Dr Grindley had

drafted a response to SCDC re its invitation to commence a dialogue with the developer.

Dr Grindley emphasised again that the committee needed to ask the clerk to request a visit from one of SCDC's officers to attend our next planning meeting and agreed to suggest some dates for this.

Finally, the committee visited the Pavilion to discuss possible locations for sockets for the new parish council office.

POLICE LIAISON REPORT

There was no report in the absence of Mr Barns.

RECREATION GROUND TRUST REPORT

Mrs McFadzean said that the trustees had not met in the last month. She said that work had commenced on the new parish council office.

Mr Sutton had received an invoice for £421 (including VAT) for a new electric meter in the village hall complex. Mr Bore agreed to check with Tony Garrick that the installation was satisfactory and said that the builder would need an interim payment.

It was agreed that Mrs Macintyre would seek a further quotation for the village sign.

DOVECOTE/MEADOW REPORT

Mrs Macintyre said there would be a meeting later in the month to discuss the programme for grass cutting and raking.

CORRESPONDENCE

The clerk gave details of the correspondence received since the last meeting, which is given in full below:

- 1) Letter dated 15th June from CCC Passenger Transport giving advanced notification of changes to bus service 46 effective from 22nd July.
- 2) Letter dated 16th June from Mr Storer re the need for work on a tree on the border between the Recreation Ground and Illingworth Way with a broken branch caused by strong winds. *It was confirmed that this had already been removed.*
- 3) Letter from CCC Transport and Infrastructure giving the web link for public consultation document "Issues for a new transport strategy for Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire".
- 4) Letter received in June enclosing new timetables for Bus Services 2/7a/19/65.
- 5) Publicity material from J Parker (Wholesale bulbs) and Barcham Trees.

VISITORS' QUESTIONS

Mr Challis asked for a definition of "affordable homes"

Mrs Roberts said that these were dwellings available for rent or part sale generally through a housing association, but not houses being offered at market prices.

Mrs Howell said that a bad puddle was prone to develop at the War Memorial in wet weather.

Dr van de Ven said she would look into this problem.

Mrs Ward said that the litterbin at Vicarage Corner was presently at an alarming angle.

It was agreed that Mrs Macintyre would check this and ask Mr Salmons to deal with putting the bin right.

Mrs Cambridge reminded the council that she would be asking the parish council to provide the wreath for Remembrance Sunday and thanked the parish council who, via the chairman, presented long-service awards to British Legion collectors at the Jubilee picnic last month.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Dr Oakley said that the chairman of Thriplow parish council had warned him that travellers were on the move again.

Mrs Macintyre said that the A10 cycle path between the station and Barrington Road was impossible to use with a bicycle. Dr van de Ven said she would follow this up.

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

After some discussion on whether to hold an August meeting it was agreed that the next meeting would be held in **August 2012**, on a date to be decided, at **7.45pm** in the **Meeting Room** of the **Village Hall** with a shortened agenda.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.02 pm.