

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF FOXTON PARISH COUNCIL

HELD ON MONDAY, 4th AUGUST 2008, AT 7.45 p.m.

<u>PRESENT</u>	Dr Oakley, Dr Grindley, Mr Barnes, Dr McKeown, County Councillor David McCraith
<u>IN ATTENDANCE</u>	3 members of the public
<u>APOLOGIES</u>	Mr Bentinck and Mrs Macintyre

Dr Oakley welcomed all to the meeting.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

No amendments were needed. Dr Oakley proposed that the Minutes of the previous Meeting, held on Monday, 7th July 2008 be signed as a true record. Dr McKeown seconded the proposal and all were agreed.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Any Other Business – telephone kiosk at Hillfield

Dr McKeown said that a letter had been delivered to households that might be affected by the proposed removal of the telephone kiosk in Fowlmere Road and an item on this matter had been included in “The Laurentian”. In addition, BT had posted a Notice on the kiosk itself.

PARISH PLAN REPORT

Dr Oakley, on behalf of the council, thanked the Parish Plan Committee for getting an excellent questionnaire out to village residents.

Mr Hockley, reporting from the visitors’ seats, said that 20% of the questionnaires had been returned already and that there would be a reminder about the questionnaire in the September issue of “The Laurentian”.

Mr McCraith said he was delighted that the Project was going ahead.

REPORTS FROM THE WORKING PARTIES

RECREATION AND AMENITIES

Dr McKeown reported in Mr Bentinck’s absence as follows:

The Working Party had considered how to approach the placing of the next grass-cutting contract. Options included asking the County Council to take back the

responsibility for cutting the verges and to let the contract for the remainder except for areas that needed strimming, which could be contracted for separately. The snag with verge cutting reverting to the County Council was that the council would only cut four times per year whereas the previous contract had been for 8 cuts per year. The Cricket Club had offered to look after the Recreation Ground. However, it was thought that it would be uneconomic to split the contract in this way.

There was concern that some apparent annexation of the Recreation Ground had taken place. A letter had been sent to one resident and another would be contacted.

One tree in the gravel car park had been felled and the other trees there thinned so that they no longer caused problems for the adjoining property.

Chris Hindley had volunteered to take on the maintenance and care of the trees at the side of the churchyard and would assess the Oak tree planted in memory of the Reverend Rowland.

Youth Initiative

The group of youths who wanted a shelter on the Recreation Ground had so far made no attempt to raise funds for it and probably needed some encouragement. Mr Bentinck had wondered whether two benches sited beneath the overhang of the pavilion would be sufficient. It was suggested that the Community Building was a valuable asset and that this might put it at some risk. Dr Oakley suggested having another meeting with the youths after Mr Bentinck had returned from holiday.

Dr Oakley asked Mr McCraith about his experience with youth projects. Mr McCraith said that Meldreth had erected a graffiti wall that was proving a success.

FINANCE

Dr Oakley gave details of the Bank Accounts as follows:

Deposit Account	£20,899.01
Current Account	£222.70
Cambridge Building Society	£14,395.69

Dr Oakley proposed the following cheques for payment:

FVHT (hire of Meeting Room on 2/6 & 4/6 and Lounge on 17/6)	£34.50
G B Hockley (reimbursement for printer paper and ink for Parish Plan project)	£14.97
D Salmons Fencing Services (Village Warden duties, July)	£110.00

Dr McKeown seconded the proposal and all were agreed that these payments, totalling £159.47 should be made.

PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr Barnes reported as follows:

(DPD) lacked sufficient housing allocations to make up the requirement identified in this and other plans for South Cambridgeshire and had asked SCDC to carry out further work to make up the shortfall. As a result, the Inspectors' Report (including decisions on Objection Sites) might not be available until Spring 2009.

POLICE LIAISON REPORT

Mr Barnes reported that he had attended a meeting of the Local Police Panel on 21st July with uniformed members of the Police present. Crime levels for Fowlmere and Foxton (reported on jointly) remained relatively stable. There had been improvements in crime levels in Meldreth, Melbourn and Bassingbourn, although the latter village was suffering from speeding vehicles. The latest targets for metal thieves were post-boxes and unmanned fire stations.

There had been a further meeting at Sawston with the Chief Superintendent and five Senior Inspectors present at which considerable time had been devoted to speed monitoring and an accident at Linton.

It was noted that the area was losing one of the best Police Support Officers, who was going to train as a police officer. The clerk was asked to write a note of thanks.

RECREATION GROUND TRUST AND RECREATION GROUND EXTENSION COMMITTEE (RGEC)

Dr McKeown said that neither the Trust nor RGEC had met in the past month. The solicitor had had to redraft the lease for the Preschool Garden group because some amendments were missing.

One further letter had been received from Hewitsons, the Trust's solicitors. The Land Registry process had stalled because Mr Callin had not yet valued the land in question. Dr Grindley agreed to speak to Mr Callin about this. Finally, Dr McKeown said that Hewitsons had submitted their invoice for the work.

Dr Oakley, on behalf of the council, thanked Dr McKeown for all his hard work and diligence.

DOVECOTE/MEADOW REPORT

It was confirmed that the owl box was now complete and was apparently occupied by pigeons.

CORRESPONDENCE

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

- 1) Letter dated July from EEARA re the Review of the East of England Plan – consultation and statement of public participation: deadline for response Monday, 13th September 2008. *Passed to GB and CG*
- 2) Letter dated 18th July from the SCDC Public Examination Office saying that the Inspectors consider that the Site-specific Policies Development Plan Document (DPD) lacks sufficient housing allocations to make up the requirement identified in this and other plans for South Cambridgeshire and

have asked SCDC to carry out further work to make up the shortfall. As a result, the Inspectors' Report (including decisions on Objection Sites) might not be available until Spring 2009.

- 3) E-mail dated 18th July from the SCDC Development Manager re the BT consultation on the closure of telephone boxes: enclosing schedule of initial replies. (*Deadline for further responses 23rd August*)
- 4) Letter dated 24th July from CCC enclosing schedule of changes to Stagecoach services.
- 5) Letter (received July) for South Cambs Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) inviting attendance at its Community Safety event to be held on Wednesday, 10th September at Cambridge City Airport between 5.30pm and 8.20pm: enclosing acceptance slip. *Passed to GB*
- 6) Letter dated 3rd August from Mr Bochoven expressing concern about the Village Hall Committee's licence application. *The clerk was asked to acknowledge the letter, which would be considered at the next FPC meeting.*
- 7) Information from CALC including:
 - Memo re Practitioners' Guide; Cemetery conference; CILCA; and the proposal to move the 2009 elections to June
 - Memo re Autumn Training Schedule
 - Publication "a Guide to becoming a Quality Council"
- 8) Information from Cambridgeshire ACRE including:
 - Notice of AGM to be held on 2nd September at St Ives: enclosing reply form
- 9) Letter from the SCDC Arts Officer enclosing information and poster (displayed) relating to the Summer Musical Theatre Academy for young people being staged in different parts of the district in the coming weeks and leaflet: also enclosing leaflet from The Lothbury Arts and Health Centre in Weston Colville.
- 10) SCDC leaflet (issue 4) "The Future of Council Housing in South Cambridgeshire".
- 11) CCC publication "Your Cambridgeshire", Summer 2008.
- 12) Publicity material from IOG Saltex (outdoor play and parks event) and Online Playgrounds.

VISITORS' QUESTIONS

Mr Challis asked to be reminded of what had been done about encroachment on the Recreation Ground. He also complimented the Parish Plan group on the questionnaire it had produced. Mr Challis said he was intrigued that the proposed dwelling, plans for which had been considered earlier in the meeting, would be approached by a dirt path. Referring to the youth shelter, he said it was a shame the boys had "gone off the boil" and suggested that they might be invited to attend another FPC meeting.

Mr Barnes said that the remaining Police Support Officer was still happy to be involved.

Mr Hockley said that he had received several complimentary remarks about the Parish Plan questionnaire.

Mrs Mees-Grove had received a letter about encroachment onto the Recreation Ground. She outlined the history of how the piece of land had come to be fenced off to protect young saplings planted to improve the screening to the rear of her property after the existing growth had been cut back too vigorously. She said that her property was very vulnerable to footballs being kicked into the garden.

Dr Grindley said that the council was looking to manage the whole strip of land bordering the Recreation Ground in consultation with an officer from the District Council. It was important that the land registration should not be compromised.

It was suggested that a site meeting should be held in the near future with Mrs Mees-Grove.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mr McCraith said that Cambridge Police had told him that they hoped to replace the retiring Police Support Officer.

The clerk had received a telephone call from a Mrs Wilson of Hauxton who was holding a party at the Village Hall on 30th August and would like to be allowed to cut the grass at the rear of the hall the week before. It was agreed to give permission with the proviso that the grass cutting was carried out at the Wilson's own risk. The clerk was asked to write to Mrs Wilson to this effect.

The clerk also reported a telephone call from Stafford May, Curator of the Cambridge Philatelic Society, who is writing an article for the journal of the Postal Mechanisation Study Circle. Mr May was appealing for any of the envelopes and letters sent out by Royal Mail in February 1980 advising of the Postcode change from SG to CB. He would also like any envelopes with the SG postcode in the address. Mr Challis agreed to include this request in his Parish Council meeting report in this month's issue of "The Laurentian".

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

It was confirmed that this would be held on **Monday, 1st September 2008 at 7.45pm in the Village Hall Meeting Room.**

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.40 pm.