

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF FOXTON PARISH COUNCIL

HELD ON MONDAY, 6th NOVEMBER 2006, AT 7.45 p.m.

PRESENT

Mr Pusey, Mr Hockley, Mr Brooksbank, Dr Grindley,
Mr Kennedy, Miss Thake

County Councillor David McCraith (arrived at 9pm)

District Councillor Mrs Roberts

IN ATTENDANCE

2 members of the public

APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Mr Barnes, Mr Chilton
and Dr McKeown. County Councillor McCraith
warned he would be late.

Mr Pusey welcomed all to the meeting

DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Mr Brooksbank declared a non-prejudicial interest in two planning applications from residents in Station Road.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

All were agreed that the Minutes of the previous Meeting, held on Monday 4th October 2006, be signed as a true record.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

SCDC's consultation meeting on Gypsy and Traveller Site provision (FPC Response)

Mr Brooksbank said that a study had demonstrated the requirement for 110-130 new pitches in South Cambridgeshire up to 2010. The SCDC development plan had been drawn up to determine the policy by which these sites would be identified. There were already a good many sites in the East of England generally, and more sites in South Cambridgeshire than any other county. Mr Brooksbank then outlined the responses that he, Mr Barnes, Mr Pusey and Mr Hockley had agreed to recommend at a preliminary meeting as follows:

1. In view of the large number of pitches already within South Cambridgeshire, coupled with the other development pressures in the district, it is reasonable that South Cambridgeshire does not provide as many as 110-130 new pitches so that the overall regional and national distribution is levelled up. Support, the need for sites but with the proviso that sites are appropriate to the locality with regard to environmental impact.
2. Support proposed approach to identifying sites.

3. Support the option that proposes sites for pitches be in areas deemed suitable on planning grounds for standard housing. Mr Brooksbank said it was vital that the Parish Council not only act fairly and equitably between the gypsy & traveller community and the settled community, but that they are seen to do so.
4. Support the option proposing that pitches should be outside but near to local centres.
5. Prefer that pitches be within 1km of a centre in Cambridge, Northstowe or a rural centre, but, if necessary to meet the quota, to include minor rural centres.
6. Support the options proposing pitches should be within 1000m of a transport mode with half-hourly service to local centre or town.
7. Very strongly agree that pitches should not be permitted where it results in undue pressures on local physical and social infrastructure.
8. Support option for smaller pitches, which are favoured by both communities.
9. Mr Brooksbank said that those present at the preliminary meeting were unaware of any suitable sites in the district.

Mr Pusey proposed that the clerk respond to the SCDC consultation document according to the recommendations outlined by Mr Brooksbank. All were agreed.

Former Q8 Garage

Mrs Roberts had no further information on this.

Any Other Business – Trees in Station Road

Mrs Roberts said the officer she had contacted about this matter had not got back to her. She said she would keep Mr Pusey informed.

Visitors' Questions

(i) Land at side of Hall Close

Mr Pusey thought it possible that the piece of land in Hall Close bordering 57 Station Road might belong to Villiers Park Educational Trust. The feeling in the meeting, however, was that this land had somehow been forgotten at the time of the Hall Close development. As the council, although not obliged to, was keeping the grass cut on this piece of land, the clerk was asked to seek advice from CALC about the council's position.

(ii) Old School Site

Mr Pusey said he had received a letter from the headteacher at the pupil referral unit now occupying the site asking the council to allow the group to stay at the Station Road site beyond July 2007. Mr Pusey said it was not a matter for the council to decide and that he had contacted the Property department at Shire Hall: he gathered things stood just as they did twelve months ago. Mr Challis (in the visitors' seats) said that, although he felt the school was being used as it should be, the parish council should be kept informed. Mr Pusey said this was what the council was trying to achieve.

REPORTS FROM THE COMMITTEES

RECREATION AND AMENITIES

As Mr Chilton was not present, the clerk read his report as follows:

1. “Froggo” bin

The bin had been repaired and re-fixed in the Play Area.

2. Grass cutting

Mr Chilton had not yet had time to review the grass-cutting contract with a view to extending it, but would do so as soon as possible.

The sports club’s groundsman had asked for a further cut on the Recreation Ground and that the mowings be collected to avoid frost damage to the grass.
It was agreed that the clerk should contact Cleanaway to arrange this.

Mr Pusey said that David Salmons had quoted £30 to cut back the hedge at Vicarage corner, and that the work had been carried out.

FINANCE

Mr Hockley reported as follows:

Deposit Account	£25,990.26
(This included a VAT rebate of £3,917.76 for the period 25/2/06-20/9/06 and the 1 st instalment of a Heritage Lottery Fund grant to the Dovecote Fund of £11,250)	
Current Account	£102.64
(This included a contribution of £50 from the W.I. to the Dovecote Fund)	
Cambridge Building Society	£13,604.68

Mr Hockley proposed that the following cheques be approved:

Scotsdale Nursery & Garden Centre Ltd (Morus Nigra tree, stake, tie, guard & delivery)	£37.48
Foxton Village Hall Trust (hire of meeting room on 4/9 and 2 & 31/10 and Lounge on 25 & 26/9 & 31/10)	£66.00
SCDC (emptying dog bins 1/10/06-31/12/06)	£93.12
D Pusey (reimbursement for photographs of Dovecote)	£19.28
J E Burns (salary October/November)	£568.13
J E Burns (expenses September/October)	£50.36
V Mead (refuse collection, maintenance & repairs, October)	£98.01

Dr Grindley seconded the proposal and all were agreed that these payments, totalling £1,022.38, should be made and that £1020 be transferred from the Deposit Account to the Current Account.

PLANNING

In Mr Barnes absence, Mr Hockley reported as follows:

Outline planning permission granted:

H J Rayner and D M Ash Application No. S/1674/04/O for 3 dwellings and garaging at land between 3 and 11 Mortimers Lane
 Numerous conditions including the need for an archaeological investigation

Planning applications considered at the meeting:

Dr & Dr Baxter Application No. S/1883/06/LB for internal alterations at 1, The Green
 No recommendation

L R Pesci Application No. S/1915/06/F for an extension at 69 Station Road
 No recommendation

Mr & Mrs G Wilson Application No. S/1953/06/F for an extension at 24 Barrington Road
 No recommendation

Tree Application

Mrs H Manning Application c/11/17/030/01 to reduce the crowns of 4 Beech trees and 1 Oak tree at the front of 65 Station Road
 No comment

The clerk said she had telephoned the LDF Programme Officer concerning the two objection sites in Foxton. She was on holiday, but her assistant said that the sites would not be considered until autumn next year and the report would be a few months after that.

POLICE LIAISON

Miss Thake had nothing to report despite Halloween and Guy Fawke's night having occurred in the past month.

RECREATION GROUND TRUST AND COMMUNITY BUILDING

Mr Pusey said draft leases had been sent to the Pre-school group and the Cricket Club for review. The Allotments Group was now "at the back of the queue". Mr Pusey said he had received a draft licence agreement for individual allotment holders to be attached to the Management Agreement.

Community Building

Mr Pusey had received a detailed report from Martyn Smith (CCC), which acknowledged some of the outstanding problems as its responsibility but proposing to take no action on others. The report would need discussion, as RGT would wish to challenge some of the statements in it. Mr Pusey said he was concerned that the report said that the exterior lighting should be returned to its original condition in order for the insurance policy to be valid. Mr Smith recommended that FPC consult

its insurers on this point. Mr Pusey suggested that a joint meeting between the Recreation Ground Trust and the Village Hall Trust be held to discuss Mr Smith's report.

Dr Grindley detailed some of the concerns regarding the sports pavilion: some faults had not been dealt with adequately, particularly the locks to the toilet cubicles where there had been instances of people being locked in the cubicles and unable to get out. He thought all the locks should be changed and that new taps were needed.

Recreation Ground Extension Committee

Mr Brooksbank reported that two National Lottery initiatives applications – “Reaching Communities” and “Awards for All” would be considered at the RGT meeting to be held immediately after the present meeting. Mrs Roberts had agreed to act as referee for these applications.

Dr McKeown had submitted an application to SCDC for grant support for the bike project. Jane Lampshire had directed that further forms were needed and Dr McKeown had circulated drafts of these by e-mail for consideration by FPC. Mr Pusey recommended that FPC agree the work done by Dr McKeown. All were agreed.

DOVECOTE/MEADOW PROJECT

Mr Hockley said that £11,250 of the Heritage Lottery grant had been drawn down.

Mr Pusey reported progress with the building work. The roofing had been completed and it was hoped that the thatcher would begin work this week. However, the quality of straw would need SCDC's approval.

Work was continuing on the signboard, which would be mounted on a lectern stand and the information booklet was with the printers.

The Open Day was planned for Sunday, 3rd December.

CORRESPONDENCE

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

- 1) Letter dated 29th September from Cleanaway informing that the firm has been acquired by Veolia Environmental Services.
- 2) Letter received October 2006 from SCDC re a Community Strategy workshop to be held at the SCDC offices at Cambourne on 15th November between 6.30pm and 9pm: enclosing briefing document.
- 3) Letter dated October 2006 from SCDC re Gypsy and Traveller Development Plan Document – Issues and Options Report 1: General approach – Public Consultation. (*Passed to RB*)
- 4) Letter dated October 2006 from CCC enclosing questionnaire on the level of satisfaction with the Highways Services. (*Passed to BH*)
- 5) Letter dated 6th October from CCC re Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste Plan documents: Consultation on the Preferred Options:

enclosing schedule of key dates, indicative location maps and list of waste and mineral facilities.

- 6) Letter dated 10th October from the SCDC Conservation and Design Manager re the SCDC Biodiversity Strategy.
- 7) Letter dated 12th October from Janet Carr (Headteacher, Foxton Learning Centre) asking whether the pupil referral unit might remain at the old school.
- 8) Letter dated 16th October from CCC re the Registration Service in Cambridgeshire and the national modernisation programme presently underway: enclosing a summary of the proposed changes in Cambridgeshire and reduced-size copy of a consultation leaflet. (Comments to be received by 15th November.)
- 9) Letter dated 16th October from the CCC Lighting Engineer with an inventory of the number of lamps chargeable for maintenance.
- 10) Letter dated 18th October from SCDC enclosing the notes and presentations from the Travellers Liaison Forum held on 5th October.
- 11) Letter dated 19th October from the SCDC Head of Planning responding to the council's letter concerning potential parking problems at 63 High Street when building work commences.
- 12) Letter dated 19th October from CCC enclosing a booklet containing the current structure of its senior management and brief details of responsibilities.
- 13) Letter dated 23rd October from CCC on tackling the growing challenge of congestion in Cambridgeshire and informing of briefing meeting on 14th November at Shire Hall from 5.30pm to 7.30pm.
- 14) Report of the SCDC Licensing (2003 Act) Sub-Committee on the Hearing held on 2nd October 2006 for the Villiers Park Educational Trust's licensing application.
- 15) Copy of SCDC's Gambling Act Draft Licensing Policy with covering letter.
- 16) Letter dated 26th October from CCC re Camclerks – Cambridgeshire LA's clerking service.
- 17) Letter (no address given) dated 27th September (received 31st October) from Steve Broadbent re his concerns over improvements needed at bus stops.
- 18) Letter (undated) received 2nd November, from Countryside Alliance re the threat to the future of post offices with a card for display.
- 19) Letter dated 31st October from CCC re the Parish Paths Partnership 2006/07: enclosing "Frequently asked Questions" leaflet.
- 20) Joint letter dated 3rd November from Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council re Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste Preferred Options Consultation: 6 November-18 December 2006 and enclosing information sheets, CD's (with guidance notes), maps etc.

- 21) Information from CALC including:
 - Notice and agenda for District Association meeting to be held on 22nd November, and notes of the meeting held on 24th August
 - Leaflet entitled “The Rural Social and Community Programme
 - Notice of extraordinary general meeting to be held on 14th October at 1.15 pm together with agenda
 - Appeal on behalf of LEPR (Cookie for a Cure – 2007)
 - Details of various training courses
 - Leaflet 23 – a guide to the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) order 2005
 - Bulletin, September/October 2006
- 22) Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust’s Annual Report 2006.
- 23) Newsletter from EEAPTC (East of England Associations of Parish and Town Councils).
- 24) Invitation from The Cambridge and District Community Mediation Service to its AGM on 17th November 2006
- 25) COPE newsletter, October 2006 and Mission Statement leaflet
- 26) Cambridgeshire ACRE invitation to Community Planning Evenings on 2nd and 14th November.
- 27) Local Council Review, November 2006 (including booking form for NALC conference).
- 28) Copy of Standards Board for England “Town and Parish Standard: 08”.
- 29) “The Tree Guardian”, autumn 2006
- 30) CCC Countryside Access Team Annual Report April 2005 - March 2006.
- 31) Disability Sport Focus Group newsletter October 2006 - March 2007.
- 32) Letter (received from DP in October and dated September) from Inspire East - “Keeping you in touch with regeneration activity in the region” – enclosing form to confirm details for database.
- 33) CCC poster and leaflets on driving near water.
- 34) “Active Clubs”, August 2006, the magazine for sports clubs in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough
- 35) “Clerks and Councils Direct”, October 2006
- 36) Publicity material from Playground Services, Adventure Playgrounds Ltd, Playworld Systems, Wicksteed (play equipment), Urbanscape (grit and storage bins) and Buchans (grounds maintenance).

VISITORS’ QUESTIONS

Mr Challis praised the excellent job that had been done so far on improvements to the cottage at I, High Street and also expressed surprise at the number of applicants who gain planning permission and then fail to proceed with work.

Mrs Roberts said that the application for houses at Moores Farm was taking a very long time because SCDC had not yet been signed off the S106 agreement.

Mr Challis also said he thought the external lights on the Community Building should be bright. Mr Challis also said that the council was not pushing hard enough for a car park at the station – in his view Network Rail had a duty to provide a car park.

Mr McCraith said that he totally agreed with Mr Challis. However, Andrew Lansley had written to Network Rail without success. The land on the opposite side of the road was held by the Department of Transport.

Mrs Howell said that it was not wished that the external lights on the Community Building should be dimmer but that they should be directed downwards rather than across the car park.

Mr McCraith said he had spoken to Martyn Smith about the lights and Mr Smith said that all lights must have bulbs fitted and be in working order for the insurance policy to be valid.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mr Pusey asked Mr McCraith whether he had anything to report about the loose chippings in West Hill Road. Mr McCraith said that Mike Cooper (CCC South Highways Department) had agreed to inspect the state of the road.

Mr Pusey asked the council's approval for the clerk to write in support of keeping the Post Office open. All were agreed.

Miss Thake pointed out that the statement "Adults eaten throughout the year", included in the information board and referring to pigeons, read rather oddly. It was agreed that this should be changed to "Mature pigeons eaten throughout the year".

Mr Kennedy said that the developer had cut back growth on the corner of Edis Way.

Mr Brooksbank said he had received an e-mail from Elizabeth Furnel (Harston PC) reporting a proposal for a huge recycling facility for household waste at Harston.

The clerk reported that the parish council postcode was now CB22 6SZ.

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

It was confirmed that this would be held on **Monday, 4th December 2006 at 7.45pm** in the **Meeting Room of the Village Hall**.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.30pm.