

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF FOXTON PARISH COUNCIL

HELD ON MONDAY, 1st AUGUST 2005, AT 7.45 p.m.

PRESENT

Mr Pusey, Mr Hockley, Mr Barnes, Mr Brooksbank,
Mr Chilton, Dr Grindley, Mr Kennedy

County Councillor David McCraith

District Councillor Deborah Roberts

IN ATTENDANCE

11 members of the public

APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Mr Kennedy and Miss Thake

Mr Pusey welcomed all to the meeting.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Mr Brooksbank thought that as a resident in Station Road he might be regarded as having an interest in the possible development of social housing off Station Road. However, as he would not be affected by such a development, it was agreed that he should be able to take part in the forthcoming discussion

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Two amendments were necessary:

- 1) On page 33, under "Correspondence - item 3", the response to the CCC Jointly Funded Improvement Scheme was to be in by 22nd August (*not 22nd June as stated*).
- 2) On page 36 under "Any Other Business", the 1st paragraph should read "Rob Brooksbank asked if people with responsibility for trees overhanging footways could be asked to cut them back (*not "----footways could cut them back"*).

Mr Hockley proposed that, with these amendments, the Minutes of the previous meeting held on Monday, 4th July 2005, should be signed as a true record. Mr Brooksbank seconded the proposal and all were agreed.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Resignation of Mr Broadley

Mr Pusey asked whether anyone had volunteered to fill the vacancy left on the council by Mr Broadley's resignation. None had been received so far. The clerk had displayed the requisite notice advising parishioners of the vacancy, and giving the time frame for requesting an election after the expiry of which the council would be free to co-opt another member.

Rate Capping at SCDC

Mrs Roberts said that, following the failure of the District Council's appeal against rate capping; her Department was "in the firing line" as its activities were not mandatory. She said that things were very uncertain at the council's offices and urged progress with schemes due to receive help from the District Council.

Correspondence – (item 11, meeting at Cemex)

Mr Brooksbank had attended a liaison meeting at Cemex. He said that, in essence, the company was doing an evaluation of the Barrington site with a view to undertaking a complete overhaul. A new, much higher, chimney was envisaged double the height of the existing one- although some of the extra height would be discounted by having its foundations below ground level. New access for vehicles was also being considered and this would be of benefit to Foxton, by rerouting lorries presently going through the village.

Any Other Business

Mr Pusey said that neither the notes intended for the "Laurentian" about the Youth Club, and the possibility of its equipment being loaned to other clubs if no-one can be found to run the club, nor the note intended to advise the village about Parish Plans and invite volunteers to come forward to progress such a scheme, had appeared in the last issue.

REPORTS FROM THE COMMITTEES

RECREATION AND AMENITIES

Mr Chilton reported as follows:

- A quotation had been received for repairs to the Bowls Club fence in the amount of £800 including VAT and he proposed its acceptance as this compared favourably with previous quotations. *Mr Brooksbank seconded the proposal and all were agreed.*
- Mr Chilton reported that most of the funding needed for the installation of electricity for training lights would come from the Football Club.
- It had proved impossible to find a replacement for the missing junction-box cover on the Recreation Ground. Mr Mead would be getting a sheet of metal cut to fit, which would then be pegged down and covered with earth.
- Mr Chilton said there was nothing further to report about the Skateboard Park as he had not had enough time to progress matters.
- Mr Dash was busy and this had delayed work on new sockets for the junior goal posts benches etc.
- Mr Chilton reported a spate of vandalism including graffiti on the Cricket Club sightscreens, a smashed training light and damage to the "Froggo" bin. It also appeared that someone had smeared the trees at the back of the Recreation Ground with heavy grease, presumably to prevent children climbing them.

The clerk had been informed of the last piece of vandalism by the SCDC Antisocial Behaviour officer, Belinda Cunningham, who would be writing a general letter to residents in Illingworth Way. Ms Cunningham had taken a sample of the grease for examination: an SCDC tree officer had said that the grease was very harmful

to the trees, and that if such treatment continued the trees would die. She suggested that the council included an item about this in “The Laurentian”.

Mr McCraith urged the public to obtain photographic evidence (if this could be done safely) and to report incidents to the police, making sure to get an incident number.

- Mr Chilton said that the clerk had written to Cleanaway asking them to provide a quotation for tree work on the Recreation Ground and the small piece of land holding the village sign. In addition, Cleanaway had been asked to quote for spraying the Recreation Ground against plantains.
- Mr Chilton said that Mr Mead would cut back the growth at Vicarage Corner.
- Two streetlights were out of commission on the Community Building site. *The clerk was asked to contact the electricians, John Kaye, about effecting repairs.*

Mr Pusey asked Mrs Roberts whether she had made enquiries about the ownership of the strip of land alongside Mr Lloyd’s garage. Mrs Roberts said that because things at the District Council had been so hectic recently, she had not had time to follow this up, but would do so.

FINANCE

Mr Hockley gave details of the Bank Accounts as follows:

Current Account	£52.43
(The SCDC recycling credit of £231.21 had been paid in and £230 of this had been transferred to the Deposit Account)	
Deposit Account	£14915.76
Cambridge Building Society	£8194.98

Mr Hockley proposed that the following cheques be approved:

Service Team (grass-cutting in May and June)	£1451.62
SCDC (emptying dog-bins 1/7/05-31/9/05)	£88.71
V W Mead (refuse collection and ground maintenance, July)	£46.22

Mr Brooksbank seconded the proposal and all were agreed that these payments, totalling £1586.15 should be made and that £1587 be transferred from the Deposit Account to the Current Account.

PLANNING

Mr Barnes reported as follows:

Planning permission granted:

J Batten	Application No. S/0443/05/F for extension and conversion of barn into an annexe at West Hill Farm, 3Shepreth Road Various conditions. Informatives re water run-off
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the village was against an affordable housing development there on grounds including access, traffic congestion and the fact that the site is outside the village envelope.) The letter also suggested that the council might like a meeting with himself or Paul Sexton to discuss the matter.

Mr Barnes thought that the council's original objections still stood even for a smaller number of homes. He also said that the village was a "honey-pot" for low-cost housing because of the restrictions on other types of development.

Mrs Roberts then addressed the meeting on the subject of low-cost housing. She said that only social housing developments are allowed in areas outside the village envelope. Mrs Roberts said that social housing was for rental only and that Foxton residents, those with links to Foxton and those from nearby villages would be given priority as tenants in that order.

Mrs Roberts said that the maximum a housing association would pay for building land was £8000 per plot. In her opinion, if FPC were against low-cost housing on this site, it would put paid to any chance of the County Council allowing social housing on the site of the old school when it became vacant.

Mrs Roberts said that affordable housing and social housing were not the same thing. Dr Grindley said that the Hereward Housing representative had said that it had not been his association that had promoted affordable housing on the site to the rear of the Press houses in the recent application from Mr Ridgeon.

Mr Barnes pointed out that developing the Press site for housing would remove the possibility of the site being used to provide future employment in the village. Mrs Roberts said there was a glut of commercial premises available in South Cambridgeshire at present. She recommended another housing needs survey.

Dr Grindley said that the village should be looked at holistically when considering new housing development, and that the council was looking for small developments of an infill nature.

Mr Brooksbank pointed out that premises would be needed for the 70,000 jobs to be created according to the East of England Plan. He also said that it would have been better if Mr Ridgeon's application had been submitted as two separate applications, one for each of the sites involved. Mrs Roberts agreed with this.

Mrs Roberts said that, if FPC were to say no to affordable/social housing on the site to the rear of the Press houses, it should consider that there is nothing affordable for young people at present.

Mr Barnes said he couldn't see any point in arranging a meeting with the District Council as FPC was simply not in favour of development on that site. He proposed that the clerk reply in these terms to Mr Sugden's letter. Dr Grindley seconded the proposal and all were agreed.

Dr Grindley suggested that the development of a Parish Plan could provide a useful process for establishing and filling housing needs in the village. He said he had not written an article for "The Laurentian" about Parish/Village Plans because Mr Reese (Cambridgeshire ACRE) would not have been free to speak at the August meeting. However, both Mr Pusey and the clerk said that Dr Grindley had only been asked to

publicise the project in “The Laurentian” and invite volunteers for involvement in it. (*“Any Other Business”, July Minutes*)

Mr Pusey asked Mrs Roberts whether she had followed up his query about how the area meetings to discuss aspects of the East of England Plan had been organised in such a way that Royston was included in the Hertfordshire meeting without any representation for Cambridgeshire, although development at Royston would clearly affect Cambridgeshire. Mrs Roberts had not had time to enquire into this, but would do so.

With reference to village development, Mr Hockley said that there were problems with traffic flow round the village. Two particular sites giving problems were the junctions of Station Road with the High Street and with the A10. Proposals under the CCC Jointly Funded Minor Improvements Scheme had been submitted for Fowlmere Road and High Street. However, in last year’s bidding round, out of 79 schemes from 60 villages, only two had been accepted. Analysis of those accepted showed these were all associated with major roads. After experiencing a difficult situation at the A10/Station Road junction last week, Mr Hockley said he thought some form of controlled access was needed at this junction.

Further to these comments about this junction, Mrs Roberts said she would find out about the portacabins that had appeared on the former station car park, apparently without planning permission.

Mr Pusey said that a letter had been sent to Andrew Lansley about the problems at the junction, enclosing a copy of a petition from Station Road residents, and copy correspondence between FPC and WAGN who were not willing to make any provision for commuter parking.

Mr Hockley proposed the council put in a bid to the CCC Jointly Funded Minor Improvements Scheme for controlled access to the A10 from Station Road and all were agreed.

Mr McCraith said that safety considerations score highly in this scheme when the County Council considers the bids.

POLICE LIAISON PROJECT

There was no report in Miss Thake’s absence. Mr Barnes expressed concern about youths congregating on the Station platform. Mr McCraith said he would be having a meeting with the Chief Constable with the view to getting a Community Manager in place.

RECREATION GROUND TRUST

Mr Pusey had received a letter from the solicitors (Hewitsons) about the sale of the allotment land; he had drafted a reply and circulated the correspondence to other Trustees. He had also received a letter about the retention money on the Community Project development. The general feeling of Trustees was that this money should not be released until the roads are adopted.

DOVECOTE/MEADOW PROJECT

Mr Pusey reported that there had been a meeting of the Friends a few days ago. The footpath fencing was being erected. For safety reasons, it was planned that the footpath would not be opened until the project work was completed. It was also planned to have a “kissing gate” at the entrance to the footpath. *Mrs Roberts urged identifying every part of the gate as being council property as a nice set of gates had been stolen at Fen Ditton.*

Mr Pusey said that the Friends had recommended that the council becomes a member of the British Trust of Conservation Volunteers (BTCV) at £25 per annum and all were agreed.

Mr Pusey said that the leases for the dovecote and the meadow **would soon be** ready to sign. Mr Hockley proposed that the chairman and clerk should be the signatories. Mr Brooksbank seconded the proposal and all were agreed.

Turning to the appointment of an architect, Mr Pusey said that of the four invited to tender, one had declined and one couldn't meet the time-scale. One architect had submitted a tender in time for the Friends' meeting, but a tender received subsequently from Simon Ward was considerably lower, and had the advantage of using computer aided design.

There would be further activity on **21st** September when a management meeting would be held, and on the 24th September when plant plugs would be planted.

CORRESPONDENCE

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

- 1) Copy of letter dated 11 July from Mr Munn to the CCC Road Safety officer about worn road markings at the junction of Barrington Road with the A10.
- 2) Letter dated 12 July from Mr Roweth of CCC Office of Environment and Community Service saying he has been recently appointed to the post of Heavy Commercial Route (HCV) Manager: enclosing explanatory leaflet on how the County Council deals with requests to introduce new restrictions.
- 3) Letter dated 18 July from the SCDC Conservation and Design Officer enclosing a copy of the Consultation Draft of the South Cambridgeshire Design Guide. *Passed to GB*
- 4) Invitation from the South Cambridgeshire Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (dated 21 July) to the annual community safety event on Wednesday, 31st August 2005) at Marshall Airport – launch of the Community Safety Strategy 2005-08: enclosing booking form. *The clerk to contact ST*
- 5) Letter dated 22 July from the Director, Burlington Press undertaking to carry out repairs to the wall behind the War Memorial. The letter expresses surprise that Burlington Press had not been consulted about Mr Ridgeon's recent planning application. *It was agreed that the clerk should write to Burlington Press to thank them for undertaking to carry out repairs and to say that*

although the application had been widely publicised in the village, the council would inform the Press in the event of any further application.

- 6) Letter (undated) received from Mrs Kelly complaining about the problems arising from cars parked in Station Road. (*included with letter to Andrew Lansley*)
- 7) Letter received from Vic Phillips (1/8/05) complaining about the lack of seats on the Recreation Ground.
- 8) SCDC leaflet on Funding Fair for South Cambs 2005 to be held on 21 September with booking form.
- 9) Updated copy of the “Family Directory of Childcare and Children’s Services in Cambridgeshire.
- 10) “The Tree Guardian”, issue 4
- 11) “Clerks and Councils Direct”, July 2005
- 12) Publicity material from Hays (Auditor’s services), Fitzpatrick-Woolmer (Signs and Notices)

VISITORS’ QUESTIONS

Mr Howard had a long list of instances of bad behaviour on the Recreation Ground that included deliberate damage and abuse of property, a confrontational attitude and bad language. He also instanced a number of matters needing attention on the Recreation Ground including damaged seats and benches, dogs being taken into the Play Area, graffiti and overgrown wild trees that need cutting back.

The council emphasised the need for residents to report incidents to the police, to try to get the names of those causing trouble and to make sure that they obtain an incident number when reporting matters to the police.

Mrs Garscadden referred to a large tree to the rear of her property in St Laurence Road.

Mrs Roberts said she was dealing with this.

Another member of the public said he had gathered from Mrs Roberts' remarks that the plan to have low-cost houses on the old school site was “dead in the water”.

Mrs Roberts said she did not know this for a fact, but that it was her gut feeling that this was the case. Mr Pusey said he did not agree. FPC had been given assurances by the County Council and he was not prepared to let the matter drop.

Mr Challis said he was surprised that Mr Ridgeon was prepared to sell land at £8000 per plot – there must be some other reason for the application: the possibility of continuing development further on might be one reason. He said that the key to the development was whether the District Council was prepared to sell its land for access.

Mr Barnes said that the District Council had said in the past that it was prepared to give land away for affordable housing.

Mr Challis asked Mrs Roberts how much the District Council would ask for the piece of land for access.

Mrs Roberts said that this decision would be made by the portfolio holder. The statement was received with surprise.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mrs Roberts said that the district council was looking into the question of whether tenants stay with the District council or have their tenancies transferred to housing associations. Early indications were that tenants were not in favour of this option and were concerned that rents might be higher than under the control of the council.

Dr Grindley said he had submitted an application for an award from the Village Life Fund to the CEN/Cambridge Water Board.

Mr Pusey asked the clerk to liase with him to arrange an inaugural meeting of the working group for the Recreation Ground extension.

Mr Brooksbank said that he would not be available between the 10th and 17th August.

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

It was confirmed that the next meeting would be held in the Village Hall meeting Room on **Monday, 5th September 2005.**

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 10.20pm.