

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF FOXTON PARISH COUNCIL

HELD ON MONDAY, 5th JULY 2010, AT 7.45 p.m.

PRESENT

Dr Oakley, Dr Grindley, Mr Allars, Mr Barnes, Mr Bentinck, Mrs Macintyre, Mr Sutton
County Councillor Susan van de Ven
District Councillor Deborah Roberts

IN ATTENDANCE

13 members of the public

APOLOGIES

Dr McKeown

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.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

As no amendments were needed, Dr Oakley proposed that the Minutes of the previous Meeting held on Monday, 7th June 2010 be signed as a true record. Mr Allars seconded the proposal and all were agreed.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Planning Committee Report

Mrs Roberts said that consideration by SCDC of the application by Foxton Primary School for the erection of an eco-space classroom was on the agenda for Wednesday, 9th July.

TRAFFIC AND PARKING PROBLEMS

(Dr Oakley moved this item further up the agenda so that members of the public, attending because of their interest in this issue, need not stay for the whole of the meeting.)

Dr Oakley then reported as follows:

He said that the increase in car parking by rail users had led to many complaints from residents of Station Road who rightly had concerns about safety implications. A site meeting attended by the County Councillor, Parish Council Chairman and two

representatives from the Highways Department was held on 5th July to discuss the problems and explore all possible remedies. The representatives of the Highways Department had made it clear that their overriding criteria for taking action was safety and they therefore proposed an extension of the existing double yellow lines. They suggested the lines should extend approximately 10 metres further on the station side of the road, with a no-parking clearway at the bus stop, and all the way to Hall Close on the opposite side of the road. The option of extending them all the way down to Hall Close on both sides of the road was discussed, but rejected by the Highways Department as being unnecessary on safety grounds: they pointed out that parked cars reduce speeding of vehicles entering the village from the A10.

Parking problems at the Station Road/High Street junction might be alleviated by signage suggesting that people park in the small gravel car park off Hardman Road.

There were various options for dealing with speeding in Fowlmere Road and the CCC Area manager would talk to an FPC sub-committee about these.

Dr Oakley said that funding for all this work had to come from the Parish Council. He then invited discussion on these proposals from those members of the public present at the meeting. Their responses were as follows:

- Mrs Cook said she was glad that something was being done about the bus stop.
- Another member of the public asked whether anything could be done about parking in Hall Close, which is a narrow road. Councillors said that this was not possible at present.
- A member of the public suggested that there could be a single yellow line at the top end of Station Road with restrictions on parking time. This, however, was not thought to be practicable.
- Another member of the public reported that one of the posts on the verge, designed to stop parking there, had been knocked off.

Dr Oakley then proposed going ahead with the proposals for extending the double yellow lines in Station Road as described. Mr Allars seconded the proposal and all were agreed.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Dr van de Ven reported as follows:

1. Compost provision at Thriplow Recycling Centre was now being trialled with bags of compost being supplied at £2.50 for 40 litres. Dr van de Ven had asked for confirmation of this and said she understood that this was a non-profit arrangement. The compost was the product of green bin recycling and the project had been pushed forward through the suggestion of a local resident.
2. A Rail User Group meeting had been held in Foxton on 16th June. Dr van de Ven thanked Foxton residents and the parish councillors for supporting this well-attended meeting, which included the chairman of Railfuture East Anglia (a Cambridge-based public transport lobby group, that proposed better coordination of bus and rail timetables) as well as about 20 members of the public.

Of particular interest to Foxton were the following points:

- Figures from Railfuture East Anglia and First Capital Connect (FCC) concur that Foxton station has had a very significant increase in usage. FCC figures for the three local stations were as follows:
Meldreth 1.8% rise
Shepreth 1.5% rise
Foxton 21.7% rise
- Dr van de Ven said that if enough people fill out the Customer Comments Form on problems encountered in reading the ticket machine screen at the station, it might be possible to trial a new machine as has happened at Waterbeach Station after a concerted effort by local rail users.
- Dr van de Ven said that thanks were due to the County Council for installing cycle racks at the top of Station Road near the station, which she said were being well used.
- Dr van de Ven had written to Police Inspector Savage about the sharing of relevant information on anti-social and criminal behaviour between British Transport Police and Cambridgeshire Police: she would be following this up at the next Police Panel meeting on 20th July. She said an accurate picture was needed of what was happening in local villages so that adequate resources could be lobbied for to be allocated for response by the police.
- Finally, Dr van de Ven concluded by saying that the County Council was currently looking at cuts to libraries and youth services. She had fed back the request to keep a mobile library stop at West Hill Road. The County Council was looking to integrate Youth Services and Connections, in order to cope with massive cuts of £700K in the council's budget. Dr van de Ven said she would be going to the Integrated Youth Services consultation event the following week and invited those present to let her know if there were any points they would like her to take forward.

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Mrs Roberts said that the District Council would also have to deal with spending cuts and was presently looking for a new Chief Executive. She reported concerns about the smell emanating from the former chemical production site at Hauxton, where the ground was being cleared for a housing development. Mrs Roberts (who had once worked at this site) said she had spoken against the application for the development when it was considered by SCDC and said she still had concerns about the suitability of the site.

PARISH PLAN UPDATE

Mr Allars said there would be a meeting on Tuesday, 16th July at which the chairmen of the Working Parties and the Planning Committee would finalise the content of the plan.

REPORTS OF THE WORKING PARTIES

RECREATION AND AMENITIES

Mr Bentinck reported as follows:

Mr Bentinck said he had gained an extension to the response period for giving the County Council details of the required locations for the salt bins ordered since last winter, and said that it was proposed that one bin be located at the end of Illingworth Way (Dr McKeown had expressed his willingness to have it located on a corner of his property) and the other in Shepreth Road towards Foxton Bottom. All were agreed to these locations.

The litter-pick event in June had been very successful and was likely to be repeated in future years. Areas covered by the volunteers included those within the village, the A10 from Shepreth Road to the former Q8 garage, the woods on Foxton Hill and the area in the vicinity of Foxton Station. Drinks and sausage sandwiches were enjoyed at the White Horse after each of the Saturday and Sunday sessions and donations towards the cost of the exercise had been received from, among others, John Lewis and the Foxton Townlands Trust. Mr Bentinck expressed thanks to all the seventy or so volunteers who worked so hard to improve the village.

Dr Oakley thanked Mr Bentinck for all his efforts.

Mr Bentinck further reported that the bus shelter needed new plastic windows and general renovation including a seat. *All were agreed that Mr Bentinck should seek quotations.*

The Youth Shelter on the Recreation Ground had been defaced with graffiti. Mr Bentinck said he would get a quotation for a dark wood stain/preservative that would hopefully deter further unwanted graffiti.

Foxton Dynamos had been very successful in the past three years. The club now needed a fourth pitch. It was agreed that the Recreation and Amenities Working Party would look into this.

Dr Oakley had received a letter from Mr Lloyd about the pump on The Green, and this was passed to Mr Bentinck for consideration by the group.

FINANCE

Mr Sutton said that Moore Stephens had written querying the amount of funds the council was holding in reserve. He had drafted a reply indicating the council's intentions for the use of these funds for such things as new Play Area equipment, traffic calming measures and training lights on the Recreation Ground. Copies of the accounts to date had been sent to councillors.

Mr Sutton gave details of the Bank Accounts as follows:

Deposit Account	£6,982.42
Current Account	£171.57
Standard Life Bank (this included a transfer of £15,000 from the Deposit Account)	£30,000.00

Mr Sutton proposed the following cheques for payment:

S Bentinck (reimbursement for broom and refreshments for litter-pick event)	£154.98
CGM (Cambridge) Ltd (grass cutting June)	£470.00

Foxton Cricket Club (1 st two instalments of FPC's contribution to Foxton Cricket Club's grass cutting on the Recreation Ground)	£300.00
Foxton VHT (hire of lounge 10/5, 26/5 & 1/6 and Meeting Room 7/6 & 16/6)	£62.00
D Salmons Fencing Services (Village Warden duties, June)	£88.00
J E Burns (salary June/July)	£619.95
J E Burns (expenses May/June)	£86.51
HMRC (tax on clerk's salary for 3 months to 5/7/10)	£144.20

Dr Oakley seconded the proposal and all were agreed that these payments, totalling £1925.64, should be made and that £1,811 be transferred from the Deposit Account to the Current Account.

PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr Barnes reported as follows:

The committee had met on Tuesday, 15th June when the following applications were considered:

Goreway Holdings Ltd	Application No. S0756/10/F for variation of condition 5 on planning permission S/1913/79/F to allow use of the access onto High Street (retrospective) at Burlington Press, 1, Station Road Refused
Goreway Holdings Ltd	Application No. S0757/10/F for variation of condition 4 on planning permission S/0861/87/F to allow use of the access onto High Street (retrospective) at Burlington Press, 1, Station Road Refused

The Committee recommended refusal of both applications as conditions 5 and 4 in the respective applications were imposed for highway safety reasons and the new access failed to meet the terms of these conditions, the proposals therefore being contrary to existing policy.

Mr Patrick Browne	Application No. S/0690/10/F and S/0691/10/LB to alter and convert brick barn to two-bed dwelling with workshop. Refusal recommended
-------------------	--

Refusal was recommended on the grounds that some of the materials were not sympathetic with the existing building and the proposed new openings on the West elevation were out of keeping and inappropriate for this building. An additional building without the incorporation of garaging would inevitably give rise to increased parking within the environment of the existing building, which was considered detrimental.

Matters reported at the present Meeting

Planning permission refused:

Amber Homes Ltd

Application No. S/0610/10/F for erection of dwelling (amended design) and carport with ancillary accommodation above and the omission of house on plot 5 (as approved under ref: S/0806/07/F) at plots 5 and 7 on land to North of 3 Mortimers Lane

Grounds for refusing the application included the impact on the neighbouring listed building at 3 Mortimers Lane.

Mrs Roberts said that she was not happy with the appearance of the house already being built on this site.

Planning application considered at the present meeting:

Mr & Mrs Sinnatamby

Application No. S/0956/10/F for erection of extension to front porch, alterations to garages and erection of conservatory following demolition of the existing at 2-4 High Street
Approval recommended

Notice with revised plans (for information only) had been received for amendments to the following application:

Mr & Mrs Shelford

Application No. S/1452/08/RM for approval of siting, design, external appearance, access and landscaping of replacement dwelling approved under Planning Permission S/1668/05/O at 14 Shepreth Road

Mrs Roberts had a number of matters to report:

- Mrs Roberts said she would ask for an update regarding the tree with a Preservation Order that had been felled at the Burlington Press site.
- The SCDC computer system was being changed this month to allow better access.
- Community Orchards were being recommended as long as the parish council can find an appropriate piece of land.
- Mrs Roberts said she would inform the SCDC Planning Services Department that cars were still being sold at the former Q8 garage.
- Mrs Roberts said there had been surprise that the parish council had recommended refusal for Foxton Primary School's application to build an eco-space classroom.

A discussion followed about the eco-space classroom. The council felt that an extension to the existing school building would have been preferable rather than a separate building. Mr Barnes, speaking in his role as a School Governor, said that there had been a proposal for a bricks and mortar extension, but this had not been taken further on the grounds of the cost.

POLICE LIAISON REPORT

Mr Barnes reported that a Police Liaison meeting would be held on 20th July at Bassingbourn. He said that the police had been called when a party at a house in Station Road had got out of hand: he had not, so far, received any update from the police.

RECREATION GROUND TRUST REPORT

Dr Oakley reported that he and Tessa Howell had attended a meeting at which it had been agreed to renew Tony Garrick's contract as Facilities Manager at the Community Building for another year.

The group running the project to improve the Play Area had put forward two questions:

1. Should donations towards improvements be gift aided?
2. Did either the RGT or the parish council have insurance cover for fund-raising events?

It was thought that the best solution was for the group to become a charity itself. Mr Bentinck agreed to contact Anna Elliott.

DOVECOTE/MEADOW PROJECT

Mrs Macintyre reported that a plant survey had been carried out in June. The grass had not yet been cut, as Mr Cairns had not been able to obtain a suitable mower. The grass by the footpath was now 5ft tall and Mr Salmons had been asked to cut this grass down and spray the area. Dr Grindley mentioned that Richard Barnes had an attachment that tears, rather than cuts, the grass, and that this might be a good solution for the meadow.

CORRESPONDENCE

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

- 1) Letter dated 4th June from Mr Sheldrick in response to the council's letter re the offensive smell from "London Waste" last summer.
- 2) Letter dated 8th June from Peter Lloyd suggesting some refurbishment of the pump on The Green. *Passed to SB*
- 3) Letter dated 10th June from Mrs Cook enclosing a memo offering a possible solution to the parking and traffic problems in Station Road.
- 4) Letter dated 11th June from SCDC re the election of a parish councillor to fill a vacancy on the Standards Committee: enclosing ballot paper to be returned by noon on 9th July.
- 5) Letter dated 19th June from Andrew Lansley MP re changes in Government policy regarding the abolition of Regional Planning and new measures to tackle unauthorised development.
- 6) Letter dated 21st June from CCC Children and Young People's Services Department re the need to reduce its budget by a third (£1million) by March

2013 and consultation on its proposals via stakeholder meetings (nearest meeting The Meadows Community Centre 12th July between 12.30 and 4.30pm.

- 7) Letter received June from CCC Passenger Transport re changes to Stagecoach and Norfolk Green services.
- 8) Letter dated 28th June from CCC re proposed changes to mobile library routes.
- 9) COPE newsletter for July 2010.
- 10) Information from Cambridgeshire ACRE including:
 - Magazine, Summer 2010.
- 11) Cambridgeshire Local Access Forum Annual Report 2009/10.
- 12) Local Council Review, Summer 2010.
- 13) “Keeping in Touch”, Cambridgeshire Community Services NHS Trust newsletter, Summer 2010.
- 14) Luminus Group newsletter “Headlines”, June 2010.
- 15) “Clerks and Councils Direct” magazine, July 2010.
- 16) South Cambs magazine, Summer 2010.
- 17) Publicity material from Pippins Children’s Centre in Melbourn, Barcham Trees, J Parker (wholesale bulbs catalogue), Fawns Recreational Services and Dura-Sport (play equipment), DT Leisure (BMX tracks) and Greenbarnes Ltd (Notice Boards).

VISITORS’ QUESTIONS

Mr Challis praised the litter-pick event, which he said had been excellent. He said he had noticed a particular spot on the A10 where people were pulling off the road and leaving lots of rubbish.

Mrs Howell said it was sad to see further litter being dropped within hours of the litter-pick event finishing. Three dead trees were reported in Station Road. Also the grass cutting in Station Road had been reported as being very poor.

Mr Bentinck said this was owing to the wet condition of the grass at the time of the cut, which the council had requested be done in time for the Foxton Fun Day.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mrs Roberts reported that there were vacancies on the Fowlmere parish council and that it had been discovered in connection with this matter that councillors are expected to re-do their Member’s Declaration of Interest each year. The clerk was asked to check this out with the SCDC Monitoring Officer.

Mr Bentinck said that, having talked to someone with knowledge of fireworks, that it appeared individuals or groups needed to take out their own insurance when staging a fireworks display. He also said that he had some sympathy with the school in wanting the eco-space classroom, as the school could be a very noisy place.

D Grindley said the man who would be moving the sports container was on holiday at present, but that he would follow the matter up.

Mr Barnes said that he had not yet established the SCDC insurance position regarding over-70's helpers who might be involved if it were necessary to put the Emergency Plan into action.

Mr Allars asked about parking restrictions at the Station Road/High Street junction. Dr Oakley said this would be discussed at the next parish council meeting.

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Dr Oakley proposed that, in accordance with general practice, there should be no parish council meeting in August. All councillors except Mr Barnes were in agreement and it was therefore decided to hold the next meeting on **Monday, 6th September 2010 at 7.45pm** in the **Meeting Room** of the **Village Hall**.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.45pm.