

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF FOXTON PARISH COUNCIL

HELD ON MONDAY, 2nd OCTOBER 2006, AT 7.45 p.m.

PRESENT

Mr Pusey, Mr Hockley, Mr Barnes, Mr Brooksbank,
Mr Chilton, Dr Grindley, Mr Kennedy, Dr McKeown,
Miss Thake

District Councillor Mrs Roberts

IN ATTENDANCE

5 members of the public

APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from County Councillor
David McCraith

Mr Pusey welcomed all to the meeting.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Mr Brooksbank declared an interest regarding the tree application for Station Road.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Two amendments were necessary:

- i) On page 44, under “Declaration of Interest”, the following words should be added, - “Mr Brooksbank also expressed an interest in this application, though not a personal one”.
- ii) At the top of page 47, under “Rob Brooksbank, Councillor FPC” the following words should be added to the last sentence, “---if Villiers park ceased to be an educational establishment”.

Mr Pusey proposed that, with these amendments, the Minutes of the meeting held on 4th September 2006 should be signed as a true record. Mr Hockley seconded the proposal and all were agreed.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

SCDC consultation meeting on Gypsy and Traveller Site provision

Mrs Roberts asked whether the council had received a consultation document on this issue, but the document had not been received: Mrs Roberts urged the council to try to get a copy. She said the recommendations would apply up to 2010 and that 110-130 more pitches were needed in Cambridgeshire. It was confirmed that Mr Brookbank would be attending the consultation meeting to be held on 5th October at the SCDC office in Cambourne.

Overgrown hedges

The clerk confirmed that she had written to Mr and Mrs Davies about the need to cut their hedge back further the next time it is cut. It had not been necessary to take any action about the bend in Fowlmere Road, as the hedge there had been cut back.

Loose chippings in West Hill Road

As Mr McCraith was not present, Mr Pusey was unable to ask him about CCC's policy on removing loose chippings.

Former Q8 Garage

Mrs Roberts said that the council's letter to SCDC had been received and that the matter had been passed to Saffron Garner to follow up.

Licence for Villiers Park

Mr Pusey said he had attended the hearing earlier in the day and the application had been given a very thorough examination. Although the licence had been granted, restrictions had been placed on it limiting the number of outside events with live/recorded music and refreshments to twelve per year, and specifying 11pm as the finishing time for these events. It was noted that Villiers Park Educational Trust was promoting itself as the Cambridge Centre at Villiers Park.

Any Other Business – Recycling bin

It was reported that the bin had still not been removed. The clerk said she had telephoned SCDC and been assured that a job number existed for removing the bin and that it would be marked "urgent". The clerk agreed to chase this up.

REPORTS FROM THE COMMITTEES**RECREATION AND AMENITIES**

Mr Chilton reported as follows:

There had been several incidents on the Recreation Ground, and vandalism in the Play Area including damage to the "Froggo" bin and graffiti on the slide. The wooden bars on the fence by the Hardman Road leading to the pavilion had been broken and the cricket sight screen near the church had also been damaged. It had not, so far, been possible to identify the culprits.

Mr Chilton reported that the Play Area had been cleaned to remove cat faeces and a chemical agent put down to prevent further nuisance of this kind. It was agreed that action would be taken to remove the graffiti and refix the "Froggo" bin.

Grass Cutting Contract

Mr Chilton said that the clerk, who had put in a lot of work on this, had received a plan from Mike Cooper (CCC) showing the areas in the village where the parish council was responsible for cutting the grass. A number of areas were shown on the plan that the council had not been cutting: these included a stretch along Barrington Road, another along the A10, and Mortimers Lane.

Fortunately, Mr Cooper had agreed to do a rough cut along Barrington Road, so that the extra areas for cutting could be left till the next grass cutting season, when the

additional cost could be incorporated in next year's precept. Mr Pusey thought it possible that the County Council might agree to increase its contribution to grass cutting, as the stretch along the A10 had probably been added to the areas for which the council was responsible following the detrunking of the A10, and it was agreed the Recreation and Amenities Committee would look at this.

Mr Kennedy pointed out that the Play Area was not being cut as frequently as the Recreation Ground, although it should be according to the contract. Mr Pusey said that the council needed to get Cleanaway's invoicing improved at the time the contract was extended to show just which areas had been cut.

The clerk said she had had site meetings with Mr Shaw in Barrington Road and with Mr Miller.

FINANCE

Mr Hockley gave details of the bank accounts as follows:

Deposit account (This included interest for the period 5/6/06-3/9/06 of £50.83 and the 2 nd half of the 2006/7 precept of £6,750)	£25,791.50
Current Account (This included reimbursement of £19.78 from Rachel Macintyre for a rake bought by the Dovecote Group)	£70.65
Cambridge Building Society	£13,604.68

Mr Hockley proposed that the following cheques be approved:

Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal (wreath for Remembrance Sunday)	£16.50
Skillington Workshop Ltd (limewashing dovecote plaque)	£528.75
Carlton E West Building Services Ltd (interim part payment 1 for work on dovecote)	£14,100.00
V W Mead (refuse collection, ground maintenance & repairs, September)	£47.54
H M Revenue and Customs (tax on earnings for JEB/VWM for 3 months to 5/10/06)	£197.96
Jacobi Jayne & Co (4 nest boxes)	£96.26

Mr Brooksbank seconded the proposal and all were agreed that these payments, totalling £14,987.01, should be made and that £14,969 should be transferred from the Deposit Account to the Current Account.

PLANNING

Mr Barnes reported as follows:

Planning permission granted:

Mr and Mrs Boreham	Application No. S/1202/06/F for extensions at 63 High Street. Two conditions
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Mr J Welch	Application No. S/1239/06/F for the use of Unit 5 as an M.O.T. test bay at Unit 5, 27 Royston Road Two conditions
Mrs B P Benstead	Application No. S/1331/06/F for an extension at 53 Fowlmere Road Three conditions
Mr & Mrs Winterbotham	Application No. S/1253/06/F for extensions at 53 Station Road Two conditions

Applications considered at the meeting:

Mrs Herriot	Application No. S/1690/06/F for a conservatory at 9 Shepreth Road (dated 6/9/06) plus amendments (dated 29/9/06) No recommendation
Mr & Mrs A Rut	Application No. S/1550/06/F (amendment) for extensions at "The Granary", Stocks Farm No recommendation

Tree Applications

Mr & Mrs Brown	Application ref. C/11/40/30 for removal of Leylandii and Pine tree at 14 High Street No comments
Mrs L R Pesci	Application ref. C/11/17/31/01 for one Beech and one Oak to be felled Recommendation that trees are replaced by similar specimens
Mr & Mrs Studd	Application ref. C/11/17/30/04 to fell one Beech tree and reduce the crowns of two Oaks by 15% Recommendation that the Beech is replaced by a similar specimen

Mr Barnes also reported having received a number of consultation documents sent by Cambridge City Council re the North West Cambridge Area Action Plan. These were returned to the clerk for filing.

POLICE LIAISON REPORT

Miss Thake said she had nothing to report as the vandalism on the Recreation Ground had already been reported.

RECREATION GROUND TRUST REPORT AND COMMUNITY BUILDING ISSUES

Mr Pusey said that the RGT would be meeting immediately after the present meeting to discuss the Management Agreement with Foxton Gardens Association and the two seven-year leases with the Pre-School Group and the Cricket Club.

Mr Pusey said it would be necessary to put in a planning application for the various intended uses of the extension to the Recreation Ground and asked Dr Grindley for an update on progress. Dr Grindley said he would prepare the application once he had all the details from the various sub-projects.

Mr Pusey reported that the new CCC contact on Community Building issues was Martyn Smith (replacing Gerald Browning). Mr Smith was paying particular attention to the damaged pavilion window and to the water supply for the Recreation Ground extension.

It was noted that the “varnish” recently applied to Community Building windows appeared not to be as thoroughly applied as it should have been. Mr Kennedy agreed to follow this up.

Recreation Ground Extension committee

Mr Brooksbank reported that grant applications to “Reaching Communities” and “Awards for All” were almost completed and would be submitted this month.

A pegging out session, involving representatives of the various sub-groups, would allow delineation of the different areas, following which Jeremy Piper would ask Peter Mead to clear the site. It would then be the responsibility of each group to keep its area free of weeds.

Mr Brooksbank said the committee was still awaiting clarification as to whether the water supply had been ordered. The planning application was being prepared by Colin Grindley.

Mr Brooksbank said that, regarding the leases and management agreements to be considered by RGT later in the evening, some minor revision and clarification was needed before they could be passed to the other parties involved. A copy of the proposed Tenancy Agreement was still awaited from the Allotment Management Committee.

BMX/Dirt Bike Project

Dr McKeown reported that in 2003 considerable interest had been expressed by young people in having a Skateboard Park and BMX facilities. However, by 2006 the results of both direct contact and a questionnaire sent to all Foxton households revealed that the youth of the village was now more interested in creating a BMX/Dirt bike facility. Jane Lampshire, SCDC Community Officer had been consulted.

Dr McKeown proposed to fill out the application forms for grant and he proposed applying to SCDC for £5,000 towards the estimated overall expenditure of £10,000. All were agreed.

DOVECOTE/MEADOW PROJECT

Mr Pusey reported as follows:

- The damaged bricks had been removed and replaced with sound ones. Unfortunately, two of the timber beams had warped and there would be a delay in replacing them.
- The architects had advised leaving the concrete doorway plinth.

- The French drain need only be 8 inches deep and any cost incurred would be very low.
- The plaque was looking very nice and just a little touch up work was needed that would be done free of charge.
- Volunteers from the Green Belt Project came on 27th September to help cut the grass etc.
- An estimate of £357 + VAT had been received for the “lectern style” information board with £140 +VAT for installation (these costs within budget).
- A new kissing gate had been ordered and hoped to be ready by October/November.
- Some whips had been ordered to fill in gaps in the rear hedge and a black mulberry tree had been ordered for the meadow.
- There were issues to be decided about the future maintenance of the site.
- An Open Day was planned for 3rd December between 2.00pm and 3.30pm.

CORRESPONDENCE

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

- 1) Letter dated 1ST September from the SCDC Principal Planning Officer re Mr Pusey’s letter supporting SCDC in its defence of its proposed designation of Foxton as a Group Village.
- 2) Letter dated 9th September from COPE (Cambridge Older People’s Enterprise) describing its activities and enclosing the September newsletter and COPE mission statement.
- 3) Letter dated 11th September from SCDC re the Villiers Park Educational Trust’s licence application to be held on 2nd October at Cambourne.
- 4) Letter dated 20th September from the CCC Customer Relations Officer enclosing a poster and leaflets detailing the new concessionary bus fare scheme that will be in operation from 1st October 2006.
- 5) Letter dated 21st September from Cambridge City Council re its consultation on the North West Cambridge Area Action Plan (NWCAAP) issues and options report and enclosing:
 - Notice of arrangements for public consultation on the NWCAAP issues and options report, September 2006
 - Response form
 - Guidance Note for submitting responses
 - Scoping report for NWCAAP
 - NWCAAP issues and options report, September 2006
 - NWCAAP issues and options interim sustainability appraisal report
 - NWCAAP Green Belt landscape study

- Letter detailing errata for page 22 of the NWCAAP issues and options report
- 6) E-mail letter dated 18th September from Ian Salter, SCDC Performance Officer, to parish councils re the SCDC Community Strategy Workshop (other Stakeholders) to be held on 15th November from 6.30pm to 9pm at the SCDC offices at Cambourne.
 - 7) Letter dated 22nd September from First Capital Connect re its plans to improve and enhance station safety and customer information services with schedule of “host stations” and dates for viewing diagrams etc (received to late to be of use).
 - 8) Letter dated 28th September from CCC Environment and Community Services re the Cambridgeshire Waste Private Finance Initiative Project: enclosing leaflet.
 - 9) Information from CALC including:
 - Memo re new constitution proposals
 - Copy of draft constitution
 - Notice of extraordinary general meeting to be held on 14th October at 1.15 pm together with agenda
 - Minutes of the 30th AGM held on 15th October 2005
 - Notice of proposed affiliation fees for 2007/8
 - Memo re the “Young Lives” anti-social behaviour project
 - Details of various training courses
 - Bulletin, July 2006
 - 10) Information from Cambridgeshire ACRE including:
 - “Community Action”, Autumn 2006” Annual Review 2005-2006
 - Cambridgeshire Rural Forum publication, “A Rural Strategy for Cambridgeshire 2006-2010”
 - ACTS (Arts in Cambs on Tour) October 2006-February 2007
 - Invitation to Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Trustee Network free event on 5th October to encourage links with business, education etc
 - Leaflet from ProHelp, a national network providing free professional help to community groups
 - 11) Leaflet entitled “How to complain to the Local Government Ombudsman.
 - 12) Local Council Review, September 2006 23.
 - 13) “Clerks and Councils Direct”, September 2006.
 - 14) Publication entitled “Cambridgeshire Celebrates Age 2006”, a programme of events to celebrate the international day of older people.
 - 15) DEFRA Rural Services Review 2006.
 - 16) CCC Trading Standards newsletter.
 - 17) South Cambs magazine Autumn 2006.
 - 18) Publicity material from Hays Public Services Division and Glasdon.

VISITORS' QUESTIONS

Mr Miller said that the site next to the railway station was rumoured to have been sold to the owner of the former Q8 garage.

Mr Howard said there had been a lot of trouble in the Play Area and there had been difficulty in contacting the police. Eventually a Community Support Officer had been sent to Foxton who had been very helpful. He said that the "Froggo" bin needed to be repaired quickly.

Mrs Howell mentioned the traffic cones on the Recreation Ground.

Mr Chilton said he did not think they were connected to any roadworks – they just kept appearing.

Mrs Howell also commented that the grass outside her house was not being cut very well. She also agreed that the Play Area was not being cut as frequently as it should be.

The clerk was asked to take this up with Cleanaway.

Mr Corley raised the matter of the strip of land adjoining his property (57 Station Road) down the side of Hall Close. He suggested that as the parish council had customarily cut the grass there, the land was the council's responsibility. His concern was with trees growing on this land, which were undermining his property.

It was confirmed that the council did not own this land. Mr Cooper's map showed that, although the council had been in the habit of cutting the grass there, it was not obliged to do so.

Mr Challis (in the visitor's seats) said that in all likelihood the land was still owned by the developer of Hall Close, Mr Raiment.

Mr Challis raised the matter of a car park at the station. He said this matter had been mooted several times, but nothing ever came of it

This matter was being pursued by Andrew Lansley and Mr McCraith and the clerk was asked to seek an update on how matters stood.

Mr Challis also reminded councillors that the Chief Education officer had assured the council that the old school would only be used as a pupil referral unit for two years. This period had elapsed and the unit, although not causing any problems, was still there. He said this illustrated the fact that one can't always believe what CCC officers say, and that it would have been courteous to inform the parish council of the unit's continuance on the site.

Mr Pusey said that the council had been informed of the unit's continued occupancy of the site for a further year. He said that FPC would contact the Bedford Housing Association for further information.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mr Brooksbank outlined the Foxton Gardens Association's suggestions for locations for planting two trees in public places. The land bordering Station Road by the Press cottages was thought to be the most suitable site. Mrs Roberts said she would make enquiries to see whether the trees could be planted there.

The clerk said she had received a call saying that a CCC contractor was about to repair the street lamp near the pavilion. It was confirmed that this was now in working order.

Mr Barnes said that, if he were able, he would like to attend the CALC meeting on 14th October.

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

It was confirmed that this would be held on **Monday, 6th November 2006 at 7.45pm** in the **Meeting Room of the Village Hall.**