

## **MINUTES OF A MEETING OF FOXTON PARISH COUNCIL**

**HELD ON MONDAY, 1<sup>st</sup> OCTOBER 2007, AT 7.45 p.m.**

### **PRESENT**

Dr Oakley, Mr Allars, Mr Barnes, Mr Bentinck, Mr Kennedy,

District Councillor Mrs Roberts

### **IN ATTENDANCE**

7 members of the public

### **APOLOGIES**

County Councillor David McCraith, Dr McKeown and Dr Grindley

Dr Oakley welcomed all to the meeting. Before moving to the normal agenda, Dr Oakley said he would like to make two presentations.

First he thanked Vic Mead for his long period of service to the council. He said that Vic had done a great job for both the council and the village and presented him with a gift of wine and a Garden Centre gift voucher.

Dr Oakley then thanked Dudley Pusey on behalf of the council and the village for his work on the council both as a councillor and Chairman. He said that the restored Dovecote stood as an example of the lasting legacy of Dudley's work. He then presented Mr Pusey with an engraved photograph frame as a gift from the council. All those present endorsed Dr Oakley's expressions of gratitude to both Mr Mead and Mr Pusey.

Dr Oakley then said that Don Challis, normally in attendance, was undergoing a hip operation and would not be able to write his usual articles in "The Laurentian" describing council meetings for some time. It was agreed that the clerk would send a card to the hospital on behalf of the council.

### **DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations.

### **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

No amendments were necessary. Dr Oakley proposed that the Minutes of the previous Meeting, held on Monday, 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2007, be signed as a true record. Mr Barnes seconded the proposal and all were agreed.

### **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

#### *Car wash Facility at the Level Crossing*

Mrs Roberts confirmed that, following refusal of planning consent for this retrospective application, the matter had gone to appeal.

*Oak Tree at Hall Close*

Mrs Roberts said that there had been no change to the District Council's funding for conservation and recommended that FPC submit an application for a grant towards the cost of any necessary tree works on the Oak tree in Hall Close.

*Car park at Foxton Station*

Mrs Roberts said she had attended a meeting at SCDC about the proposed Cambridge congestion charge, during which there was some talk about the possibility of having a Park and Ride site at Foxton. However, the idea had been dismissed on the grounds that the site was too far from the city centre and that the proposed site was a by a dangerous road area. Efforts were continuing to be made to pursue Network Rail about the provision of a car park at Foxton station for rail commuters.

*Correspondence - Andrew Lansley's letter re Post Offices (item 1)*

Dr Oakley reminded those present that Foxton Post Office was at risk of closure and urged everyone to use it. Mrs Roberts said that the SCDC Scrutiny and Overview committee would be holding an open meeting in Foxton on 15<sup>th</sup> November and suggested that FPC to write asking that the threat to the post office be made an agenda item.

**REPORTS FROM THE WORKING PARTIES****RECREATION AND AMENITIES**

Mr Bentinck reported as follows:

**1. Village Warden**

Dave Salmons had been given the go-ahead to repair the double gates to the Play Area. *He would also be asked to site another bench to the left of the path from Illingworth way to the Recreation Ground.* Mr Salmons had requested surgical gloves and a litter-picker as protection from infection or other contamination when dealing with litter. *It was agreed that these should be provided.*

Mr Salmons would also be asked to cut back the bushes on the Vicarage bend, outside the school kitchen and in the gravel car park. It had been suggested that either another dog-litter bin should be provided, or one moved nearer to the pedestrian exit to Hardman Road. *It was agreed that the bin in the gravel car park should be re-sited.*

**2. Trees**

There was nothing further to report about the trees bordering the Mycroft's residence. *Mr Bentinck asked Mr Barnes whether he had an update on the trees bordering the Wilson's residence. Mr Barnes said he had been unable to contact the SCDC Trees Officer.* Chris Hindley had kindly offered his services free of charge as a tree surgeon for work on trees for which the parish council was responsible. *His generous offer was warmly welcomed by the council and FPC would investigate insurance issues.*

### 3. **RoSPA Report/Play Area and RoSPA Training**

Mr Bentinck asked for the council's approval to order 4 new swings and chains. It was noted that some replacements of swing seats and chains had already been effected. *It was agreed to order 2 swing seats and 4 chains.* Repairs to the safety matting would be considered – a quotation from Matta had already been circulated to councillors by e-mail.

RoSPA training for Mr Salmons was awaiting RoSPA to find a date. The next 6-monthly check would be in December.

### 4. **Signs**

Mr Bentinck said he was compiling a list of signs and now had the wording for the plaque in memory of Reverend Rowland.

### 5. **Treatment of weeds etc on the Recreation Ground and allotments**

Mr Bentinck had received a quotation from Herald Contract Services and a further quotation from Majestic should have been received on the day of the present meeting but did not materialise. *It was agreed that it was now rather late in the year to carry out the spraying and that it should be deferred until next year.* The allotment area had already been flayed and the allotment holders' approval would be needed before spraying their area.

## **FINANCE**

Mr Kennedy gave details of the bank accounts as follows:

Deposit Account	£26,923.88
(This included interest for the period 4/6/07-2/9/07 of £85.01 and the 2 <sup>nd</sup> half of the 2007/08 precept of £7,050)	

Current Account	£53.69
Cambridge Building Society	£13,855.78

Mr Kennedy proposed the following cheques be approved:

Foxton Village Hall Trust (hire of Lounge on 14 <sup>th</sup> August)	£9.50
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S Moore (resurfacing of footpath to Recreation Ground from St Laurence Road)	£560.00
(Mr Moore had requested that £40 from his original quotation of £600 be donated to a charity of FPC's choice – <i>Mr Kennedy said a decision on this donation would be deferred for the time being</i> )	

Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal (wreath for Remembrance Sunday)	£16.50
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N Oakley (first half Chairman's Honorarium)	£80.00
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H M Customs and Revenue (tax on JEB/VWM earnings for 3 months to 5/10/07)	£170.48
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Dr Oakley seconded the proposal and all were agreed that these payments, totalling £836.48, should be made and that £837 be transferred from the Deposit Account to the Current Account.

## **PLANNING**

### **Planning permission granted:**

Mr K N Mills	Application No. S/1236/07/F for the insertion of roof lights and sun pipe at 81 High Street Usual conditions
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Some concern was expressed that consent had been granted, as it appeared that the property was effectively being converted to a two-storey property, which had not been allowed when the original planning application for the building had been made.

Mrs Roberts said that there had been changes to the SCDC Planning Department: The power was with 8 cabinet members and the Planning Committee comprised only 12-13 members. Another change was that site visits were now taking place on the same day as planning meetings. Mr Barnes said it had become very difficult to contact Planning Officers and suggested that concern about this could be an agenda item for the SCDC Scrutiny and Overview committee meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> November.

Mr and Mrs S Martin	Application No. S/1368/07/F for an extension at 23 West Hill Road Usual conditions
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### **Planning Appeal against refusal of Planning Consent**

Mr Rrahmani	Application No. S/0265/07/F for a car-wash facility at land near the level crossing
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Mr Barnes said he had received a letter from the SCDC Trees Officer who, having made a site visit to Foxtan House, had agreed some tree work and invited comments from FPC. It was agreed that FPC had no useful comments to make. Mrs Roberts recommended that FPC ask for replacements be made for any felled trees. It was agreed that Mr Barnes would contact SCDC.

Mr Barnes said he had been trying since the last meeting to contact SCDC officer, Saffron Garner, about FPC's own planning application for the Recreation Ground extension. The matter was becoming urgent, as there is a deadline for the awarding of grants to help with the infrastructure for this project.

### **Planning Application to be discussed at a later meeting:**

G McKenzie (1919) Ltd	Application No. S/1806/07/F for 3 dwellings at 5-9 Mortimers Lane
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Mr Barnes said that a meeting would be arranged the following week to discuss the council's response to this application.

Finally, Mrs Roberts said that there had been no further progress on proposals for new Gypsy and Traveller sites.

## **PARISH PLAN**

Mr Allars said that the application for grant aid towards this project was completed and only awaited the Chairman's signature. There had been a trickle of interest from parishioners in taking part in the project since the last meeting. The project remained

on hold until the council receives funding approval. However, an e-mail had been sent to 12-13 organisations in the village and some responses had been forthcoming, so it should be possible to set up a Steering Group in the near future. It was confirmed that the school was making the Parish Plan an agenda item for its next Governors' meeting.

### **POLICE LIAISON**

Mr Bentinck reported that an article had appeared in the Weekly News suggesting that the village shop had been selling alcohol to underage residents, and the Blacks were understandably upset.

Foxton had been suffering something of a crime-wave with 3 house break-ins and 3-4 car break-ins. In addition there had been problems with vandalism and graffiti. On the 15<sup>th</sup> September alone, there had been 1 house, and 3 car, break-ins. There had been a party that night at the village hall and although Mrs Howell (in the visitors' seats) said that everything had been left in order inside the building, bottles and cans had been strewn around outside. It was agreed that an article should be placed in "The Laurentian" alerting residents to these incidents.

Mr Bentinck said an e-mail had been received from Mark Howard listing 5 incidents of graffiti, vandalism and inappropriate behaviour in the Play Area and Dave Salmons also contacted him about such problems. It was his opinion that local youths were responsible. Mr Barnes added that the junior goal posts had been damaged and that a large empty vodka bottle had been found in the children's sandpit.

### **RECREATION GROUND TRUST REPORT**

Dr Oakley gave Dr McKeown's report on his behalf as follows:

The Trustees had not met in the last month but a number of outstanding items had moved forward.

1. The Management Agreement between the FGA and the RGT had been signed by Trustees of both parties and had been returned to Hewitsons for final binding.
2. The terms of the Lease with the Pre-school Group were nearing agreement, and, once confirmation was received, the suggestions would be given to the Trust's solicitors, Hewitsons, for them to formulate legal clauses to represent the intention agreed.
3. Discussions with Foxton Cricket Club had reached a point where the club had asked the England and Wales Cricket Board representative if agreement other than under a lease would be acceptable for security of tenure. FCC received a positive response so the RGT would now have to formulate an acceptable agreement. The Trust was hopeful that this could be achieved speedily. Hewitson's advice had been sought.

### **DOVECOTE/MEADOW PROJECT**

It was confirmed that there would be a meeting of the Friends Group the next day.

## CORRESPONDENCE

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

- 1) Letter dated 4<sup>th</sup> September from the SCDC enforcement officer with advice on how to proceed when cases of dog fouling have been reported.
- 2) Letter dated 4<sup>th</sup> September from the SCDC Housing Strategy Officer requesting details of rough sleepers in Foxton.
- 3) Letter dated 6<sup>th</sup> September from the CCC Network Communications Manager enclosing documents showing the current Highways Network Management structure and an updated information newsletter on Minor Traffic Management Requests.
- 4) Covering note dated 7<sup>th</sup> September from Andrew Lansley with copies of correspondence between himself and the Department for Communities and Local Government regarding the growth agenda for the Cambridge sub-region and the East of England Plan.
- 5) Letter dated 12<sup>th</sup> September from EDF Energy networks advising that the company will be replacing underground cables from the sub-station at Shepreth to the sub-station adjacent to the Foxton War Memorial and into the Dovecote field: date for works to be advised. *The clerk was asked to make enquiries, as the dovecote meadow is an archaeological site.*
- 6) Letter received 14<sup>th</sup> September from Mr Phillips withdrawing from involvement with the dog-fouling incident he had reported in an earlier letter.
- 7) Note received from SCDC re a meeting of the Scrutiny and Overview Committee to be held in Foxton Village Hall on 15<sup>th</sup> November. *It was agreed that an article on this should be placed in "The Laurentian".*
- 8) Letter received 1<sup>st</sup> October from DEFRA enclosing booklet entitled "Ways to tackle climate change".
- 9) Information from Cambridgeshire ACRE including:
  - "Community Action" magazine, Autumn 2007
  - Annual Review 2006/07
  - Guide to Services
  - Information request form
- 10) SCDC leaflet on Housing Futures.
- 11) Standards Board for England publication "Town and Parish Standard", September.
- 12) Free issue of Local Councils Update for September 2007 (produced by "Clerks and Councils Direct") with subscription form on back cover.

- 13) Memo from the CCC Audit Manager for Adult Support Services re CCC's projected County Plan for Older People with questionnaire and SAE: also enclosing a leaflet with programme of events to celebrate "International Day of Older People" at Guildhall, Cambridge on 1<sup>st</sup> October from 10am to 2pm.  
*Passed to DA.*
- 14) COPE Newsletter, October 2007.
- 15) Publicity material for a concert being organised by the English Arts Chorale on 6<sup>th</sup> October (poster displayed).
- 16) Publicity material from Glasdon and Furnitubes (street furniture).

### **VISITORS' QUESTIONS**

Mr and Mrs Corley expressed concern about the state of the Oak tree in Hall Close: they thought the tree was in urgent need of having the crown reduced – a large branch had fallen down and the tree was suffering from a virus.

*A short discussion followed with concern expressed that if the council undertook work on the tree before having a grant approved, the grant might not be forthcoming. Mrs Roberts said that she would check the position. It was agreed that the council would obtain 3 quotations for a climbing inspection. The Corleys asked to be kept informed. Although this expenditure had not been budgeted for in the present financial year, it was thought that the money saved by not spraying the Recreation Ground this year should cover some if not all of the cost of an inspection. It was reiterated that the parish council does not own the land on which the tree is growing.*

Mrs Howell said that the guttering at the corner of the pavilion was damaged and that Mr Howell was willing to repair it.

*Dr Oakley thanked Mrs Howell for this offer.*

### **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Referring to the problem of cars parking in the village at illegal locations such as road junctions, Mr Bentinck suggested that a note on the windscreen of offending vehicles might deter drivers from parking in these places. Councillors thought this was a good idea and Mr Bentinck volunteered to take the necessary action. It was suggested that the matter of illegal parking could be added to the article about crime and vandalism in the village.

Mr Kennedy reported a collapsed drain in the middle of Station Road by the old Methodist Church. The clerk was asked to report this.

Mrs Roberts said that the leaves of Horse Chestnuts affected by blight should be burned.

Mr Barnes reported that reflective markers at the Shepreth Road bend had been demolished and the clerk was also asked to report this.

Mrs Roberts expressed concern about administrative changes at the District Council and said that a review of Community Development was currently being carried out. She said this might result in money for village halls being diverted to the establishment of a kerb-side plastic collection

**DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

It was confirmed that this would be held on **Monday, 5<sup>th</sup> November 2007, at 7.45pm** in the **Village Hall Meeting Room.**

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.20 pm.