

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF FOXTON PARISH COUNCIL

HELD ON MONDAY, 6th OCTOBER 2008, AT 7.45 p.m.

PRESENT

Dr Oakley, Dr Grindley, Mr Allars, Mr Barnes, Mr Bentinck, Mrs Macintyre

County Councillor David McCraith

District Councillor Mrs Roberts

IN ATTENDANCE

3 members of the public

APOLOGIES

Dr McKeown

Dr Oakley welcomed all to the meeting

DECLARATION OF INTEREST

There were no declarations.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Two amendments were necessary in the Police Liaison report:

- i) In the first sentence, the words “a young couple contacted people” should be substituted for “some youths”.
- ii) At the end of the second sentence, the word “people” should be substituted for “youths”.

With these amendments, Dr Oakley proposed that the Minutes of the previous meeting, held on Monday, 1st September 2008, should be signed as a true record. Mr Barnes seconded the proposal and all were agreed.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Recreation Ground Trust Report

Dr Grindley said that Mr Callin had now submitted his valuation report (for the registration of the extra plots of land acquired for the Recreation Ground) to Hewitsons, the Trust’s solicitors. *A copy of the report was passed to the clerk for filing.*

Recreation and Amenities Working Party Report – item 4

Dr Grindley had been asked to talk to the Football Club about the recommendation that the club erect protective netting during matches to prevent balls going into Mrs Meese-Grove’s garden. He said that the Football Club’s initial reaction had been one of surprise. *The general feeling was that, although the club had not erected such*

netting in the past, the nuisance to Mrs Meese-Grove from balls being kicked into her garden warranted netting being erected in future.

Planning Report – the Council’s response to the letter from EEARA (final paragraph)

Dr Grindley said that he had e-mailed a response to EEARA’s letter (re its review of the East of England Plan) on behalf of the council from America and this had been acknowledged. Dr Oakley, on behalf of the council, thanked Dr Grindley for taking so much trouble.

Correspondence

Item 1 - Panels re Foxton from the Cambridge & County Folk Museum

The clerk reported that Mr Bentinck had now collected the panels. Mr Bentinck said that Mrs Howell had agreed to find temporary storage for them in the Village Hall. It was thought the panels might eventually be displayed in the Dovecote.

Item 11 – Mr Cook’s letter re the tree on the verge opposite 76, Station Road

Mrs Roberts had looked at the tree and suggested that Mr Salmons could carry out any work necessary to remove the dieback, as it was not the responsibility of either the district or county councils.

Visitors’ Questions – Mr Challis’s comments about charging for entrance to the “Rock on the Rec” event

Mr Challis had said that it had never been the practice in the past to charge the public for access to any part of the open Recreation Ground and had included an item on this matter in his report of the September FPC meeting for “The Laurentian”. A member of the public had taken exception to Mr Challis’s stance and had put up flyers quoting the article and making adverse anonymous comments. It was agreed by all that this was a cowardly action and that Mr Challis had the council’s support.

PARISH PLAN REPORT

Mr Allars reported that 200 forms had now been returned – about 40% of those distributed. He said it was rather disappointing that there had not been a fuller response. As a flavour of the overall response, he said that residents most complained of the junction at the A10 level crossing, vandalism, yobbish behaviour and public transport. The latter was a rather surprising complaint as Foxton was better served by public transport than most villages. Mr Allars said it was hoped the analysis of the questionnaires would be completed in about two month’s time.

Mr McCraith said that some of the problems complained of could be addressed by the County Council with a better chance of action the more completed forms were received.

From the separate forms returned about village activities, it appeared that Yoga, Keep-Fit and Pool were the activities most desired to be available: however, there were no volunteers forthcoming to run them.

YOUTH SHELTER

Mr Bentinck reported that residents who might be affected – those with properties bordering the Recreation Ground and members of the sports clubs – had been

contacted and advised of the proposal to site the shelter to the rear of the churchyard. Two residents had contacted him for further information – Mr Clinton of the Football Club and Mr Wilson whose property would be nearest the shelter if erected on the proposed site. The latter had been assured that the shelter would be erected as near to the Bowls Club as possible.

Dr Oakley proposed that the council should regard the overall response as an agreement to this siting.

Mr Bentinck said that he had been to see Melbourn Building and Fencing Supplies who thought they would be able to provide a shelter similar to one (like a large bandstand) that Mr Bentinck had identified in a catalogue but at a lower cost. The clerk suggested looking into the possibility of proofing the shelter against graffiti and reminded the council that three quotations would be needed.

Mr Bentinck suggested that it might be a good idea to provide a ball-wall to kick balls against.

REPORTS FROM THE WORKING PARTIES

RECREATION AND AMENITIES

Mr Bentinck reported as follows:

1. Grass cutting

Mr Bentinck had met Mr Cooper of CCC Highways Department on the 2nd October to discuss grass cutting in Foxton. Mr Cooper explained how his maps showed the areas that were believed to be part of the public highway and for which grass cutting would be paid by the County Council. The figure allowed to the council for this in 2007 was £877 based on four cuts per year. This was disadvantageous to the council, as, in 2006, the amount was the same but for 5 cuts. Normally inflation was applied to the County Council's contribution but this increase was omitted in 2007. Mr Bentinck said that FPC should ensure that the 2009 CCC contribution should include an increase for inflation for 2009 and try as well as for money to cover the missed increase for inflation in 2007 and above inflation costs in general. Mr Bentinck had obtained maps for planning the grass cutting together with maps of the grassed areas around the village owned by SCDC and which they cut, i.e. in Hillfield and Rowlands Close. The Hall Close verges are unadopted and the council takes responsibility for cutting them. "The Green" was also cut by the council. The verges around the school car park were assumed still to belong to the developer, but again, the council seemed to have inherited the job of cutting the grass. The County Council was responsible for cutting the verges up to the speed derestriction signs, four times each year between 1st April and 30th November. Each cut was different; the first two or three being to aid visibility and safety, and the last one or two cuts to clear the areas after growing/nesting etc. The CCC contribution to the council for grass cutting was payable in full on sight of our first invoice for the year from the parish council's contractor. October's meeting should see the council complete the cutting schedule, ready for the contract to go out to tender.

2. Village Warden's Report

The Village Warden, through the working party, sought the council's approval to purchase the following:

- Two more bins for the Recreation Ground (one to replace the one in Hardman Road and one next to the bench near the slope onto the Recreation Ground from Edis Way)
- A swinging device to replace the rarely used hanging rings in the Play Area.
- A further dog bin, as the one sited near Illingworth Way was over-used.

The council agreed that these items should be purchased.

The dovecote hedges had been cut and the slats on the bench adjacent hard-court would be replaced in October.

3. Trees

Mr Cooper had reported at the meeting on 2nd October with Mr Bentinck that he had "scaled down" three trees in front of 16/18 Station Road, following requests from the occupiers.

4. RoSPA report / Play area

Mr Allars was preparing a summary of findings from the RoSPA report.

5. Access to Recreation Ground letter

The fence panels had been removed from the address at Illingworth Way and pegs had been supplied to replace the bricks holding down the weed matting. The working party had not heard from the Football Club about the request for it to supply a large protective net behind the goal-mouth to prevent the ball from entering the woods and gardens during practices and matches. The letter to the householder in St Laurence's had been delivered and would be followed up in the near future.

6. Bike Park

Planned maintenance to the Bike Park would be carried-out in October. *Three quotations had been received – two very close in costing and one much higher. It was agreed at the meeting to award the contract to Mr Salmons, as, though his quotation was marginally higher than the lowest quotation, it included the undertaking to remove stones from the site.*

7. Picnic Area

This had been prepared and sown by Tony Shelford and it was proposed to send him a letter of thanks for all his hard work. *The clerk agreed to send a letter of thanks.* The R&A working party had fenced the area off until the grass had grown satisfactorily.

8. Youth Shelter

As already discussed, interested parties had been advised of the revised location. Two enquiries had been received but there were no complaints. A guide price had been obtained from a national supplier but the working party

would try to source a shelter locally for green/local economy reasons. The design had been revised to a more pleasing wooden “bandstand” design and might include solar lighting and a nearby wooden ‘ball wall’ with a net.

FINANCE

Dr Oakley reported as follows:

After some correspondence with the external auditor, Moore Stephens, the Annual Return for 2007/08 had been approved and would be displayed at the Post Office together with the auditor’s opinion.

Dr Oakley then gave details of the Bank Accounts as follows:

Deposit Account	£25,040.54
(This included interest for the period 2/6/08-25/9/08 of £41.53 and the second half of the 20078/09 precept of £7,400)	

Current Account	£53.69
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Cambridge Building Society	£14,395.69
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Dr Oakley proposed the following cheques for payment:

SCDC (emptying dog bins 1/4/08-31/3/09)	£406.61
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David Allars (reimbursement for 600 leaflets re Parish Plan)	£109.58
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Foxton VHT (hire of Meeting Room 4/8 & Lounge 21/8)	£22.00
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Moore Stephens (annual audit fee)	£258.51
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T J Austin (flail hedgecutting at High Street & Fowlmere Road)	£105.75
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D Pusey (reimbursement for water seal and brushes re the Dovecote)	£162.06
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B Hockley (reimbursement of expenses re Parish Plan including donation to Playgroup for loan of collection box {£5} and gifts to those delivering leaflets {£11.98})	£16.98
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D Salmons (Village Warden duties {20.5 hours} September)	<u>£225.50</u>
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Mrs Macintyre seconded the proposal and all were agreed that these payments, totalling £1,306.99, should be made and that £1,308 should be transferred from the Deposit Account to the Current Account.

PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr Barnes reported as follows:

Planning permission granted:

Mr A Dossett

Application No. S/1162/08/F for erection of dwelling following demolition of existing house at 6 Cambridge Road and Builder’s yard to rear
Numerous conditions

Planning amendment received for information only:

Mr & Mrs Bamborough Application No. S/0015/08/F for extensions at 25 West Hill Road
 Amendment involving WC wall brought forward, installation of 2 rooflights and door in glass window

Notice of Appeal:

Dr K Beardsall Application No. S/0740/08/F for an extension at 36 High Street

Tree Application:

Mrs Humphrys Application Ref. C/11/40/030 to fell a cherry tree at 9 High Street that was causing a crack in the boundary wall with Foxton House.
 No objection but the council would like the tree to be replaced with another.

(This application was announced too late to meet the consultation deadline, but it was hoped SCDC would take FPC's views into account)

A letter had been received from the SCDC Lands Officer regarding three parking places fronting Rowlands Close, surfaced in "grasscrete" two of which the owners of No. 4 Rowlands Close would like to purchase. Mrs Roberts said that she was against selling council parking spaces to individual property owners and the council agreed.

A response was needed to the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste preferred Options 2 consultation. The council agreed that the Planning Committee would make a response on its behalf after discussing the matter at its forthcoming planning meeting on 21st October. The committee would also examine in detail the numerous conditions for the Planning consent for the Dossett application at the same meeting and the new Government limits for local planning.

Mrs Roberts said she had copied FPC in to an e-mail that she had sent to Councillor Wright re the situation regarding the overdue planning application from the former Q8 garage.

POLICE LIAISON REPORT

Mr Barnes reported that no specific incidents had been reported although there had been a break in at Car Trade on the site of the former Welch's garage. A car had been taken and then abandoned near the old Q8 garage.

Mr McCraith reported that a new Police Support Officer, Carl Fillary, had been appointed to replace Emma Garwood.

Mrs Roberts reported having received an e-mail from Police Headquarters about the possibility of Speedwatch programmes (where members of the public use instruments to check the speed of vehicles in their area) being reintroduced. In the discussion that followed, it emerged that these exercises could prove controversial.

RECREATION GROUND TRUST REPORT AND COMMUNITY BUILDING MATTERS

It was confirmed that a meeting of the Trust would be held on the 15th October and a report would be given at the next council meeting.

Mr Barnes said that the exterior painting of the Community Building had been completed.

The legal matters relating to the Recreation Ground extension had now been sorted out with the exception of matters relating to the Cricket Club.

DOVECOTE/MEADOW REPORT

Mrs Macintyre reported that there had been a working party, including the Green Spaces Group, towards the end of September, when half the meadow had been cut and raked. Unfortunately the machinery had broken down so the rest of the meadow had not been cut. Jon Cairns had offered to complete the job. It was hoped that should the weather be suitable, the piles of grass would be burned at the weekend.

Mr Pusey had weather-sealed the dovecote exterior and Rob Mongoven was putting in more boarding to make crevices for bats to nest in.

The occupiers of No. 24 Edis Way were dumping rubbish in the meadow and the clerk was asked to write to them to ask that they desist from this practice.

The gaps in the hedge along the school playing field would need to be filled in next year and quotations would be sought for killing off the growth in a poor area of grass and reseeded it.

CORRESPONDENCE

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

- 1) Letter dated 27th August from Communities and Local Government enclosing consultation document and inviting views (responses to be received by 20th October).
- 2) Letter dated 3rd September from CCC South Highways Division re bids for 2009/10 Minor Highways Improvement Schemes (bids to be submitted by 17th October).
- 3) Letter dated 5th September from the Rural Housing Trust offering a presentation to the parish council.
- 4) Joint letter dated 8th September from Cambridgeshire County, and Peterborough City, councils re their Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste Preferred Options 2 Consultation: 8th September – 20th October 2008: enclosing a CD containing three Development Plan Documents (DPDs) together with numerous supporting documents. *Passed to GB*
- 5) Letter dated 8th September from Cambridgeshire ACRE saying that the organisation has identified Foxton as a priority parish to work with in producing a Housing Needs Survey: enclosing leaflet. *Although a speaker had been provisionally booked for the November FPC meeting, the council thought*

another survey was unnecessary and the clerk was asked to contact Cambridgeshire ACRE to decline the offer.

- 6) E-mail dated 12th September from SCDC enclosing information on adopting telephone kiosks and a further e-mail dated 18th September extending the consultation date for adoption/sponsorship of kiosks to 1st November.
- 7) Memo dated 18th September from the CCC leader advising of dates and venues for its budget road shows
- 8) CCC questionnaire re its Older People strategy
- 9) Information from CPALC including:
 - Details of CPALC training courses for 2008-09
- 10) Information from Cambridgeshire ACRE including:
 - Invitation to Cambridgeshire Rural forum conference On 25th September
 - Leaflet on LINK (Cambridgeshire Local Involvement Network)
 - “Community Action” magazine, Autumn 2008
- 11) Standards Board for England “Town and Parish Standard”, September 2008.)
- 12) SCDC Housing Futures leaflet, September together with details of independent tenant Adviser drop-in sessions and CD.
- 13) Leaflet entitled “The Future of Council Housing in South Cambridgeshire.
- 14) COPE newsletter, September 2008.
- 15) Programme of events for “Cambridgeshire Celebrates Age 2008”.
- 16) Letter dated September 2008 from the Open University enclosing poster giving details of an opportunity for members of the public to meet OU representatives and find out about the courses and the qualifications the university offers.
- 17) Publicity material from Canalbs Ltd (independent audit and parish clerk and councillor training services), Buchans (landscaping and ground maintenance) and Glasdons.

Item 6

After a short discussion it was agreed that the clerk should write offering £200 per annum to maintain the telephone kiosk in Fowlmere Road.

VISITORS' QUESTIONS

Mr Challis thanked the council for its support following the negative publicity given to his item in “The Laurentian” about charging for admission to events held on the Recreation Ground.

He asked whether a new contractor was being sought for next season’s grass cutting.

It was confirmed that this was the case.

Mr Challis also asked whether the planning application given permission was for the proposed “eco-house”

This was also confirmed.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mr McCraith said that the County Council would be formulating its budget policy in the next month. This would involve some difficult decisions, as the level of the Government's settlement would be increased for inflation by only 2.1% whereas the actual level of inflation was considerably higher.

Mrs Macintyre raised the question of the spinney at the top of Station Road. Mr Barnes thought the unsightly fencing might not have planning permission. Dr Oakley said he would contact the Planning Department. Mrs Macintyre also reminded the council that EDF had failed to make good some of the areas that had been disturbed when the recabbling was carried out. It was agreed that the clerk would liaise with Mrs Macintyre in writing to EDF to ask them to restore those areas.

Mr Barnes reported that rubble was blocking the drains in Barrington Road. The clerk said she had contacted Mr Cooper at CCC South Highways Department who said he was arranging for some permanent patching repairs to be made to the potholes that were giving rise to the rubble.

Mr Allars said that the Village Hall Management Committee had received a request from the Cricket Club to hold a pole-dancing event in the Village Hall. Apparently the committee had seen no reason to turn down this request. Mrs Roberts warned of the ill consequences, including unwelcome publicity from the press, that might follow from allowing such an event. Councillors agreed with this view and the committee, via Mrs Howell (in the visitors' seats), was asked to look at this again.

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

It was confirmed that this would be held on **Monday, 3rd November 2008 at 7.45pm in the Village Hall Meeting Room.**

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.35 pm.