

## MINUTES OF A MEETING OF FOXTON PARISH COUNCIL

HELD ON MONDAY, 5<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2009, AT 7.45 p.m.

### **PRESENT**

Dr Oakley, Mr Allars, Mrs Macintyre, Mr Sutton

County Councillor Susan van der Ven

### **IN ATTENDANCE**

5 members of the public

### **APOLOGIES**

Dr Grindley, Mr Barnes, Mr Bentinck, Dr McKeown  
and District Councillor Deborah Roberts

Dr Oakley welcomed all to the meeting.

### **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations.

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

As no amendments were needed, Mr Allars proposed that the Minutes of the previous Meeting, held on Monday, 7<sup>th</sup> September 2009, be signed as a true record. Mr Sutton seconded the proposal and all were agreed.

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

#### *Electricity Supply for Training Lights*

EDF had arranged a date for a site meeting, but, as Dr Grindley would be away then, the clerk was asked to rearrange the meeting for a date sometime after 26th October.

#### *Darling and Wood van parked in Community Building Car Park*

Mr Allars said that he had contacted Darling and Wood to inform the company that one of its employees was parking one of its vans in an area not for the use of members of the public other than those using the Village Hall and School facilities. He was told that the employee in question would be leaving the company and the van would therefore be removed. However, the person involved had since obtained a position with Sky and was now leaving a Sky van in the Community Building car park. Mr Allars suggested that he supply the clerk with the name and address of the person involved so that she could write to him on the council's behalf asking for the van to be removed forthwith. All were agreed on this course of action.

#### *County Councillor's Report – Rail Services*

Dr van der Ven had informed the Chairman that First Capital Connect (FCC) had agreed to fit a bike rack at Foxton Station and that Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC) would pay for this. She had also circulated (via Dr Oakley) an illustrated list

of available bike racks from which FPC could make its choice as to type and size needed. Dr van der Ven asked the council to get back to her on this so that she could inform both CCC and FCC. It was agreed that a poll would be carried out by e-mail and the results passed on to Dr van der Ven.

#### Parish Plan Update – Speeding in Fowlmere Road

Dr van der Ven said that CCC had no money for speed bumps: if these were wanted they would have to be paid for by the parish council at a cost of about £1,500- 2,000 each. Further substantial costs would be incurred for street lighting, signage and advertising. Such a project would require a one-off increase in the council's precept. Dr Oakley proposed that the council agree in principle to adopting traffic calming measures. Mr Allars seconded the proposal and all were agreed.

Dr van der Ven had met with Richard Preston to discuss the problems experienced by drivers attempting to turn onto the A10 from Station Road. Mr Preston was not averse to holding discussions with Network Rail about possible ways to address the problem.

#### Recreation and Amenities Report

##### *i) Cricket ball problems*

A meeting had been held on Saturday with residents affected by cricket balls coming into their gardens. Mr Sutton said it had not been a constructive meeting as there was no collective agreement about the council's suggestion that trees be planted as a barrier. It was concluded that the council did not have the resources to take the matter further other than to facilitate meetings between the residents affected and the Cricket Club.

##### *ii) Sports Compound*

It was confirmed that the rotovating of the area had been completed.

#### Planning Committee Report

It was noted that it appeared that the new access to the Burlington Press site in the High Street was being used for delivery and access to the Press itself despite assurances to the contrary.

#### Police Liaison Report

Dr van der Ven said that the break-in on The Green had not been listed in the recent police report as it had been from an outbuilding rather than a dwelling and had been classified as a shed burglary.

#### Correspondence – Emergency Planning Awareness Seminar

Dr Oakley had attended this meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> October at the District Council offices. He said he would make notes on this meeting and circulate them to councillors

#### Visitors' Questions

##### *1) Double Yellow lines in Station Road*

Dr van der Ven confirmed that any extension of the double yellow lines up Station Road from the junction with the A10 would have to be paid for by the parish council.

##### *ii) War Memorial*

Dr Oakley said he would remind Mr Barnes to follow up the complaint about the condition of the wall backing the War Memorial.

iii) *Fertiliser smell*

Dr van der Ven pointed out that it could not be guaranteed that the problems resulting from the use of partially untreated sewage as fertiliser would not happen again.

### **COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

Dr van der Ven said it appeared that the County had opened up its policy on education transport, to accommodate rail travel. Pressure had been put on the County Council on this matter over the past year, since students fares went up so dramatically. However, the information had not been disseminated clearly to students, parents, or councillors, nor was it clearly articulated in the relevant forms and guidance notes. Dr van der Ven said it appeared possible to get a student rail-pass through CCC, which was significantly cheaper than an FCC-issued pass, and also significantly cheaper than a Stagecoach Goldrider bus-pass. She said she would be first following up with Education Transport and would then discuss the matter at the meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> November with First Capital Connect.

Dr van der Ven reported that she had made a visit to Foxton Learning Centre. It was enlightening and exciting to see the work going on there and she said that visitors were welcome.

### **DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

As Mrs Roberts was not present, there was no District Councillor's report.

### **VISITORS' QUESTIONS**

(Brought forward)

Mrs Payne referred to a letter she had written to the council outlining a request for planning permission to build a house/bungalow on ground to the rear of 59, Fowlmere Road.

*The clerk said she had passed the letter to Mr Barnes, Chairman of the FPC Planning Committee. She added that the council had no power to approve planning applications and that Mrs Payne would need to submit an application to South Cambridgeshire District Council, who would ask the parish council for its views, but would ultimately decide whether to grant permission on purely planning grounds rather than personal circumstances.*

Mr Butler drew the council's attention to the serious flooding he had experienced at his High Street house and said that drains at the bend where Fowlmere Road becomes the High Street were inadequate. Mr Orchard outlined how the drainage system worked in this part of the village and said he thought that drainage water from this area was channelled into the "Common Stream" running along the bottom of Mortimers Lane. He said that what was left of this stream was in a disgraceful condition. Mr Orchard also said that the footway between 79 and 81 High Street was in a very poor condition.

*Dr van der Ven said she would follow these matters up.*

Mrs Howell asked whether there was anything further to report about the spinney at the bottom of Station Road. She reported that the owners of 69 Station Road had planted Leylandii trees outside the fence.

### **PARISH PLAN UPDATE**

Mr Allars reported that some reports (roads, police, and finance) for inclusion in the Plan were still awaited. He asked Mr Sutton if he would include an item in the Finance group's report explaining how the parish finances work.

### **REPORTS FROM THE WORKING PARTIES**

#### **RECREATION AND AMENITIES**

Mrs Macintyre said that once again lights had been removed from the Youth Shelter and that Mr Salmons would be putting in reinforcements to make the lights more vandal-proof.

An e-mail had been received from the Foxton Gardens Association saying that the Association was supportive of seeking to establish a Community Orchard in Foxton but needed to find a suitable piece of land for this project and also wished to know the council's views. The council had no objections to this plan.

#### **FINANCE**

Mr Sutton expressed concern about the council's increasing and varied expenditure to date in the present financial year. For instance, the amount allocated in the budget for Mr Salmons' Village Warden duties and additional work had already been spent. He said that in the second half of the financial year the council would need to be very careful about incurring any expenditure that had not been budgeted for.

Mr Sutton also reported that a problem had arisen in getting a refund for the tax deducted from the Cambridge Building Society Account for 2008/09 although there had never been a problem before. He would continue to try to resolve this matter.

Mr Sutton then gave details of the Bank Accounts as follows:

Deposit Account	£25,674.54
(This included interest for the period 8/6/09 6/9/09 of £2.03, a contribution from the Recreation Ground trust to FPC of £4,600 and a payment of £7,750 from SCDC being the 2 <sup>nd</sup> half of the precept for 2009/10)	
Current Account	£52.49
Standard Life Bank	£15,000.00

Mr Sutton proposed the following cheques for payment:

CGM (Cambridge) Ltd Invoice No:

444 (grass cutting July/Aug.)	414.00	
500 (credit for invoice 444)	(414.00)	
501 (verges & inner areas Aug.)	207.00	
569 (Rec. Ground 8/9/09)	<u>69.00</u>	£276.00
Schoolscapes Ltd (goal net)		£230.58

S Bentinck (reimbursement for Health and Safety course fee)	£250.00
D Salmons Fencing Services (Village Warden duties, extra work & expenses, Sept.)	£189.99
T J Austin (flail trimming of hedge in High St)	£51.75
Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal (wreath for Remembrance Sunday)	£16.50

Mr Allars seconded the proposal and all were agree that these payments, totalling £1041.82, be made and that £1,015 be transferred from the Deposit Account to the Current Account.

Mrs Macintyre passed £2 in cash to the clerk, which had been received following the sale of two dovecote/meadow brochures, for the clerk to pay into the FPC Bank Account.

### **PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT**

In Mr Barnes' absence, Mrs Macintyre reported as follows:

#### **Planning Committee meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> September**

The following applications were considered:

Goreway Holdings Ltd.	Application No. S/1210/09/F for variation of condition 4 on planning permission S/0861/87/F to allow use of the access onto the High Street at factory at 1, Station Road
Goreway Holdings Ltd.	Application No. S/1043/09/F for variation of condition 5 on planning permission S/1913/79/F to allow use of the access onto the High Street at factory at 1, Station Road

The Committee's response to both these applications was that they should have both been retrospective and that the justifications submitted in support of the previously applied conditions were open to question and failed to address the Highway Safety issue on which these conditions were based. The committee recommended continued enforcement of the Highway Safety condition and recommended refusal of both applications.

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#### **Planning permission granted:**

Mr and Mrs Barnes	Application No. S/1045/09/F for extension and replacement garage at 25, High Street Usual conditions
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#### **Planning application considered at the present meeting:**

Mr Gary Cannon

Application No. S/1284/09/F for the erection of  
a cycle store at 4 Rowlands Close  
Approved

Mrs Macintyre also confirmed the council's receipt of a letter from Mrs Payne (of 59, Fowlmere Road) about her wish to build a house or bungalow at the rear of her property that had been discussed earlier in the meeting under "Visitors' Questions".

Dr Oakley had received a Parish Council Monthly Update from SCDC that indicated that the inspectors rejected all objectors' proposals for villages. The council would seek clarification on this matter.

### **ENCROACHMENT ON THE RECREATION GROUND**

Mr Sutton said that he had advised all councillors of his proposed strategy, after consulting with the council's solicitors, regarding rectifying the encroachment on the Recreation Ground, that had now existed for many years. On a matter of such importance, he was disappointed that he had not received a response from all councillors. After receiving valuable comments from councillors, which were incorporated, a letter was duly delivered requiring the removal of all materials and restoration of the site to its previous condition within 14 days of receipt: in the absence of compliance, the letter stated that the council would take all necessary action.

A reply to the letter had been received asking for an extension of the period of time the council had allowed the residents in question to remove the materials they were storing there as they would be absent abroad. The council agreed to extend the period until mid-December.

### **POLICE LIAISON REPORT**

In Mr Barnes' absence there was no Police Liaison Report.

### **RECREATION GROUND TRUST (RGT) REPORT**

Dr McKeown had sent an e-mail apologising for his absence from the present meeting and saying that the RGT had not met in the past month but that the Trust had returned a questionnaire to its insurers so that they could quote for the next year's premium.

Mrs Howell (in the visitors' seats) reported that a child had pulled down the curtain in the main hall. Tony Garrick, the Facilities Manager, had re-hung the curtain and the child's parents had paid for his time. This would be set against his services with regard to the paving round the Community Building. She said that Tony had volunteered to do all the weed spraying in the vicinity of the Community Building. It was agreed that it would be a good idea to invite him to the next RGT meeting as complications could arise as to how payments for various work he undertakes should be divided between the parties using the Community Building and its surroundings

### **DOVECOTE/MEADOW REPORT**

Mrs Macintyre reported that volunteers had cut and raked about two thirds of the meadow on 23<sup>rd</sup> September. Unfortunately, this volunteer group would not be able to come again. However, Jon Cairns had offered his services for cutting and raking the

entire meadow twice a year for £100 each session. *The council agreed to take up this offer.*

Mrs Macintyre also reported that the door into the Dovecote would not open and that David Salmons would be asked to attend to it. The wild flowers, including chicory, had now got going.

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

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

- 1) Letter dated 7<sup>th</sup> September from CCC re its consultation between 1<sup>st</sup> September and 24<sup>th</sup> November on Community Engagement Strategy: includes website link.
- 2) Letter dated 19<sup>th</sup> September from Holly Adams, SCDC Democratic Services Officer, granting FPC councillors dispensations on issues concerning Foxton Recreation Ground until May 2011.
- 3) Letter dated 16<sup>th</sup> September enclosing poster (displayed) offering SCDC tenants and leaseholders an opportunity to apply for a place on the National Tenant Voice national forum.
- 4) Letter dated 25<sup>th</sup> September from Andrew Lansley asking to be informed how slow Broadband speeds are affecting Foxton parishioners.
- 5) Letter dated 27<sup>th</sup> September from Mrs Phillips asking for more time to effect the clearance of the materials currently being stored on the Recreation Ground.
- 6) Information from Cambridgeshire ACRE including:
  - Cambridgeshire Area Impact Report 2008/09
  - “Community Action magazine” Autumn 2009
- 7) Local Council Review, Autumn 2009.
- 8) Cope newsletter for October.
- 9) Details and poster for Rachmaninov Vespers at the chapel of St John’s College, Cambridge.
- 10) Request for a donation from Victim Support.
- 11) Poster from the Open University on an opportunity for members of the public to meet OU representatives. (*displayed*).
- 12) South Cambs magazine, Autumn 2009.
- 13) Letter from the Society of Local Council Clerks re its Membership Benefits Scheme.
- 14) Publicity material from Wicksteed, Kompan, Anglian Playground Services, Timberline, Monsterplay (playground equipment and services) and Barcham Trees.

### **FURTHER VISITORS' QUESTIONS**

Mrs Howell said that Cambridge United had booked the pavilion for a date in October but had not paid their previous bill.

*It was thought appropriate that the booking should not be honoured in the event that the outstanding account was not paid in full prior to the new booking.*

### **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Mr Allars reported that the roped-off area used for the "Rock on the Rec" event had been left in a very poor condition with a sea of cigarette ends and bottle tops littering the grass. It was agreed that next year it would be necessary for the organisers of the event to make an announcement asking those present to dispose of such things properly.

Mrs Macintyre asked whether the money paid by EDF for the purchase of bulbs was still available. *This was confirmed.*

Mr Sutton said that the cost of legal advice for Hewitsons about the letter sent re encroachment on the Recreation Ground should not exceed £100.

Dr Oakley said that, following numerous complaints about the new dog bin on The Green, the council was attempting to get the bin size, colour and location changed.

### **DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

It was confirmed that the next meeting would be held on **Monday, 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2009 at 7.45pm** in the **Meeting Room** of the **Village Hall**.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.40pm.