

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

**HELD ON MONDAY, 1<sup>st</sup> OCTOBER 2012 AT 7.45 p.m.**

### **PRESENT**

Dr Oakley, Dr Grindley, Mr Bore, Mr Barnes, Mr Elliott, Mr McCreery, Mrs Macintyre,  
County Councillor Susan van de Ven  
District Councillor Deborah Roberts

### **IN ATTENDANCE**

2 members of the public

### **APOLOGIES**

Mrs McFadzean and Mr Sutton

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, all were agreed that the Minutes of the previous Meeting, held on Monday, 3<sup>rd</sup> September should be signed as a true record.

### **VILLAGE INFRASTRUCTURE AND TRANSPORT REPORT**

Dr Oakley reported as follows:

#### 1. Drains

County Councillor Susan van de Ven had a meeting in the month with Mike Cooper (CCC Highways Department) to discuss poor drainage in the village. There were three areas of concern viz at the junction of St Laurence Road and the High Street, the War Memorial corner and on the roadway through the Green. Mike Cooper agreed to re-jet the St Laurence drain and investigate possible blockages further on in the system (some under private ownership). He also agreed to jet the drain at War Memorial corner. The situation at the Green was more complex in that ownership of the land where the drains are situated was not clear and was under investigation.

Mr Cooper pointed out that the overall situation had worsened due to drainage from the Hardman Road development feeding into the High Street surface water drainage system and nor had the new development of 4 houses behind the Green helped the drainage in that area of the village.

## 2. Roads and Footways

The council had been assured by the county council that the agreed yellow lining in Station Road would be completed shortly.

There was a continuing problem with the uncut hedges under private ownership on the A10; complaints had been made to Dr van de Ven who was liaising with the county council over this matter.

Speeding seemed to be less of a problem in Fowlmere Road and this was undoubtedly due to the increased number of parked cars - as has been shown this was a very effective way of reducing speeding traffic.

## 3. HGV traffic

A meeting had been held with the county council to discuss HGV traffic through the village. The CCC had carried out a desktop study to determine Foxton's environmental sensitivity to HGV traffic. The study took into consideration the dimensions of roads and footways, nearness of houses to the roads, foot and cycle traffic and the location of schools etc. In this survey Foxton came out with medium to high sensitivity. When CCC did a traffic survey based on sensors they found, however, that there was only an average of 0.4 HGVs an hour over a 3-day testing period. This was low compared to other villages in the study. CCC suggested that if the council did not think this reflected the true picture it could undertake an independent observation-based survey. *It was agreed to hold a watching brief on the situation.*

# **REPORTS FROM THE WORKING PARTIES**

## **RECREATION AND AMENITIES**

Mr McCreery reported as follows:

### **1. Play Area**

The working party recommended that the council request one inspection plus an annual inspection from Kompan and continue with the RoSPA (Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents) annual inspection. *Mr McCreery proposed acceptance of this schedule and all were agreed.*

### **2. Half Pipe**

An open meeting had been held in the lounge of the Village Hall on Tuesday, 11th September at 7.30pm. Attendance at the meeting consisted of the newly formed fund-raising committee (chaired by Carol Townsend) and a number of young people interested in the project. No objections to the basic proposals had been received.

The committee discussed the plans for fund-raising events through to May next year. Mr McCreery said he had been able to report the Parish Council's agreement to match funding up to £1,000 and a further £1,000 donation had been promised. The young people had raised £64 from selling friendship bracelets and the pub quiz night, held on 22<sup>nd</sup> September, raised a further £489.

### **3. Recreation ground**

David Salmons had now moved the ball wall to its new location. The Bowls Club had filled the hole where it was previously sited with 1.5 tonnes of soil and the cores from

the Bowling Green aeration and the club would also water the area to help growth. *The council agreed that FPC would make a donation of £60.00 to Foxton Bowls Club for their work.*

#### **4. Sports Club Meeting**

The bi-annual meeting with the Sports Clubs was held on 25<sup>th</sup> September.

The Cricket Club had marked the corners of the square & practice area and the holes for the scoreboard had been plugged neatly.

The grant application for the roller had been successful and application for payment by the FPC would be made shortly. The agreement to cover liability for insurance, repair etc. of the roller had still to be prepared.

Fertilisation and spraying of the Recreation Ground had been successful and would be repeated next year, with the fertiliser supplied by the clubs and the spraying paid for by the parish council. The parish council had again been requested to provide seed for re-seeding the training area (approx. £70) and the clubs would apply the seed.

The following matters were raised:

It was queried what progress had been made on the planning application for extending the floodlights and it was agreed to write to the clubs to see what financial support to extending the floodlights they could provide.

*There was some discussion about this matter at the present meeting as submitting a planning application without knowing what funding would be available for extending the height of the training lights presented difficulties. As the proposed extension of the lights was not a separate project to the original project for training lights that had received support from SCDC, Mrs Roberts suggested that SCDC be approached as to whether the project might be eligible for a grant as a first step. The council agreed this was a good idea and Mrs Roberts said she would follow the matter up.*

Quotations would be sought for developing the hard standing area.

The Cricket Club had requested an external double socket on the wall of the Village Hall next to the compound.

The issue of the shortage of football/cricket pitches had been raised and facilities at Villiers Park would be investigated.

Dog fouling was once more an increasing problem and Mr McCreery had agreed that a further notice would be put in "The Laurentian" and that maybe new signs be erected at the access points to the Recreation Ground and Dovecote Field. *All were agreed.*

#### **6. Tennis Club**

The tennis club would cut down the overgrown conifer adjoining the courts to hedge-height during October.

#### **7. Other Matters**

The trees over the path to the station had been cut back as had the tree shielding the streetlight at the end of Illingworth Way.

The streetlight attached to one of the floodlights had moved out of position, but, with the use of the hydraulic support, the lamppost had been lowered and the light adjusted.

Programming of the training lights would be reviewed.

A letter from a resident with a request to purchase or lease a small parcel of land adjoining the Dovecote Meadow had been referred to Cambridge County Council.

### **FINANCE**

In Mr Sutton's absence, Dr Oakley read the Finance report as follows:

Deposit Account	£21,298.93
(This included interest for the period 6/612-2/9/12 of £1.13 and the 2 <sup>nd</sup> ½ of the 2012-2013 precept of £10,500)	

Current Account	£54.42
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Barclays Bank Premium 10-day Notice Account	£22,536.24
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Dr Oakley proposed the following cheques for payment:

Foxton Village Hall (recharge of electricity for street lights y/e 31/12/11)	£69.95
CGM (Cambridge) Ltd (grass cutting, August)	£228.00
Moore Stephens (audit fee for y/e 31/3/12)	£356.40
Npower Ltd (charges for 1/6/12-31/8/12)	£16.42
B R Ambrose (base for new village sign)	£525.00
Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal (wreath for Remembrance Sunday)	£17.00
D Salmons (Village Warden duties, September, and extra work)	£330.00
Foxton Bowls Club (contribution to making good the site from which the ball wall had been removed)	£60.00

Mrs Macintyre seconded the proposal and all were agreed that these payments, totalling £1602.77, should be made and that £1,603.00 be transferred from the Deposit Account to the Current Account. It was also agreed that consideration of a separate donation to the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal be deferred until the next parish council meeting.

### **PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT**

Dr Grindley reported as follows:

#### **Consultation**

The committee had met on 19<sup>th</sup> September when it discussed responses for the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan: Issues & Options public consultation (the report contained 116 questions over 306 pages) Mr Elliott agreed to file the responses and comments online. Due to the onerous nature of the response process, and the fact that every question had to be considered individually and required a worded response, the

committee agreed that it would respond in detail only to those questions that it felt were important strategically or would specifically affect Foxton in some way.

### Correspondence

Two items of correspondence were discussed:

1) A letter from Mr Stephen Hills, SCDC Director of Housing, in response to the parish council's complaint that Councillor Howell had verbally agreed, at a private meeting with the developer, to allow an easement for access across the land in front of the Press Cottages on Station Road subject to planning permission being granted for the proposed development.

Dr Grindley had drafted a response, which was discussed by the committee, and, with some amendments, was agreed by all.

2) A letter from Mr Garth Hanlon of Savills, regarding the proposed development of new dwellings at 59 High Street, asking that SCDC consider the fact that Housing Association interest may not be found for the two affordable homes on site, and in this case asking that market housing be allowed instead, in return for a contribution towards affordable housing in the locality.

Dr Grindley agreed to draft a reply, firstly apologizing for the delay in replying due to the holidays, noting that the parish council had originally agreed the development on the basis that affordable homes were built as part of the scheme. If an agreement were to be made to allow a monetary contribution in lieu of affordable housing, then Foxton Parish Council would like to see evidence of all attempts to get Housing Associations on board, and would like any money obtained in such a way to be earmarked specifically for Foxton Parish Council to purchase land for affordable housing. *This letter had now been sent.*

### **POLICE LIAISON REPORT**

Mr Barnes reported the following incidents that had occurred since his last report:

Illingworth Way	2 incidents of anti-social behaviour
Rowlands Close	1 violent crime

Mr Barnes said that the next meeting of the Bassingbourn and Melbourn Neighbourhood Panel would be held on Tuesday, 16<sup>th</sup> October 2012.

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

Dr van de Ven reported as follows:

#### **1. Free cycle stands for the local community**

Dr van de Ven said that community groups, voluntary sector organisations, charities, surgeries and places of worship could all apply for up to two new cycle parking stands from the county council, each of which would hold two bikes neatly and securely. Recipients would be responsible for installing them on their own premises in a location agreed with the scheme organiser. The community cycle parking scheme was being run by a social enterprise called "Park That Bike" and the £9,000 scheme was funded through the DfT Local Sustainable Transport Fund. Application for a pair of cycle stands was via the website [www.parkthatbike.info](http://www.parkthatbike.info) in order to download an

application form, or by telephone on 01594 564 344. “Park That Bike” would process the application, and then arrange a site visit. Dr van de Ven said that only a limited number of stands were available so it was a case of first come, first served.

## **2. A10 Cycle campaign**

Dr van de Ven said that she had received a variety of queries relating to cycling on the A10 between Royston and Cambridge and felt it would be useful to organize a small campaign group to further the cause, ideally comprising residents who used the path. At present county council investment in cycling infrastructure was focused on the Guided Busway corridor and the Cambridge-Ely corridor.

## **3. Bikes on Trains**

Dr van de Ven asked for awareness of the 8:14 train’s “cycle-on-train” restriction policy on safety grounds. First Capital Connect (FCC) had said that it would have to take action and impose penalties if the matter did not resolve itself. She had written to sixth forms in Cambridge, since incoming students may not be aware, but asked people to help spread the word.

## **4. Error on FCC’s website on the student discount rail pass**

The website was indicating a 30% discount rather than the 50% it should be. This was being corrected and no one had actually been charged the wrong rate. Meanwhile, she had brought it to FCC’s attention that Abellio, who run the Liverpool Street Station line, had increased their student discount to 55% and she hoped that FCC would match this.

## **5. Station gardening on Saturday morning, 7<sup>th</sup> September**

Dr van de Ven said that helpers would be welcome to this event and again expressed her thanks for the FGA grant to help with supplies of plants and compost.

## **6. Royal Mail**

Dr van de Ven said that people might hear in the local news that Royal Mail was considering relocating its Cambridge sorting centre to Peterborough, affecting 200 jobs. However, she said, the future of existing local post offices should be secure.

## **DISTRICT COUNCILLOR’S REPORT**

Mrs Roberts said that Fowlmere PC had also looked at the Local Plan and shared the same concerns as Foxton PC. Mrs Roberts also expressed her deep concern about lack of democratic proceedings at SCDC and mentioned the lack of Portfolio Holders’ meetings as a case in point. She suggested councillors look at the agenda report for the council meeting to be held on 27<sup>th</sup> October.

*Dr van de Ven left the meeting at this point in the proceedings.*

## **COUNCIL OFFICE**

Mr Bore said that the office would need a heater. Dr Oakley said that he was proposing to hold surgeries there once a month. The question of an exterior sign for the office had not yet been decided.

## **RECREATION GROUND TRUST**

Dr Oakley reported that the last Trust meeting had been mainly to approve investment recommendations. External redecoration was due in Summer 2013. Mr Bore would liaise with David Salmons and Tony Garrick.

## **DOVECOTE/MEADOW REPORT**

Mrs Macintyre said the grass had been cut but not yet raked. There would be a meeting of volunteers on 11<sup>th</sup> October.

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

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

- 1) Letter dated 9<sup>th</sup> September from Mr Tauware re his interest in gaining possession, by purchase or lease, of the triangle of wasteland between the path by the school playing field and his fence.
- 2) Letter received September from CCC re changes to local bus services.
- 3) Letter dated 25<sup>th</sup> September from Victim Support requesting a donation.
- 4) Cambridgeshire ACRE magazine "Community Action" Autumn 2012.
- 5) Local Council Review, Autumn 2012.
- 6) "Clerks and Councils Direct" magazine, September 2012.
- 7) Publicity material from EIBE (play equipment) Norse (landscape development), Arien signs, Norris & Fisher (Village Hall insurance), Avalon Software and Glasdon (with 12.5% discount offer).

## **VISITORS' QUESTIONS**

Mr Challis commented that it was interesting to see how many people were taking advantage of the lights on the Recreation Ground. He also suggested that, on safety grounds, lights could be installed at the end of Station Road, synchronised with the level crossing warning lights, so that vehicles did not attempt to turn right when the gates were coming down.

*Dr Oakley reported that there had been a suggestion of putting the "stop" line further back.*

Mrs Ward asked for permission to cut down some of the Ivy at Vicarage Corner.

*Mr McCreery said this would be quite in order.*

Mrs Ward also mentioned the poor drainage at Vicarage Corner.

*Dr Oakley said it would take some time for this issue to be addressed.*

## **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Dr Oakley said that Mr Hockley was presently storing a quantity of paperwork relating to the production of the Parish Plan. It was agreed that this could be transferred to the new council office. Dr Oakley also asked about the transfer of the

telephone kiosk in Fowlmere Road to another location. A short discussion followed when it was agreed that an electrical contactor would be needed to sever and close off the electrical connections. Some interest had been expressed by the school in using the kiosk as a kind of lending library for the pupils. Various alternative sites for the kiosk were mooted but no decision was taken.

Dr Grindley mentioned that his Broadband connection was down so he was currently out of e-mail contact.

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

It was confirmed that the next meeting would be held on **Monday, 5<sup>th</sup> November 2012 at 7.45pm** in the **Meeting Room** of the **Village Hall**.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.25pm.