

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

**HELD ON MONDAY, 7<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2008, AT 7.45 p.m.**

**PRESENT**

Dr Oakley, Dr Grindley, Mr Allars, Mr Barnes, Mr Bentinck, Dr McKeown,

County Councillor David McCraith

District Councillor Mrs Roberts

**IN ATTENDANCE**

4 members of the public

**APOLOGIES**

None received

Dr Oakley welcomed all to the meeting including Mrs Rachel Macyntyre who had agreed to be co-opted onto the council and would observe this meeting from the visitors' seats.

**DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

**MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

Two amendments were needed:

- i) On page 67, under the Trees Report, the second sentence of the first paragraph should read, "The tree nearest to the churchyard had been damaged by the original (*not the Wilsons'*) building work".
- ii) On page 69, under the Planning Working Party's Report, the second sentence of the final paragraph, the words "pending future development" should be inserted after "farmland" so that the sentence would read "The area in question was substantially used by the University as farmland pending future development and the Plan appeared to do no more than modify the University's wishes.".

Dr Oakley proposed that, with these amendments, the Minutes of the previous Meeting held on Monday, 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2007, should be signed as a true record. Dr McKeown seconded the proposal and all were agreed.

**MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

There were no matters arising

## **REPORTS FROM THE WORKING PARTIES**

### **RECREATION AND AMENITIES**

Mr Bentinck said that, although there had not been a meeting of the working party since the last FPC meeting, he had a number of things to report following a conversation with Dave Salmons. These were:

#### **1. Graffiti**

Mr Salmons had spent 5 hours removing graffiti around the village at various locations – bus stops, benches etc. Unfortunately the graffiti was being replaced within days and Mr Salmons asked whether he should continue to remove it.

*A short discussion followed. The graffiti was distinctive and probably the work of one person. Dr Grindley suggested that the police might know who was responsible. The idea of having youths doing community work remove the graffiti was mooted, but this would need supervision. Mr Bentinck agreed to suggest this to the police. It was noted that Melbourn has a graffiti wall. Although such a wall had been considered for the Recreation Ground extension, the SCDC Planning Department had agreed against it. It was agreed that Mr Salmons should continue to remove the graffiti for the time being.*

#### **2. Play Area**

Mr Salmons had dug the topsoil off the matting around the slide to reveal more matting in place than had been thought, and would like the go-ahead to continue this work. (*Agreed*) he reported that the tops of the springboards needed repair or replacement.

#### **3. Bench next to hard play area**

Mr Salmons suggested replacement of the wooden slats, which were rotting and lifting.

#### **4. Rubbish in bushes outside the school**

Mr Salmons had asked who was responsible for clearing this. *Mrs Howell (in the visitors' seats) said that this was the responsibility of the parish council.*

#### **5. Beer cans in the Play Area**

Mr Salmons also asked who should clear this.

#### **6. Footballers leaving insulation tape on the pitch after matches**

This practice was continuing although the Football Club had been asked not to leave the tape on the pitch. *Dr Grindley said he would remind the club about this.*

#### **7. Allotments**

Allotment users were filling the litterbins with discarded manure sacks etc.

**8. Dog-litter**

This was becoming a nuisance in the Dovecote field – was there was a case for a dog-litter bin in this location? (*Referred to the R & A working Party*)

**9. Fencing**

Mr Salmons did not wish to be involved in the fencing job on the Recreation Ground extension but had some advice he would like to pass on to FPC: the pre-school Group had involved him in its discussions re landscaping/fencing.

**10. Fowlmere Road**

Mr Salmons had spent 2 hours (free of charge) removing rubbish along the road. He asked whether removing the brambles on the stretch of verge between the phone box and the speed derestriction sign could be carried out by the council's grass-cutting contractors. *This matter was referred to the R & A Working Party.*

There was no Tree Report.

**FINANCE**

Dr Oakley gave details of the Bank Accounts as follows:

Deposit Account (This included interest of £108.98 for the period 3/9/07-5/12/07)	£21,436.86
Current Account	£56.91
Cambridge Building Society (This included interest for the 6 months to <b>June</b> 2007 of £199.17)	£14,054.95
Dr Oakley proposed that the following cheques be approved:	
Cambridgeshire ACRE (membership renewal)	£25.00
Cambridgeshire County Council (annual rent for the Dovecote field)	£50.00
Foxton VHT (hire of Meeting Room on 5/11, 14/11 and 3/12 and Lounge on 10/12 (total £47.00) plus annual charge for rubbish clearance (£130.00)	£177.00
CALC (fee for joint planning workshop with SCDC attended by CG)	£20.00
J E Burns (salary December 2007 and January 2008 including hourly pay increase of 22p backdated to 1/4/07)	£635.74
J E Burns (expenses November/December 2007)	£41.78
H M Revenue and Customs (tax on JEB's earnings for 3 months to 5/1/08 and on VWM's back pay)	£152.88

Mr Allars seconded the proposal and all were agreed that these payments, totalling £1,102.40, be made, and that £1,100 be transferred from the Deposit Account to the Current Account.

Dr Oakley concluded his report by saying that the usual request from SCDC had been received to inform it of the precept required for 2008/09. He said that the Finance Working Party would need to have a meeting about this before the next FPC meeting in February.

**PLANNING**

Mr Barnes reported as follows:

**Planning permission granted:**

Mr and Mrs Reynolds	Application No.S/1911/07/F for an extension at 6 Mortimers Lane Three conditions
Dr J Anderson	Application No. S/2072/07/F for extensions at 41 Hillfield Usual condition
Mr and Mrs G Smith	Application No. S/2067/07/LB for various alterations at 13 High Street Four conditions
Foxton Parish Council	Application No. S/0626/07/F for change of use from agricultural to Recreation Ground incorporating allotments, cricket coaching compound, dirt bike track, pre-school garden area and public picnic area at land adjoining Foxton Recreation Ground Four conditions

A discussion followed about the approval of the council's own application with dissatisfaction that, despite the approval, there appeared to be problems over the hard and soft landscaping, with some issues still to be resolved. Dr Oakley recommended that now the council had approval, it should simply proceed with development of the area. Dr McKeown asked whether it was in order for the **Planning Working Party** to formulate **a response on behalf of FPC**. It was confirmed that this would be in order.

Mrs Roberts pointed out that SCDC has money available for hedging, but that if hedging formed part of planning approval, this did not apply. She said she would be happy to add her input at SCDC if wanted.

**Planning amendments considered at the meeting:**

G McKenzie (1919) Ltd	Application No. S/1806/07/F for 3 dwellings at 5-9 Mortimers Lane Approved in respect of the increased parking.
Mr S A Rivers	Application No. S/2078/07/F for change of use of garden land, garden buildings and kennels to office and storage. New entrance gate and fence increased in height (amendments to access and to omit boundary hedge) No recommendation

### **Planning Appeal allowed:**

Mr A Rrahmani

Application No. S/0265/07/F allowed at appeal Scheme for the layout of the site required within one month for approval including a one-way system

The inspector had visited the site and did not agree with the County Council's assessment that the car-wash represented a hazard at this junction. Because the District Council had not approved the application, no conditions had been attached re effluent etc, which remained a concern. Mrs Roberts was amazed that the appeal had been allowed after the recommendations against the application by the CCC Highways Department – this was most unusual and she said she foresaw a serious accident occurring in the future. She said she would take up the matter with the SCDC Environment Department. Mr McCraith was asked to take the matter up with the CCC Highways Department.

Mr Challis (in the visitor' seats) asked about sleeping arrangements at the site, as sleeping on site should not be allowed. It was thought that members of staff were not sleeping on the site.

It was agreed that Dr Oakley would send an e-mail setting out the council's concerns to both Mr McCraith and Mrs Roberts.

Finally, Dr Grindley confirmed that he would be attending the Inspection hearing on the Foxton Objection Sites (as an observer) at the SCDC offices on 17<sup>th</sup> January.

### **PARISH PLAN**

Mr Allars said there was nothing further to report. However, the Steering Group would be meeting again in about two week's time.

### **POLICE LIAISON**

Mr Bentinck said that a request had been submitted to the police for a speed check in the village between 8 and 8.30am and between 3.15 and 4pm. The police had said they would do their best to put these in effect by Hillfield possibly.

Foxton PC would be hosting the next Police Panel meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> January.

Mr Barnes said that there had been incidents of hare coursing near the former Welch's garage and that such incidents should be reported to the police. Mrs Roberts warned that the perpetrators should not be approached. Mr Challis was asked to include an item about this matter in "The Laurentian".

A Porsche car was still being parked at the Station Road/High Street junction and Mr Bentinck was given the "go-ahead" to put a note on the windscreen reminding the owner that parking at this location was illegal.

## **RECREATION GROUND TRUST AND COMMUNITY BUILDING**

A meeting had been held on 10<sup>th</sup> December and Dr McKeown reported as follows:

### Land Registration

Documents on the small parcels of land claimed, but not yet registered had been sent by the Trust's solicitor to be finalised and he had been instructed to swear a Statutory Declaration for the area adjacent to the St Laurence Road entrance and the area backing the Illingworth Way properties. *This had now been done and the documents had been returned to the solicitor.*

The solicitor also required valuations for the various parcels and he had been asked to contact a local land agent. *This had also been done and estimates were expected in the near future.*

### Leases

Information was awaited from the Pre-school group on who would sign the agreement. Foxton Cricket Club (FCC) had accepted the latest draft. The solicitor's comment and documentation had arrived and had been passed to the FCC and the Pre-School Group. Plans would need to be attached to the leases and Dr Grindley would supply him with copies.

### Planning

Dr Grindley had reported that FPC's application had been given consent and this was taken as a signal to ask REGEC to commence ground clearance. He had undertaken to ask Rob Brooksbank to contact the chosen contractor. In the event this contractor could not meet timing requirements and two further contractors had been contacted who would submit quotations, but would need better drawings of the final layout before doing so.

### Finance

Dr Oakley had taken on the role of head of the Finance working group in the short term, with assistance from Mr Allars. They would seek advice from Mr Hockley (former Trust member) in considering the placement of the Trust's investments on their maturity in their present accounts.

One insurance policy had lapsed and Dr Oakley agreed to contact the insurer (*This had been done and DMcK had completed the application form, accepted the cover offered and sent a cheque – confirmation that the policy is operative from the expiry of the previous policy was expected shortly.*)

**It was noted the expiry of the grant from SCDC was March 2008. Dr McKeown approached Jane Lampshire at SCDC for an extension and this was granted for a further twelve months.**

### Community Building

Dr Grindley had attempted to obtain a quotation for replacement taps: he would try another plumber.

Dr Oakley suggested a landlord/tenant meeting should be arranged between the RGT and the Village Hall Management Committee. *The offer had been made and accepted, but a date had still to be arranged.*

It was agreed that Dr McKeown would make the RGT's offer of assistance in funding a panning CCTV camera to the School Governors and a letter had been delivered to the school.

It was noted that, although David Allars represented the council on the Village Hall Management Committee, due to Mark Kennedy's resignation, another FPC representative was needed on this committee.

### **DOVECOTE/MEADOW PROJECT**

Mr Allars said there would be a meeting of the Friends. The clerk mentioned that SCDC officials would be visiting the site on 22<sup>nd</sup> January as the Dovecote had been short-listed for a Built Heritage Award. It was thought that Dudley Pusey would probably be willing to meet the group with the key to the Dovecote.

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

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

- 1) Letter dated 26<sup>th</sup> November 2007 (addressed to D Pusey) from SCDC Planning Services re its biannually awarded Built Heritage Awards 2007 for which the restoration of Rayner's Dovecote has been short-listed. A site visit has been arranged for 22<sup>nd</sup> January at approx. 10.45am.
- 2) Letter dated 28<sup>th</sup> November 2007 from the Chairman of the East of England Biodiversity Forum enclosing a 2008 calendar.
- 3) Letter dated 6<sup>th</sup> December 2008 from CCC re the council's (P3) parish paths partnership for 2008/09 inviting applications for grants and advice (to be received by 29<sup>th</sup> February) from those wishing to help protect, improve, maintain and promote their local Rights of Way paths networks: enclosing "Frequently asked Questions" leaflet.
- 4) Letter dated 11<sup>th</sup> December from CCC, Environment and Community Services Department re evening briefing to discuss CCC proposals for tackling congestion in Cambridge to be held at Shire Hall on 30<sup>th</sup> January from 6.30pm to 8.30 pm.
- 5) Letter dated 12<sup>th</sup> December 2007 from the SCDC Chief Executive re the District Council's Improvement Plan.
- 6) Letter dated 21<sup>st</sup> December from Cambridgeshire Constabulary with information about Neighbourhood Watch: enclosing fliers.
- 7) Information from CALC including:
  - Agenda for AGM to be held at Bluntisham on Saturday, 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2008
  - Minutes of the AGM held on 14<sup>th</sup> October 2006
  - Financial Statements for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2007
  - Forms for submitting Resolutions for Consideration and for booking lunch
- 8) Information from Cambridgeshire ACRE Including:
  - "Community Action" magazine, Winter 2007
  - "Community Action" reader survey to be returned by 31<sup>st</sup> January

- 9) Copies of CCC winter maintenance leaflets.
  
- 10) Information from COPE including
  - COPE newsletter, January 2008
  - Booking forms for Forum on Elder Abuse
  - Invitation to a Tea Dance
  - Proforma protest letter against the introduction of congestion charges for COPE members who wish to add their voices to the protest against these charges.
  
- 11) “Clerks and Councils Direct” magazine, January 2008 together with Councils’ Suppliers Guide and Yearbook.
  
- 12) “The Tree Guardian”, autumn 2007.
  
- 13) Local Council Review including details of the NALC 2008 Conference.
  
- 14) Publicity material from Glasdon, MD Landscapes, Giles Landscapes, Fitzpatrick Woolmer (notice boards etc) and Shaws (forms, records & registers for local councils)

Referring to item 4, the meeting about proposed congestion charges in Cambridge, Mr McCraith urged the council to send a representative. He said that the County Council had put in a bid for government funding for £500 million, a part of which would be for funding the congestion charge scheme.

### **VISITORS’ QUESTIONS**

Mr Challis asked whether it was the council’s intention to continue erasing graffiti.

*It was confirmed that this was the case.*

Mr Challis also asked about encroachment onto the Recreation Ground.

*It was said that the annual letter sent to residents about renewal of their permission to access the Recreation Ground from their rear gardens was being redrafted to include the question of encroachment.*

Mrs Howell said that Mr Kennedy had been looking into the matter of replacing the cracked window in one of the doors leading onto the Recreation ground from the Meeting Room.

*Dr McKeown said it would be unnecessary to go back to the original manufacturers unless a claim was being made.*

Mrs Howell said she would go ahead with getting the window replaced.

### **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Mr Allars noted that it was taking a long time to get the planning application for the former Q8 garage sorted out. Mrs Roberts said she would chase this matter up.

Mr Barnes said that the council had still not received the Minutes of the meeting of the SCDC Scrutiny and Overview Committee held in Foxton in November as had

been promised. The clerk said she had left a message at SCDC about this and Mrs Roberts said she would follow this up as well.

Mr Barnes mentioned that there was a white stag in the field on Fowlmere road on the left hand side going towards the crossroads.

Mr Bentinck said that he had confirmed that the number of streetlamps being maintained by the County Council as listed in its letter of 26<sup>th</sup> October was correct. It was noted that should a lamp fail, the reference number of the lamp and the number to telephone could both be found on the lamp itself: it was up to residents to alert the County Council if there was a fault. Mr Challis agreed to include an item on this in his article for "The Laurentian".

Mr McCraith said that the County Council would be confirming the appointment of a new Chief Executive, Mark Lloyd from Durham CC, at a forthcoming meeting.

The clerk reported that several batches of circulating correspondence had not been returned and urged councillors to have a good look for them.

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

It was confirmed that the next meeting would be held on **Monday, 4<sup>th</sup> February 2008** at **7.45pm** in the **Meeting Room** of the **Village Hall**.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.12pm.