

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF FOXTON PARISH COUNCIL

HELD ON MONDAY, 4th JANUARY 2010, AT 7.45 p.m.

PRESENT

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

County Councillor Dr van der Ven

IN ATTENDANCE

5 members of the public

APOLOGIES

District Councillor Mrs Roberts, Dr McKeown

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 individual declarations of interest

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

As no amendments were needed, Dr Oakley proposed that the Minutes of the previous Meeting, held on Monday, 7th December 2009, be signed as a true record. Mr Allars seconded the proposal and all were agreed.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Any Other Business

i) Hedge bordering 1, St Laurence Road

It was confirmed that this hedge was, by default, the responsibility of the parish council. It was agreed that Mrs Macintyre would visit the site and recommend what needed to be done. Maintenance of the fence behind the hedge was the responsibility of the owner of 1 St Laurence Road.

ii) Ownership of stretch of Footpath leading from Caxton Lane to the farmland beyond

Dr Oakley had made enquiries but had not been able to identify the ownership.

iii) Vehicle parking on The Green

It was confirmed that the offending vehicle was no longer being part-parked on The Green.

iv) Chairman's Report on Emergency Planning

It was agreed that this should be an item for the agenda for the February FPC meeting.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Dr van der Ven said that assessment of the Neighbourhood Panel programme was underway. She had responded but would be interested to know the parish council's view of the effectiveness of the panels.

There had been a deluge of complaints about gritting and clearing. It was acknowledged that not everywhere could be treated, but serious gaps in public areas used by South Cambs residents, such as Cambridge Market Square, needed reviewing. Dr van der Ven said she would like to know what particular areas in Foxton had caused concern to residents. *Dr van der Ven noted problem areas in Foxton including High Street/Shepreth Road.*

Foxton Station Cycle Racks

A return visit with First Capital Connect and the CCC Cycling Officer had produced results with two sites found (off-platform) for about ten racks, which was felt to be a reasonable number to start with. No shelter was being sought at this time since this would require planning permission and a different sort of space, and would also slow the process down and lose Foxton the chance of taking advantage of the availability of free racks.

Land Registry Search

The District Council was not able to complete the search for the pocket of land between the car-wash and the station's northbound platform, as this was not district council business. Dr van der Ven had asked the County Council to pursue the search.

Meeting between First Capital Connect (FCC) and Cambs County Council (CCC) Highways

A meeting had been held between these two bodies on areas of cooperation relevant to Foxton station users. FCC had agreed in principle to pre-publish a guaranteed post-16 student fare in time for County budget-setting, which laid the groundwork for the two parties to cooperate on a student discount fare. Until now CCC had worked only with bus operators, including provision of a substantial subsidy for bus travel, but rail offered a better service for post-16 students. Hopefully this should be in place for the start of the next academic year and would be available to students attending their designated post-16 education centre. Dr van der Ven was not expecting a greatly reduced fare but said it would be a starting point. Meanwhile, she said, for anyone having trouble accessing assistance from the County Council on student fares for the coming term, help was available.

The County Council had also agreed to rewrite its information booklet for post-16 students, acknowledging that the present information was unclear for circumstances in our part of the county, where bus and rail travel were both possible.

Dr van der Ven had also been asked about the young person's fare between Foxton and King's Cross for essential travel to London-based training courses. Unfortunately this matter falls outside the County Council remit as Local Education Authority. However, Passenger Focus, the main Rail Watchdog group, was scrutinising fare structures and she strongly suggested that concerns be sent in writing to this group.

Foxton Wood

Dr van der Ven had received the following email from County Council officer, Christopher Burton, who came out promptly to check out problems in accessing Foxton Wood. Dr van der Ven had thanked the council for its swift action.

“In respect of the wood on right hand side of public footpath from Foxton to Fowlmere the first drop gate (just beyond *(the)* Interpretation board) has been nailed; the second one near to the seats and beech tree is free.

The wood on left hand side of footpath, the drop gate had been nailed but can now be lifted and opened.

Both woods can be accessed using a gate.

There is though no general need for the gates to be used by the public; both woods have stiles and dog gates; There is a public footpath leading to and past the woods and Permissive Paths within. There is no permissive bridleway use (eg bicycles and horses) within the woods or public bridleway leading to them.

We will deal with the first drop gate as part of any other maintenance work we carry out to the woodlands once we have assessed.

Thank you for bringing the matter to our attention.”

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR’S REPORT

Mrs Roberts had not sent in a report.

PARISH PLAN UPDATE

Mr Allars said that Mr Hockley had started work on the material so far received by the steering group: further contributions were still awaited.

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

Mr Bentinck said the group had not met in the past month, and reported on current matters as follows:

1. The County Council had sent a listing of Foxton’s Local Council lamps showing the inventory details and total number of lamps chargeable for maintenance and asking that these details be checked and any changes reported by 19th January.
2. Mr Bentink had received an offer of the services of Community Service workers for removing graffiti.
3. Lily Mead’s memorial tree had been planted, but not in the place intended, as the Cricket Club had not removed items of equipment as requested. *There was some discussion about whether it would be possible to move the tree to the correct position in the near future.*
4. An annual litter clean-up had been suggested and it was possible that a grant might be available towards the cost of this.
5. A letter had been received from Mr Phillips querying whether all the planted material on the area annexed from the Recreation Ground needed to be removed. It

was agreed after some discussion that a letter be sent giving the owners of 12 St Laurence Road until the end of January to remove everything from the area encroached from the council's land.

7. Mr Bentink had succeeded in sourcing a light for the youth shelter. *It was agreed that Mr Bentinck should purchase the light to try out.*

Mr Allars reported that the volunteers for the group working on improvements to the Play Area would be meeting next week to get the project moving.

It was confirmed that the newly installed solar light at the end of the Illingworth Way footpath to the Recreation Ground had been vandalised and would involve considerable expense to replace.

FINANCE

Mr Sutton gave details of the Bank Accounts as follows:

Deposit Account	£24,533.15
Current Account	£56.23
Standard Life Bank	£15,000.00

Mr Sutton proposed the following cheques for payment:

Cambridgeshire ACRE (membership renewal for 2010)	£25.00
Foxton VHT (hire of Meeting Room 2/11/09 and 24/11/09)	£27.00
J E Burns (salary December 2009 and January 2010)	£618.95
J E Burns (expenses November/December '09)	£56.43
HMRC (tax on clerk's salary for 3mths to 5/1/10)	£153.20

Mr Barnes seconded the proposal, and all were agreed that these payments, totalling £880.58, be made and that £878 be transferred from the Deposit Account to the Current Account.

Mr Sutton said that although he had been assured that Hewitson solicitors would not charge more than £100 for the brief consultation (re encroachment on the Recreation Ground) a bill had been sent for considerably more than this and he would be querying the amount.

In conclusion, Mr Sutton said he had received a key for the gate onto the Recreation Ground and had reimbursed Richard Barnes. *His own reimbursement would be paid from Recreation Ground Trust funds.*

PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT

Planning applications considered at the meeting:

Mr Smith and Mrs O'Brien	Application No. S/1776/09/F for extensions at 2 Fowlmere Road Approved
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Primesight Ltd Application No. S/1790/09/A for a freestanding double-sided display unit at 18 Cambridge Road Refused on the grounds that the sign would be a distraction to motorists

Mr Gordon Baxter Application Nos. S/1811/09/F and S/1812/LB both retrospective applications to alter and replace fences and gates at 1 The Green Approved subject to removal of trellis topping and the painting of the retained fence

Mr Barnes reported that Mrs Roberts had given him an update of the situation regarding the former Q8 Garage. The matter of enforcement was now with the SCDC Enforcement Department rather than the Planning Department; a decision was expected within the next fortnight.

POLICE LIAISON

Mr Barnes said he would attend a meeting of the local Police Panel to be held on 19th January and reported offences in Barrington Road and Hardman Road. P G Ceramics had suffered broken windows on one occasion and forced entry with petty cash stolen on another. There had also been a forced entry at the car showroom in Royston Road. A quad bike and chain saw had been stolen from a shed in Barrington Road.

Mr Barnes said that the police had made one speed check in the village.

RECREATION GROUND TRUST REPORT

There was no report for this meeting.

DOVECOTE/MEADOW REPORT

There was nothing to report.

CORRESPONDENCE

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

- 1) Letter from SCDC Finance and Support Services re Parish Precepts for 2010 (submission deadline 1st February 2010).
- 2) Letter dated 3rd December from Chris Sproston, County Lighting Engineer, enclosing inventory details and total number of lamps chargeable for maintenance in Foxton and requesting a check of these details to be submitted by 19th January 2010.
- 3) Letter dated 4th December from the CCC Area Manager Maintenance (South & City) offering the council the chance to benefit from a bulk purchase of salt bins and enclosing a Winter Gritting leaflet and an extract from the CCC Winter Service and Adverse Weather Operational Plan 2009 relating to salt bins.
- 4) Letter dated 4th December from Chris Sproston, County Lighting Engineer, re unmetered festive lighting connections and enclosing a copy of the letter to

him detailing the requirements for any organisation responsible for festive lighting.

- 5) Letter dated 9th December re changes to local bus services.
- 6) Letter dated 11th December from Cambridge Past, Present & Future (*formerly Cambridge Preservation Society*) enclosing its response to the Draft Review of the Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS), a leaflet on joining the organisation and a copy of the membership Bulletin for summer 2009.
- 7) Letter dated 17th December from Linda Browne, SCDC Community Liaison Support Assistant re the consultation on its Community Transport Strategy 2010-2013 and the extension of the deadline for response to 25th January 2010.
- 8) Letter dated 22nd December from NHS Cambridgeshire re the launch of a public consultation on the future of musculoskeletal services (including physiotherapy) for South Cambridgeshire residents: enclosing a copy of the formal consultation document. (*Consultation runs from 14th December to 15th March 2010*)
- 9) Letter dated 29th December from the CCC Children's Centres Project Officer giving a position statement on Children's Centre Development in Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire.
- 10) Information from Cambridgeshire ACRE including:
 - Details of the Wildlife Trust's Training Workshops for 2010
 - "Community Action" magazine, Winter 2009
- 11) South Cambs magazine, Winter 2009
- 12) Publicity material from Barr Ellison (legal services).

VISITORS' QUESTIONS

Mr Howard suggested that a light might be attached to the house whose side boundary runs along the Illingworth Way footpath onto the Recreation Ground.

Mr Allars said that the owners were not willing to have the light on their property.

Mr Howard also complained of parking problems in the village, particularly at the bottom of Station Road and outside the village shop.

It was confirmed that these were well-known trouble spots for parking and the council had made efforts to mitigate the problem when football matches were being held on the Recreation Ground.

Dr van der Ven said that if a pattern could be established, the police could be invited to assess the situation.

Mr and Mrs Pesci were upset that they had been refused permission for their (retrospective) application for a 2 metre high fence to the front boundary of their property. They had suffered intruders in the grounds of their property and felt the fence provided some security.

Although the parish council had not approved the application, it was explained that the decision to refuse permission lay with South Cambridgeshire District Council.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The clerk said she had received a telephone call from a resident saying that the pump at the top of Mortimers Lane was leaking and the water turning to ice in the severely cold weather. Mr Bentinck said that he would ask David Salmons to have a look at it.

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

It was confirmed that the next meeting would be held on **Monday, 1st February 2010** at **7.45pm** in the **Meeting Room** of the **Village Hall**.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.50pm.