

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF FOXTON PARISH COUNCIL

HELD ON MONDAY, 5th NOVEMBER 2007, AT 7.45 p.m.

PRESENT

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

County Councillor David McCraith

District Councillor Mrs Roberts

IN ATTENDANCE

4 members of the public

APOLOGIES

There were no apologies

Dr Oakley welcomed all to the meeting

DECLARATION OF INTEREST

There were no declarations.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

No amendments were needed. Dr Oakley proposed that the Minutes of the previous Meeting, held on Monday, 1st October 2007, be signed as a true record. Mr Kennedy seconded the proposal and all were agreed.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Oak tree at Hall Close

Mrs Roberts said that she had a grant application form with her for a SCDC grant towards work on the tree. She said that it was usual, in the case of successful applications, for SCDC to provide 50% of the funding. However, she said that the grant would need to be agreed before work could commence, and that there might well be a requirement for bat and bird boxes. Mr Barnes said he would meet with the SCDC Trees Officer.

Car park at Foxton Station

Mr McCraith said that the County Council was making a £500 million bid to the Government for transport improvements including Cambridge bus services to local train stations. If the bid were accepted by HMG, there would need to be consultation and there was a possibility of some money being available for a car-parking facility at Foxton Station.

Correspondence – item 7 – meeting of the SCDC Scrutiny and Overview Committee

The clerk had received an e-mail saying that the council's questions should be put verbally to the Committee at its meeting on 15th November. As Dr Oakley would be

unable to attend, Mr Bentinck agreed to put the council's questions about difficulties with the planning consultation process and the closure of rural post offices.

Any Other Business

i) Collapsed drain

The clerk reported that Mr Cooper (CCC Highways Department) had inspected the drain in Station Road and would put repairs in train.

ii) Reflective Markers

It was confirmed that the demolished markers had been replaced.

PARISH PLAN

Mr Allars reported that a working group of about 13 people had been formed. Unfortunately the 20-40 year age group was not so far represented, nor was the school. However, it was hoped that the wife of one of the School Governors might join the group.

Mr Hockley had drawn up a draft constitution for the group, which would hold its inaugural meeting on 14th November.

The application for funding to Cambridgeshire ACRE had been successful and a cheque for £1,500 had been received and deposited in the FPC bank account subject to normal terms and conditions.

A sum of £75 would be requested to purchase software for the group.

REPORTS FROM THE COMMITTEES

RECREATION AND AMENITIES

Mr Bentinck reported that the committee had met last week and that progress was being made. He reported as follows:

- It had been agreed that the council would avail itself of Chris Hindley's services in dealing with trees where there insurance liabilities allowed.
- Spraying of the Recreation Ground for weeds would be deferred until next year and funds reallocated to remedial work on the Oak tree in Hall Close.
- Foxton Gardens Association would like to plant some memorial trees in the village – the bend from the school car park was proposed. Location would be discussed with affected parties before planting.
- Mr Allars would be overseeing the task of installing the many signs that had been agreed for areas on the Recreation Ground.
- Mr Salmons had been supplied with a litter-picker and protective gloves. The replacement swings were with him for installation. Mr Salmons had repaired the gate to the Play Area. He had not yet cut back the trees by the Mycroft's house, as agreed with the owner.
- Vic Phillips had put together a second bench, but Mr Bentinck and Mr Salmons were not happy with its build quality. Mr Phillips had been asked to fit similar legs to his last bench and his comments were awaited.

- Concern had been voiced about the density of undergrowth bordering the Recreation Ground, especially by adjoining residents. *Mr Barnes said he had talked to SCDC Landscape Officer, David Hamilton, about this. He would enlist his help with possible input from Rob Mongovern.*

The clerk said she had received a call from Andy Hood of Veolia who said he would be invoicing the council for grass cutting. However, no invoice had yet been received. Mr Bentinck said he would pursue the matter.

FINANCE

Mr Kennedy reported as follows:

Deposit Account	£27,706.88
(This included a grant of £1,500 from Cambridgeshire ACRE towards the Parish Plan project & £120 from Foxton Village Hall Trust for sale of equipment)	
Current Account	£54.21
Cambridge Building Society	£13,855.78

Mr Kennedy proposed the following cheques be approved:

T J Austin (hedge-cutting in the Dovecote field)	£47.00
University of Gloucestershire (software for the Parish Plan)	£75.00
Foxton VHT (hire of Meeting Room 3/9/07)	£12.50
Emorsgate Wild Seeds (flowers for Dovecote field)	£16.00
SCDC (emptying dog bins 1/10/07-31/12/07)	£99.17
Wicksteed Leisure Ltd (2 swing seats and chains) (it was agreed to withhold this cheque until the amount had been verified with Wicksteed)	£251.16
D Salmons (Village Warden duties August/September/October)	£264.00
J E Burns (salary October/November)	£587.13
J E Burns (expenses September/October)	£47.03
J E Burns (reimbursement for S137 payments for gifts and card)	£73.46

Dr Oakley seconded the proposal, and all were agreed that these payments, totalling £1,472.45, should be made and that £1,470 be transferred from the Deposit Account to the Current Account.

PLANNING

Mr Barnes reported as follows:

The SCDC trees Officer had said that the deemed consent for work on trees at Foxton House had been granted on Health and Safety grounds.

Planning Permission granted:

Mr D Lopez-Diaz	Application No. S/1551/07/F for extensions at 10 St Laurence Road Usual conditions
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Planning Applications considered at the meeting:

Mr and Mrs Winterbottom	Application No. S/1940/07/F for extensions at 53 Station Road No recommendation
Mr and Mrs Reynolds	Application No. S/1911/07/F for an extension at 6 Mortimers Lane No recommendation
Mr and Mrs Frewin	Application No. S/1877/07/F for a dwelling at 65 High Street

The latter application was discussed at some length. The council agreed to object to this application on various grounds including access, unsympathetic design and the adverse impact on neighbouring properties and local trees. The council agreed to delegate the wording of the response to Mr Barnes and Dr Grindley.

Mrs Roberts said that present rules did not allow her to comment on this application, but she understood that Planning Officers were not very happy with this application.

Turning to the council's own application for the development of the extension to the Recreation Ground, Dr Grindley said that he and Mr Barnes had met SCDC Planning Officer, Saffron Garner, on 15th October and had been assured that the scheme was acceptable as it stood, but was waiting for some input from the Landscape Officer, David Hamilton. Dr McKeown had sent some notes to Mr Hamilton following his meeting with him. Mr Hamilton had replied the same day, agreeing mostly with the points made. The council felt that, as the application had been substantively agreed, it was high time that the planning consent was issued. Mrs Roberts agreed to follow this up with Saffron Garner.

Dr McKeown queried whether the council had been notified about two further "objection sites" in the SCDC Local Development Framework (LDF). Mr Barnes said that technically the council had been informed. However, the objectors in these two further cases had been wrongly interpreted to be representative objectors to the two main objection sites. Although the deadline for the council to respond on these two further sites had passed, Dr Grindley said that it had been established that a mechanism existed whereby the council could let its views be known by supporting the District Council's own views and asking SCDC to represent FPC's views on these sites. The objectors in these two cases were not seeking to develop the sites, but to have them removed from the Green Belt.

Dr Grindley praised the District Council for responding so well to two urgent requests for interviews when he and Mr Barnes visited the SCDC offices at Cambourne.

Finally, the meeting discussed the latest correspondence received re the proposed further changes to the East of England Plan. As the matters were complex and the deadline for response was 23rd November, Dr Oakley proposed that the council give Mr Barnes and Dr Grindley delegated powers to respond on its behalf. Dr McKeown seconded the proposal and all were agreed.

POLICE LIAISON REPORT

Mr Bentinck said that it had been a fairly uneventful month apart from a serious incident on 20th October when one known group of youths chased and attacked another from Cambridge. A knife was believed to be involved and the police were called. Residents who called the police were not happy with the response and Mr Bentinck would follow this up.

He and Mr Barnes had attended the Police Panel meeting at Bassingbourn on 23rd October: Foxton and Fowlmere were still both considered to be low-crime areas. However, there were 23 incidents of thefts/robberies from vehicles and buildings in the past 3 months with thefts from vehicles rising. Those at the meeting were asked to vote on the best ways that police time should be spent. The issues of most concern proved to be anti-social behaviour and burglaries, with speeding as a lesser concern.

RECREATION GROUND TRUST REPORT

Dr McKeown said the Trust had not met since the last FPC Meeting but a number of matters were progressing.

The bound document of the Management Agreement for the allotments had been received and passed to the FGA for its retention: a copy was on file.

The solicitor had returned a draft of a lease for the Pre-school Group, which has been passed to them for comment. None had yet been received but a Meeting of the RGEC has been arranged for Wednesday 15th when more might be learned.

The Trust had agreed the drafting of a Management Agreement with Foxton Cricket Club for the nets area. However, the Trust's solicitor was querying whether this would work to everyone's requirements, so discussion would continue.

The Trust had met with the SCDC Landscape Officer to clarify that FPC's Planning Application does not have landscaping issues that need resolution. His advice on planting and thinning to gain best use of the area of the Recreation Ground border behind Illingworth Way gardens and the proposed picnic area was also sought. Colin Grindley had agreed to send a plan of the existing planting and the Landscape Officer would make suggestions.

Dr McKeown said he had just received a letter from the Trust's solicitor concerning the registration and ownership of various small parcels of land around the Recreation Ground and Dovecote Meadow. Several of these were identified by Dudley Pusey but there were some additional ones. This would need to be raised with the RGT but Dr McKeown said he proposed to contact Dudley and gain his insight into the matter.

Mr Kennedy said he had received a bill from the school for half the cost of weed killing on the School/Community Building site that would need to be looked into.

DOVECOTE/MEADOW PROJECT

The clerk reported that Mr Pusey had met an EDF representative on site to discuss the relaying of cabling in the dovecote meadow. The cable would be laid along the same route as the existing cable alongside the boundary hedge at 34 High Street. Mr Barnes was not happy about this work being carried out, but it was confirmed that the council had taken all possible steps to avoid damage to the site and that nothing could prevent

the work from being undertaken. Mr Pusey had asked to be notified when it was known the date when work would commence.

CORRESPONDENCE

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

- 1) Letter dated 5th September (received October) from T Witiker (no address) with suggestions for improved cycle storage, improved provision of information and shelter at bus stops and delivery of leaflets to householders when there is an update to train and bus timetables. *Copy passed to DA re Parish Plan*
- 2) Letter dated 2nd October from CCC re Minor Highway Improvement Schemes –2008/09 Bids (scheme no longer run jointly by CCC and the district councils) and enclosing form for completion. *Passed to DA.*
- 3) Letter dated 2nd October from SCDC re Commercial Waste Services – landfill Directive October 2007 and Recycling: enclosing questionnaire. *Clerk to contact SCDC*
- 4) Letter received 11th October from SCDC Planning Services re Cambridgeshire East Area Action Plan – Green Separation with villages: Potential changes to the plan as suggested by the Examination Inspector. *Passed to GB/CG*
- 5) Letter dated October 2007 from GO-East re consultation on further proposed changes to the Regional Spatial Strategy: enclosing schedule of changes and reasons. *Passed to GB/CG*
- 6) Letter dated 15th October from the CCC head of Passenger Transport enclosing a briefing note about the Transport Review being carried out by the County Council.
- 7) Letter dated 18th October from the SCDC Environment Operations Manager re the result of consultation re litter and dog bins.
- 8) Letter received 5th November from the CCC Public Transport Manager re contracted bus services
- 9) Information from Cambridgeshire ACRE including:
 - Report from recent VAT workshop
 - Bulletin, October 2007
 - Agenda for the next South Cambridgeshire Area meeting (21st November 2007 and Minutes of the meeting held on 23rd August 2007
 - Details of joint Planning workshops with SCDC and workshop on Allotments (8th March 2008)
- 10) Request for a donation from Victim Support.
- 11) “Local Council Review”, November (includes booking form for NALC conference, 30th January 2008).
- 12) COPE Newsletter, November/December 2007 and questionnaire.

- 13) Publicity material from Kompani (re Norwich Play Seminar, 15th November), BigToys, Adventure Playgrounds Ltd, IRS Ltd (shelters).

Mr McCraith, commenting on item 2, said that CCC only had sufficient funds for one minor road improvement and it was agreed that it would not be worth putting in a bid.

VISITOR'S QUESTIONS

Mrs Howell suggested that the island areas in the Community Building/School area be included when spraying against weeds was carried out in 2008: she also mentioned that a window in the meeting room has a cracked pane that would need repair.

Mr Kennedy said he follow this up.

Mr Corley gave a graphic account of the incident on 20th October already mentioned in the Police Liaison Report. One youth had taken refuge in his house and others were later found hiding in the garden. The Corleys had telephoned the police who appeared to be only interested in the knife that had been reported and failed to stop any of the youths involved in the chase.

Council members were very concerned at the apparently minimal response to this serious incident and Mrs Roberts suggested that a senior police officer be invited to speak to the council.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mr Kennedy said that the hedge at the top of Edis Way needed trimming. Mr Bentinck said he would contact Mr Salmons about this.

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

It was confirmed that the next meeting would be held on **Monday, 3rd December 2007 at 7.45pm** in the **Meeting Room** of the **Village Hall**.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.45pm.