

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

**HELD ON MONDAY, 2<sup>nd</sup> NOVEMBER 2009, AT 7.45 p.m.**

### **PRESENT**

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

County Councillor Dr van der Ven

District Councillor Mrs Roberts

### **IN ATTENDANCE**

3 members of the public

Darren Blake representing Circle Anglia and  
and David Page (DPA Architects Ltd)

### **APOLOGIES**

Deborah Roberts (for the first part of the meeting)

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.

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

#### *Electricity Supply for Training Lights*

It was reported that the date for the site meeting with EDF to discuss the new supply for the training lights had been postponed till Thursday, 5<sup>th</sup> November.

#### *Unauthorised parking in the Community Building Car Park*

It was reported that the Sky van was no longer being parked in the Community Building car park.

#### *County Councillor's Report – Bike-rack at Foxton Station*

Dr van der Ven said she had informed First Capital Connect that the County Council would be paying for the rack.

#### *Emergency Planning Awareness Seminar*

Dr Oakley said he had not yet made the promised notes after attending the seminar.

Footway between 79-81 High Street

Dr Oakley reported that new tarmac had been laid almost immediately after last month's meeting although Mr Barnes said that the timing was fortuitous as the necessary work was already in the system

**ADDRESS BY CIRCLE ANGLIA**

Mr Blake distributed plans for a proposed development of affordable homes on land to the rear of the Press Cottages. Councillors studied the plans and asked questions including some about car parking provision and lack of bungalows for the elderly. It was agreed that the Planning Committee should consider the plans at its next meeting before the council made its response to Circle Anglia. Dr Oakley thanked Mr Blake and Mr Page (of DPA Architects Ltd, architects for the project) for coming to the meeting.

**COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

Dr van der Ven reported as follows:

Traffic and Transport

Dr van der Ven had received large proportion of local queries and concerns related to traffic and transport and was keeping her eye open for strategic solutions where possible.

Visit to Foxton Primary School

Dr van der Ven had arranged to meet the head teacher to become acquainted and learn main issues where it might be felt she could make a contribution. Vehicle traffic in the school car park was a strong concern. She said it would appear there was scope to encourage more walking and cycling within the village so as to reduce traffic congestion and danger at school drop-off and pick-up times. She had arranged for Sustrans 'Bike It' officer, currently on secondment to CCC, to meet with the head teacher and discuss possible projects in this regard.

Bike-racks at Foxton Station

Dr van der Ven said that an officer from First Capital Connect (FCC) would be on site at the station to look at rack placement on Friday, 6<sup>th</sup> November at 10am. As she would be unable to attend, she asked whether a parish councillor could be on hand to advise as to a sensible placement of the rack. FCC claimed a misunderstanding had occurred on arrangements for installation of racks – Dr van der Ven's understanding had been that they would do this free of charge. However, the Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC) had immediately stepped in with an offer to pay as there was an underspend available. The cost would be about £1500 to install ten racks. A shelter for the rack would require planning permission and greatly increase costs so that matter would not be pursued at the present.

Partly as a result of investigating the cycle rack situation Dr van der Ven had learned more about Foxton's place in the 'Cambridge Cycle Town' status, which involves funding toward cycling infrastructure within a six-mile radius of Cambridge. Foxton sits just within that radius and there would therefore be certain entitlements to funding, which the parish needed to be sure to capture. The CCC Cabinet had

approved funding for a high quality cycle path from Harston to Cambridge: Foxton to Harston was on the aspirational map and Dr van der Ven had indicated her interest in promoting this when funding becomes available.

Dr van der Ven had been trying to disseminate information regarding access to cheapest post-16 student rail fares issued by the County Council. On a positive note, she was aware of some Foxton students who had benefited. Unfortunately other Foxton students had not, and it appeared that information coming from the Education Transport department was unhelpful, sometimes contradictory, and possibly misleading. Dr van der Ven said she was extremely concerned about a range of detail on this subject and was in contact with senior officers.

Dr van der Ven said she would be meeting with the Managing Director of FCC this Friday and was preparing a written report on the range of access issues on which she would like to see action taken.

Mr Bentinck asked about the time-scale for the upgrading of the cycle track, but Dr van der Ven did not have this information.

## **DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

Mrs Roberts had not sent in a report.

## **PARISH PLAN UPDATE**

Mr Allars said that several reports were still outstanding. It was agreed that Mr Barnes would liaise with Mr Hockley re the data for graphs on crime figures. It was confirmed that the Planning Committee would need more meetings before it could submit a report.

## **REPORTS FROM THE WORKING PARTIES**

### **RECREATION AND AMENITIES**

Mr Bentinck reported that the group had met on Tuesday, 27<sup>th</sup> October, when the following matters were considered:

#### **1. Grass cutting**

Mr Bentinck said that grass cutting had certainly been effective in terms of cost this year. Costs were currently £1,180 to CGM and £500 to Foxton Cricket Club, compared with a total of £4030 in 2008 under the previous Cleanaway/Veolia contract. He said the group would request one more cut to tidy-up certain areas before the end of the year. Next year the group would monitor the cutting of key areas such as the Picnic Area and the Bike Track more closely and emphasise to CGM the need for them to inform the council when these areas are about to be cut. Mr Bentinck said he would e-mail Colin once more for a key to the padlock, which secures the gate onto the Recreation Ground, as the R&A GROUP still had no access to this.

#### **2. Village Warden**

Mr Salmons had made contact recently to ask if a resident could plant flowers in the troughs on the War Memorial. The Working Party was very pleased to permit this.

### 3. **Trees**

A question was raised recently about the Recreation Ground trees backing onto the Illingworth Way & St Laurence's Road houses. The Council agreed that only safety-related work would be considered on these trees. In response to Lily Mead's request to plant a tree in memory of her late husband, the group was aiming to arrange a meeting of all interested parties so that a plan could be made: this would include arranging storage facilities for the Sports Clubs within the new compound, and having the old containers removed. The group would then clear the area behind the shelter ready for landscaping, including the planting of the memorial tree, which it was hoped could take place by mid-December. Mrs Macintyre had been in touch with SCDC about the Cherry tree at the far end of Station Road. The district council confirmed that the tree was its responsibility and that the council would be looking at the tree soon to make an assessment. Plans for the Hawthorn tree on the Village Green were also underway.

### 4. **RoSPA report/Play area**

The group agreed to advertise in the Laurentian for a "champion" to pursue the development of the play area: this might perhaps be someone in the Play Group with children. The group would also suggest that FPC might "ringfence!" the £1,000 mentioned previously in the budget as a possible spend on the play area, to become the council's initial contribution to get a play area fund started. An article in the September 2009 "Clerks & Councils Direct" magazine had been noted that stated that, under new safety standards, grass is now deemed a 'safe surface' for falls from 1.5m (previously 1m). This should save a considerable amount in respect of safety surfaces, which are currently mentioned in our RoSPA reports as being in fairly poor condition. The continuation of periodical Health and Safety Risk Assessments on the Play Area was also being looked into. *It was noted that Dr McKeown had drafted an item for "The Laurentian" to advertise for the role of "champion" for improvements to the Play Area. It was also suggested that the preschool and Play Group organisers, and possibly Jenny Jones, Head of Foxton Primary School, be asked about this.*

### 5. **Access to the Recreation Ground letter**

An extension date of mid-December had been given to the occupants of the house in St Laurence Way who had encroached onto parish council land. The group also made a note to ensure that the letter, which goes annually to residents whose property adjoins the Recreation Ground, includes mention of grass cuttings not being deposited over fences and possibly about the trees as mentioned above.

### 6. **Youth Shelter**

Mr Bentinck reported that the group was still having difficulty in obtaining replacement solar lights from Schoolscapes for the shelter despite numerous e-mails and phone calls and had been informed that the lights were "Out of stock at suppliers". The group discussed the possibility of turning the direction of the goal in the ball wall next spring so that it could be re-seeded. The group would also make contact with the Foxton senior and junior football clubs

about reinstating nets on the junior goalposts on the Recreation Ground in order to provide an extra facility. The use of AstroTurf was discussed for that area too but not deemed practical at present.

#### 7. Dog bins

A reply from SCDC has been received that seemed to suggest that the council might replace the new red dog bin on The Green with a green one.

#### 8. Any Other business

Acquisition of a Litter Pick for 2010 was discussed. Mike Cooper from Highways had been e-mailed for advice on timing and sponsorship for a litter-picking event. It was thought that Mr F. Smart might be asked to become involved. The Leisure and Social Amenities report for the Village Plan was reviewed and approved with some minor changes. *Dr van der Ven suggested asking the district council for advice on running a litter-picking event.*

Dr Oakley said he had received a request from Mr Lloyd who wished to prune two trees outside his property on The Green. This letter was passed to Mrs Macintyre for her assessment and response. It was also agreed that Dr Grindley would speak to Mr Walsh about removing the container on the Recreation Ground to the sports compound in order to facilitate the planting of Mrs Mead's tree.

Mr Allars reported that cars were still being parked on the Recreation Ground and it was thought access might be being gained via the emergency vehicle entrance by users of the Village Hall complex. This possibility would be investigated.

*Mrs Roberts joined the meeting at this point in the proceedings.*

#### FINANCE

Mr Sutton reported that he was having a great deal of difficulty in obtaining the tax rebate due on the Cambridge Building Society account for 2008/09 although there had been no problems in past years. As he was not having any success trying to deal with the matter by telephone, he said he would now be writing to H M Revenue and Customs.

Mr Sutton gave details of the Bank Accounts as follows:

Deposit Account	£25,603.40
(This included the CCC grass cutting contribution of £943.86 for 2009)	
Current Account	£54.67
(This included a cash deposit of £2 for a dovecote booklet)	
Standard Life Bank	£15,000.00

Mr Sutton proposed the following cheques for payment:

CGM Cambridge Ltd (grass cutting September)	£115.00
Foxton VHT (hire of Meeting Room 7/9/09)	£13.50
D Salmons Fencing Services (Village Warden duties, & additional work, October)	£159.50
J E Burns (salary October & November including back pay)	£650.91

J E Burns (expenses September/October)	£52.02
H M Revenue and Customs (tax on clerk's salary for 3 months to 5/10/09)	£142.60
Foxton Cricket Club (2 <sup>nd</sup> contribution to grass cutting on the Recreation Ground)	£250.00

*(Mr Sutton said that the back pay due to the clerk arose from slight increases in the hourly rate for 2008/09 and for 2009/10. He also raised the question of the need to monitor Mr Salmons' invoices against the work completed. Mr Bentinck said he would ask Mr Salmons to let him see the invoices before they were passed to the clerk.)*

Dr Grindley seconded the proposal and all were agreed that these payments, totalling £1,133.53 were made and that £1,383 be transferred from the Deposit Account to the Current Account.

### **PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT**

Mr Barnes reported as follows:

#### **Planning Committee meeting held on Monday, 26<sup>th</sup> October**

The following application was considered:

Amber Homes Ltd	Application No.S/1394/09/F for dwelling (amended design) at land to the North of Mortimers Lane Approved
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#### **Planning permission refused:**

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 1, Station Road
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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 1, Station Road
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Both (retrospective) applications were refused as the CCC Highways Department insist the present restrictions on access to the site from the High Street remain in force. The applications could go to appeal.

#### **Tree application considered at the present meeting:**

Mrs Kohler	Application No.C/11/40/030 to pollard to 12ft to reduce height and allow light to young hedge below. Approved
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Mr Barnes said that the following tree application would be considered at the next meeting of the Planning Committee

A Studd

Application No. C/11/17/30/04 to remove top of Oak tree in order to improve appearance

Other matters to be discussed at the next meeting would include:

- The response to CCC “Future Strategy” consultation on development and housing growth in the county to 2031.
- University of Cambridge North West Cambridge Project

Mrs Roberts agreed to talk to the SCDC Planning Department about how matters stand on the former Q8 garage and the fencing of the spinney at the bottom of Station Road.

### **TRAFFIC CALMING MEASURES**

Dr Oakley said that it was plain from the questionnaire for the Parish Plan that speeding in the village was one of parishioners’ main concerns. There was a particular problem in Fowlmere Road, which, because of the straight unobstructed path for road traffic before entering the village from the Fowlmere direction, encourages speeding. He had met with CCC officer, Richard Preston, who agreed that this was a problem and who asked what the accident rate was in this location (very low to date). The cost of installing traffic calming measures would range between several hundred pounds and more than £10,000 depending on what was used and when the necessary signage and lighting were included: yearly maintenance costs would also have to be taken into consideration. Realistic alternatives to the simple red 30mph strip in the road were speed cushions or warning flashing lights.

After some discussion, it was agreed to take up Mrs Roberts’ recommendation of carrying out a speed check with strips laid across the road before taking any further steps.

### **POLICE LIAISON REPORT**

Mr Barnes said he had attended the recent meeting of the Police Liaison Group. Nineteen offences had been recorded for Foxton and Fowlmere in the latest three-month period including a vehicle theft in High Street, Foxton, one burglary where the offender had been traced and a further shed burglary in West Hill Road.

Overall, there had been a decrease in anti-social activity, although, with the loss of the lights in the shelter, youths were congregating in the Community Building car park again and causing a nuisance with their mopeds. The police were aware of the problem and said they would make additional sweeps.

Mrs Roberts warned that two young men with a white van were in the area, claiming to be looking for scrap metal. However, she said it was likely they were looking for likely homes where they might commit burglary. It was agreed that a warning notice should be put on the FPC Notice Board.

Dr Oakley had received a report that there had been some trouble in Caxton Lane where the police had been called. Mr Allars said this reinforced the fact that the village needed a Neighbourhood Watch organiser and agreed to submit an item on this to “The Laurentian”.

## **RECREATION GROUND TRUST REPORT**

Dr McKeown said that trustees had not met in the past month but that a meeting was scheduled for 24<sup>th</sup> November, which would liaise with the Village Hall Trust. The RGT accounts for 2008/09 would be available at the meeting.

## **DOVECOTE/MEADOW PROJECT**

Mrs Macintyre had nothing to report this month. Mr Pusey (in the Visitors' seats) said that further archaeological investigation would take place next year.

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

Dr Oakley had received an invitation for representatives of the Parish Council to attend a meeting of South Cambs District Council cabinet on November 25<sup>th</sup>. Mr Sutton said he would be willing to attend.

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

- 1) Letter dated 3<sup>rd</sup> October from BT payphones offering the council the opportunity to adopt a local red kiosk.
- 2) Letter dated 16<sup>th</sup> October from CCC Transport Department detailing changes to Stagecoach and Whippet services.
- 3) Letter dated 19<sup>th</sup> October from CCC Street Lighting Section advising that a streetlight at Hillfield is in need of replacement and a further revised letter asking whether FPC wishes to proceed with the works required to replace the light at a cost of £1,189.27 excluding VAT.

*The clerk read out a draft response that said this should be a matter for SCDC as the parish council does not have responsibility for replacing light columns. All were agreed that the letter should be sent.*

- 4) Letter dated 23<sup>rd</sup> October from Mrs Mead suggesting dates for the planting of a memorial tree on the Recreation Ground.
- 5) Letter dated 29<sup>th</sup> October from Mrs Ison requesting the council's permission to cut down branches from a tree on the Recreation Ground overhanging gardens in Illingworth Way.

*The clerk was asked to contact Mrs Ison to say the council agreed to this work.*

- 6) Information from CPALC including:
  - Information pack for the AGM on 21<sup>st</sup> November including Agenda, draft Accounts for year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2009 and draft Constitutions (versions 2.6 and 2.76)
- 7) Cope newsletter for November/December.
- 8) Letter from CGM asking for comments on the firm's service and enclosing brochure. *Passed to SB*
- 9) Publicity material from Record RSS (playground inspection, maintenance and repairs) and Barcham Trees 2009 catalogue. *Passed to RM*

## **VISITORS' QUESTIONS**

Mr Hockley reported that no FPC Minutes had appeared on the Foxton website since July.

*The clerk said she had forwarded the Minutes to Dr Sanderson, who usually put the Minutes on the website, and said she would try to find out what had happened.*

Mr Pusey said he was very opposed to any traffic calming obstruction in the Fowlmere Road. His view was that these constituted a hazard for some vehicles.

## **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Mrs Roberts asked to be kept informed about developments regarding the proposals put forward by Circle Anglia.

Mr Allars said the Village Hall Management Committee had raised the matter of a sign in the Community Building car park forbidding the parking of vehicles on the paving outside the entrance. Mr Bentinck said he had printed a sign to be placed in the window. It was felt that if a more substantial sign were needed, this was a matter for the Village Hall Trustees.

Dr Grindley commented on the decrease in the number of trains stopping at Foxton.

The clerk said she had received a telephone call from Karen Champion (CCC Countryside Access Team) suggesting that the probation team might be able to help with Mr Donnelly's hedge in St Laurence Road. *The clerk was asked to contact Mr Donnelly to find out what the problem was.*

The clerk said that a letter had been sent to a Mr Sundararajah permitting him to set off fireworks on the Recreation Ground on 31<sup>st</sup> October with numerous conditions. She and Mr Bentinck would liaise in producing a standard list of conditions for future requests of this kind.

Finally the clerk reported that the left hand window of the FPC notice board had been forced open sufficiently to allow a large poster for Zippo's Circus to be inserted and secured with sellotape. The notice had obscured parish council notices and had permanently warped the door so that it no longer closed properly at the top corner.

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

It was confirmed that the next meeting would be held on **Monday, 7<sup>th</sup> December 2009** at **7.45pm** in the **Meeting Room** of the **Village Hall**.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 10.20pm.