

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

**HELD ON MONDAY, 10<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2011, AT 7.45 p.m.**

### **PRESENT**

Dr Oakley, Dr Grindley, Mr Barnes, Mr Bentinck,  
Mrs Macintyre, Dr McKeown, Mr Sutton  
District Councillor Deborah Roberts

### **IN ATTENDANCE**

2 members of the public

### **APOLOGIES**

County Councillor Susan van de Ven, Mr Allars

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, Dr Oakley proposed that the Minutes of the previous meeting, held on 6<sup>th</sup> December 2010, be signed as a true record. Dr Grindley seconded the proposal and all were agreed.

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

#### *Removal of hardcore from the Recreation Ground*

Mrs Roberts had contacted Mr Onslow of Seearo who said he would send someone with a grab lorry once the ground was in a suitable condition. Mrs Roberts had given assurances that when a date had been agreed, the council would arrange that the gate onto the Recreation Ground would be unlocked.

#### *Proposed letter to the sports clubs*

Dr Oakley said the letter was still under consideration.

#### *Planning Committee Report*

##### *i) Conservation Area appraisal*

Dr Grindley reported that plan (v) amended to show the curtilage of the listed building of Foxton House, and the medieval moat and site of the former Mortimers Manor within the proposed extension to the conservation area had been received.

ii) Amber Homes Ltd application No. S/1186/10 for a dwelling (plot5) on land between 3-11 Mortimers lane

Mrs Roberts expressed the view that a third house on the development would not be desirable. Dr Grindley mentioned that a letter had been received from the developers seeking the council's agreement to the application if the plans included two parking spaces on the plot. Dr Grindley would discuss the matter with the SCDC Planning Department.

## **COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

Dr Oakley summarised the County Councillor's report that she had forwarded by e-mail as follows:

Progress had been made in the following areas:

1. A10 speed limit review for a reduction in speed limit to 50mph

There had been no objections in the public consultation and it would therefore go ahead. Dr van de Ven had asked for a time frame for implementation. The 50mph limit would extend from Foxton Crossing to Frog End junction.

2. Foxton Level Crossing pedestrian gates

Dr van de Ven said that thanks were due to the local media for helping to bring pressure on Network Rail to get both sets of pedestrian gates repaired (January 4<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>) and to local residents for getting in touch. It had been understood that both sets of gates would stay locked up until the new gates arrived in 12-14 weeks from the manufacturer. She said that obviously there was a concern that the repaired gates had proven unreliable and that no closures of the gates could be tolerated due to the resulting unsafe environment: if closures happened again repair work must be done immediately. Dr van de Ven had been assigned a special contact officer at Network Rail to answer her queries and concerns. Network Rail had also said they would be contacting County Highways "to look at alternative ways of getting people over the level crossing should they break again".

### Work in Progress

1. Melbourn Youth Club Meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> January

Dr van de Ven said the meeting would be held at 10am in Melbourn Parish Office and asked to be informed which parish councillors would be attending. This meeting would determine the practical details, including proportional financial contributions required from parish councils, in order to maintain the youth club in the first year. She said that Mark Howard had kindly offered to support the venture and she would be delighted if he were also free to attend the meeting.

2. Smartening up of Foxton Station

Projects at other stations besides Foxton were discussed at the December Rail User Group meeting both to improve their appearance and to reduce anti-social behaviour. The group also talked about potential birthday celebrations this summer for all three local stations. Geoff Barnes had had the brilliant idea of approaching Cemex for a contribution, given that the Barrington-Foxton line would be putting extra pressure on the level crossing. Dr van de Ven had spoken to Jenny Jones about getting the school involved at some level and she was keen; she had also spoken to Jane Hampshire about getting the Common Stream group involved from a local history angle. Since

the Garden Club would be attending this Wednesday's Common Stream Group meeting it was thought that this would be a good opportunity to gauge interest from these two groups and, hopefully, all these strands could be pulled together. Dr van de Ven said she would shortly be approaching Cemex and asked to be informed of any objections.

Point to mull over

Energy supply in Barrington Road

Dr van de Ven had been contacted by a Barrington Road resident who was "a prisoner" of very high heating-oil costs as that part of the village does not have a gas supply. She said that in some villages (e.g. Barton) residents had clubbed together to form an "oil club" in order to provide collective purchasing power and bring down costs - residents might wish to find out more.

Point to monitor

Dr van de Ven reported that Shepreth Road gritting should have commenced from December 13<sup>th</sup> and asked whether Mrs Macintyre, or anyone else in the Shepreth Road area, could keep an eye on the situation next time there was snow to make sure the road was being gritted.

Mr Barnes said that discussions were taking place about the possibility of opening a youth club in Foxton

Mr Barnes also reported that a large amount of salt had been removed from both of the new salt bins. The clerk was asked to contact the County Council about this matter.

## **DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

Mrs Roberts said that councillors were waiting to see what cuts were going to be made.

## **REPORTS FROM THE WORKING PARTIES**

### **RECREATION AND AMENITIES**

Mr Bentinck said it had been a quiet month since the last parish council meeting and reported as follows:

1. Trees at the Recreation Ground (to the rear of Illingworth Way) and at Vicarage Corner had been pollarded.
2. An Acer on the Recreation Ground in the vicinity of the entrance to the path from Illingworth Way was diseased and needed to be felled. Mr Bentinck said that Mr Salmons might be able to undertake this task.
3. Repairs to the gates onto the Play area were on Mr Salmons' "to do" list.
4. Outstanding work on the Recreation Ground included the landscaping of fringe areas and the planting of Mrs Richardson's memorial tree.

### **FINANCE**

Mr Sutton gave details of the Bank Accounts as follows:

Deposit Account	£8,592.24
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(This included interest for the period 6/9/10-7/12/10 of £0.99)

Current Account	£55.60
Standard Life Bank Premium 10-day Notice Account	£30,000.00
Mr Sutton proposed the following cheques for payment:	
The Business Machines Company Ltd (replacement printer/copier drum	£84.60
Cambridgeshire County Council (2 No. salt bins)	£218.55
Foxton Cricket Club (final payment for grass cutting for 2010)	£250.00
Foxton VHT (hire of meeting room 6/12 @ £14.50 and annual refuse disposal charge @ 136.50)	£151.00
Eastern Tree Surgery (tree works at the Recreation Ground and Vicarage Corner)	£1,668.00
Cambridgeshire ACRE (membership renewal)	£25.00
UK Power Networks (installation of electricity connection re training lights)	£1,240.80
J E Burns (salary December 2010 and January 2011)	£619.55
J E Burns (expenses November/December)	£82.85

Dr Oakley seconded the proposal and all were agreed that these payments, totalling £4,484.75 should be made and that £4,484 should be transferred from the Deposit Account to the Current Account.

Dr Grindley passed a cheque for £1,001 from the Foxton Sports Clubs Association towards the cost of the training lights for payment into the council's bank account.

#### Precept for 2011-2012

Mr Sutton had circulated councillors with two e-mails. The first set out proposed expenditure in the 2011/12 budget for various areas of the council's responsibilities and asked for councillors' views. The second e-mail sent on 1<sup>st</sup> January after this consultation enclosed a schedule showing:

- The budget for the current year (2010/11)
- Accounts figures for the 9 months to 31 December 2010
- Estimated accounts figures for the year to 31 March 2011
- Proposed budget for 2011/12 showing a recommended figure for the precept of £20,550

The proposed 2011/12 budget included provisions of £750 for election expenses, a shortfall provision for the training lights of £2,300 and £4,000 for landscaping the Recreation Ground perimeter. Mr Sutton proposed a precept of £20,550 for the financial year 2011/2012 and said that arriving at this figure he had tried to strike a balance between funding from the precept and use of reserve funds, which would cover a deficit of £4,900. Dr Oakley seconded the proposal and all were agreed. The clerk was asked to write to the District Council requesting this amount of precept for the forthcoming financial year.

### **PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT**

Dr Grindley reported as follows:

The Planning Committee had met on 13<sup>th</sup> December. Present were Dr Grindley, Mr Barnes and Mrs Macintyre. Mr Sutton sent his apologies.

**Applications considered at the meeting:**

**Amber Homes Ltd**

Application No. S/1186/10 for dwelling (revised design) at land between 3-11 Mortimers Lane

Response

The plan represents the orientation of the elevations on the submitted plan, only the South elevation being correct. The parish council recommends approval of the new plan omitting one window from the North gable wall, subject to the boundary of plot 5 being extended to allow for two parking places to be provided specifically for the residents and visitors to plot 5 in accordance with policy TR/2 appendix 1914) & (15)

**Mr P Ridgeon**

Tree application C/11/17/030/04 to fell diseased Ash tree at the Burlington Press site

(It was noted from an e-mail from the SCDC Trees Officer, Roz Richardson that the prosecution resulting from the illegal partial felling of the Ash tree in question earlier this year had failed. A report showed that the remaining stump was diseased and that SCDC could not therefore refuse the application.)

Response

The parish council recommends approval of the felling, subject to the tree being replaced with another Ash tree (of at least 5m in height) to be planted in close proximity to the location of the original tree.

Trees with Preservation Orders

The existing maps and records were examined. Further discussions took place regarding the proposed extension to the Conservation Area and the possibility of examining in detail the trees within the village that the council's records show to have Preservation Orders. The council's current records were out-of-date especially as a large percentage of recorded trees were Elms, which had subsequently died. It was agreed to carry out inspections during 2011 on an area-by-area basis with a view to updating the council's records.

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Letters had been received from SCDC and CCC Highways Department, relating to the new access to the Burlington Press site and these would be considered at the next meeting of the Planning Committee.

It was reported that there was no sign of the entrance barrier, which was a condition of the planning consent for the new access, being erected and Mrs Roberts said she would look into this issue.

**POLICE LIAISON**

Mr Barnes reported that problems at the Community Building car park were persisting with the youths responsible playing “cat and mouse” with the police – ie going away and then coming back again once the coast was clear: the problems had extended to the area in front of the sports pavilion. These issues would be raised at the next Police Panel meeting to be held on Tuesday of next week.

### **RECREATION GROUND TRUST REPORT**

Dr McKeown said that the Trust had not met since the last report to the Parish Council, but said that the Trust’s treasurer had prepared accounts and these had been accepted by the Trustees through an exchange of e-mails. He said the accounts would be submitted to the Charities Commission within the next few days. The Trustees were pleased to report that there had been a net surplus of income over expenditure in the amount of £19,318 for the year 2010/11 compared with a net deficit of £7,154 for the year 2009/10.

Dr McKeown said that the treasurer was currently moving one of the Trust’s savings accounts to take advantage of slightly better interest rates, and that he continued to monitor interest rates, and recommend moves to optimise the return on investments, to the Trustees.

### **DOVECOTE/MEADOW REPORT**

Mrs Macintyre reported that Eastern Tree Surgery had kindly left bark chippings, resulting from their recent work at Vicarage Corner and on the Recreation Ground, at the end of the path through the meadow so that the surface could be improved.

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

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

- 1) Letter dated 14<sup>th</sup> December 2010 from the CCC Principal Planning Officer re on-line planning complaints form for matters relating to breaches of planning control relating minerals or waste activities, and County Council developments within Cambridgeshire.
- 2) Letter from SCDC Housing Services dated 16<sup>th</sup> December 2010 re Orbit Homebuy drop-in event at the Cambourne office on 12<sup>th</sup> January to provide information on the Government home-buy products available to help those wishing to take the first step onto the property ladder: enclosing poster.
- 3) Letter dated 3<sup>rd</sup> January from the CCC Development Control Engineer (City and South) in response to the council’s letter requesting information about the Highways Department’s past decisions re access to the Burlington Press site from the High Street.
- 4) Letter dated 3<sup>rd</sup> January from Foxton Cricket Club re the club’s objectives and commenting on the removal of the cricket container: enclosing a copy of an e-mail to Dr Grindley.
- 5) Letter from The Royal British Legion dated 4<sup>th</sup> January enclosing its “Great Poppy Party Weekend” brochure re the celebration of the organisation’s 90<sup>th</sup> birthday.

- 6) Memo dated December 2010 from Cambridgeshire Community Services NHS re providing a lifetime of care: consultation on becoming an NHS Foundation Trust: enclosing a consultation document (responses by 30<sup>th</sup> March 2011).
- 7) “Community Action”, Cambridgeshire ACRE’s magazine for winter 2010.
- 8) Leaflet published by the Wildlife Trust giving details of its 2011 wildlife training workshops.
- 9) Local Council Review, Winter 2010.
- 10) “COPE” magazine, January 2011.

### **VISITORS’ QUESTIONS**

Mr Challis expressed his frustration that the recommended figure for the 2011/12 precept had been approved without prior discussion in public and that not one councillor had opposed the level of precept recommended. He wondered whether more economies should have been made.

*Councillors commented that:*

- *There had been full consultation between councillors on the budget for 2011/12 and the recommended precept for the coming financial year prior to the present meeting*
- *A lot of expensive tree work needed to be undertaken*
- *Although this would be a significant increase in the parish precept, increases in recent years had been small and the figure of £20,550 was still low compared with other similarly sized councils.*

Mr Challis said he applauded County Councillor van de Ven’s work in trying to resolve the problems with the pedestrian gates at the Foxton level crossing. He said he would like to see repairs being made to potholes in the High Street and in Caxton Lane. The clerk was asked to contact Mike Cooper (CCC Highways Department) to report the potholes.

Mr Howard reported a lot of banging noises going on at the youth shelter the previous afternoon but said he had not inspected the shelter for any damage.

*Mr Bentinck said that he would ask Mr Salmons to look into the matter.*

### **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Mrs Roberts announced that she would be standing for re-election at the local elections in May.

Dr McKeown reported that use of the footway at Vicarage Corner was becoming very restricted due to the ivy on the Old Vicarage side having become very overgrown and that complaints had been received. Mr Sutton said that he would speak to Mr Fawcett about this matter.

Mrs Macintyre said there was a deep hole in the pavement near 4A Station Road. The clerk was asked to report this matter to Mike Cooper.

Dr Oakley floated a suggestion from Mr Allars that the Play Area could be relocated in the Bike Park area, as this facility was not being used at present. Not all councillors were keen on this suggestion as interest in mountain biking was somewhat

sporadic and the activity might well become popular again with a new group of youngsters.

**DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

It was confirmed that the next meeting would be held on **Monday, 7<sup>th</sup> February 2011** at **7.45pm** in the **Meeting Room** of the **Village Hall**.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.05pm.