

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

**HELD ON MONDAY, 5<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2012 AT 7.45 p.m.**

### **PRESENT**

Dr Oakley, Dr Grindley, Mr Bore, Mr Barnes, Mr Elliott, Mrs Macintyre, Mrs McFadzean and Mr Sutton

County Councillor Susan van de Ven

District Councillor Deborah Roberts

### **IN ATTENDANCE**

Ms Schuyler Newstead, SCDC Head of Housing and Development

A representative of Lovell Partnerships Ltd

2 members of the public

### **APOLOGIES**

Mr McCreery

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.

### **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

As no amendments were needed, Dr Oakley proposed that the Minutes of the previous meeting, held on Monday, 1<sup>st</sup> October 2012 be signed as a true record. Mrs Macintyre seconded the proposal and all were agreed.

### **ADDRESS BY THE SCDC HEAD OF HOUSING STRATEGY**

A preliminary sketch of a proposed development for a rural exception site at Hill Farm, Fowlmere Road was distributed to the clerk and councillors. Ms Newstead said that the proposal was one that the district council was hoping to take forward as its own first exception site, and as a landlord, in conjunction with Lovell Partnerships as the developer. The draft plan was for 15 affordable homes, principally for Foxton people.

Mr Tony ? (Lovell Partnerships) said that there had been soundings about the proposal with the SCDC Planning Department. He said that, as the development would be the first housing to be seen coming into Foxton from the Fowlmere direction, it would need to be visually attractive. The development would use the

existing access road and retain the existing hedge and would show a mixture of side, front and rear elevations.

Questions and comments included:

(NO) How many commercial houses would be included in the development?

*(SN) Number not fixed at present.*

(S v d V) Existing drainage needs in Fowlmere Road are beyond capacity and this issue would need to be resolved.

(DR) Can Ms Schuyler guarantee that the exception site policy is secure?

*(SN) The houses would be let at a social rent with possibly some houses being held in part ownership.*

(DR) The design quality would need to be good and suggested building in the vernacular.

(GB) Does Mr Salmons own the land?

*Confirmed.*

(DR) Why four 1-bed properties?

*(SN) Present government policy is for tenants to downsize when they no longer need a larger home and there is a shortage of 1-bed homes.*

(CG) queried the definition that would be applied for a “Local connection”.

*(SN) The houses, when built, would be advertised in “Homelink” and the criteria for local connection would be included.*

(CG) The FPC Planning committee has been very involved in finding suitable sites for affordable housing and would have preferred the oblong of the development to be the other way round so that not so many houses bordered Fowlmere Road; however, in principal, a 15-dwelling site would suit Foxton very well.

*(SN) The district council is constrained by the wishes of the landowner who, understandably wishes to keep the view from his own house clear.*

(S v d V) It would be difficult to extend the 30mph speed limit outside the village envelope.

(MB) Will there be a right to buy?

*(SN) No.*

(GB) Why not make the 1-bed houses bungalows?

Drawing the discussion to a close, Dr Oakley said that this was the land being offered for development of affordable homes and proposed that the council give the go ahead for the proposal to be developed further. Seven councillors voted in favour of the motion with one voting against.

## **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

### Finance

It was agreed to make a further donation of £33 to the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal to bring the total donation, including payment for the wreath for Remembrance Sunday, up to £50.

### Correspondence

Mrs Macintyre said that, concerning Mr Tauwhare's wish to maintain a piece of land belonging to the County Council, Mr McCreery had said that the council needed Mr Tauwhare to cover any necessary legal fees and suggested that the matter be discussed by the Dovecote Group.

## **VILLAGE INFRASTRUCTURE AND TRANSPORT REPORT**

Dr Oakley reported as follows:

### Highways

Dr Oakley had received an e-mail from Brian Stinton (CCC) asking for applications for minor highway improvements. Under the scheme 90% of the cost (up to £10,000) would be paid by the County Council. He said that no particular improvements sprang to mind but that, if councillors had anything they could think of, to please let him know. Applications had to be in by the 21<sup>st</sup> of December.

### Gritting

The County Council gritting routes around Cambridgeshire had been published and Dr Oakley was pleased to say that all the through roads in Foxton were included at the Precautionary 2 level that included bus routes. The County Council already had 13,400 tonnes of salt, with a top-up planned for January, so it was well prepared. CCC would also replenish the salt bins in the village. Dr Oakley said that residents were reminded that the salt in these bins was for streets and pavements and should not be used on private or business premises.

### Cycleways

County Councillor Susan van de Ven had got the Foxton-Harston cycle path on a countywide shortlist for funding from a £2 million pot of unspent cash! The cost of upgrading the existing cycle path would be in the range of £500,000 and a decision might be made at the December cabinet meeting.

### Footways

Following a discussion with her about the state of pavements in the High Street, Dr van de Ven had asked the responsible officer at the County Council to see if the improvements needed could be put on a list for capital spending.

## **REPORTS FROM THE WORKING PARTEIS**

### **RECREATION AND AMENITIES**

Mrs Macintyre gave the Recreation and Amenities report on behalf of Mr McCreery as follows:

#### **1. Play Area**

The council had registered with Kompan for one inspection plus an annual inspection.

## **2. Recreation ground**

Some tree surgery was required when major branches of a tree fell across a fence into a resident's garden. The group was fortunate in being able to get a tree surgeon to deal with this matter within two days of being notified of the problem. A damaged gatepost would need repairing or replacing.

## **3. Sports Club Meeting**

The Football Club and Dynamo Foxton had been contacted regarding the support they could provide for extending the floodlights. Mrs Roberts had advised that a maximum grant of 35% of the cost might be available from SCDC in the bidding round starting in February 2013.

Mr McCreery had obtained budget quotations for developing the hard standing area. The costs ranged from £38,000 to £63,000 to resurface and fence, including court markings for recreational five-a-side football and basketball, and to including nets for both sports. This would be another major project for the village and, unless a fund-raising committee could be formed, it should probably be put on the back burner while efforts progressed with the half-pipe project.

The Cricket Club had decided to purchase a small generator and would therefore no longer require an external electrical socket.

A notice on dog fouling was prepared for the November "Laurentian", but was missed. However Andy Cambridge had his letter on the subject printed and the Parish Council notice would appear in the December issue. Quotations were awaited for new signage on dog fouling.

## **4. Tennis Club**

The Tennis Club had now cut down the overgrown conifer adjoining the courts to hedge height.

## **5. Telephone Box**

David Salmons had examined the kiosk, which appeared to be bolted to a concrete base with the bolts then covered with further concrete. The kiosk would need to be shot blasted and repainted, as it was likely that lead paint would have been used previously. BT was responsible for the cost of electricity for a light in the kiosk for five years if they did not disconnect or cap off the electricity supply during this period. The kiosk would cost money to paint, remove, reinstall and maintain. Mr McCreery questioned whether this was a sensible use of funds.

## **FINANCE**

Mr Sutton gave details of the Bank Accounts as follows:

Deposit Account	£19,695.93
Current Account	£54.65
10-Day Notice Account	£22,575.96
(Including interest applied 1 <sup>st</sup> October of £18.84 & 1 <sup>st</sup> November of £20.88)	

Mr Sutton proposed the following cheques for payment:

Foxton Village Hall (Hire of meeting Room 3/9, Lounge 4 & 11/9 and pavilion 25/9 total £43.75 and hire of council office 1 <sup>st</sup> quarter @£76.57)	£120.32
CGM (Cambridge) Ltd (grass cutting, September)	£360.00
Moncraft Ltd (investigation of Microsoft Outlook problems)	£37.50
Aon Ltd (insurance policy amendment)	£26.80
M J Pearl Garden Maintenance (raking grass at Dovecote Meadow)	£196.00
T J Austin (flail hedge cutting at Dovecote meadow)	£79.20
Eastern Tree Surgery (removal of fallen branches)	£288.00
D Salmons (Village Warden duties, October plus extra work)	£142.50
J E Burns (salary October & November)	£627.75
J E Burns (expenses September & October)	£101.68

Dr Oakley seconded the proposal and all were agreed.

### **PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT**

Dr Grindley said that phase two of the SCDC complaints procedure had been reached with concerning FPC's complaint regarding access to Endurance Estates proposed development to the rear of the Press Cottages at Station Road. A letter to the SCDC Chief Executive officer, Ms Jean Hunter, had been drafted and circulated to councillors. A short discussion culminated with the proposal by Dr Oakley that the letter, as drafted, be sent. The proposal was put the vote with all councillors in favour. The clerk was therefore requested to send the letter of complaint.

### **COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

Dr van de Ven said she had liased with Dr Oakley on items covered in the village infrastructure report and said she would add that an A10 cycle campaign group would support any chance of gaining the funding for the Foxton/Harston path upgrade.

The Rail User Group has won three national awards for its work and this would strengthen its campaigning role.

Dr van de Ven said that the news from SCDC that it intended to purchase the disused Traveller-site at Mettle Hill, Meldreth was relevant to Foxton and other South Cambridgeshire villages for several reasons:

- A complete disregard for local consultation with elected representatives and local people was a poor way of conducting business and this had devastated trust in the district council
- The land was still owned by Cambridgeshire County Council and must be offered on a first refusal basis to both district and parish councils
- SCDC's view had always been that this site was unsuitable for reopening due to the immediate proximity of two large Showmen's sites

Dr van de Ven said that the announcement was very damaging in every respect and that any support Foxton PC could offer would be greatly appreciated. *It was suggested that PC write to SCDC on this matter.*

A short discussion followed. Dr Grindley said the major issue was that different groups of travellers did not mix well.

On a different, but county-related matter, Dr Grindley said that he had attended the opening of the Foxton pupil referral school as part of a tripartite school to be known as Trinity School. He was very impressed with the pupils' standard of work and behaviour, but thought that the school should have a Board of Governors.

Mr Barnes drew attention to a large advertisement that had appeared near the station coming from the Cambridge direction, which he felt to be distracting to motorists.

### **DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

Mrs Roberts said it would be interesting to see how the proposal for affordable housing at Hill Farm went forward. She said that Planning Committee members and Planning Officers had recently been on a bus trip viewing what she termed "the good the bad and the ugly" in housing developments. All were agreed that the new development in Mortimers Lane was not sympathetic with existing houses in the lane. As this was a good time of year for replanting, she reminded the council to write to SCDC about the trees to replace those it cut down in Station Road. *Mrs Macintyre would liaise with the clerk in writing a letter.*

Mrs Roberts also mentioned the proposed reopening of the mettle Hill site for travellers and said that District Councillor Howell was dealing with this matter.

### **COUNCIL OFFICE**

Dr Oakley said that it was becoming urgent (now that the council was paying rent for the new office) to get the necessary equipment and furniture. The council would be registering as a member with ESPO (Eastern Counties Purchasing organisation) and should be able to get furniture at a favourable price from them. He asked for member's agreement to go ahead with equipping the office. All were agreed.

### **POLICE LIAISON**

Mr Barnes reported as follows:

The Bassingbourn and Melbourn Neighbourhood Panel had met on 16<sup>th</sup> October. Following a request at this meeting the police had checked up on speeding in Fowlmere Road and parking in Illingworth Way. Warning letters were being sent to speeding drivers and tickets were being issued for parking offences. In the past three-month period there had been two burglaries at dwellings. The number of non-dwellings burglaries had halved in the same period, but commercial outbuildings, farm buildings, domestic garages and garden sheds were still being targeted across South Cambridgeshire.

Mr Barnes said that violent crime remained at a low level with two recorded incidents in the three months since the last panel meeting. The number of anti-social incidents remained relatively low although this period saw an increase in such incidents from four in the previous period to eight in this one.

The police were asked that their attention to speeding and parking be continued and that speed checks be carried out in Barrington Road.

### **RECREATION GROUND TRUST REPORT**

Dr Oakley said that there was nothing to report at present, but that Trustees would need to hold a meeting soon.

### **DOVECOTE/MEADOW REPORT**

Mrs Macintyre said that volunteers had held a meeting. It was agreed that the door to the dovecote needed to be replaced and that the plaque needed some retouching. Unfortunately, the Mulberry tree had died. Volunteers would meet on 24<sup>th</sup> November to hand-trim hedges.

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

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

- 1) Letter dated 23<sup>rd</sup> October from Mr Child of Fowlmere (on behalf of Foxton Bowls Club) requesting a donation towards remedial work at the club.
- 2) Letter dated 24<sup>th</sup> October from Mr Pester regarding fallen braches in his rear garden from a Horse Chestnut tree on the Recreation Ground.
- 3) Letter dated 30<sup>th</sup> October from Affinity Water re pre-consultation on its draft Water Resources Management Plan and Strategic Direction Statement (web address provided).
- 4) Letter dated November from Cambridgeshire ACRE re an opportunity for community volunteers – Community Champions - to work alongside Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service.
- 5) “Clerks and Councils Direct” magazine, November 2012.
- 6) Publicity material from Proludic and Wicksteed (play equipment) and Glasdon.

An e-mail on behalf of Mr and Mrs Houghton had been received advising that they were currently in the preliminary stages of an application for change of use for 46 High Street to allow it to be used as a teashop. The Houghtons wished to know whether the council was prepared to provide a statement either supporting the use of the gravel car park for customers or confirming that this car park was not currently well used.

There was some discussion about this matter, and the view was that no such statement could be supplied, as to formally allow customers the use of the car park could constitute a change of use by the council, and the car park was ell used at weekends.

### **VISITORS' QUESTIONS**

Mr Howard complained that logs from recent felling on the Recreation Ground had been left on site and were being moved about by children.

*Apparently Mr Salmons had intended to remove the logs, but was presently indisposed.*

Mr Challis said he was sorry that he had not been at the unveiling of the new village sign, but thought it was an excellent addition to the village. Mr Challis expressed his thanks to the steering group, Mr Sutton, Mrs Macintyre and Mr Tongish.

### **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Mr Barnes said that the small house (forming part of the new development at Mortimers Lane) was still unsold and that bushes at 8 High Street were affecting visibility at the Caxton Lane exit onto the High Street.

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

It was confirmed that this would be held on **Monday, 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2012 at 7.45pm** in the **Meeting Room** of the **Village Hall**.

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