

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF FOXTON PARISH COUNCIL

HELD ON MONDAY, 7th JANUARY 2013 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

IN ATTENDANCE

3 members of the public

APOLOGIES

District Councillor Deborah Roberts, Mr McCreery

Dr Oakley welcomed all to the meeting after wishing those present a Happy New Year.

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.

Dr Grindley declared an interest in the planning application (Mrs J Ward) to be considered later in the meeting.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

As no amendments were needed, Dr Grindley proposed that the Minutes of the previous meeting, held on Monday 3rd December, should be signed as a true record. Mr Barnes seconded the proposal and all were agreed.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Correspondence (item 5) re Footpath

A request had been received for the reinstatement of the footpath from Illingworth Way and Hillfield to the new Foxton Wood plantation. Mr Barnes had been in touch with the county council, who said that it was difficult to get reinstatement of footpaths, although the Right of Way remained. He said that he would follow the matter up further. Dr Grindley said he would like a meeting with CCC before the next parish council meeting and that he would arrange it.

VILLAGE INFRASTRUCTURE

Dr Oakley reported that the new yellow lines in Station Road had finally been applied.

REPORTS FROM THE WORKING PARTIES

Mrs Macintyre reported in the absence of Mr McCreery.

1. The maintenance agreement between the Cricket Club and the parish council of the newly acquired mower had now been agreed and signed.
2. The draft Deed of Dedication had been forwarded to Fields in Trust. Two councillors, Dr Oakley and Mr McCreery would be required to sign the approved Deed on behalf of both Foxton Parish Council and the Recreation Ground Trust.
3. Kompan had carried out the first inspection of the new Play Area towards the end of 2012. An e-mail report of the inspection (but not yet a hard copy of the report) had been received. There were a number of minor matters that needed attention, but as was to be expected with new equipment, the report was very good

FINANCE

Mr Sutton gave details of the Bank Accounts as follows:

Deposit Account	£16,995.06
(This included further receipts of £450 from the Play Area Group and a transfer of £707 from the current account in respect of the CCC grass cutting contribution for 2012 of £707.89)	

Current Account	£51.19
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Barclays Bank 10-day Notice Account	£22,617.78
(This included interest applied 1/1/13 of £20.25)	

Mr Sutton proposed the following cheques for payment:

Kompan (part payment for playground inspections)	£300.00
Npower Ltd (charges for 1/9/12-27/11/12 re training lights)	£124.10
Cambridgeshire ACRE (membership renewal)	£30.00
Cambridgeshire CC (street lighting energy charges 1/10/12-30/9/13)	£604.17
Foxton Village Hall (hire of Meeting Room 5/11/12 and 12/12 plus annual refuse disposal charge plus council office rental)	£243.53
Melbourn Area Youth Development (MAYD) (contribution towards support of the club in 2012)	£300.00
J E Burns (salary December 2012 and January 2013)	£627.95
J E Burns (expenses November/December 2012)	£112.42
H M Revenue and Customs (tax on clerk's salary for 3 months to 5/1/13)	£131.80
D Salmons (Village Warden November plus extra work)	£105.00

Dr Oakley seconded the proposal and all were agreed that these payments should be made, and that £2,580 be transferred from the Deposit Account to the Current Account.

Npower invoices

Mr Sutton referred to the payment to Npower Ltd, whose invoice had been dated 29th November and not received until after the December FPC meeting. This had resulted in a reminder and a warning of disconnection. The clerk explained that the Npower

invoices regularly arrived just after council meetings and resulted in repeated telephone calls to avoid disconnection. As the electricity bills had to be paid she had suggested to Mr Sutton that the council might approve these bills in advance. Mr Sutton put this proposal to the council, Mrs Macintyre seconded the proposal and all were agreed with the proviso that the bill should be queried if there was anything unexpected about it. Dr Grindley said he would need to invoice the Football clubs for their contribution to the maintenance and running costs of the training lights. He would first need a copy of the last Npower invoice, which the clerk agreed to provide.

Budget and Precept for 2013/14

Mr Sutton said he had invited councillors to comment on the budget figures he had circulated prior to the present meeting and Mr McCreery had forecast the needs of the Recreation and Amenities group for the coming financial year. Should the precept for 2013/14 be kept at £21,000, this would result in a deficit of £1,185. Mr Sutton pointed out that villages similar to Foxton, with a similar number of Band D houses, had higher precepts. In addition, although Foxton had raised the precept by 2½ % for the current financial year, Fowlmere had increased theirs by 10%. He was personally not in favour of keeping the precept at a standstill at a time when costs were going up. Dr Grindley argued that, in these times of austerity, he was in favour of a standstill.

Mr Sutton raised the question of the unknown amount of S106 money that might accrue from the agreed High Street development and Dr Grindley recommended that a letter be written to the district council asking that this S106 money be reserved to Foxton. Mr Sutton commented that the High Street development would be favoured before the one at Moore's Farm.

Dr van de Ven expressed approval of not increasing the precept application at this time. As the feeling of councillors was in favour of not raising the precept, Mr Sutton proposed that a precept of £21,000 be requested for 2013/14. Dr Oakley seconded the proposal and all were agreed. The clerk was asked to write to the district council requesting this precept for 2013/14.

PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT

Dr Grindley said that the council had received a reply from SCDC to its complaint regarding access to a proposed development to the rear of Station Road. The Planning Committee would consider a reply to this letter at its next meeting.

Planning application considered at the present meeting:

Mrs J Ward

Application No. S/2608/12/FL for construction of two dwellings following demolition of existing at 14, Fowlmere Road

This application (a second application following refusal of the first application) was discussed by councillors and acceptance recommended by all, with the exception of Dr Grindley who took no part in the making of the decision. It was also agreed that a member of the committee should attend when the application was considered by the district council.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

1. Barrington Cemex Meeting

Dr van de Ven said that a public meeting of the Barrington Liaison Group to discuss the future of the vast Cemex site would be held on 17th January at 7pm and that neighbouring parishes were specifically welcome.

Dr Grindley volunteered to attend this meeting if available.

2. No.26 Bus Service

Dr van de Ven had met Andy Campbell at Stagecoach to discuss the future of the No. 26 bus service, which as had been known for some time, was “marginal”. There was good news on the horizon in that the prospective developers of the old Bayer site in Hauxton had floated the idea of supporting the No.26 service through a financial contribution, to fulfil their statutory Transport Plan. Meanwhile there was no hope at the moment of the No.26 passing through the Trumpington Park and Ride site mainly because the “departure charge” (a levy charged by CCC for use of the site) would raise the cost of running the service.

3. Network Rail

A Network Rail representative had attended the meeting of the Rail User Group on 12th December. The Network Rail (NR) feasibility study on possible closure of Foxton Level Crossing was progressing well and, having scoped out the breadth of the project, was now moving to a more detailed stage. The meeting was told that, as part of the project, NR was looking at the possibility of closing some rural level crossings in this area as well. It was hoped to have the results of the study in April.

Those attending the meeting were also shown CCTV footage of a passenger jumping over the wicket fence and dashing over the tracks to catch a train, when the barriers (all in working order) were in lock-down position. This was an extremely frustrating incident given all the work that had gone into improving safety at the crossing. It also helped to illustrate the challenges faced by the crossing keepers who were clearly doing a good job.

Mr Barnes reported that, one afternoon last week, the signalman at the crossing had held up a slow train while he went to shut the Barrington gate.

4. Mettle Hill, Meldreth outcome

Dr van de Ven thanked Foxton residents for supporting the campaign, which had resulted in Meldreth parish council's decision to buy the land that had been proposed as a site for pitches for gypsies and travellers. She said that a positive outcome had been the much greater awareness of Meldreth's existing travelling community, including two Showmen's sites and one Romany site, and a clear interest in promoting further integration with the settled village. In this spirit, the Melbourn Business Association (MBA) had issued an open invitation to the travelling community to join the association: the next meeting of the association would be a breakfast meeting on 5th February at 7:30pm at Sheene Mill. Dr van de Ven said that the MBA had members from as far away as Harston and was a lively and welcoming group.

5. A10 Corridor Cycle Campaign

The launch meeting for this campaign would be held on 29th January at 7:30pm in the Elin Way Community Room, Meldreth, and all would be welcome.

Mrs Macintyre reported that there was no litterbin in the A10 lay-by before the junction with Shepreth Road.

Mr Barnes again mentioned the fact that the 50mph sign on the A10 near the Frog End junction did not show up clearly and should have a yellow backing board.

Dr van de Ven said she would look into both these matters.

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

In the absence of Mrs Roberts, there was no District Councillor's report.

COUNCIL OFFICE

Dr Oakley said that Mr Elliott had agreed to take over the responsibility for getting the council website up and running.

The office had not so far been furnished and Dr Oakley said that he was intending to hold a surgery in the office on the 18th January. Temporary use could be made of furniture from the pavilion, but he, Mr Sutton and the clerk would be meeting later in the week to agree and place an order for furniture (within the budget agreed) with ESPO.

In answer to a query from Mr Barnes, Dr Oakley said that the office would be used initially for small meetings, surgeries and the storage of planning documents and archive material.

POLICE LIAISON REPORT

Mr Barnes reported the following incidents that had occurred since his last report:

Hardman Road An attempted burglary was still under investigation by the police

St Laurence Road 1 burglary

Mr Barnes said that the next meeting of the Basingbourn and Melbourn Neighbourhood Panel would be held on Tuesday, 15th January 2013 between 7pm and 7.30pm at Basingbourn Village College.

Various councillors also reported that they had heard of other burglaries and attempted burglaries at Foxton addresses recently. The police were aware of these.

RECREATION GROUND TRUST REPORT

There had been no meeting of the Trust since the last parish council meeting, but one would be held immediately after the present meeting.

DOCECOTE/MEADOW REPORT

There was nothing to report.

CORRESPONDENCE

The clerk summarised the correspondence received since the last meeting, which is given in full below:

- 1) Letter dated 16th December from Mr Chilton re the council's complaint concerning the felling of trees in Barons Lane. *The council would reply.*
- 2) Letter dated 19th December from the SCDC Planning Policy Manager re the South Cambridgeshire Issues and Options 2 Consultation running from 7th January to 18th February 2013: enclosing posters detailing dates and venues for exhibitions.
- 3) Letter dated 4th January 2013 from SCDC Planning Policy Department enclosing parts 1 and 2 of the consultation documents relating to the joint South Cambridgeshire Issues and Options 2 consultation running from 7th January to 18th February 2013: also enclosing a response form.
- 4) Letter dated 4th January 2013 from Curtin & Co, a firm working with Commercial Estates Group to promote a site for development on the southeastern fringe of Cambridge City.
- 5) Cambridgeshire NHS "Keeping in Touch" magazine Winter 2012.
- 6) Local Council Review, Winter 2012.
- 7) Publicity material from LGS law and Governance, Norse (landscape development), DRE (pest control) and Barchams Nursery.

Dr van de Ven and Dr Oakley would meet Mike Cooper (CCC Highways Department) on Friday re the letter from Mr and Mrs Chilton.

VISITORS' QUESTIONS

Mrs Ward thanked the council for its support of her planning application.

Mr Howard complained about parking in the village, which he said was getting worse by the day.

Dr Oakley suggested that the police assess the situation and asked Mr Barnes to mention the matter at the next Police Liaison meeting

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mr Barnes reported that a considerable quantity of salt had been removed from the salt bin at the end of Illingworth Way.

In answer to a query from Mrs Macintyre, it was confirmed that a letter from the council had been sent to Mr Tauwhere.

The back wall of the Youth shelter was in need of repair and the Hall Close sign had dropped down from its fixings. In addition the old street signs were in a poor state of repair. Mr Salmons would be asked to attend to these problems.

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

It was confirmed that this would be held on **Monday, 4th February 2013** at **7.45pm** in the **Village Hall Meeting Room**.

Mr Bore apologised in advance for his absence at the February and March council meetings.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.10pm.