

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF FOXTON PARISH COUNCIL

HELD ON MONDAY, 6th JANUARY 2014 AT 7.45 p.m.

PRESENT

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

County Councillor Susan van de Ven

District Councillor Deborah Roberts

IN ATTENDANCE

2 members of the public

APOLOGIES

None

Dr Oakley welcomed all to the meeting.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

No amendments were needed and all were agreed that the Minutes of the previous Meeting, held on Monday, 2nd December 2013, should be signed as a true record.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There were no matters arising.

LEVEL CROSSING CLOSURE

Dr Oakley said that members of the parish council had met at the end of the previous month to discuss a response to the publication of Network Rail's (NR's) Feasibility Study concerning the permanent closure of Foxton Level Crossing and diversion of the A10.

NR concluded that the only viable option to allow for the closure was by having a bypass to the North of the A10. The bypass would run from approximately opposite Villiers Park to the junction of Barrington Road and the A10. The important consideration was whether the bypass should cross the railway as a bridge or as an underpass. The pros and cons for both options were set out in the study with the bridge having a more serious environmental impact. However, as the bridge would be the cheapest to construct this was NR's preferred option.

As the existing Cambridge Road section of the A10 would effectively become a cul-de-sac, there had to be a means of crossing the railway for pedestrians and cyclists. NR had put forward four options including an underpass and three different

footbridge options of which a footbridge with a lift for disabled access was NR's favoured option.

Having reviewed the Feasibility Study, councillors then agreed on a course of action on how the council should gather residents' views on its proposals. It was agreed that, following the publication of an article in "The Laurentian", the Parish Council would hold an exhibition outlining the contents of the study. This would be coupled with a village-wide mail shot, also outlining the contents of the study, and asking for residents' views. The mail shot would also give the date and time of the exhibition, which would be held in the Village Hall lobby from February 17th to the 21st. The exhibition would be manned for three 2-hour sessions daily (10am - 12pm, 2pm - 4pm and 6pm - 8pm) and there would be access to a hard copy of the Feasibility Study. The Feasibility Study would also be available to study on line on the village website at www.foxtoncambis.info as well as on the Parish Council website.

Dr Oakley had drafted and circulated the article for "The Laurentian" prior to the present meeting and all councillors were happy with its content.

SPEED LIMIT CHANGES

20mph speed limit

Dr Oakley expressed many thanks to all those who had responded to the questionnaire on the proposed introduction of a 20mph speed limit in the village. The response had been impressive with returns from over 130 households. The overwhelming majority (90%) of those responding were in favour of reducing the speed limit as proposed. However, a significant number (46% of the "Yes" voters) commented that the 20mph limit should at least extend to before the bends at the bottom of Fowlmere Road. Indeed, he said that 15% of the "Yes" voters wished for the whole village to be under a blanket 20mph speed limit. Other suggestions were for accompanying street furniture (eg bollards or flashing signs). Of those against a reduction in the speed limit, a majority gave their reasons as being that the traffic was already slow enough due to the parked cars and/or that any new limit would be difficult to enforce.

With this very positive response, and taking account of the comments, the Parish Council had made a request to the County Council, under the Local Highways Improvement scheme, that a 20 mph speed limit be put in place in the centre of the village starting at the bottom of Fowlmere Road - at the level of Barons Lane - and extending along the High Street to a point by the Dovecote meadow. The 20mph limit would also extend up Station Road for approximately 100 metres encompassing the Trinity School and the Press entrance. The Parish Council had also asked that the speed limit from the junction of Shepreth Road with the A10 to just before West Hill Road be reduced from 60mph to 40 mph.

Representation would be made later in the month to the County Council for approval and 90% funding of the scheme, without which it was unlikely that the parish council could proceed as planned. Residents would be kept up to date via "The Laurentian" and the Parish Council Notice board.

Dr van de Ven said that schemes that were accepted did not always make sense. The County Council would be looking to spread the money available as widely as possible. She also said that Meldreth PC's speed limit reduction bid had failed because one aspect of the proposal was not within approved policy.

PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE

Mr Elliott reported that, although he tried a number of times to get a progress update from the website providers, he had not so far received any response. He said he would renew his efforts to find out more.

REPORTS FROM THE WORKING PARTIES

RECREATION AND AMENITIES

Mr McCreery reported as follows:

1. Skatepark Project

On 18th December Amey Cespa offered a conditional grant of £20,000 towards the project, subject to a contribution of £2,000 to the scheme. Including the £2,000 promised by the Recreation Ground Trust, grants and funds available for the project now totalled £66,680. Revised tenders had been requested from seven suppliers and two of these had been chosen as preferred bidders. Site meetings had been held with these two companies last week and their revised quotations were due to be received on 9th January. The committee hoped to be able to present the detailed plan from the preferred bidder at the open meeting in the Village Hall on 15th January.

The main changes to the earlier proposals had come about through several quotations proposing a concrete solution. The committee had thought that this would be too expensive. However, the preferred bidders both proposed a concrete solution, which has the advantages of less noise than steel or wooden ramps and incurs less in maintenance costs. It was hoped, subject to approval from those offering grants, to place an order before the end of January with completion apparently feasible before Easter.

The next fund raising event would be a Bingo Night to be held in the Village Hall on Friday, 24th January.

2. Trees

Necessary tree work would be carried out in February. Some minor damage to trees bordering the Recreation Ground had been reported and would be dealt with at the same time.

3. Recreation Ground

Replacement dog anti-fouling signs had been erected.

The Youth shelter had again been damaged. It was believed that this happened on New Year's Eve when four of the shelter's walls were kicked in. Mr McCreery said he did not believe it was worth replacing the broken panels due to the continued vandalism. Mr Salmons had removed the broken panels and made the structure safe for the present.

4. Recreation Ground Car Park

A second quotation had now been received from David Salmons of £2,000 - his recommendation was to accept the first quotation of £1,866 from Mr. Rooke who he believed would do a satisfactory job.

Mr McCreery proposed acceptance of Mr Rooke's quotation. Dr Grindley seconded the proposal and all were agreed. The clerk was asked to write accepting the quotation.

5. Bowls Club

The Bowls Club had written to thank the Parish Council for their donation, which had enabled the club to meet new regulations for Greens. The area outside the club entrance, damaged during the work on the Green, would be seeded in the spring.

Dr Oakley thanked Mr McCreery for his report and said that Mark Howard had reported streetlights on the Recreation Ground being on after 9pm and Dr Oakley himself had noticed the lights on after midnight on New Year's Eve and on Saturday. *Mr McCreery would make enquiries about this matter.*

FINANCE

Mr Sutton had circulated the Finance Group's proposed budget for 2014/15 to all councillors prior to the present meeting. The budget gave figures for the expected expenditure in the coming financial year, based on a precept of £24,250, and, besides regular items of expenditure, included allowances of £1,000 for traffic measures and £1,500 for Conservation and consultancy expenses (the total budget for the latter would be £3,000 spread over two financial years). The budget also included £2,500 for tree surgery, £500 for website and Broadband and £750 for Health and Safety including a defibrillator.

Mr Sutton proposed that the council request a precept for 2014/15 of £24,250. Dr Oakley seconded the proposal, which was agreed unanimously.

Mr Sutton then gave details of the Barclays Bank Accounts as follows:

Deposit Account	£17,611.44
(This included interest for the period 2/9/13-1/12/13 of £2.45)	

Current Account	£38.18
(As agreed by council for Npower invoices, a payment of £12.67 had been made to Npower on 10 th December 2013)	

10-day Notice Account	£22,865.55
(This included interest of £21.15 applied 1/1/14)	

Mr Sutton proposed the following cheques for payment:

Cambridgeshire ACRE (membership renewal)	£48.00
CGM (Cambridge) Ltd (grass cutting, November)	£228.00
Foxton Village Hall	
Hire of Meeting Room 4/11/13 and 2/12/13 (£31)	
Annual refuse disposal charge (£154.20)	
Parish Council office (£98.16)	£283.36
D Salmons (Village Warden duties December plus extra work)	£150.00
J E Burns (salary December)	£313.04

J E Burns (expenses November & December)	£127.19
H M Revenue & Customs (tax on clerk's salary to 5/1/14)	£149.80

Mrs McFadzean seconded the proposal and all were agreed that these payments, totalling, £1,299.39 be made and that £1,300 be transferred from the Deposit Account to the Current Account.

Mr Sutton concluded by saying that a VAT refund had been applied for in the sum of £653.85 and that £250 had been received from Shire Tree Surgery in respect of the damaged bench and had been paid (but not yet cleared) into the Current Account.

Dr Oakley thanked Mr Sutton for all his hard work in preparing the budget.

PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT

Dr Grindley said there were two applications to be considered at the present meeting:

Mr and Mrs Aynsley	Application No. S/2446/13/FL amendment regarding the installation of a dormer window to the front elevation at 43 Station Road.
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Mr Grant Wilson	Alterations to rear flat roof extension and flat roof side garage with pitched roofs and installation of solar panels to front elevation at 24 Barrington Road
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Dr Grindley said the plans for both applications had been circulated to members of the Planning Committee, which recommended that both be approved. All councillors were agreed and the clerk would complete and send the response forms accordingly.

Planning permission refused:

Mr Robert Hays	Application No. S/2294/13/FL for conversion of building to live/work unit at barn adjacent to Railway, Royston Road.
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Refused on grounds of safety. The creation of a new junction to serve the proposed development on this section of the A10, which had a higher than average accident record, would be unacceptable as it would be detrimental to highway safety. The application was also refused on grounds that the live/work unit would suffer unreasonable disturbance and loss of amenity from the adjacent railway line.

(If the application had been approved, total contributions of £4,258.90 would have been required towards the off-site provision and maintenance of open space, community facilities and household waste receptacles.)

COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Dr Van de Ven reported as follows:

City Deal

The deal represented the first official government support. Much work would be needed but a positive outcome was looking very likely. The deal would combine South Cambridgeshire District Council and Cambridgeshire County Council into a de facto unitary body for transport infrastructure, together with Local Enterprise Partnership and Cambridge University. The deal would be worth about £1 billion in funding.

Dr van de Ven said that City Deal funding would not be applicable to general highways maintenance and the challenge of the forthcoming budget was how to make an impact on the continuing rate of deterioration to the network of highways, pavements and drains. As reported, a total of about £300 million would be required to bring the network into good repair, against an overall council budget of about £450 million – in other words total repairs would not be feasible - very radical ideas would be required.

Sure Start Children's Centres

Consultation on amalgamation of Sure Start Children's Centres was now taking place and Dr van de Ven asked that encouragement be given to young families to be aware of this. She said it seemed likely that a Cambourne-based hub model for the locality would emerge due to the much higher rate of deprivation there. The impact of a very significant decline in universal-access children's centre services was that targeted work developed stigmatisation.

Child Protection Plans

Dr van de Ven said that there continued to be a significant increase in Cambridgeshire in the number of children subject to a Child Protection Plan. The current figure was 363. The number of children in care was slightly less than 500.

Melbourn Area Youth Development (MAYD)

Dr van de Ven said that it was worth bearing in mind that communities without open-access youth clubs tended to have more social problems than those that have them.

New work to keep in mind

- The county council's Public Health remit (with a ring-fenced budget and mostly statutory responsibilities)
- The Clinical Commissioning Group's (CCG) procurement process for older people's NHS services continued, and the council was involved as a partner.

Superfast Broadband

Dr van de Ven said that it was important for Foxton households, not currently served by Virgin and suffering poor Broadband, to continue to shout about it. (Contact Noelle.godfrey@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)

Oil Club

Dr van de Ven said that it was good to hear from a Foxton resident last month who had recently joined and was saving about 1/3 off his heating oil bill. The annual rebate was expected shortly.

Level Crossing Closures

The Law Commission had published a report on its website on level crossing closures and was recommending a draft bill to Parliament giving powers to Network Rail to carry out its level crossing closures policy.

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Mrs Roberts spoke of the “democratic deficit” at SCDC and said that full council meetings were tending to get shorter with not much happening.

Referring to the proposed rural exception site at Hill Farm in Fowlmere Road, Mrs Roberts said that she had spoken to Schuyler Newstead (SCDC Head of Housing Strategy and Development), who said that the council was hoping to conclude the contractual matters relating to the land with the owners by the end of January prior to submitting a full planning application. As far as was known, the development would be for council housing for Foxton residents in perpetuity.

POLICE LIASON REPORT

Mr Barnes said he had nothing to report this month other than the next Police Liaison meeting would be held on 14th January.

Mrs Roberts reported a number of offences committed in Fowlmere in the past month and thefts from local churches.

RECREATION GROUND TRUST REPORT

Mrs McFadzean said there was nothing to report this month.

CORRESPONDENCE

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

- 1) Letter dated 2nd December 2013 from the CCC Street Lighting Office re changes to the way parishes are billed for street lighting energy usage.
- 2) Cambridge Community Services magazine “Keeping in Touch” winter 2013.
- 3) Local Council Review, Winter 2013.
- 4) Various e-mails from CAPALC.

VISITORS' QUESTIONS

Mr and Mrs Shaw (Barrington Road) said they had attended the meeting, as they would be particularly affected by developments that would result from the closure of Foxton level crossing.

Dr Oakley said that the Network Rail Board, that would include local representation, would be set up in the early spring.

Mr and Mrs Shaw also reported a Polish vehicle being parked in the dead end spur of Barrington Road running towards the A10. This was causing other vehicles to mount the verge and damage it.

Dr van de Ven said they should report the matter to the police.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mr Bore had received a request for the dog bin on The Green to be resited elsewhere as it was perceived as being unsightly. It was pointed out that the bin had already been changed from a red bin to a green one to reduce its impact and that the bin had been there for two years. Dr Grindley said that matters such as this needed to be considered in the light of the discussions taking place about the proposed extension to Foxton's Conservation Area.

Mr Bore also asked whether the council would contact Network Rail about the supply of display boards for the exhibition re the level crossing closure. Dr Oakley said a decision would need to be made as to whether to arrange the exhibition independently or not. Dr van de Ven said she would provide the relevant e-mail address for Network Rail.

Mr Sutton asked Dr van de Ven about the inclusion of Relate in the number of organisations being represented at the Melbourn Hub as there appeared to be a great need for such a service in this area. Dr van de Ven said she would keep the council informed about funding for this service, which is to be financed by Melbourn Parish Council.

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

It was confirmed that this would be held on **Monday, 3rd February 2013 at 7.45pm** in the **Village Hall Meeting Room**.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.55pm.