

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF FOXTON PARISH COUNCIL

HELD ON MONDAY, 4th DECEMBER 2006, AT 7.45 p.m.

PRESENT

Mr Pusey, Mr Hockley, Mr Barnes, Mr Brooksbank,
Mr Chilton, Dr Grindley, Dr McKeown, Miss Thake

County Councillor David McCraith

District Councillor Mrs Roberts

IN ATTENDANCE

3 members of the public

APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Mr Kennedy

Mr Pusey welcomed all to the meeting.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Mr Brooksbank registered a non-prejudicial interest in both the planning application for station road to be considered later in the evening and the question of planting new trees on the grass fronting the Press Cottages.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

One amendment was needed. Under "Correspondence" (item 20) the period of consultation on the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste Preferred Options should have been given as 6 November to 18 December (*not 6-18 November*).

Mr Hockley proposed that, with this amendment, the Minutes of the previous meeting, held on Monday, 6th November 2006, should be signed as a true record. Mr Brooksbank seconded the proposal and all were agreed.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Former Q8 Garage

Mrs Roberts reported that SCDC officers are monitoring the situation at the garage. At present, the owner of the site was not complying with the permitted hours of operation, but regarding the sale of cars, as these were not very numerous, there was little more the district council could do.

Trees in Station Road

Mrs Roberts said that she had taken this matter up with SCDC and the dead trees would be cleared from the site this week. She said that if replacement trees were planted there, this should be done in consultation with the SCDC Trees Officer. The questions of replanting on Station Road and where to plant the two trees offered by

Foxton Gardens Association were referred to the Recreation and Amenities Committee.

Land at the side of Hall Close

Mr Pusey said that Mr Corley had informed him that he intended to remove the tree that he thought was undermining his property, himself. The clerk had consulted with CALC on this matter and had been advised that it was not a parish council matter as it did not own the land. Mr Pusey referred the question of whether the parish council should continue to cut the grass in Hall Close as hitherto, to the Recreation and Amenities Committee to debate.

“Correspondence” – Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste Preferred Options Consultation (item 20)

Mr Pusey outlined the proposal to site a large new recycling centre at Hauxton. He raised the issue of increased traffic movements this would generate on an already busy road, together with the potential increase in traffic from the proposed new housing development close by, and said he thought the proposal should be resisted.

Dr McKeown disagreed with this and thought the proposed site was suitable for a recycling centre. Mr McCraith said that the proposal had already been passed by the CCC Conservation and Development Committee and unless there was a massive outcry against it, the proposal would be accepted.

“Visitors’ Questions” Parking at the Station

Mrs Roberts said that she understood from CCC that it was looking into this matter. Mr Pusey pointed out that the population of South Cambridgeshire had doubled since 1974.

REPORTS FROM THE COMMITTEES

RECREATION AND AMENITIES

Mr Chilton reported that not much had happened in the last month. The grass-cutting season had ended.

The clerk had passed the grass-cutting file to Mr Pusey and he and Mr Hockley had looked at the way the agreement with CCC and whether or not CCC’s contribution had risen with inflation, together with the various maps that showed the areas for which the parish council should be responsible for cutting the grass, and which showed some discrepancies. It appeared that there were several areas – Barrington Road, a stretch of the A10 and Mortimers Lane that the parish council had not been maintaining and that ought to be included in the grass-cutting contract. In addition, there were some new areas where the parish council had been cutting the grass, such as Edis Way, that had not been taken into consideration by CCC when making its contribution. Thus, in considering the grass-cutting contract for the 2007 season, extra areas would have to be paid for and the County Council should be asked to review its contribution. Mr Pusey proposed that the council pay for the extra areas be included in the 2007 contract. All were agreed.

Dr McKeown reported that SCDC had awarded a grant of £4,540 to the bike park. It was agreed that this was excellent news.

FINANCE

Mr Hockley gave details of the bank accounts as follows:

Deposit Account	£24,970.26
Current Account	£100.26
Cambridge Building Society	£13,604.68

Mr Hockley proposed that the following cheques be approved:

Telatextus Associates Ltd (annual charge for foxtoncams.info website)	£20.99
Sarah Wroot (information board for Foxton dovecote and meadow)	£605.00
Centrewire (Oxford kissing gate including carriage charge)	£265.55
D Pusey (2 nd ½ Chairman's Honorarium)	£80.00
Cleanaway Ltd (grass-cutting July/August/September/October)	£1,451.63
J Hockley (reimbursement for paper napkins and insulating cups for Dovecote/Meadow opening)	£6.32
V W Mead (refuse collection and maintenance, November)	£65.34

Mr Barnes seconded the proposal and all were agreed that these payments, totalling £2,494.83, should be made and that £2,445 should be transferred from the Deposit account to the Current Account.

Insurance cover for the dovecote up to £10,200 was now in place. As the dovecote had now been completed, the clerk was asked to arrange for the cover to be increased to £25,000.

Mr Pusey said that Mrs Roberts had given him an information sheet on changes to the law for small businesses that had implications for village halls, sports clubs etc. Mrs Roberts said that the SCDC Finance Department and the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Susan Edwards, would be looking at the issues raised this week with a view to seeing if there is any way the District Council can help.

PLANNING

Mr Barnes reported as follows:

Planning permission granted:

Mrs Heriot	Application No.S/1690/06/F for a conservatory at 9 Shepreth Road Usual condition
Mr and Mrs A Rut	Application No. S/1550/06/F for extensions at The Granary, Stocks Farm Numerous conditions
Dr and Dr Baxter	Application No. S/1883/06/LB for internal alterations at 1 The Green Several conditions

Mr McCraith said that, unlike his predecessor, Martyn Smith had given him an update on Community Building issues before tonight's meeting without prompting. He said the lighting insurance was the driver in CCC's stance and that there should be some leeway. Mr Barnes said that the lighting falls within CCC's internal insurance policy.

Finally, Mr Mycroft pointed out that the internal wall lights had shades, and said he was astonished by the waste of electricity incurred in the running of the external lights.

Recreation Ground Extension Committee

Mr Brooksbank reported that he had asked Richard Barnes whether he would be willing to clear the growth on the Recreation Ground extension. Mr Barnes had looked at the current condition of the land and had offered to clear it for £75. As the land had to be cleared to enable it to be surveyed before the planning application could be submitted, approval of this payment would be sought at the RGT meeting later in the evening.

An outline proposal had been sent to "Reaching Communities" and an application to "Awards for All" would be going in shortly, once the RGT accounts had been approved.

RGT had considered the draft agreement between Foxton Gardens Association and allotment holders. Jeremy Piper, FGA Treasurer, did not see any problems although a formal reply from FGA was awaited.

Dr Grindley said that the Cricket Club would be holding a meeting to discuss the draft lease.

DOVECOTE/MEADOW PROJECT

Mr Pusey reported that the project was now complete and thanked all those who had helped and given support. The opening ceremony, attended by over 100 people, had been blessed with fine weather. Mr Pusey proposed a vote of thanks to the Friends Group for all their excellent work. Mr Barnes seconded the proposal and all agreed. The clerk was asked to write to the Friends Group to express the council's thanks.

Mr Pusey mentioned that the plaque had unfortunately been damaged slightly when the scaffolding was dismantled, but that this would not be difficult to repair.

CORRESPONDENCE

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

- 1) Letter dated received 23rd November from the SCDC Lands re the grassed area fronting 7-37 Station Road.
- 2) Letter dated 29th November from the SCDC Communications officer re Christmas waste and recycling arrangements: enclosing leaflet.
- 3) Letter dated 27th November from SCDC Housing and Environmental Services Department re Mutual Exchanges and S106 Restrictions. Views are sought from parish councils on proposals regarding these matters by 28th February 2007.

- 4) Letter dated 30th November from CCC Environment and Community Services enclosing its newsletter.
- 5) Information from CALC including:
 - Memo re newsletter specifically on regional matters arising from a series of meetings between EERA and the six Local Council Associations in the East of England
 - Memo dated 9th November re possibility of Government “takeover” of developments in South Cambridgeshire (particularly Northstowe) and advising of CALC meeting on this issue on 22nd November. *Copy passed to DP earlier in the month*)
 - Memo dated 16th November re Quality Council Scheme - new funding initiative
 - Information sheet giving schedule of dates for the 2007 audit
 - Details of various training courses and workshops and a training bursary
 - Bulletin, November 2006
- 6) Letter dated November 2006 from CCC enclosing poster and leaflet for National Drink Drive Campaign.
- 7) Cambridgeshire Police Authority leaflet giving local policing summary.
- 8) COPE Christmas magazine, CCC Community Transport Guide and invitation to COPE Christmas tea dance.
- 9) Information from the Society of Local Council Clerks.
- 10) Local Council Review, special edition, November 2006
- 11) Letter from Herald Contract Services inviting tenders for grass-cutting.
- 12) Publicity material from Townscape (seats etc), Green’s Grasscutting, MD Landscapes and Monster (youth shelters).

VISITORS’ QUESTIONS

Mr Challis congratulated the council and the Friends Group on the success of the Dovecote/Meadow project.

He said he agreed with Mr Mycroft about the external lights on the Community Building. Mr Challis also made an ironic comment on the number of houses now festooned with Christmas lights in the wake of calls to reduce the amount of energy consumed.

Mrs Howell said she endorsed Mr Challis’s comments. She also mentioned the copious quantity of leaves on the pavement at two spots in Station Road.

Mrs Roberts said she would follow this up with SCDC.

Mr Mycroft mentioned how muddy the path was onto the Recreation Ground from St Laurence Road and the external lighting at the church.

Mr Chilton said that the path had never been properly reinstated since contractor’s vehicles doing work at the Tennis Club had damaged it.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mr Pusey confirmed that he Intended to speak to Mr Salmons about a possible path from Fowlmere Road to Foxton Wood.

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

It was confirmed that this would be held on **Monday, 8th January 2007 at 7.45pm** in the **Meeting room of the Village Hall**.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.35pm.