

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF FOXTON PARISH COUNCIL

HELD ON MONDAY, 1st DECEMBER 2008, AT 7.45 p.m.

PRESENT

Dr Oakley, Dr Grindley, Mr Allars, Mr Barnes, Mr Bentinck, Mrs Macintyre and *Mr Sutton (*see below*)

County Councillor David McCraith

District Councillor Mrs Roberts

IN ATTENDANCE

6 members of the public

APOLOGIES

Dr McKeown

Dr Oakley welcomed all to the meeting, in particular Mr Peter Sutton who, as no election had been requested by parishioners, could now be co-opted onto the council. Mr Sutton then joined the other councillors and formalities were completed by his signing of the form for Acceptance of Office (witnessed by the clerk) and passing the clerk his completed form for registering members' interests.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Mr Barnes declared an interest in a planning application (for 59 Fowlmere Road) to be discussed later in the meeting.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

One amendment was needed on page 55. District Councillor Deborah Roberts had been listed as present at the meeting although she did not attend it. Dr Oakley proposed that, with this amendment, the Minutes of the previous Meeting, held on Monday, 3rd November 2008 should be signed as a true record. Mr Allars seconded the proposal and all were agreed.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Correspondence (item 1) – meeting at South Cambridgeshire Hall

Mr Barnes had attended a meeting at South Cambridgeshire Hall whose purpose was to explore the role of parish councils in shaping and delivering the Cambridgeshire Local Area Agreement and Local Strategic Partnership's Sustainable Community Strategy. Ray Manning, SCDC Leader, had addressed the well-attended meeting and talked about looking at low-carbon villages in the next twenty years. Ian Dewar (CPALC) said that there was a danger that the organisation "Cambridgeshire Together" might overtake anything that parish councils wanted to do and there should be a role for parish plans in the decision-making process. The Question and Answer session had been disappointing with no satisfactory answers to questions such as why quangos with plenty of spare money could not help parish councils.

Mr McCraith said that it was typical of imposed quangos that they did not make proper use of the systems already in place.

PARISH PLAN

Mr Allars reported that at the steering group meeting held on 6th November, members had gone through the returned questionnaires. The final return of questionnaires was 44% of those distributed and was disappointing in comparison to Meldreth's much higher percentage of questionnaires returned. He said that a summary of responses would be worked on at the next meeting of the group after Christmas and the project was all set for final publication of the Parish Plan in Spring 2009.

REPORTS FROM THE WORKING PARTIES

RECREATION AND AMENITIES

Mr Bentinck reported that there had been a council meeting on 14th November to decide which shelter to order for the Recreation Ground. The shelter chosen was a gazebo style from Schoolscapes and it was envisaged that the shelter would not just be for the use by the youth of the village, but for all residents. The shelter would have four solar lighting panels and a kick-ball facility: Schoolscapes had advised that the shelter would be installed on 8th December.

Mr Salmons had not as yet removed the weeds from the bike park and this job would have to wait for suitable weather.

Three quotations had so far been received for the grass-cutting contract currently out to tender. When quotations had been received from all the firms invited to tender, they would be considered by the working party.

Dr Oakley said that he had received an e-mail from Susan van der Ven re parking provision at local stations and suggesting the possibility that First Capital Connect (FCC) might provide a cycle rack at Foxton station. There was some discussion on this matter. Mrs Roberts said that bikes left at the station might be a target for theft. However there was a general feeling that a cycle rack at the station would be a welcome addition to the facilities there. Dr Oakley agreed to e-mail Susan van der Ven to say that FPC would support her proposal and contact First Capital Connect.

FINANCE

Dr Oakley proposed that (with his agreement) Mr Sutton take over the role of Chairman of the Finance working party after the present meeting.

Dr Oakley then gave details of the Bank Accounts as follows:

Deposit Account	£21,892.54
Current Account	£54.80
Cambridge Building Society	£14,606.19

Dr Oakley proposed the following cheques for payment:

N Oakley (2 nd ½ Chairman's Honorarium)	£80.00
S Bentinck (reimbursement for basketball net (£5) and A3 colour copies re grass-cutting (£20.10))	£25.10

Veolia Environmental Services (grass-cutting 2008)	£4,676.43
Foxton VHT (hire of Meeting Room on 8/10 and Lounge on 2 & 15/10)	<u>£44.25</u>

These payments totalled £4,825.78 and would require a transfer of £4,826 from the Deposit Account to the Current Account. Mr Barnes seconded both proposals and all agreed that these payments should be made and to the necessary transfer of funds, and that Mr Sutton should chair the Finance working party.

REPORT OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE

Mr Barnes reported as follows:

A Planning Committee meeting had been held on 21st October, not so far reported in FPC Minutes. Those present were Mr Barnes, Dr Grindley and Mrs Macintyre: no members of the public attended. Matters discussed were as follows:

The following items were discussed:

1. Cambridge and Peterborough Minerals and Waste Preferred Options & Consultation

The Chairman apologised that as a result of personal problems he had failed to pass on details in time for a response to be submitted by 20th October 2008

2. Land at Rowlands Close

It was agreed to support Councillor Roberts' objections to selling Council parking spaces

3. Planning Permission Conditions for "eco-house" at 6 Cambridge Road (Mr A Dossett, application no. S/1162/08/F)

The conditions were noted and discussed.

4. Any Other Business

The Committee noted the Appeal against Planning Refusal in the matter of the Planning Application by Dr K Beardsall for an extension at 36 High Street (application no. S/0740/08/F).

The Committee also discussed and noted new Government proposals re property extensions to be allowed without the need for Planning Permission.

Planning Committee Meeting on 18th November

Mr Barnes reported as follows:

The letter received from SCDC Planning Services, re its public consultation on the South Cambridgeshire Local Development Framework site-specific policies development plan document responding to a housing shortfall, had been circulated between the members of the Planning Committee and was discussed at the meeting. Dr Grindley had then prepared the Committee's detailed response. Dr Grindley summarised this response at the present meeting. SCDC had identified 35 potential sites for additional houses to address the shortfall and had rejected 19 of these. The Planning Committee had looked at the remaining 19 and made the following recommendations:

Sites 1 and 2	Unsupported due to environmental concerns (both Orchard Park, Cambridge)
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Sites 3,4 & 11	Supported: edge of Cambridge (parcel Q, Orchard Park); edge of Cambridge NW Action Plan; and Fulbourn, (Ida Darwin Hospital site); a total of 985 dwellings
Site 6	Support with reduced number of dwellings (land between Huntingdon Road, Histon Road and A14). A total of 475 dwellings
Site 10	(Woollards Lane, Great Shelford) Support with reduced density dwellings subject to consultation with Great Shelford PC

These recommendations would provide a total of 1,470 houses to address the shortfall with flexibility being provided by existing proposals in the planning process.

The Committee also recommended the council support the original wording of policy SP/19 relating to rail freight.

Dr Oakley proposed the council accept the Planning Committee's recommendations and all were agreed. Mrs Roberts congratulated the Planning Committee on having produced such a good submission and Dr Oakley thanked the committee for all its hard work on this. Mr Barnes said that Dr Grindley had been a great help in producing the submission. The clerk agreed to liaise with Dr Grindley in completing the on-line submission to go to SCDC in time for the 12th December deadline.

Also at the November meeting the following tree application had been discussed.

Mr Best	Application No. C/11/40/030 to fell a dying Horse Chestnut tree at 71B Hardman Road
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The Committee's response had been to support the application with the recommendation that the tree be replaced.

A letter had been received from Circle Anglia, an organisation that had been asked to consider the possibility of carrying out an affordable housing scheme under SCDC's exceptional site policy. (This policy allows land outside the village framework to be developed purely for affordable housing for local people where there is a proven need for such accommodation but development of affordable homes within the framework is unlikely) Circle Anglia enclosed an indicative sketch of a site off Station road showing how 16 properties could be accommodated, subject to comment and discussion by interested parties. A brief site meeting had been held with Dr Oakley, Mr Barnes, Mrs Macintyre and Mrs Roberts present. Mrs Roberts recommended that FPC invite a representative of Circle Anglia to come and talk to the council about this possible development and that a list of pertinent questions be compiled in advance. The clerk was asked to write to Circle Anglia inviting the firm to send a representative to the January council meeting.

Mr Barnes left the room at this point.

Planning application considered at the present meeting:

Mr Payne	Application No. S/1957/08/F for extension and conversion of existing garage and workshop to form annexe at 59 Fowlmere Road Refused on same grounds as previous application (concerns included vehicle exit and affect on adjoining properties and
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application being for a back-land development off the existing building line, which would have the significant impact of development at the fringe of the village)

Mr Barnes returned to the meeting.

POLICE LIAISON REPORT

Mr Barnes said there had been no further local police panel meeting and there were no incidents to report.

Mrs Roberts said that the police had spent twenty man-hours carrying out speed surveys in local villages: they had given out one ticket and issued 19 verbal warnings. Those speeding were mostly local people in their own villages.

RECREATION GROUND TRUST REPORT AND COMMUNITY BUILDING ISSUES

Dr McKeown had e-mailed a brief report as follows:

The Trust had not met since the last council meeting, but was due to meet on 9th December. The Cricket Club had notified the Trust that it no longer wished to pursue the development of cricket nets on the new extension to the Recreation Ground. The development of this now unallocated area would be one of the topics at the forthcoming RGT meeting.

DOVECOTE/MEADOW PROJECT

Mrs Macintyre reported that no further work had been carried out in the past month. The council had written to a resident who had put garden waste over his fence into the meadow. The resident had responded to the letter and made clear he was not happy with the way the meadow was being maintained. Mrs Cairns (a member of the Dovecote/Meadow group) had been given a copy of the letter and the consensus was that there should be a site meeting with this resident.

CORRESPONDENCE

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

- 1) Letter dated 30th October from the CCC Lighting Engineer enclosing a list of Local council lamps showing inventory details and requesting these be checked. *Passed to SB*
- 2) Letter dated 4th October from BT informing that the fees for sponsoring a kiosk are non-negotiable.
- 3) Letter dated 6th November from City Centre Management in partnership with CCC re Walkit.com - the new on-line route planner for Cambridge that enables a simple way to plan journeys around Cambridge on foot.
- 4) Letter dated 10th November from the CCC Adviser and Training officer with information on its Village Benefits Advice Service that supports people in applying for welfare benefits.

- 5) Letter dated 13th November from SCDC advising that as no request was received for an election in respect of vacancies on the Parish Council, the council should proceed to fill the vacancies by means of co-option.
- 6) Letter dated 17th November from CCC Office of Environment and Community Services re the Parish Paths Partnership 2009/10: enclosing leaflet and requesting responses by 27th February 2009.
- 7) Letter dated 17th November from Mr Tauwhare in response to the council's letter to him regarding the depositing of garden waste on the Dovecote meadow.
- 8) Letter dated 18th November from SCDC enclosing an information leaflet and poster (displayed) regarding Christmas waste and recycling collections.
- 9) November issue of leaflet "The Future for Council Housing in South Cambridgeshire".
- 10) Copy of CCC's Annual Report for 2007/08.
- 11) Letter from Cambridge Citizens' Advice Bureau requesting a donation: enclosing copy of Annual Review 2008.
- 12) Details of "Better Regulation, Better Business" Local business breakfast conference on 28th November.
- 13) COPE newsletter, November/December 2008.
- 14) "Clerks and Councils Direct" magazine, November 2008.
- 15) Publicity material from Hays (accountancy and finance).

Item 2 - Telephone kiosk

After discussion about the merits of purchasing the kiosk shell from BT, it was clear that this was not a viable proposition and a vote was taken that the council should not, therefore, adopt the telephone kiosk in Fowlmere Road. The proposal was carried with two abstentions.

Mr Phillips letter re missing photographs (mentioned at the November FPC meeting)

There was a short discussion about the whereabouts of the photographs, including one of John Haynes, and it was concluded that on the closure of the old Village hall they were in the keeping of Janice and Roger Pepper who claimed they had then been given to Mr Phillips some time ago. A photograph of John Haynes was presently being stored in the pavilion although it was not thought to be the original. The clerk was asked to write to Mr Phillips to pass on this information.

VISITORS' QUESTIONS

Mr Challis, referring to the Housing Association houses in Caxton Lane, said these were not all being occupied by Foxton people (or those with a strong link with Foxton) as originally intended.

Mrs Roberts said that Hereward (the housing association) had been absorbed into a larger firm and the condition that Foxton parishioners should have priority as tenants might not have been well understood and promised to investigate the matter with SCDC officers.

Mrs Howell (apropos the earlier discussion re the provision of a cycle rack at Foxton station) reported that bicycles were often left there.

A member of the public spoke of the difficulties caused by people parking in Station Road and making it difficult for deliveries to be made to residents. He had recently had to contact the police about two cars parked on the double yellow lines causing vehicles to be stuck at the level crossing. The police had issued two tickets as a result of his call.

Mr Challis suggested that the council ask to have the double yellow lines extended further up the road as it had originally requested.

The clerk was asked to contact Mr Cooper at the Highways Department about this and to stress the safety aspects.

Mrs Cook complained about the lack of litterbins at Foxton station: this was resulting in rubbish being thrown into adjoining property.

This was not a matter for the council as provision for litter at the station was the rail network's responsibility.

Mrs Cook also raised the matter of the condition of the tree outside No. 76 Station Road and the poor state of the Hall Close pavements. Mrs Cook also said the wall backing the War Memorial was in a poor condition.

Mrs Roberts said she had contacted the SCDC Trees officer and asked for an inspection of the tree: she would chase the matter up.

The clerk was asked to contact Mr Cooper about the Hall Close pavements.

Mr Barnes said he would examine the wall, although maintenance of the wall was the responsibility of the landowner, Mr Ridgeon.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mr Allars said that the Blacks were experiencing problems with cars parked outside the village shop when there were Saturday football matches thus preventing customers from parking there. Dr Grindley said he would raise this matter at the next meeting of the Football Club.

Mr Bentinck said that the metal fencing referred to at the October FPC meeting had been erected to keep the landowners dogs confined and that there would be wooden fences and a gate eventually.

Mr Barnes suggested that the council submit a letter to "The Laurentian" wishing all residents a Happy New Year and informing them about the council's activities and meeting times for the benefit of residents who might not be aware of these things. It was agreed that this would be a good idea.

Mr McCraith said that the County Council was presently discussing Council Tax for 2009/10: he said that incredibly there was an even smaller rise for this financial year in the government's contribution.

The council was reminded that the SCDC Scrutiny and Overview Committee would meet in Foxton Village Hall on Thursday, 4th December at 5.30pm.

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

It was confirmed that this would be held on **Monday, 5th January 2009** at **7.45pm** in the **Village Hall Meeting Room**.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 10.05pm.