

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF FOXTON PARISH COUNCIL

HELD ON MONDAY, 3rd DECEMBER 2012 AT 7.45 p.m.

PRESENT

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

County Councillor Susan van de Ven

IN ATTENDANCE

1 member of the public

APOLOGIES

District Councillor Deborah Roberts, Mr Bore and the clerk, Mrs Burns

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. There were no other declarations.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

As no amendments were needed, Mrs McFadzean proposed that the Minutes of the previous meeting, held on Monday 5th November, should be signed as a true record. Mrs Macintyre seconded the proposal and all were agreed.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Any Other Business

Mrs Macintyre pointed out that the bushes/hedge obscuring the visibility at the Caxton Lane exit onto the High Street had been cut back.

VILLAGE INFRASTRUCTURE AND TRANSPORT REPORT

Dr Oakley reported as follows:

Station Road Yellow Lines

Dr Oakley said that following the intervention of Dr van De Ven he was pleased to say that the new yellow lines in Station Road are due to be painted within the next couple of weeks. Various excuses had been given for the undue delay but it had needed Dr van de Ven's direct appeal to the officers at Cambridgeshire County Council to finally get this work scheduled.

Roads and Footways

Dr Oakley said that, besides the High Street footpath upgrade request that Dr van de Ven had already lodged, the council had been asked for input on any other areas requiring urgent attention. He said that the A10 path at Foxton Bottom needed more work and asked whether anyone could think of anything else.

A10 Cycle Lane Corridor

Dr Oakley said he was pleased to say that there had been more positive feedback from Foxton residents in support of the A10 corridor cycle campaign.

REPORTS FROM THE WORKING PARTIES

RECREATION AND AMENITIES

Mr McCreery reported as follows:

1. Recreation ground

The fence damaged by the fall of a major branch from a tree had been repaired and the wood cleared away.

New notices regarding dog fouling had been placed around the Recreation Ground and at the school entrance to the Dovecote Meadow. The parish council notice would appear in the December edition of "The Laurentian".

2. Cricket Club

As agreed at an earlier meeting, the invoice for the Cricket Club roller would be among the payments to be authorised this month. A cheque for the grants and other contributions had been received from the Cricket Club.

The maintenance agreement with the Cricket Club had been drafted.

3. QEII Registration

Some progress was finally being made. Mr McCreery had a list of questions from one of the Fields in Trust lawyers and a draft Deed of Dedication. He had given preliminary replies.

The draft Deed would be circulated to councillors for comment.

4. Barons Lane

The County Council, at the request of a resident, had cleared the shrubs etc. at the end of Barons Lane. This was done without the parish council's knowledge and letters were being sent to residents explaining this, and to the County Council complaining about their action and requesting replanting of the area.

Following Mr McCreery's report, Dr Oakley allowed Mr Ron Stobbard to ask about the removal of trees and shrubs by the County Council in Barons Lane. Dr Oakley said that the parish council had at no stage been consulted about this removal and that it was in the process of writing a letter of complaint to Cambridgeshire County Council. Dr van de Ven had also complained directly to the officers concerned. Dr Oakley also said that Cambridgeshire County Council would be asked to replace the trees and shrubs as soon as possible.

FINANCE

Mr Sutton gave details of the Bank Accounts as follows:

Deposit Account	£17,685.93
Current Account	£4,978.10
10-day Notice Account (This included interest applied 1/12/12 of £21.57)	£22,597.53

Mr Sutton proposed the following cheques for payment:

Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal (additional donation)	£33.00
Foxton Cricket Club (2 nd contribution to grass cutting)	£300.00
N Oakley (2 nd ½ chairman's honorarium)	£80.00
R Barnes (mowing Dovecote meadow)	£60.00
Foxton Village Hall (hire of Meeting Room 1/11)	£15.00
Upsons (used cricket roller with 2-yr warranty)	£5,400.00
CGM (Cambridge) Ltd (grass cutting, October)	£432.00
R McCreery (reimbursement for 5 signs)	£177.60
R Macintyre (Reimbursement for Mulberry tree and compost for Dovecote Meadow)	£34.98
D Pusey (reimbursement for slider bolt for Dovecote)	£12.72
Cambridgeshire County Council (annual rent for Dovecote)	£50.00
D Salmons (Village Warden duties, November plus extra work)	£182.50

A further invoice for £600 (including VAT) had been submitted by Kompan for inspections of the Play Area that had not yet been undertaken. A discussion arose about whether the council should pay so far in advance for the inspection of the Play Area especially as the planned inspection for November had not taken place. It was agreed that Mr McCreery should contact Kompan to discuss the payment schedule for this work. Mr McCreery and Mr Sutton also mentioned that gift-aid associated with donations to the play area appeal were still outstanding and that Mr Atkin should be contacted to learn of the progress of the gift-aid claim.

Mr Sutton said he would give some thought to next year's precept, as this would have to be approved at the next FPC Meeting. He would therefore circulate preliminary budget figures to councillors for comment before suggesting a suitable precept.

Mr Sutton proposed that the above payments (excepting that for Kompan) totalling £6,777.80 should be made and that a £1,850 be transferred from the Deposit Account to the Current Account. Mr McCreery seconded the proposal and all were agreed.

PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT

Dr Grindley said that a letter had been received from South Cambridgeshire District Council (SCDC) about the second stage in the council's complaint concerning the proposal from Endurance Estates to purchase a strip of land in Station Road. The Planning Committee would agree a suitable response. A second appeal had been lodged by the applicant about SCDC's refusal to grant an amended application for a dwelling to be erected in Station Road by the entrance of the Press site. The council

agreed to the removal of a Sycamore tree at 63 Station Road: the tree would not be replaced.

POLICE LIAISON REPORT

Mr Barnes reported that there had been a burglary in Hillfield and an attempted burglary in Hardman Road. An antisocial incident had been reported in Illingworth Way.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Dr van de Ven said that the Rail User Group would meet at Foxton Village Hall at 7.30pm on 12th December when the group would hear from Network Rail's Managing Director on what progress had been made with the feasibility study on the Foxton level crossing closure.

As previously reported, Chishill PC was looking at how to tackle its well-documented speeding traffic problems and was now prepared to purchase mobile speed display signs, which would cost the parish in the region of £3,000. Chishill PC was working with the CCC Highways Department to agree site locations. Melbourn PC was also involved in a similar project.

Education

i) School Funding Crisis

Dr van de Ven said that there was a school-funding crisis as the Government's Academies funding programme had involved a miscalculation costing £1 billion. This directly impacted on grants to local authorities through which school-funding allocation was made.

ii) Foxton Primary and Pupil Premium usage

In collaboration with other schools in the area, including Melbourn Village College, a student counselling service, "Allyance," had been launched and had seen good results. Dr van de Ven said that she had agreed to join the steering committee so she would be learning more in due course.

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

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

COUNCIL OFFICE

The Parish Council still needed to purchase furniture and a heater for the office and this would be done as soon as possible. It would also be necessary to purchase a computer and necessary peripherals in due course. There was also some talk of the necessity of the parish council having its own website and all were agreed that this was desirable. Two different options were proposed and it was agreed that it would be best to have independent access, i.e. not via South Cambridgeshire. District Council's website. This would have a start up cost of £340 with ongoing costs for hosting and domain name registration each year.

RECREATION GROUND TRUST REPORT

Mrs McFadzean reported that there had not been a meeting during the previous month but that the accounts had been approved, via email to all trustees, and signed off. It was agreed that a meeting would be held on 7th January 2013 following the next parish council meeting.

DOVECOTE/MEADOW REPORT

Mrs Macintyre reported as follows:

A working party had met on Saturday, 24th November to trim the hedges planted in 2007 along the back and side boundary with the school playing field, and by the path to the car park. A few large specimens of Field Maple and Hazel were left in each section of hedge to add height and interest. Some Hawthorns with numerous berries were also left for the birds this winter.

A replacement Mulberry tree was planted in the meadow in the same spot as the first one. A good thick layer of mulch was put round the tree to help retain moisture and to keep the weeds down. It was hoped that this tree would survive.

Mrs Macintyre had spread the bulk of the bark chippings that had been lying in a heap in the triangular area along the path to the car park and this should stop the path becoming too muddy over the wet winter months. Most of the remaining bark was used by Mr Cairns to mulch the rose bed near the new village sign. Again, this should help keep the weeds at bay.

Mr McCreery agreed to draft a letter to Mr Tauwhare about the triangle of land adjacent to his property.

Following this report, Mrs Macintyre proposed that the council should not allow the annexation of a part of the Dovecote meadow by a householder in Edis Way? This was seconded by Mr McCreery and, following a brief discussion, was agreed unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE

Dr Oakley gave details of the correspondence received since the last Meeting, which is given in full below:

- 1) Letter dated 6th November from SCDC Democratic Services re website hosting by SCDC. *Copy passed to CG*
- 2) Letter dated 8th November from the SCDC Monitoring Officer confirming receipt of members' Register of Interest forms.
- 3) Letter dated 19th November from SCDC enclosing posters and information leaflet re Christmas waste and recycling collections.
- 4) Publicity material from The Big Green Catalogue (general supplies) and Glasdon.
- 5) A letter from Mr Boreham received by the Chairman proposing that a footpath be re-instated from Illingworth Way and Hillfield to the new Foxton wood plantation.

VISITOR'S QUESTIONS

There were no visitors' questions.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

On Mrs Burns' behalf, Dr Oakley thanked Mr Elliott for his help in getting her printer/copier working efficiently. Mrs Macintyre said that a new person was now in charge of tree planting at South Cambridgeshire District Council who had been contacted about the overdue planting of replacement trees in Station Road.

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

It was confirmed that this would be held on **Monday, 7th January 2013** at **7.45pm** in the **Village Hall Meeting Room**.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9pm.