

## **MINUTES OF A MEETING OF FOXTON PARISH COUNCIL**

**HELD ON MONDAY, 6<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2006, AT 7.45 p.m.**

### **PRESENT**

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

County Councillor David McCraith

District Councillor Deborah Roberts

### **IN ATTENDANCE**

5 members of the public

### **APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Dr McKeown

Mr Pusey welcomed all to the meeting.

### **DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations.

### **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

Two amendments were necessary:

- (i) Under "Visitor's Questions", the first sentence should read "---although the purchase (*not leases*) had been finalised."
- (ii) Under "Any Other Business", the words "Colin Waring of Barrington" should be inserted in the first sentence after the words "Mr Brooksbank had taken digital photographs and".

Mr Hockley proposed that, with these amendments, the Minutes of the previous meeting, held on 9<sup>th</sup> January 2006, should be signed as a true record. Mr Brooksbank seconded the proposal and all were agreed.

### **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

#### *Defective lights etc at the Community Building*

Mr McCraith said he had spoken to Bill Tarling and that several of the outstanding issues with the Community Building had been dealt with. He said he intended to chase matters up before each parish council meeting for an update. The external lights would be replaced with lower wattage bulbs this week.

#### *Survey of Care Needs*

Mr Pusey said that Foxton Care Group was in favour of joining the Harston scheme from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2006. It was suggested that he Mr Hockley liased with Mrs Sanderson on this.

Planning Committee Report

Mr Pusey reported that the District Council had approved Mr Ridgeon's application for development of the Burlington press site at a meeting on Wednesday, 1<sup>st</sup> February. Twenty-six councillors had voted in favour of the application, one councillor abstained, and there were no votes against. Mr Pusey said he hoped that the conditions for consent would be tightened up. Mr Barnes said he hoped that officers would spend as much time on this matter as the parish council had in considering this application and asked Mrs Roberts to keep an eye on it.

Mr Brooksbank said that many parishioners were wondering why they should send their views to the District Council just to be ignored.

Mrs Roberts replied that everything had been reported to the committee and Foxton Parish Council's response had been copied in full to all members. All the letters had been available. There had been a site visit that included a visit to the adjoining property, 37 High Street, which, in her opinion had been scrupulously carried out. The Planning officers' view had been that there was no reason for refusal and neither the Highways Department nor Anglian Water had any objections.

Mr Brooksbank said he was aware of how the process worked but that, nevertheless, he thought villagers would still feel their opinions didn't count.

Mrs Roberts said that the committee have to consider applications in the light of Planning Policy.

Mr Barnes thought there was a lack of consistency in how applications were dealt with, specifically where noise issues were concerned.

Mrs Roberts said that the site had approval as an industrial site. When the premises were entered during the site visit it was found that a lot of the space was not being utilised. It had not been possible to register the Press as a listed building because of the development at the back of the property and therefore it would be possible for the buildings on the site to be demolished and replaced with an ugly modern factory.

Dr Grindley said this didn't present a justification in planning terms for change of use to housing.

Correspondence

(i) Item 3 – SCDC letter re ceasing funding for footway lighting

Mr Pusey said that allowance for the District Council's expenditure reductions would be included in FPC's precept for the coming financial year.

(ii) Item 10 – Mr Lansley's letter re land being made available for car parking at Foxton Railway Station

The clerk was asked whether a reply had been sent. The clerk was not sure and said she would check this.

## **REPORTS FROM THE COMMITTEES**

### **RECREATION AND AMENITIES**

Mr Chilton reported as follows:

1. The basketball nets and the seats for the swings had been ordered and it was hoped that they would arrive this month.
2. Vic Phillips was near to having raised enough money to replace the David Mead seat and was seeking a contribution towards the seat and its installation from FPC. *As the sum required would not be very large, and the village would be gaining a much-needed seat, Mr Chilton proposed that the council agreed to Mr Phillips' request. Dr Grindley seconded the proposal and all were agreed.*
3. Several quotations had been received for reducing the crown of the large Ash tree on the Recreation Ground by 30% as follows:
  - Eastern Landscape Service Ltd                      £900.00 + VAT
  - Town and Country Tree Surgery Company      £460.00 + VAT
  - Eastern Tree Surgery                                      £590.00 + VAT
  - Acacia Tree Surgery                                        £640.00 + VAT

*After some discussion, Mr Chilton proposed acceptance of the lowest quotation (Town and Country Tree Surgery Company). Mr Brooksbank seconded the proposal and all were agreed. The clerk was asked to write accepting the quotation.*

### **Skateboard Park**

Dr McKeown had sent in a report, which was read to the meeting:

There had been some progress: Carol Baxter from The Green, and her two boys were gauging interest and opinion amongst the 9 to 12 year-olds. She thought it would be easy to identify 20 or 30 youngsters who would use a facility even if they didn't volunteer to help get it going.

There was growing comment on 'dirt biking', both from Dennis Purchase, the youngster helping directly, and from Carol's elder son, James. Dr McKeown was not sure if this was instead of, or as well as, interest in skateboarding. The boys were seeking comments from their friends.

*(Dr McKeown asked whether Mr Brooksbank had now got a scale drawing of the area available and if so whether he could have a copy to sketch possibilities)*

Dr McKeown said FPC could apply for WREN funding. The organization has four bidding rounds per year with the deadline for the next one being 7<sup>th</sup> April, for selection by 27<sup>th</sup> June. He said he would work at trying to get something into this.

Dr McKeown said he had not yet followed up the Big Lottery possibilities.

Mr Pusey said this was a very positive report.

Concluding his report, Mr Chilton said that he had received an e-mail from Dr Grindley with an approach to move the junior goal posts on the grounds that they are interfering with winter training. The matter was briefly discussed and the difficulties

of finding sites for the junior goal posts that did not give rise to complaints from other users of the Recreation Ground were aired. Mr Pusey suggested that the matter be discussed by the Recreation and Amenities Committee after consultation with the groundsman.

Finally, Mr Chilton said he had been in conversation with Jack Hampshire about the restoration of the pump on The Green. The clerk was asked to make enquiries about how this might be done.

### **FINANCE**

Mr Hockley gave details of the bank accounts as follows:

Deposit Account	£30,032.91
(This included the RGT grant of £4,500 and an SCDC recycling credit of £231.42)	
Current Account	£50.65
(Cheques from CCC for the 2005 grass cutting contribution of £1079.12, and from Foxton Tennis Club for the 2005 rental of £5, had been received and would be paid in.)	
Cambridge Building Society	£13,401.13
(This included the SCDC “Green spaces” grant of £5,000 for the dovecote/meadow project)	

Mr Hockley proposed that the following cheques be approved:

Foxton Village Hall Trust (hire of Meeting Room 5/12/05 and Lounge 13/12/05 and rubbish collection for 2006)	£43.50
Trees of Eden (cutting back growth at Vicarage Corner)	£25.00
Anglia Office Systems (photocopier service and replacement cartridge)	£158.63
SCDC (emptying dog bins 1/1/06-31/3/06)	£88.71
Telopea Garden Design (hedge planting on Dovecote field)	£19.26
D Pusey (reimbursement for printing expenses in connection with P Ridgeon’s application for the Burlington Press site)	£25.00
R Meese-Grove (FPC contribution towards planting she carried out on the Recreation Ground)	£20.00
St Laurence PCC (FPC contribution to churchyard maintenance)	£500.00
V W Mead (refuse collection and maintenance, January)	£34.72

Mr Kennedy seconded the proposal and all were agreed that these payments, totalling £914.82, should be made and that £915 should be transferred from the Deposit Account to the Current Account.

Mr Hockley then turned to the committee’s comments on the 2005/06 accounts, and the budget for 2006/07, and reported as follows:

### **FINANCIAL YEAR 2005/06**

- The dovecote/meadow project had commenced, and all expenditure during the year would be met from the existing fund together with grants that had been negotiated:

legal and valuation fees were expected to come from Recreation Ground Trust (RGT) Funds. The grass cutting contract had been re-let at a figure of £3,020

- The year's estimates included £900 for work on the large Ash tree on the Recreation Ground

The precept had remained the same as the previous year at £11,900. With the benefit of a contribution from the RGT of £4,500 to the management and maintenance of the Recreation Ground it was anticipated that the council's accounts would show a small surplus of about £1200.

- The council's finances were showing a balance in general funds of just less than one year's precept – a reasonably healthy position

### **FINANCIAL YEAR 2006/07**

- The financial outlook for this year was not good since both the district and county councils were seeking to make economies that would impact directly on the parish precept. The district council was ceasing to pay for footway lighting, (with a direct cost to the parish council of £600 if the lights were to be retained) and discontinuing recycling credits (at a further cost of £500). The county council was reducing its contribution to grass cutting and this would cost the parish council about £200 per annum. The total cost of these economies to the parish council would be £1,300 representing an 8.5% increase in the 2006/07 budget
- Bids for funds had been included in the detailed estimates distributed to councillors and included £1,500 for legal fees, £500 for Foxton Help Group and some money for an additional security camera for the Community Building system. Grants would be sought to assist with this expenditure, and the RGT had agreed to fund 2/3 of any shortfall for the camera
- £1,500 was being allowed for tree work, including the trees in the gravel car park near the churchyard
- The committee was recommending an increase in the precept for 2006/07 to £13,500 an increase over the previous year of £1,600, £1,300 of which was needed to cover the SCDC and CCC savings detailed above. This would give rise to an estimated deficit of some £2700. However, as the surpluses over the last two years totalled about £4,000 and the estimates included some £2,900 non-recurring expenditure, the deficit was considered to be acceptable. *Mr Hockley proposed that a precept of £13,500 should be requested for "006/07. Mr Brooksbank seconded the proposal and all were in favour*
- Provision for further monies to the Dovecote/Meadow and Skateboard projects had been included in the estimates
- The RGT was considering other expenditure, including £575 for seats, and money for basketball goals, in addition to a contribution of £4,500 towards the maintenance of the Recreation Ground.

Mr Pusey thanked Mr Hockley for his report.

**PLANNING**

Mr Barnes reported as follows:

**Planning permission granted:**

Foxton Parish Council	Application No. S/2137/05/F for renovation and re-roofing of existing Dovecote Numerous conditions
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**Planning application considered at the meeting:**

S and A Wilson	Application No. S/0118/06/F for an extension at 7 Hardman Road Approved
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Mr Barnes concluded by saying that local post codes would be changing this year. The clerk said there was a letter from Royal Mail about the proposed changes in this month's circulating correspondence.

**Cemex**

Mr Brooksbank had attended the Cemex liaison meeting on Thursday, 3<sup>rd</sup> February and reported as follows:

1. David Heinzelmann from Cemex presented the emissions performance for the second half of 2005.  
The level of secondary liquid fuel (SLF) burnt was between 25% & 35% each month.  
Different limits for SLF and non-SLF emissions, as SLF burns more cleanly. No limits were exceeded – indeed the plant seems to operate well within EA limits.  
A new permit with stricter limits has come in for 2006 – only 107 days are allowed in which no SLF is burnt – it seems availability is the main limitation on SLF usage.
2. Environment Agency presentation  
There were 7 schedule 1 notices since July 2005 mainly due to failure of dust abatement equipment. In response Cemex had agreed to full refurbishment of the equipment.  
Cemex would have to apply for an integrated pollution prevention and control IPPC permit. Detail was presented on the process timelines and statutory consultees for these. It seemed likely that this application would run in parallel with the planning application. This permit would effectively set the limits on emissions – there was a lack of clarity as to whether the EA could impose limits other than the national guidelines.
3. CCC minerals & waste presentation  
An updated version of the CCC Minerals & Waste Management document would appear on its website in early February – CCC would then be inviting comment for 6 weeks.  
Currently 70% of waste in Cambridgeshire goes to landfill.  
CCC plan to hold a public meeting on the Cemex proposal.

The process for considering the planning application to was anticipated to be at least 16 weeks, made up of an initial 8 week public consultation (this would be fed back to Cemex for response) followed by a second 8 week public consultation period.

4. Cemex gave an update on the proposal

The proposed co-incinerator tower had now been reduced to 90m (from an initial 132m) (*Mr Brooksbank thought this 90m would therefore be ~50m above the brow of the hill with no change in cross section.*)

The proposed chimney was now down to 105m (from the initial 160m)

The proposed clinker store and silos had been reshaped/reduced slightly.

No significant further changes to the size were anticipated.

Cemex confirmed that the lorry movement estimate in the plan (490 per day?) would be a worst-case estimate assuming no train usage.

The idea of the new road exiting to a T-junction to the A603 had been revisited, but it was decided this was still the best solution.

A water management system would be built so that in times of heavy rainfall, water would be collected on site and discharged to the River Rhee at times when it was low. This was a measure to alleviate flood risk. It was pointed out the water management fears are based around changes to the water table due to changing from a wet to a dry process, and not due to rainfall.

Cemex showed a third party 3D computer model to assess visual impact. The firm also have the ability to generate “photo real” image of the plant using this model. *Mr Brooksbank said the model itself seemed comparable to the Google earth model, but the photo real image production looked to have more basis in fact than the photo shop images that were produced from Google earth. In his opinion the visual impact looked low - Cemex showed a photo real image from outside the pub in Barrington and the plant had to be pointed out to the audience. The 3D model would, when finished, be available for viewing by the public at Cemex.*

The application should be finished in the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of February: it would then be proof-read and submitted in the 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> week of February. The IPPC application should be in within 10 days of then.

Cemex confirmed the plant is designed to produce 1.5 million tonnes of cement per year and confirmed that the railway could be used.

Mr Brooksbank said there has not been another meeting of the group of local Parish Councils. He said that as the FPC representative on this group he was a member of the “sixteen villages” Google group. This generated a large number of e-mails but most of the content was emotive rather than balanced. He said the Google Earth model (with the new plant dimensions) was now available at <http://www.scapesite.org/pilgrims-stuff.html>

Mr Brooksbank also said that SCAPE had had their inaugural meeting and constituted their committee, which included Vice-Chair and project coordinator – Tony Fletcher (Chair of Barrington PC); Patrick De Backer (Chair of Barton PC); Elizabeth Funnell (Harston PC); and Katie Reid (Chair of Orwell PC) together with non parish councillors:

Mr Brooksbank said that it was not possible to register SCAPE as a charity and felt the issue of recommending the organisation need not be pursued.

Mr McCraith said that Cemex has realised that there is a lot of public worry about its proposals for developing the site, which was why the period of consultation had been extended. He said that the County Council would be holding a public meeting about the proposals.

### **POLICE LIAISON REPORT**

Miss Thake reported that there had been an attempt to set fire to the telephone kiosk that had been seen and reported although the perpetrator had tried to intimidate the witness. She said that PC Sutton was due to pay the village a visit.

### **RECREATION GROUND TRUST REPORT**

Mr Pusey first asked whether 8pm, Wednesday, 16<sup>th</sup> February would be a convenient date for a meeting of the Trustees. All were agreed on this time and date.

Mr Pusey said he had good news – the purchase documents for the extension to the Recreation Ground were ready to sign. (*Mr McCraith had reminded officers of the continuing delay in the completion of the sale*). Following approval, Mr Pusey and the clerk then signed the documents with Mr Challis signing as witness. The purchase would be completed once the cheque had been sent and cleared. The clerk was asked to forward the documents, together with the cheque, once this was ready.

#### **Recreation Ground Extension Committee**

Mr Brooksbank reported that Tony Shelford had offered to flail the land. Now that the purchase was underway, it was agreed that Mr Pusey should confirm acceptance of his offer to Mr Shelford. Mr Brooksbank said that the group was currently concerned with financing, fund-raising and getting plans prepared to submit to the District Council. He said he would submit a full report to Trustees at the meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> February.

### **DOVECOTE/MEADOW PROJECT**

Mr Pusey reported that the leases had now been completed by the County Council. Notes of the last meeting of the Friends group would be included in the circulating correspondence. Grants received so far, subject to proof of payments, were £12,500 from Local Heritage Initiative and £5000 from the SCDC Green Spaces fund. The clerk would provide Catherine Cairns with copy invoices for the project expenses to date. She had also contacted the council's insurer, Allianz Cornhill, about cover for the Dovecote.

Mr Pusey said that, following the SCDC's conditional approval of the Dovecote renovation, Simon Ward (CIAT) had produced a draft detailed plan for submission to the SCDC Conservation Department for comment following a site meeting with the conservation officer, Barbara Clarke. Subject to the SCDC Conservation Department's response, it was aimed to put the work out for tender in early March

The draft tender documents were well advanced and three contractors from SCDC's approved list would be invited to tender, with the main contractor to make

arrangements for a thatcher (*this would mean that only one set of scaffolding should be needed*).

Mr Pusey said that Building Control approval was not required. It had been arranged to do a deal with Smart of Willowdale for the supply of green oak for the project.

There had been a working party on 28<sup>th</sup> January, which had placed hedging whips along the line of the new footpath and thickened the High Street planting. There would be a further working party to plant wild flowers on 11<sup>th</sup> March between 11am and 1pm with volunteers welcome.

Mr Pusey concluded by saying that there would be a site meeting on Tuesday with a restoration expert, at which the restoration of the plaque would be discussed.

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

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

- 1) Letter dated 10<sup>th</sup> January from CCC Care and Education Service requesting information a crèche provision in Foxton. (*Passed to Pip Deas*)
- 2) Letter dated 11<sup>th</sup> January from Andrew Lansley enclosing a copy of his letter to Cemex regarding its proposals for redevelopment of the Barrington site. (*Copy to RB*)
- 3) Letter dated 11<sup>th</sup> January from SCDC Development Services Department re potential housing development at the Old School site. *The council agreed that Mr Pusey should investigate whether Bedfordshire Pilgrims' Housing association would be prepared to act as partner in the development of the old school site.*
- 4) Letter dated 19<sup>th</sup> January from CCC Head of Libraries with schedule of new mobile library routes. (*Posted on board and in shop*)
- 5) Letter dated 20<sup>th</sup> January from Andrew Lansley acknowledging FPC's letter about allotments provision.
- 6) Letter dated 25<sup>th</sup> January from SCDC Development Services Department confirming that the former Q8 garage doesn't have planning permission for car sales: an application will be submitted in the next two months.
- 7) Letter dated 25<sup>th</sup> January from SCDC Development Services Department acknowledging FPC's response to P Ridgeon's application for the development of the Burlington Press site and reporting 19 letters objecting to the retention of the façade and one supporting it.
- 8) Letter dated 28<sup>th</sup> January from Richard Reeve (3 High Street) re Foxton crossing bypass and asking that the village be consulted if the parish council proposes any major work: including copies of web pages relating to CCC Local transport Plan and review of South Cambridgeshire LTP 2004-2011. (*Passed to BH, BH/JB to liaise on reply*)

- 9) Letter dated 30<sup>th</sup> January from CCC and Peterborough City Council re Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste Development Plan – Issues and Options Consultation: closing date for comments 13<sup>th</sup> March 2006.
- 10) Letter dated 30<sup>th</sup> January from Royal Mail re proposed changes to CB1-5 postcode addresses: enclosing leaflet.
- 11) Information from CALC including:
  - Memo enclosing agenda for a meeting of South Cambridgeshire member councils on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2006 at Cambourne and Minutes of the previous meeting
  - Details of training workshop
  - Bulletin, January 2006
- 12) Memo from Cambridgeshire ACRE re Calor Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Village of the Year competition, 2006.
- 13) “The Tree Guardian” magazine, Autumn/Winter
- 14) Memo from CCC Archaeological Field Unit enclosing Cambridgeshire Archaeology 2006 Events leaflet
- 15) Letters from Country Grounds Maintenance Ltd and Herald Contract Services re their services.
- 16) Publicity material from SMP Playgrounds, Timberline (play equipment and outdoor buildings), Sports Drainage Solutions Ltd. and Glasdon.

### **VISITORS' QUESTIONS**

A member of the public asked about the snack van that has appeared on the land opposite the former Q8 garage on the A10.

*Mrs Roberts said she would check this matter with the Department for Health and the Environment.*

Mrs Howell noted that Bill Tarling (CCC) had been very helpful.

*It was agreed that the outstanding issues with the Community Building were not his fault.*

Steve Taylor asked about co-ordination between parish councils on the Cemex proposals.

*Mr Brooksbank responded that he had attended meetings of the group of parish councils and that the group awaited the planning application. Miss Thake expressed some concern on the dispersion modelling for the proposed new chimney.*

Rob Prines, referring to the application for development of the Burlington Press site expressed concern about the raising of the façade.

*Mrs Roberts said the issue had been considered, but had not been of sufficient concern to members to affect approval of the application.*

Mr Prines also expressed the sense of loss he would feel about the changed appearance of the heart of the village that would result from the approved development of the Burlington press site.

Mr Challis congratulated Mr Hockley and the Finance Committee on the accounts and on keeping the precept as low as possible in spite of the responsibilities passed on to them by the District and County Councils. He said he was pleased that the council was not going to take people's money and give it to someone else.

*Mr Challis was thanked for his comments. Mr Hockley said that people were worried that there would be no street lighting provision and said that parishioners needed to be reassured that the parish council would take over the responsibility.*

### **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Mrs Roberts said that Peter Mead's outline planning application for a housing development in Fowlmere Road was still "rumbling on". Mr Barnes thought that more houses than had been thought were included in the development and Mrs Roberts said she would check on this.

The clerk mentioned a telephone call she had received from Mr Kendall, a Barrington Road resident, who would like to see the 30 mph speed restriction signs in Barrington road as one comes off the A10 moved further away from the junction. The clerk was asked to contact Highways department about this matter.

Mr Kennedy asked how matters stood regarding the adoption of Hardman Road and Edis Way. It was agreed that Mr Pusey and Mr McCraith would liaise in trying to resolve this matter. *Mrs Roberts said that if Mr Kennedy had dealings with Meldire, this should be in a personal capacity to comply with the Code of Conduct.*

Mr Brooksbank had identified a footpath "gap between Foxton Wood and Fowlmere road. Mr Barnes said that technically there was a Right of Way from the farm. Mr Brooksbank said he would be contacting the County Council.

### **DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

It was confirmed that this would be held on **Monday, 6<sup>th</sup> March 2006 at 7.45pm** in the **Meeting Room** of the Village Hall.

Mr Kennedy gave his apologies in advance.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 10pm.