

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF FOXTON PARISH COUNCIL

HELD ON MONDAY, 5th FEBRUARY 2007, AT 7.45 p.m.

PRESENT

Mr Pusey, Mr Hockley, Mr Barnes, Mr Brooksbank,
Mr Chilton, Dr Grindley, Mr Kennedy, Dr McKeown,

County Councillor David McCraith

District Councillor Mrs Roberts

IN ATTENDANCE

3 members of the public

APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Miss Thake

Mr Pusey welcomed all to the meeting.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Dr Grindley declared an interest in the planning application at 5 Fowlmere Road and Dr Brooksbank declared a non-prejudicial interest in the Burlington Press planning application, both to be discussed under "Planning".

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Amendments were needed to the figures given in the Finance report (page 79) for the Cambridge Building Society Account, the correct figures being £170.48 for the interest added to the account for the six months to December 2006 and £13,775.16 for the overall balance in the account.

Mr Kennedy proposed that with these amendments the Minutes of the previous meeting, held on 8th January 2007, be signed as a true record. Dr Brooksbank seconded the proposal and all were agreed.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Community Building Report – locks in the sports pavilion

Dr Grindley reported that Middleton Hardware Ltd had supplied the locks and that he had asked the firm for information about the manufacturers.

Correspondence – Mutual exchanges and S106 agreements

The clerk confirmed that she had replied to the district council's letter on this subject saying that the council thought the S106 restrictions should be honoured.

Visitors' Questions

i) Car-wash facility adjacent to the level crossing

Mrs Roberts said that there had been correspondence between the county and district councils on this matter. Cambridgeshire County Council was unhappy about the proximity of the facility to the level crossing. She said that SCDC would contact CCC to find out whether CCC would support the District Council in issuing a "Stop" notice.

Referring to the possible contamination of the site, Mrs Roberts said that the SCDC Environmental Health Department believed that the site had been decontaminated after the previous occupier of the site had vacated it, but that officers would check this.

ii) Former Q8 Garage

Mrs Roberts said that Saffron Garner (SCDC Planning Services officer) had visited the site and told the owner that he would be required to put in an application to use the site for the sale of cars. The owner said he was currently preparing a general application for the site. Ms Garner had consulted Mrs Roberts as to whether she agreed the application for the sale of cars could be included in this general application. It was agreed that this would be acceptable providing the application was submitted by the end of April or in early May of this year.

iii) Area of land opposite the former Q8 Garage

Responding to the concerns raised about this land being used as an unofficial night-stop by lorries. Mr McCraith said that he had been told by CCC that the land was owned by the government's Department of Transport and that it had no powers to do anything about the problem.

Dr Brooksbank said he had raised the matter at the last meeting of the Barrington Liaison Group and that Cemex had agreed to write to the hauliers requesting them not to park on this land.

Some doubt was expressed as to whether or not the Department of Transport did own the strip of land in question, as when the A10 was a trunk road it had been used as a site for storing road materials, and the A10, having been de-trunked, was now the responsibility of the County Council.

REPORTS FROM THE COMMITTEES

RECREATION AND AMENITIES

Mr Chilton said he had not yet had time to hold a meeting about the siting of trees including replacements for those cleared from the Station Road site and the trees offered by Foxton Gardens Association.

Mr Howard had sent an e-mail raising matters relating to the Recreation ground, in particular about logs and rubbish there.

Another e-mail letter had been received from Mr Howard complaining that he had not received a reply to an earlier letter dated 8th May 2006. However the clerk said that she had acknowledged this letter on 14th June although she had not been able to give

Mr Howard specific answers, as the maintenance strategy for the Recreation Ground was under review.

The clerk was asked to acknowledge both e-mails.

FINANCE

Mr Hockley said that the Finance Committee had met on 25th January to discuss the precept needed for the financial year 2007/08 and reported as follows:

FINANCIAL YEAR 2006/07

1. Due to cost-saving measures by SCDC and CCC, costs rose by c £1,300 to cover street lighting, grass cutting and the loss of the SCDC recycling credit.
2. The dovecote renovation project was successfully completed, and receipts (grants plus monies donated and collected) exceeded costs by some £8,000.
3. £500 allocated to the Foxton Help Group would be carried forward to 2007/08, as would money allocated to the provision of a security camera at the Community Building.
4. The precept was set at £1,300, and a deficit of £2,900 had been budgeted for. However, there was a surplus of some £1,500, largely arising from additional support from the RGT to cover expenditure on seats and a basketball goal.
5. The council's finances were showing a balance in general funds of £15,593 – slightly more than one year's precept.

FINANCIAL YEAR 2007/08

1. Further additional costs had to be budgeted for in this financial year. These included £1,000 to the Recreation Ground extension, £960 for additional grass cutting (verges on Barrington Road and Cambridge Road) and £500 for election costs. The council had also allowed £1,200 for contingencies this year.
2. £3,000 would be returned to general funds from the surplus from the Dovecote/Meadow project and the remainder would be retained for the long-term maintenance and possible future use of the dovecote.
3. Provision had been made for monies to be allocated towards new equipment for the Play Area, footpath development and traffic related measures.
4. The committee was recommending an increase in the precept for 2006/07 to £14,100 - an increase over the previous year of £600. This would give rise to an estimated deficit of £1,795.

Mr Pusey thanked Mr Hockley for his report and said what a good job he had done. He pointed out that the underlying base budget was increasing. He then proposed that a precept of £14,100 be requested for 2007/08. Dr Grindley seconded the proposal and all were agreed.

Mr Hockley then gave details of the bank accounts as follows:

Deposit Account	£10,545.07
(This included an SCDC Historic Building grant of £8,600 for the dovecote)	
Current Account	£36.91

Cambridge Building Society £13,775.16

Mr Hockley proposed that the following cheques be approved:

Amended cheque (to include VAT) to Digital Copier Systems (already paid) £88.13

Cambridgeshire County Council (annual rent for dovecote field) £50.00

Cambridgeshire County Council (street lighting maintenance 2006/07) £897.02

SCDC (emptying dog bins 1/1/07-31/3/07) £93.12

Foxton Village Hall Trust (annual refuse disposal charge 2006 & hire of Meeting room on 4/12/06 & 18/1/07) £155.00

D Pusey (reimbursement for dovecote photographs) £19.87

V W Mead (refuse collection, maintenance and expenses, January) £44.67

Mr Barnes seconded the proposal and all were agreed that these payments, totalling £1,259.68, be made and that £1,274 be transferred from the Deposit Account to the Current Account.

Before concluding, Mr Hockley asked whether the council was happy with the quotation for additional grass cutting (£960 plus VAT) from Veolia the council's grass cutting contractor. All were agreed.

PLANNING

Mr Barnes reported as follows:

Planning permission granted:

Mr and Mrs White ApplicationNo. S/2173/06/F for a single storey extension at 61 Station Road
Usual conditions

Mr and Mrs P Hildrow ApplicationNo. S/2200/06/F for an extension at 57 High Street
Usual condition

Mr and Mrs Evans ApplicationNo. S/2251/06/F for an extension at 35 West Hill Road
Usual condition

Planning applications considered at the meeting:

(Dr Grindley left the room and returned when the first application below had been discussed)

Mr and Mrs Whittaker ApplicationNo. S/2423/06/F for a conservatory at 5 Fowlmere Road
No recommendation

Goreway Holdings Application No. S/0006/07/F to extend alterations to existing building including the insertion of windows
No recommendation

There was some discussion about the above application before agreeing to return a “No recommendation” comment on the consultation form.

Mr Barnes said he had visited numbers 35 and 37 High Street. The occupants were concerned that the tall cupressus trees that had reduced the amount of noise emanating from the Burlington press site had been cut back substantially. Concern was also expressed that if the application is given consent, there was the likelihood that machinery would be moved to a different location within the buildings: whilst this might alleviate noise problems for some residents, it might increase them for others. The clerk was asked to write to the SCDC Environmental Health Department to inform them of these concerns.

Dr Grindley had brought along the plans and design statements from the various sub-groups who would be using the extension to the Recreation Ground. The only area for which he had no plan was the picnic area. It was thought that this would not be an issue when submitting the planning application for the extension. On advice received from CALC it was agreed that decisions regarding the council’s planning application should be deferred until a meeting of the Planning Committee on 15th February. Dr Brooksbank proposed that the council refer the decisions to be taken on the application to the Planning Committee so that it could be submitted to the district council before the next FPC meeting. Dr McKeown seconded the proposal and all were agreed. The clerk was asked to book a room for the meeting.

POLICE LIAISON REPORT

In Miss Thake’s absence, there was no Police Liaison Report.

RECREATION GROUND TRUST/COMMUNITY BUILDING REPORT

Mr Pusey said that Mark Greenhall (CCC) had visited the Community Building site to carry out a risk assessment on the external lighting. As a result, Mr Greenhall had said that the lighting programme could be carried out as at present, but with one more light switched on. An electrician would be coming to carry out repairs to the external lighting.

Mr Pusey said the Trustees had met on 24th February about the outstanding snagging issues relating to the Community Building. Due to the stance that CCC officers were taking, it had been decided not to press claims under the contract with the County Council through sheer weariness. However, the Trust was still looking for some action from CCC regarding the pavilion locks and taps. *Dr McKeown said he had the investigation of the locks in hand.* Mr Pusey said he wrote to the Trust’s insurance company regarding the external lighting setting out the history of the issues that had arisen and hoping there would be no problems. He said the neighbours affected were still unhappy with the lighting. Some improvement might be made with an infrared camera and there was a possibility of installing sensors, which would reduce the amount of lighting as well as running costs.

The Trustees had considered the Charity Trust Deed and this had been followed by a consultation with the Trust’s solicitors. However, Dr McKeown had some further queries.

Regarding the leases for the Cricket Club and the Preschool Group for their portions of the Recreation ground extension, the two groups had been offered 7-year leases, but both had asked for longer leases. Trustees were considering offering 22-year leases with break clauses to protect RGT/FPC. The solicitor had been consulted and had responded.

Mrs Roberts had to leave the meeting at this point.

An RGT meeting was arranged for 22nd February.

Recreation Ground Extension (RGEC)

Dr Brooksbank reported as follows:

Leases and Management Agreement

Now that the tenancy agreement had been effectively agreed, the draft Management Agreement had been sent to the FGA for comment/approval.

Foxton Preschool had provided comment on the draft lease agreement. A number of queries were raised by the preschool including removal (or significant revision) of the relocation clause and, if possible, a longer term.

The Cricket Club had identified similar points of concern but was not currently in a position formally to respond. However, the officers of the club had been authorised to negotiate and sign a lease.

Fundraising

The committee was still awaiting the outcome of the “Awards for All” grant application. CCC have no money available this financial year for CCTV but would have monies in 2007/08 and the decision as to whether to provide funds would be based on the insurer’s report. Stuart Benham was looking into a revised quotation and alternative sources of funding.

Cemex have three charitable bodies and Dr Brooksbank said he had written to Ian Southcott at Cemex with details of the project to ask whether it might be suitable for grant assistance.

Infrastructure

The Preschool group had agreed (in the interests of expediting matters) to pay for the fencing of its entire area. The bikepark subproject group was also inclined to agree to the same but would require the Parish Council’s approval. Dr Brooksbank said that the subproject groups had been made aware of minor revisions to the dimensions of the original plans.

Bikepark

The bikepark subproject group sought guidance from the RGEC committee on whether to provide seating, an entrance barrier and a graffiti board. The committee thought that adequate seating would be more appropriately provided in the picnic area and that neither an entrance barrier nor a graffiti board were desirable.

Dr Brooksbank proposed that the bikepark project should be allowed to go ahead with fencing. Dr Grindley declared an interest, but it was felt he need not leave the room:

he took no part in the discussion of the item or the decision. Mr Hockley seconded the proposal and all were agreed.

DOVECOTE/MEADOW PROJECT

Mr Pusey said that the project was nearing completion. He had heard that the final Local Heritage Initiative grant of £1,250 would be coming in the near future. He said that Mr Alan Paine, who has unearthed numerous artefacts in Foxton with his metal detector was prepared to consider working with FPC to create a display in the dovecote. Mr Pusey said that he was beginning to get an interested group of volunteers together.

Dr McKeown said that some villagers were puzzled that the building would not be used to house birds. Mr Pusey said that it had been decided some time ago, on hygiene grounds, that the building should not be used to house doves.

CORRESPONDENCE

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

- 1) Letter dated 8th January from Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Fire Authority re the 2007/8 precept and consulting on the level of increase.
- 2) Notice from CEMEX re the next meeting of the Barrington Liaison Group to be held on 18th January: enclosing notes on the meeting held on 6th July 2006.
- 3) Letter dated 23rd January from Postwatch re the post office network consultation and copy of the consultation paper (responses to be received by 8th March). *Passed to the clerk to report on at the next meeting.*
- 4) Letter dated 18th January for Mr Cooper (CCC South Highways Division re the County Council's contribution to grass cutting in the village.
- 5) Letter dated 23rd January from Chris Blackman, CCC Planning Policy Officer, re proposed changes to the East of England Plan: enclosing briefing note.
- 6) Letter dated 26th January from Ms Selwyn-Smith, a Milton resident, asking whether FPC has plans to pass a motion supporting the campaign to save Milton Country Park from closure.
- 7) Letter received 31st January from SCDC Planning Services Department re the SCDC Local Development Framework – Adoption of Core Strategy Development Plan Document: enclosing copy of the adoption statement.
- 8) Information from CALC including:
 - Memo re final Code of Conduct consultation (see <http://www.info4local.gov.uk/searchreport.asp?id=31494&heading=e-mail+alert>)
 - Agenda for the next meeting of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Association of Local Councils to be held on 1st March 2007 together with notes of the last meeting

- NALC Policy and Parliamentary Consultation paper on the Commons Act 2006: protection of Common Land in England
 - Bulletin, January 2007
 - Memo re Freedom of Information and Data Protection Regulations
 - Booking Forms for various training sessions and workshops
- 9) Notice re Eastex Materials Exchange for the East of England.
 - 10) Booklet with details of Wildlife training workshops 2007.
 - 11) Table of Church of England parochial fees from 1st January 2007.
 - 12) COPE Newsletter, January 2007.
 - 13) Publicity material from Shaws (Local council publications), Timberline (play equipment and outdoor buildings).

Regarding item 6 re the possible closure of Milton Park, Mr McCraith said the park might close if a partnership could not be arranged by 31st August. However, there had been a lot of interest in this and it was likely the park would be saved. All were agreed that the clerk should write to Ms Selwyn-Smith saying that FPC supported the campaign to keep the park.

VISITORS' QUESTIONS

Mr Challis asked whether there had been any progress in getting a car park at the Station

Mr McCraith said that he, Andrew Lansley and County Council officers had all tried and were still looking for a suitable site.

Mr Challis offered his congratulations to Mr Hockley on an immaculate set of accounts (*sic*). He thought the increase in precept to be requested to be very reasonable.

Finally, Mr Challis asked whether he was right in thinking that the County Council's stance on the external lighting at the Community Building had softened somewhat.

Mr Pusey said that one CCC officer held rigid views on the subject whilst another CCC officer was more accommodating.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mr McCraith said that the County Council would pass its budget for 2007/08 in the next two weeks. He said that Cambridgeshire was still the fastest-growing county in the country and yet had been given only a 2.9% increase in government funding over last year, compared with an average for Shire counties of 3.6%.

Regarding further development in the county, especially in the southern fringe, he said that CEN had run a story saying that the administration of new houses would be taken over by the Government. However, Yvette Cooper, Housing Minister, had had a meeting with Cambridgeshire Horizons, CCC, SCDC and Cambridgeshire City Council. Negotiations between these bodies had produced two committees. One committee would oversee Northstowe and one, comprising representatives from

SCDC, CCC, Cambridgeshire City Council and Cambridge Horizons, would be for areas like the southern fringe. This scheme had met with Yvette Cooper's approval and the consequence of this should be more government money for development.

Dr Brooksbank reported on the last meeting of the **Cemex Liaison Group** as follows:

1. Emission figures for last two quarters of 2006

Two gaseous emissions, oxides of nitrogen and hydrogen chloride had exceeded the daily limit for emission on one day in the period, which was a start-up day in which SLF was burned for half a day and not burned the other half.

2. Alternative Fuel Update

Samples of Climafuel had been passed round – primarily shredded plastic and paper waste derived by mechanical air separation. The 30% Climafuel baseline had not yet started: once the 1,000-hour trial with 30% Climafuel had been completed a draft report would be presented at an extraordinary meeting prior to submission to the Environment Agency.

3. Environment Agency

There had been 26 schedule 1 notifications, mainly precipitator trips in the last two quarters of 2006 (a reduction from the first two quarters). Only one of these was considered potentially to have a minor environmental effect: this was a leakage of dust from a filter shed – not a stack event. There had been 7 complaints from the public during this period including odour and dust – none were linked to excess emissions or equipment failure. Both Cemex and the Environment Agency encourage complaints, but these are best sent directly to Cemex where they can be investigated – ideally while the problem is occurring.

4. Cemex Update

Although the major quarry extension had been withdrawn, a new quarry area had been included in the CCC Waste and Minerals framework. The consultation period for the framework showed no major concerns from either SCDC or Barrington PC. However, Barrington PC had requested limits for rail use and Harlton PC had objected on the grounds of noise.

A planning application had been submitted for affordable housing on Challis Green.

Three charitable bodies are associated with Cemex.

- i) Cemex UK Foundation (part of Groundwork UK), which helps local communities regenerate areas.
- ii) Cemex Community Fund (landfill tax money), which invites applications for grants from community/environment groups for projects up to £15,000.
- iii) Rugby Group Benevolent Fund, which has just provided £13,000 for repairs to Barrington Village Hall. *Dr Brooksbank said that he had enquired about the possibility of a grant for the Recreation Ground extension.*

5. Any Other Business

As already reported earlier in the meeting, Mr Miller's concerns about lorries parked on land opposite the former Q8 garage had been raised. Cemex undertook to ask hauliers not to park there. If this measure failed, the County Council had stated that this is private land and action could be taken.

Dr McKeown said that the foxtoninfo website was still publishing the details given in the 2001 village information booklet and that much of the information was out of date. Mr Sanderson said it would be easy to remove the information, but that some mechanism was needed for making the correct information available. He said he would pursue the matter.

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

It was confirmed that the next meeting would be held on **Monday, 5th March 2007** at **7.45pm** in the **Meeting Room** of the **Village Hall**.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 10.00pm.