

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF FOXTON PARISH COUNCIL

HELD ON MONDAY, 2nd FEBRUARY 2009, AT 7.45 p.m.

PRESENT

Dr Oakley, Dr Grindley, Mr Allars, Mr Barnes, Mr Bentinck, Mrs Macintyre, Dr McKeown, Mr Sutton

County Councillor David McCraith

IN ATTENDANCE

2 members of the public

APOLOGIES

District Councillor Deborah Roberts

Dr Oakley welcomed all to the meeting

DECLARATION OF INTEREST

There were no declarations.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Two amendments were needed:

- (i) On page 71, Mr Sutton's name had been omitted from the list of councillors present and should be included.
- (ii) Under the Parish Plan Report, the first sentence should be concluded with the word "considered" (*not "completed"*).

Dr Oakley proposed that, with these amendments, the Minutes of the previous Meeting held on Monday, 5th January 2009 should be signed as a true record. Mr Allars seconded the proposal and all were agreed.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Affordable Housing in Station Road

A letter had been received from Cambridgeshire ACRE offering to undertake a Housing Needs Survey in Foxton. The clerk was asked to contact Cambridgeshire ACRE to accept the offer with the proviso that Circle Anglia (as promised) bear the cost of the survey.

Parking provision for Cycles at Foxton Station

Dr Oakley agreed to seek clarification from First Connect both about the provision of a cycle rack at the station and car parking. Mr McCraith suggested that Dr Oakley remind the organisation of its duty to use money for improvements to the benefit of passengers particularly the provision of a car park.

Parking in Foxton

Dr Grindley said he had raised the matter of vehicles parking outside the shop by owners using the Recreation Ground once more with the Football Club and it appeared there had been some improvement. Mr Sutton suggested a notice asking vehicle owners not to park long-stay outside the shop be placed in the pub itself with the licensee's agreement.

Recreation and Amenities Report – Street lighting costs

The clerk had attempted to get clarification on street lighting costs both by telephone and by e-mail with no response. The clerk would pursue this task once the invoice had been received.

Any Other Business – amendment to planning consent for development of Recreation Ground extension

Dr Grindley said he had prepared the necessary amendments, and the papers were passed to the clerk for completion.

PARISH PLAN UPDATE

Mr Allars said that he had been unable to attend the latest meeting of the steering group. He said that the group was in the final stages of the work needed before making a public presentation. Mr Hockley was contacting Colin Black at the Post office about the possibility of a questionnaire for local businesses. The target date for publication of the Parish Plan was April 2009.

YOUTH SHELTER

It was agreed that the light that had been taken from the shelter should be replaced and that Mr Salmons should be asked to undertake this work and, at the same time, make the lights less easy to remove. It was reported that some of the youths who had been using the shelter were now, in the colder weather, coming into the hall. There was some discussion about putting polycarbonate windows in the youth shelter: Mr Bentinck agreed to talk to Mr Salmons about this.

REPORTS FROM THE WORKING PARTIES**RECREATION AND AMENITIES**

Mr Bentinck said he had e-mailed the CCC Highways Department about the lack of gritting in Shepreth Road. This road was routinely left out of the County Council's gritting schedule although it was part of a bus route through the village and there had been a number of accidents there in winter conditions. Mr McCraith agreed to ask the County Council to get Shepreth Road included in its gritting schedule for Foxton.

Following the incident of a car driving round the Recreation Ground, Dr Grindley had had the gate onto the ground padlocked: the key was with Richard Barnes and spare keys had been ordered including one for the village shop. Dr Allars said that he had requested the clerk to order a sign about access to the Recreation Ground.

FINANCE

As the formalities of making Mr Sutton a signatory to the FPC bank accounts had not yet been completed, Dr Oakley gave details of the Bank Accounts as follows:

Deposit Account	£13,654.54
Current Account (This included the CCC grass cutting contribution for 2008 of £898.92 and the Tennis Club rental for 2008 of £5)	£956.62
Cambridge Building Society	£14,606.19

Dr Oakley proposed the following cheques for payment:

Foxton VHT		
Hire of Meeting Room on 1/12/08	£13.50	
Hire of Lounge on 9/12/08	10.25	
Street lighting	62.42	
Emptying rubbish	<u>130.00</u>	£216.07
Allianz Insurance plc (additional premium for youth shelter)		£29.53

Dr Grindley seconded the proposal and all were agreed that these payments, totalling £245.70 should be made and that £655 be transferred from the Current Account to the Deposit Account.

Mr Sutton reported that he had produced some draft figures for the council's 2009/10 budget, which had been discussed at the Finance Working Party's meeting in January. The Finance Group recommended a precept for 2009/10 of £15,500 representing an increase over the 2008/09 precept of just less than 5%. Mr Sutton said he expected that there would be a surplus of about £1,000 over expenditure in the next financial year and that the contribution from the Recreation Ground Trust would rise from £4,500 to £4,600.

Mr Sutton proposed the council apply to the District Council for a precept of £15,500 for 2009/10. Dr Oakley seconded the proposal and all were agreed.

Mr Sutton agreed to e-mail SCDC that evening (as the deadline for precept requests was 2nd February) and the clerk agreed to send a written request for the precept the following day.

On a separate matter, Dr McKeown said that 10% of the SCDC grant for the bike park was outstanding. However, the deadline for completion of the bike park had passed, and receipt of this money was in doubt. It was felt that the bike park had to all intents been completed and that the remaining tasks, including seeding with grass seed, could not have been undertaken due to weather conditions. It was agreed that, in the first instance, the clerk should seek advice from Mrs Roberts, before SCDC officers were approached on this matter.

PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr Barnes reported as follows:

Planning Appeal Decision:

Dr K Beardsall

Application No. S/0740/08/F for an extension at
36 High Street.

Appeal against Planning Refusal upheld

The clerk was asked to write asking the SCDC Planning Services Department to look into their normal conditions for developments with a view to imposing conditions on working hours and vehicle parking particularly in view of the proximity of the site to the Village Shop.

Three letters had been received:

- 1) A joint letter from Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council re new sites proposed for mineral and waste development through the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste (preferred Options 2) Plan consultation: comments to be received by 9th March 2009. Discussion of this document was deferred until the next meeting of the Planning Committee.
- 2) Letter from SCDC Planning Services Department listing the Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs), expanding on policies in adopted Development Plan documents that had been adopted on 15 January 2009.
- 3) Letter from Dr J S L McCombie expressing his concerns about a possible development of affordable housing off Station Road. *The clerk was asked to Liase with Dr Grindley in responding to this letter and explaining that a Housing needs Survey would have to be undertaken and a firm Planning Application submitted to the District Council before an open meeting on this matter could be held.*

Trees

Mr Barnes said that Eastern Tree Surgery had received an e-mail confirming that the firm could go ahead with remedial works on the Oak tree in Hall Close. The clerk was asked to write to Eastern Tree Surgery to accept their quotation for the work. Mr Barnes said he would continue to try to get a grant from SCDC towards the cost.

POLICE LIAISON REPORT

Mr Barnes said he had attended a meeting of the local Police Liaison panel, where he had learned that there had been an armed raid on a shop in Meldreth: other shops in the area had been warned. There had been a presentation by police officer John Fuller who said the Police Service aimed to support law-abiding citizens and vigorously pursue offenders. When giving details of the police budget, he mentioned that Cambridgeshire had one police officer per 540 residents compared with an average of 377 in other areas. Cambridgeshire had the third lowest ratio of officers per head of population in the country and would need a further 600 officers to achieve an average proportion of officers.

There had been a decrease in antisocial behaviour in Fowlmere and Foxton. However, there had been break-ins in garden sheds and local youths were becoming more mobile and riding their scooters in the Village Hall car park. It was agreed that

a sign was needed for the car park forbidding the latter activity and the clerk was asked to defer the order for the Recreation Ground sign so that an order for a sign for the car park could be included once the wording had been agreed.

Mr Bentinck said that the door in the Dovecote had been defaced with graffiti. He had notified the police and obtained a crime number for the incident.

Mr Barnes, referring to his report at the last FPC meeting about the car he had seen driving in a field adjoining Fowlmere Road, said the Police have a Rural Community Action Team linked to Farmwatch, who are glad to hear of such incidents.

RECREATION GROUND TRUST (RGT) REPORT

Dr McKeown reported as follows:

A meeting was held on 20th January with six Trustees present when the following matters were considered:

The appointment of Tony Garrick to the position of Facilities Manager was noted and a meeting with the Village Hall Trust and the Sports Clubs was suggested to effect a smooth transition of management of the pavilion.

The use of the ex-nets area as a groundsman's compound was discussed at length. All were in favour of continuing to develop the idea. Modification of the gate size so that it would be sufficiently wide for all cricketing equipment was debated. *Dr McKeown had received an e-mail from the Cricket Club requesting measurements of the gate and suggesting it might need to be altered. It was thought that there would not be a problem in moving the gate forward if necessary.* Dr McKeown was asked to inform the Cricket Club of the RGT's latest position on the compound and Mr Allars undertook to inform the school. Dr Grindley would redraw the planning application map for training lights and compound showing the new arrangement.

Mr Sutton presented a budget for 2009/10 and a projection of costs in the following two years, which was accepted.

The savings accounts were reviewed but there did not appear to be any obvious place to gain a better return. Mr Allars would continue to look for any possibilities.

The access of vehicles onto the Recreation Ground was raised and it was decided to chain and lock the gate to deter offenders.

Dr McKeown said that the Trustees had received two communications from Hewitsons, its solicitors, since its meeting. One of these passed copies of the four Land Registry title documents to the Trust. As the titles are held by Foxton PC, these were passed to the clerk together with the invoice for this work. *(The addresses given for service were not correct, but these would be changed to the clerk's address.)* The second document was an invoice to the Trust for work done in preparing a lease on the Recreation Ground extension that was eventually rejected by the Cricket Club at a cost to the RGT of £2,760.

Dr McKeown proposed that the council approve a cheque for Hewitson's invoice for Land Registration. Dr Oakley seconded the proposal and all were agreed that this payment should be made and that the amount to be transferred from the Current Account to the Deposit Account be adjusted accordingly.

Mr Sutton reported that Mr Carpenter had said the Cricket Club's sightscreens were almost impossible to move. Dr Grindley said the screens were badly damaged and only required new wheels.

Mr Barnes suggested that the rotting grass-cuttings by the churchyard wall might be used by the allotment holders. Dr Grindley thought this material might come from the Bowls Club and be unsuitable to allotment holders owing to the presence of weed killer in the cuttings.

Dr McKeown informed the council that the council had absolute title to the area of the Recreation Ground where there was some encroachment and was therefore in a position to carry out enforcement action. Dr Oakley reported that the Trust had made a contribution of £4,500 to Foxton Parish Council for the financial year 2008/09.

DOVECOTE/MEADOW PROJECT

Mrs Mcintryre had nothing to report other than that there would be a working party on the site on 10th March.

CORRESPONDENCE

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

- 1) Letter dated 9 January from the SCDC Partnerships Manager enclosing an application form (with guidance notes) for South Cambridgeshire Local Strategic Partnership's new small grant scheme.
- 2) Letter dated 15th January from Cambridgeshire ACRE re affordable housing: enclosing leaflet. *The clerk was asked to reply welcoming a survey, but pointing out that circle Anglia had promised to bear the costs.*
- 3) Letter dated 26th January from Cambridgeshire Transport Commission asking for a response (to be received by 6th March) to a number of questions including the link between Government grant funds and congestion charging.
- 4) Letter dated 27th January from CCC re changes to the 139 bus-service.
- 5) Letter dated 30th January from Kirstin Bicknell, Arts Development Manager for Start (Supporting Arts Development) based at Melbourn Village College outlining forthcoming projects and suggesting that she meets the council to talk about these and answer questions.
- 6) Letter dated 2nd February from Dr J McCombie (Foxton resident) expressing concern about the proposed development of affordable homes off Station Road and requesting an open meeting.
- 7) Information from CALC including:
 - Draft Minutes of CPALC AGM
 - Table of parochial fees from 1 January 2009
 - Update on NJC pay scales 2008-09
- 8) COPE newsletter, January 2009.
- 9) SCDC booklet entitled "Helping those affected by domestic abuse".

- 10) “Clerks and Councils Direct” magazine, January 2009 and Council’s Suppliers Guide and Yearbook for 2009.
- 11) Leaflets from RoSPA/PlaySafety.
- 12) Publicity material from Littlethorpe (shelters), SMP Playgrounds, Fitzpatrick Woolmer and Arlen (signs).

VISITORS’ QUESTIONS

There were no questions or comments.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mr Allars said that he had noticed that allotment holders were putting in hedging that would grow to 5-6 feet high alongside the path from Illingworth Way to the Recreation Ground: this would make the path darker than it already was. It was agreed that Mr Allars would investigate the possibilities for providing lighting along the path.

Mr Barnes congratulated the County Council Highways Department on replacing the reflective marker at Shepreth Road. Unfortunately, new holes had appeared in the recently repaired road and the clerk was asked to inform Mr Cooper of the Highways Department.

Mr Bentinck suggested that it might be beneficial for a council representative to attend the Cricket Club AGM, although, following discussion, this was thought not be particularly necessary unless invited to do so by the Cricket Club.

Mrs Macintyre said that the Foxton Gardens Association would like to enlarge the circular bed at the end of Station Road to allow for new roses to be planted. The council raised no objections.

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

It was confirmed that the next meeting would be held on **Monday, 2nd March 2009** at **7.45pm** in the **Meeting Room** of the **Village Hall**.

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