

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF FOXTON PARISH COUNCIL

HELD ON MONDAY, 4th FEBRUARY 2013 AT 7.45 p.m.

PRESENT

Dr Grindley, Mr Barnes, Mr Elliott, Mr McCreery,
Mrs Macintyre, Mrs McFadzean and Mr Sutton
District Councillor Deborah Roberts

IN ATTENDANCE

1 member of the public

APOLOGIES

County Councillor Susan van de Ven, Dr Oakley and
Mr Bore

Dr Grindley welcomed all to the meeting. He said that, as Mrs Roberts would not be able to attend the whole meeting, he would invite her report earlier in the agenda after “Matters Arising”.

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.

(Mrs Roberts said she had looked into the matter and advised Dr Oakley that the council should re-apply for this dispensation)

Dr Grindley declared an interest in the matter of Mrs Ward’s planning application that would be discussed during the planning report.

MATTERS ARISING

Planning Committee Report

Dr Grindley said that the e-mail requests made by the council and the local member, Mrs Roberts, for Mrs Ward’s application to come before the SCDC Planning Committee, rather than be delegated, were being considered by the Chairman of the Planning Committee and by the Head of Planning.

County Councillor’s Report – Cemex meeting

Dr Grindley had attended a Cemex meeting at Barrington where he mentioned to CCC officers that, although they claimed to have consulted Foxton, the parish council was not aware of any consultation. The officers undertook to look into this matter. Dr Grindley said this was important as the county council had extended monitoring installing sensors to monitor noise levels at points along the light rail track and also centrally in Barrington Haslingfield and Harston, but had not included Foxton. Foxton had not been appraised although a sensor located in the sidings would provide relevant data for the properties in Barrington Road Foxton.

After the meeting, Dr Grindley had spoken to Ian Southcott (the manager at Cemex responsible for its Community Development Fund) about the council's proposals for the Recreation Ground, including improvements to the training lights, and Mr Southcott said a grant from Cemex might be possible. It was agreed that the clerk would liaise with Dr Grindley in writing to Cemex to apply to be considered for a grant.

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Mrs Roberts said that the cabinet and leader had reviewed the council tax rebate given to single occupiers of houses with the result that, in future, not all single occupiers would get the full rebate. This came at the same time as the ruling about increases in council rents for extra bedrooms.

Further bad news was that capital grants had gone. Arts grants that had previously paid for three jobs would be replaced by £40,000 for a one-off project.

Mrs Roberts expressed her concern that, at last week's full council meeting, the decision had been made to change the constitution so that portfolio holders could now make decisions outside portfolio meetings "*if expedient to do so*". Mrs Roberts had questioned how "expedient" was defined in this context.

Recent concerns about the district council's handling of sensitive matters were mentioned and Mrs Roberts enquired if the council had received a response to its complaint. Dr Grindley said that SCDC's second stage response to the council's complaint (about access to a proposed development to the rear of Station Road across the grass belt in front of the Press cottages) would be considered at the next FPC planning meeting. He said that this grassed area had been put forward in Foxton's Village Plan as an area for protection and had been submitted by the council under the current local plan consultation. However, the District Council comment on this is unhelpful.

Mrs Roberts cited the handling of the proposal for further travellers' pitches at Mettle Hill.

VILLAGE INFRASTRUCTURE

Dr Oakley had e-mailed the following report for the meeting:

1. Level Crossing

The County Council Highways Department had now put down yellow box markings at the level crossing.

2. Roads

Worn edges at Barrington Rd were not allowing surface water to drain away. This was due to wear at property access points. Although this was strictly a matter for the homeowners, the county council had agreed that the cost of repair could be shared by the county council and the affected homeowners. However, Susan van de Ven had had an informal agreement from Cemex on a 50% contribution to cost, which, if confirmed, would allow the Highways department to do the repair work without charge to the homeowners.

REPORTS FROM THE WORKING PARTIES

RECREATION AND AMENITIES

Mr McCreery reported as follows:

1. Recreation Ground

Mr McCreery said that, in the next month or so, he would organise the work required by the report following the play area inspection with Mr Salmons. Mr Salmons had carried out necessary repairs to, and painting of, the Youth Shelter.

2. QEII Registration

The Deed of Dedication has been signed and forwarded to Fields in Trust.

The council should shortly receive the final document and would then have to prepare the registration for the Land Registry.

Mr McCreery had received an e-mail on Thursday regarding the plaque to be sited on the Recreation Ground. There were two types, one for wall fixing, and one for ground fixing, into concrete. The council would need to confirm which type of plaque it required. He proposed that the plaque be sited on a plinth near to the seat adjoining the parking bay near the Pavilion. *All were agreed.*

The council would also be eligible for a complimentary Royal Oak sapling grown from acorns from a royal estate. These would be between 20 and 40cm high.

FINANCE

Mr Sutton gave details of the Bank Accounts as follows:

Deposit Account (This included a VAT refund of £1,233.87)	£15,648.93
Current Account	£107.39
10-day Notice Account (This included interest applied 1 st February of £20.26)	£22,638.04

Mr Sutton proposed the following cheques for payment:

J E Burns (reimbursement for office carpet and fitting)	£196.00
Foxton Village Hall (recharge of electricity for streetlights y/e31/12/12)	£66.96
ESPO (3 invoices for office furniture)	£517.20
D Salmons (Village Warden duties, January plus extra work and materials)	£249.49

Mrs Macintyre seconded the proposal and all were agreed that these payments, totalling £1,029.65, should be made and that £983 be transferred from the Deposit Account to the Current Account.

PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT

Dr Grindley said that the committee would meet on Tuesday, 5th February to consider the reply to the district council's second stage response to Foxton parish council's complaint re access across the grass bank fronting the Press cottages to a proposed development to the rear of Station Road.

Planning permission granted:

Mr Roger Frost

Application No. S/2134/12/FL for main entrance
with porch and patio at Russet House, Fowlmere
Road
Two conditions

POLICE LIAISON REPORT

Mr Barnes reported that he had been advised, after the last Police Neighbourhood Panel meeting, that police presence in Foxton had been increased following the spate of burglaries that had taken place. These burglaries were not linked to the recent “smash and grab” raid at the school. He said that residents could help investigations by reporting anything suspicious seen in the village on telephone number 101.

Mr Barnes said he had been assured that parking and speeding in the village would continue to be investigated. It was suggested that a Neighbourhood Watch scheme might be helpful.

It was agreed that this would be helpful – the difficulty was in getting anyone to run the scheme.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR’S REPORT

Dr van de Ven reported as follows:

1. County Council budget proposal

£32 million savings were required this year and the administration was proposing a 1.99% council tax increase. Accepting the Government’s freeze incentive would impose an additional £37 million gap in 2017/18. An aging population and increasing population in the county overall, but very patchy growth in South Cambridgeshire, and a population decline in the Melbourn Ward had implications for funding sources. There were concerns about funding formulas for primary schools, which would make it difficult to plan for gradual growth.

2. A10 Corridor Cycle Campaign

The launch meeting for this campaign took place last Tuesday. Interest had been phenomenal with a higher than expected reliance on cycling to work: a strong Foxton contingent took part. A couple of work streams were set up, one on the Melbourn-Royston stretch and one to look at connections from Harston to Cambridge, currently the biggest obstacle in the path north from Foxton. The group had received support from the Cambridge Cycling Campaign who had already scoped out various ideas, and a website was being set up, with the help of a Foxton resident.

Gritting review

Dr van de Ven asked the council to keep a look out for a consultation in April. Melbourn Village College had closed last month due to snow, in part because The Moor, Melbourn, was not gritted. She said that one could, for example, suggest in the consultation that the policy include approaches to schools.

Oil Club rebate

The Melbourn Division Oil Club, which includes Foxton, had received a rebate of £95 for donation to a local charity. The rebate was worked out on the basis of numbers of customers ordering over a certain volume during the year. The club had nominated the Meldreth and Melbourn Self Help Group Luncheon Club. Last year's recipient was Melbourn Area Youth Development. The interest from Foxton in the club came mainly from Barrington Road residents.

Neighbourhood Panel meetings:

The county council was no longer playing a role in these meetings.

Phasing out of bus subsidies

The county council's alternative to bus subsidies, the project called Cambridgeshire Future Transport (in which bus subsidies are discontinued, and the local community works out what type of transport it wants and figures out with the council how to put it into place) was not working. Two years on, there were no new schemes up and running. According to the plan all bus subsidies will have been withdrawn by September 2014. Bus operators were saying that this presented a threat to their overall business and ultimately meant less leverage and a more remote connection with bus companies.

Rail Matters

Electrical earth problems were causing very significant disruption to the new pedestrian gates, and emergency work over the weekend had failed – new parts were being ordered and this would take time. This meant that, on the face of it, little had changed. Network Rail had been very communicative and was as frustrated as anyone.

First Capital Connect (FCC) was paying for extra British Transport Police resource to cover Foxton level crossing and also rural level crossings at Meldreth and Shepreth owing to risk-taking by (mostly younger) pedestrians.

Dr van de Ven had asked FCC, in principle, if it would take part in a pilot scheme to honour concessionary bus passes on trains. Incredibly the answer was that they would look at a countywide scheme to offer half-price fares off-peak to concessionary bus pass holders. There were no guarantees yet but a talk with CCC was now being arranged to iron out details.

COUNCIL OFFICE

Mr Sutton reported a problem with the external door to the office, which was difficult to open. The specification had been for a new door and there was some evidence that the door was not new. Mr Salmons had looked at it and said that, owing to its construction, it was not possible to adjust the door to make it easier to open. It was agreed that Mr Sutton would first discuss the matter with Tony Garrick, the Facilities Manager.

Mr Elliott had been looking into the question of getting a dedicated website for Foxton parish council. Two options were available: either use the service provided by SCDC or that provided by parishcouncil.net. Dr Grindley said that, in order to access the information he would wish to have, it would be necessary to have a gov.uk suffix on the domain name and said he would discuss the matter with his contact at the district council.

RECREATION GROUND TRUST REPORT

Mrs McFadzean said that Trustees had met on 7th January when the final payment to Shane Lodge (for the works on the council office) had been agreed. The sign for the office had been approved. It was also agreed to start a maintenance review, which, by identifying items requiring attention, would give an understanding of how much money would be required during the life cycle of the maintenance plan. For instance, a second tranche of decoration would be required. However redecoration was carried out every seven years and was not due yet.

DOVECOTE/MEADOW PROJECT

Mrs Macintyre said that a section of fencing needed to be removed. This was agreed with the proviso that the post with the solar lamp attached remained.

CORRESPONDENCE

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

- 1) “Clerks & Councils Direct” magazine for January plus suppliers guide and yearbook.
- 2) Publicity material from Zurich (insurance), Logic (salt spreaders), play and Leisure and Glasdons.

VISITORS' QUESTIONS

Mrs Ward said that Tony Garrick had been talking about doing external painting. She also mentioned the very nice boiler installed for tea making at Fowlmere Village Hall.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no further business.

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

It was confirmed that this would be held on **Monday, 4th March 2013** at **7.45pm** in the **Village Hall Meeting Room**.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.57pm.