

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF FOXTON PARISH COUNCIL

HELD ON MONDAY, 30th JULY 2007, AT 7.45 p.m.

PRESENT

Dr Oakley, Dr Grindley, Mr Allars, Mr Barnes, Mr Bentinck,

District Councillor Deborah Roberts

IN ATTENDANCE

1 member of the public

APOLOGIES

County Councillor David McCraith, Mr Kennedy and Dr McKeown,

Dr Oakley welcomed all to the meeting.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST

There were no declarations.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

One amendment was needed.

On page 30 under the Finance Report, the figure for the balance in the Deposit Account should have been £22,583.87 (*not* £22,511.42) and a note should be inserted that this balance included interest for the period 5/3/07-3/6/07 of £72.45.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Former Q8 Garage

Mrs Roberts reported that the District Council had served an enforcement notice on the owner of the site as a result of his failure to submit a planning application for the site. Mr Barnes also reported that Gareth Jones, SCDC Corporate Manager – Planning and Sustainable Communities, had responded to the council's letter about Foxtton planning issues that had included concerns about the former Q8 Garage, and read out his letter.

Car-wash Facility at the Level Crossing

Mrs Roberts also reported that the retrospective planning application for the car-wash facility by the level crossing had been refused, under delegated powers, based on Highway Safety grounds due to its proximity to the level crossing. Mrs Roberts said she had agreed to support any enforcement action that might be necessary in the event of non-compliance.

Oak Tree in Hall Close

Mrs Roberts reported that she had been assured by the appropriate SCDC officer that it would be in order for FPC to put in an application for a grant towards the cost of the

necessary tree work needed for this Oak, which was thought might well be the oldest tree in Foxton. Unfortunately, she said that Community Development funds had been frozen for the present whilst a review was being undertaken – due to be completed by the end of September. Mrs Roberts said that an application for a grant would need to be accompanied by two quotations for the necessary work and that the application forms could be found on the SCDC web site. The clerk was asked to telephone CALC to ascertain FPC's position if tree works were carried out on the Oak on Health and Safety grounds.

Car park at Foxton Station

It was confirmed that the County Council owns the piece of land at the junction between the A10 and Barrington Road and that it might be available for use as a station car park. Mr Barnes pointed out that the area had been planted up to prevent illegal campers from using it and had now matured into an attractive wooded area at this entrance to the village. He said he would be sorry to see this lost to a car park on the wrong side of the road for the station.

Recreation and Amenities Report

i) Trees on the Recreation Ground (item 3)

Mr Barnes reported that work had been carried out on the Maple tree and the Horse Chestnut tree to take them down to ground level.

ii) Trees in the gravel car park (item 4)

Mr Barnes said that when these trees were last cut back, a branch was left overhanging the adjoining house, but was not causing a problem. Since that time the owners had added an extension and the branch was now causing concern.

Mrs Roberts interposed at this point to warn the council that Horse Chestnut trees in the district were suffering from a rapidly spreading disease. She urged the council to check the state of Horse Chestnut trees in the village.

Parish Plan

Mr Allars reported that he and Brian Hockley had held an initial meeting last week about the application form needed for help with funding the project, the time-scale for which was from this year to March 2009. Mrs Roberts asked whether they had been in touch with the district council. Mr Allars said they had, and that Melanie Philips had replied and sent the application form. The clerk was asked to make the Parish Plan an agenda item for the next meeting.

ADOPTION OF NEW CODE OF CONDUCT

All councillors had been given a copy of the new Code of Conduct, which had to be adopted by 1st September 2007. Dr Oakley said that the main change was clause 12(2), which changed the earlier rule about councillors having to leave the room when an item in which they had an interest came under discussion. Clause 12(2), if adopted by the council, would allow councillors with a declared interest to remain in the room and, provided members of the public could also comment, allow them to make comments (but not vote) on the item under discussion. Mrs Roberts said that Fowlmere PC had decided not to adopt clause 12(2) as it was thought that this would

guard against possible perceptions that councillors with an interest could exert influence. There was some discussion and Dr Oakley then proposed the adoption of the new Code of Conduct to come into effect on 1st September 2007 including the adoption of clause 12(2). Dr Grindley seconded the proposal and all were agreed. New “light touch” rules of operation would need to be put in place as a consequence of adopting clause 12(2).

REPORTS FROM THE COMMITTEES

RECREATION AND AMENITIES

Mr Bentinck said that a meeting had been held to discuss the terms for a contract for Mr David Salmons, who would undertake the tasks previously carried out by Vic Mead. The draft 2-year contract had been circulated to councillors and approved. Mr Bentinck said he would take the contract to Mr Salmons for his signature. He said that Mr Salmons would need training for the Play Area inspections.

FINANCE

The clerk gave details of the bank accounts as follows:

Deposit Account	£20,903.87
Current Account	£54.18
Cambridge Building Society	£13,855.78

Dr Oakley recommended that a Finance meeting should be held some time in the next two months. He then proposed the following cheques for payment:

Foxton Village Hall Trust (hire of Meeting room on 4 th July)	£12.50
SCDC (emptying dog bins 1/7/07- 30/9/07)	£99.17
Town and Country Tree Surgery Company (tree work on 1 No. Maple and 1 No. Horse Chestnut)	£293.75
CALC (fee for inclusion in advert re adoption of new Code of Conduct)	£24.00
V W Mead (refuse collection, maintenance and weed-spraying, July)	£53.40

Mr Allars seconded the proposal that these payments, totalling £482.82, should be made and that £483 be transferred from the Deposit Account to the Current Account. All were agreed.

PLANNING

Mr Barnes reported s follows:

Planning Permission refused:

A Rrahmani	Application No. S/0265/07/F (retrospective) for Hand Car Wash at 2 Cambridge Road Refused because site close to junction and within an accident cluster where there have been 9 accidents in 3 year,s and for traffic flow reasons.
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Planning applications considered at the meeting:

Mr & Mrs S Martin	Application No. S/1368/07/F for an extension at 23 West Hill Road Approved
Mr K N Mills	Application No. S/1236/07/F for insertion of roof lights and sun pipe at 81 High Street

This item was discussed in the light of the previous application regarding this property where the council had registered its objections. Dr Oakley proposed that for consistency, the clerk should respond to the consultation form by registering the council's objection to this application and referring the District Council to its previous comments. Dr Grindley seconded the proposal, which was agreed with four votes in favour of the proposal and one abstention.

Mr Barnes reported that, although he and Mrs Roberts had been due to attend a consultation meeting with the travelling and settled communities on 19th July at South Cambridgeshire Hall, the meeting had been cancelled. Mrs Roberts said there was no real explanation for this and she was very concerned about the situation.

Mr Barnes also reported that he had personally delivered the council's response to the SCDC consultation on a change to the extent of one of the Foxton objection sites, together with a duplicate of the council's response to the original consultation about objection sites.

The remaining issue, FPC's own planning application was deferred for discussion till the next but one agenda item.

POLICE LIAISON REPORT

Mr Bentinck said he had heard that there had been a burglary on West Hill Road on Thursday, 19th July and this had occurred while the owners had been asleep upstairs. Mrs Roberts said there had been a spate of burglaries in local villages.

Mr Barnes reported that he had attended the Police Neighbourhood Panel meeting, which began with a presentation on how things were being organised. Theft of copper and traffic related incidents were the two most widely reported issues, with "hotspots" being Bassingbourn, Melbourn and Meldreth with a lot of related anti-social behaviour. Mr Barnes also said that there was a spate of burglaries from churches going on in the country. Mrs Roberts said that there was a good team of local Support Officers.

Mr Barnes said he would like to attend the South Cambs Crime and Disorder Partnership Community Safety event to be held on 25th September.

RECREATION GROUND TRUST REPORT

Dr Brooksbank had sent in a report from the Recreation Ground Extension Group (RGEC), which said that all the projects were eagerly awaiting planning permission being granted. However, the REGEC meeting was unanimously opposed to the suggested amendments to the application and requested that the parish council argue for the approval of the existing plans.

The Management Agreement for the allotments and the leases for the Preschool and Cricket club were still being drawn up, although it was understood that progress was being made.

Cambridge Water Company had approved the plans for the water distribution system on the Recreation Ground Extension.

Dr Grindley explained that an SCDC Landscape Officer had visited the application site and had suggested a number of minor changes. Unfortunately the changes had a “knock-on effect” amongst the various projects involved in the development of the site leading to a questioning of the whole validity of the suggested changes. Dr Brooksbank had e-mailed a list of the problems identified if the suggested changes were made. Mrs Roberts said she would talk to Saffron Garner, the SCDC officer overseeing the FPC application, and suggested that the council say to the District Council that the suggested changes are not sustainable.

DOVECOTE/MEADOW PROJECT

Mr Allars reported that Dudley Pusey had contacted John Weeks who might agree to donate some items found with his metal detector to the proposed dovecote display of local artefacts. A damp problem had been identified inside the dovecote that would need to be dealt with. An owl box would be installed and separated from the bats.

Mrs Roberts expressed the view that the Builders who had undertaken the restoration of the dovecote should deal with the damp problem.

CORRESPONDENCE

Dr Oakley passed a letter from Mr Phillips to the clerk, which expressed disappointment that he had not been given “the job” of Village Historian. It was not, and had never been, in the council’s remit to make such an appointment and it was thought that Mr Phillips was under a misapprehension.

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

- 1) Letter dated 3rd July from CCC enclosing copy of the CCC Business Plan Volume 1 – Corporate Plan 2007/08 together with questionnaire on priorities for council services.
- 2) Letter dated 4th July from Thriplow Farms enclosing map of conservation walks with permissive access. (*Displayed*)
- 3) Letter dated 6th July giving notice of cancellation of the consultation meeting at South Cambridgeshire Hall with the travelling and settled communities that was to have been held on 19th July.
- 4) Letter from Cemex dated 12th July re a meeting of the Barrington Liaison Group to be held on 12th July at 7pm: includes update on alternative fuels.
- 5) Letter dated 16th July from CCC inviting comments on the draft Cambridgeshire Design Guide for streets and the public realm: website given, but hard copy available if required.

- 6) Letter from SCDC Planning Department dated 18th July in response to the planning issues raised in the council's letter of 10th July.
- 7) Letter dated 20th July from Cemex advising that an Open Day will be held at the Barrington Cement Plant on Sunday, 2nd September 2007: enclosing poster.
- 8) Notes (received 21st July) from SCDC re Public Speaking at Planning Committee meetings.
- 9) Letter (received 23rd July) from SCDC re South Cambridgeshire Local Development Framework Adoption of Development Control Policies, Development Plan Document and Northstowe Area Action Plan, together with an Adoption Statement.
- 10) Letter dated 23rd July from CCC/Peterborough City Council re the changes to the timetable for plan preparation of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste Plan.
- 11) Letter dated 24th July from the CCC Network Management Communications Manager re CCC's review of parking policies.
- 12) Letter dated 26th July from SCDC Environmental Health Department advising that the South Cambridgeshire Draft Licensing Policy (Licensing Act 2003) is available for consultation. Comments to be received no later than 17th October 2007.
- 13) Information from CALC including:
 - Memo extra series of Councillor professional development courses (stages I, II and III) together with details and booking forms
 - Memo with advice on the adoption of the new Code of Conduct together with response form to inform CALC of parish council's decisions re adoption of various parts of the Code
 - Details and booking forms for: clerks' intensive training two-day session, and training session re new Code of Conduct,
 - Reminder re requests for inclusion in CALC's composite advertisement for parish councils who have adopted the new Code of Conduct
- 14) Information from Cambridgeshire Acre including:
 - Notice of Annual General Meeting (with reply form) to be held on 4th September at the St Ivo Leisure Centre, St Ives at 5.30pm.
- 15) EEAPTC news, June 2007 including a report by John Williams from EERA and a list of sources of funding for community projects.
- 16) "Clerks & Councils Direct" magazine July 2007.
- 17) Invitation to NALC event "Cracking the Code" to be held on 19th July 2007.
- 18) Copy of SCDC booklet "Villages in South Cambridgeshire District – Services and Amenities" with request to review for accuracy. *Passed to DA*
- 19) Publicity material from ASM (playground surfaces and materials), SMP (play equipment) and Urbanscape (cigarette butt disposal).

VISITORS' QUESTIONS

Mr Challis said that he was pleased that the council had adopted the new Code of Conduct. He was also pleased that the car-wash planning application had been refused and hoped the owners of the site would take note. Referring to the trees in the gravel car park, Mr Challis made a plea that a new plaque be attached to the Oak tree on this site in place of the one that had been lost.

This matter was referred to the Recreation and Amenities Group. Mr Barnes commented that since the iron cage had been removed from the tree, it was growing well.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mrs Roberts expressed her concern that SCDC grant money was being frozen.

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

It was confirmed that this would be held on **Monday, 3rd September 2007 at 7.45pm, in the Village Hall Meeting Room.**

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.45 pm.