

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF FOXTON PARISH COUNCIL

HELD ON MONDAY, 3rd MARCH 2008, AT 7.45 p.m.

PRESENT

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

County Councillor David McCraith

District Councillor Mrs Roberts

IN ATTENDANCE

14 members of the public

APOLOGIES

None

Dr Oakley welcomed all to the meeting. As two police support officers and a large proportion of visitors had come to discuss the problems in the car park he proposed suspending the normal business of the meeting at the commencement of the agenda item "Matters Arising from the Minutes" so that the issue could be discussed in open forum and those who were attending solely for this issue could leave the meeting immediately afterwards if so wished.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

No amendments were needed. Dr Oakley proposed that the Minutes of the previous Meeting held on Monday, 4th February 2008 be signed as a true record. Dr Grindley seconded the proposal and all were agreed.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Open Forum

Police Liaison Report – complaint about use of the Village Hall car park for football

Residents' views

Residents complained about the levels of noise resulting from youths playing football in the lighted area of the car park adjacent to the Village Hall entrance. The noise continued for a long period each evening and was preventing some residents' children from getting to sleep and was of a trying nature due to the continual thumping noise. There were also fears that damage to property and cars could result

Young footballers' views

There was nothing much for them to do in the village. They would welcome the provision of a lighted area on the Recreation Ground where they could play football and would also like a shelter of some kind where they could meet to socialise.

Councillors' views

Dr Oakley said that both short and long term solutions were needed. Various ideas were canvassed including possible use of the Recreation Ground extension but the difficulty there would be the need to apply for separate planning permission from that already given for use of the extension. Playing on the far side of the Recreation Ground if timed lighting were provided, playing on the other side of the Village Hall by the pavilion, or making use of the area that would be lit for football training were other ideas mooted. The problem with the last idea was that this could result in too much wear of the football pitch.

Mrs Roberts thought that provided the boys made efforts to reduce the noise they were making it should be possible for them to continue playing football in the short term. She said she would make enquiries about grant funding for the provision of more suitable facilities in the longer term.

Police input

The two Police Support Officers present agreed that more considerate behaviour in the short term and the provision of a more suitable site in the future was a good way to proceed. However, they warned the boys that if they caused a serious nuisance, they would have no hesitation in moving them on. The police officers congratulated the council on the exemplary way they were dealing with this issue by bringing the residents and footballers together at this meeting. *Mr McCraith endorsed this praise.*

It was agreed that the council would look into the provision of suitable facilities for the boys on the Recreation Ground

The normal meeting resumed at this point.

FPC's Planning Application

Mr Barnes, Dr Grindley and Dr McKeown had attended a meeting with Gareth Jones (SCDC Head of Planning) to resolve the problems over the Recreation Ground extension. It had been a fruitful meeting and the Planning Permission had been e-mailed with a hard copy to follow. There had also been a follow-up meeting with SCDC Landscape Officer Mr Mungoven who had provided an application form for a grant towards hedgerow and tree planting. However, the council would need to commit £100 to the planting. *It was agreed that this would be considered when Dr Oakley gave the Finance Report.*

Car-Wash facility at the Level Crossing

Mrs Roberts said that, like the County Council, the District Council was appalled that the views of the CCC Highways Department had been rejected by allowing the appeal.

R & A Working Party Report - Signs

The Recreation and Amenities Working Party had finalised the format for the signs at its meeting in February.

Planning Working Party Report – Objection sites

Dr Grindley said that the clerk to the Inspector had advised him that there would be no opportunity for the applicants to submit any further documents in support of their case. It would be some time in April before the Inspector's decisions for all the objection sites being considered would be made public.

Mrs Roberts took this opportunity to mention that she had spoken to Saffron Garner, the SCDC officer overseeing the planning issues at the former Q8 garage. Ms Garner said that the owner of the site had submitted a plan for a large showroom on the site and he had been told this was not acceptable.

Dovecote/Meadow Report

Mrs Roberts asked whether the council had received an invitation to attend a reception for the SCDC Built Heritage Awards. The clerk confirmed that an invitation to Mr Pusey and Mrs Cairns had been received. She had passed copies of the invitation to Mr Pusey and Mrs Cairns after consultation with Dr Oakley. Mrs Roberts thought that although Mr Pusey had been a leading light in the Dovecote restoration, nevertheless a member of the present council should attend the event, and said she would follow this up.

Any Other Business – Potholes in Barrington Road

It was confirmed that these had been filled in, albeit not to a very high standard.

PARISH PLAN

Mr Allars reported that the steering group had met in February and the questionnaire had now almost been completed. Robbie Macintyre had joined the group as a youth representative. The group was now designing a pre-questionnaire leaflet.

REPORTS FROM THE WORKING PARTIES

RECREATION AND AMENITIES

Mr Bentinck gave details of the Village Warden's report as follows:

1. Since removing all graffiti last month, there had been only one minor occurrence, which had been cleared away. The warden made contact with a possible perpetrator and there had been no further occurrence since.
2. An aerosol can and lighter had been found near the play area.
3. Footballers were still leaving insulation tape on the pitch after matches. *Dr Grindley had asked the manager of the Foxton team to speak to the managers of visiting teams about this problem.*
4. The warden was often having to clear-up dog litter on the Recreation Ground Dog-bins were overflowing, and hadn't been emptied by council for a while. (A bin and signs were proposed in the Dovecote field) *the clerk was asked to contact the District Council.*
5. The trees around the Mycroft's house had now been cleared
6. 3 fence panels were picked up off the Recreation Ground and put back in the garden to which they belonged in Illingworth Way. The warden felt they

might be hazardous in the strong winds and informed the householder. *Mr Mungoven had looked at the piece of land on the Recreation Ground at the rear of the Illingworth Way properties and had a lot of ideas for it. He was considering making it a phased project.*

7. The warden was holding the bricks that that had been lifted from around the streetlamp in the Village Hall car park and thrown onto the pavilion roof. He suggested (and the school agreed) that the hole should be filled with concrete for £20. He estimated the cost of refitting the old bricks and cement them in would be about £150. *The council agreed that the hole should be cemented in.*
8. Mr Salmons had supplied a quotation for improving the path from Illingworth Way onto the Recreation Ground:
 - 12 square metres plastic tiles £144
 - Plastic nails £60
 - 1 ton topsoil & seed £50
 - Labour £150
 - Total £404 including VAT
 This would leave 8 sq metres of plastic tiles (£96) as required for the bike park. The council agreed to accept this quotation.
9. The warden also reported that people had told him about the hazardous electrical sockets in the pavilion where water was seeping onto them through the leaking roof.

Mr Bentinck then reported on the meeting of the Recreation and Amenities Working Party held on Wednesday, 27th February. Present were Steve Bentinck, David McKeown, Geoff Barnes, David Allars and Rachael Macintyre.

1. **Signs**

The group agreed on Algar as the supplier for the signs needed. Slight alterations had been made to reduce the number of signs required: Mr Allars would expedite. *(NB Mrs Macintyre subsequently requested the group look into adding two small signs for the Dovecote field reading 'Conservation Area please clean up after your dog.'*

2. **Trees**

It was agreed to fell the dying Prunus on the corner of West Hill Road and to trim back the one on the other side. It was agreed that Mr Barnes would contact Mr Robbie Barnes from the District Council about the Wilsons' trees. The one nearest the Church would be felled and the other two would be trimmed. Mr Barnes was also in touch with the Trees Officer about the Hall Close tree, especially re owl/bat boxes. He was also following up on the recently wind-damaged Horse Chestnut on Station Rd – an SCDC officer would be coming to look at it. Rob Mungoven also saw the trees bordering the Recreation Ground as a long-term project from Spring 2009.

3. **Progress with Extension Site**

Dr McKeown gave a comprehensive briefing. Leftover plastic ground tiles from the repair to the Recreation ground might be useful for the Bike Park. He said that Foxton Gardens Association have two Copper Beech trees that they would like to be planted in the picnic area as soon as possible. *There was a*

short discussion about this, with strong reservations about planting Copper Beech trees in this location. It was agreed that Dr McKeown would advise Jon Cairns that the council would take advice on the matter from the SCDC Trees Officer.

4. **Treatment of weeds etc. on Recreation Ground and Allotments –**
This matter would be on our agenda for the March meeting.
5. **Path onto Recreation Ground from Illingworth Way**
Mr Bentinck agreed to get a price for work on this from Mr Salmons by the next meeting.
6. **Any Other Business**
The group intended to look at matters concerning grass cutting in the future. The number of cuts, quality of work and areas to be covered were amongst the group's concerns.

Mrs Roberts said there were chunks of concrete on the Recreation Ground.

FINANCE

Dr Oakley proposed the council's approval for the following:

- Payment of the clerk's broadband charge of £17.99 per month from April 2008 - seconded by Mr Allars: all agreed.
- Acceptance of the CALC guidelines on clerk's pay for 2008/09 – seconded by Mrs Macintyre: all agreed.
- To allot £100 in conjunction with the application for the SCDC Hedgerow and Tree planting grant – seconded by Dr McKeown: all agreed.

Dr Oakley then gave details of the Bank Accounts as follows:

Deposit Account	£18,870.86
Current Account	£934.77
(This included the tennis club rent of £5 for 2007 and the CCC grass cutting contribution for the 2007 season of £877.00)	
Cambridge Building Society	£14,287.71

Dr Oakley proposed that the following cheques be approved:

D Salmons Fencing Services (Village Warden duties December 2007 and January 2008 and tree work)	£344.00
Foxton Village Hall Trust (hire of meeting Room 23/1,4/2 and 20/2 and Lounge 19/2)	£47.00
J E Burns (salary February and March + 18 additional hours for archiving during November 2007 and January/February 2008)	£720.87
J E Burns (expenses January/February)	£32.28

PLANNING

Mr Barnes reported as follows:

Planning Applications granted:

Mr & Mrs Bamborough	Application No. S/0015/08/F for extensions at 25 West Hill Road Usual conditions
Mr S A Rivers	Application No. S/2078/07/F for change of use of garden land, garden buildings and kennels to office and storage: new entrance gate & fence increased in height. Six conditions including ones relating to vehicles on site, time limits for the operation of power-operated machinery and on deliveries and collections

Mr Barnes said that following a meeting with Gareth Jones, SCDC Head of Planning, the council had now received planning permission by e-mail for its own application for development of the Recreation Ground extension. A hard copy of the permission was awaited. Mrs Roberts said she would follow this up.

Planning application considered at the meeting:

Dr Helen Watson	Application No. S/0237/08/F for conversion of garage to living accommodation Approved
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POLICE LIAISON

Mr Bentinck said that the two Police Support Officers had been very cooperative. Mr Barnes said that, following the Police Liaison meeting, there had been police patrols round the Village Hall and car park.

RECREATION GROUND TRUST REPORT AND COMMUNITY BUILDING ISSUES

Dr McKeown said that an RGT Meeting had been held on 13th February and reported as follows:

- 1) Land registration was progressing albeit slowly. Illness and holidays meant that the documents were not yet fully prepared for submission to the Trust's solicitors.
- 2) Foxton Gardens Association's financial statement for the allotments had been received. With the suggestion that the FGA charged a balancing figure of just over £400 as its management fee, to be held against future maintenance, the accounts were accepted.
- 3) The leases to the Pre-school Group (PSG) and the Cricket Club (FCC) were at the final draft stage and required plans to be submitted. These were provided by Dr Grindley after the Meeting, and were sent to Hewitsons who are now preparing documents for signing for the FCC and awaiting final comment from the solicitor for the PSG.

- 4) A contractor's quotation for both earth moving and fence erection was accepted and placed. The contractor had sprayed the vegetation and was due on site the next day to start moving earth.
- 5) The investment of RGT funds was reviewed and Dr Oakley undertook to seek advice from Brain Hockley and others about the suitability of the Channel Islands account for the future. *Dr Oakley later reported that it was a suitable place to keep the Trust's money.* Dr Oakley also undertook to change signatories on the savings accounts as they were still in the names of last year's Trustees.
- 6) The Meeting concluded that to pursue the County Council for contributions to the maintenance fund for the period prior to 2005/2006 was pointless, so the matter was removed from future consideration.

Recreation Ground Extension Committee

An RGEC Meeting was held on 19th February.

The group noted that a contractor had been approved and sought comment on when the pipe work could be laid. This was arranged, after the meeting, to be over the weekend of 8-9th March. The FGA and Allotments Group would be co-ordinating this. Much of the meeting was taken up with a discussion on the possible allocation of funding to maximise the impact of the grants received from Awards for All and promised from SCDC. Rob Brooksbank was sending suggestions and negotiating with the project leaders.

The group was pleased with the outcome of the meeting that Mr Barnes and Dr Grindley had had with the SCDC Planning Dept. John Cairns suggested that hedging should be positioned only on side of the fencing and that this should be reflected in the planting plan required by the Planners. After the REGEC meeting a discussion was held with the SCDC Biodiversity Officer who suggested the hedge at the northern boundary of the allotments would be better on the picnic area side of the fence. The FGA had agreed to this.

The meeting asked if a pedestrian gate could be fitted at the end of Illingworth Way. This would cost approximately £700. There is a requirement in the lease that allotment holders shall not park cars in Illingworth Way and Dr McKeown said he was therefore asked to raise this request with either the RGT or FPC according to who was underwriting the expenditure. It was agreed that FPC should fund this work and the contractor who had erected the fence be advised accordingly

DOVECOTE/MEADOW PROJECT

There was nothing to report. It was confirmed that the dovecote is included in the parish council's insurance policy. The Green Belt project used to cut the Dovecote meadow twice a year free of charge. The organisation was now called the Wildlife Group and would charge £100 for the service. Mr R Barnes would be asked to top-cut the meadow.

CORRESPONDENCE

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

- 1) Letter dated 11th February from the CCC Head of Network Management re the council's speed limit policy and reviews: enclosing leaflet.
- 2) Letter dated 13th February from the CCC Countryside Access Team Leader re countryside access issues.
- 3) Notice from CALC dated 15th February of next liaison meeting between South Cambs Parishes and South Cambs Cabinet to be held on 6th March.
- 4) Letter dated 22nd February from the SCDC Trees & Landscape Officer re the Parish Tree Warden Scheme.
- 5) Letter dated 22nd February from SCDC Trees and Landscape Department re the "Tree Guardian" Spring issue and the development and promotion of the current Tree Warden Scheme in South Cambridgeshire – plans for 2008 and beyond.
- 6) Letter dated February re the South Cambridgeshire Local Development Framework – adoption of Cambridge Southern Fringe and Cambridge East Area Action Plans.
- 7) Invitation from SCDC to Mr Pusey and Mrs Cairns to attend an evening reception for the Built Heritage Awards 2007-08 on Tuesday, 11th March.
- 8) Letter dated 29th February from CCC Network Management enclosing a "Frequently asked Questions" document.
- 9) Information from Cambridgeshire ACRE including:
 - Letter re customer records with form to be completed
 - Details of conference on Play Space to be held on 26th March from 9.30am-2.00pm at Ely together with booking form
- 10) SCDC publication "Housing Futures", February 2008 (including copy of tenant's questionnaire).
- 11) Information from COPE including
 - COPE newsletter, March 2008
 - "COPEing with Housing in and around Cambridge
 - Memo re consultation on the future of NHS funding continuing care and rehabilitation services in Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire
- 12) Local Council Review, March 2008 (includes details and booking form for NALC Conference 2008).
- 13) Publicity material from Barcham (trees) including invitation to seminar on 18th or 19th March, Rekk (youth shelters), Fieldguard (safe surfaces) and Fitzpatrick Woolmer (signs, notice boards etc) and Glasdon.

VISITORS' QUESTIONS

Mr Challis said that credit was due to the youths attending the meeting to take part in the discussion about football in the car park. He thought that a great deal of good would result.

Mrs Howell endorsed these comments. She pointed out that the Youth Club equipment had been sold following the closure of the club. Mrs Howell also reported attempts to burn some Village Hall exterior lights.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Dr McKeown reported that the Fowlmere Wildlife Reserve would no longer be catering for parties of children. The RSPB wished to concentrate on developing a site at Fen Drayton. It was felt that children had greatly benefited from the visits to the Fowlmere Wildlife Reserve. Dr McKeown suggested that, although the decision had been taken, that interested parties should write to the chairman of the RSPB council. Mr McCraith would check the matter with the CCC Education Department.

Mr Allars noted that the faulty streetlamps had been repaired and thanked the clerk for her efforts.

Mr Bentinck said that the earthworks contractors needed to know what route to take onto the Recreation Ground extension – they were aware of the need to look after the allotments.

Mrs Macintyre suggested that as EDF had not reinstated the ground very well following its cable-laying activities, the firm could be approached for a contribution towards the seeds needed for reinstatement in the Dovecote meadow where the trench had been dug. The clerk was asked to write to EDF both to complain about the standard of reinstatement in the village and to suggest a contribution to the purchase of seeds for the Dovecote meadow.

Mr McCraith said the County Council's budget for the next financial year had been prepared and passed - Council Tax would rise by 5%. He said that the Government had increased its contribution by only 2.1% (compared with an average increase in contribution of 5.6%) and this was for one of the fastest-growing regions in the country.

The clerk said several sets of circulating correspondence had still not been returned and urged councillors to have a good look for them.

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

It was confirmed that the next meeting would be held on **Monday, 7th April 2008 at 7.45pm** in the **Meeting Room** of the **Village Hall**.

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on **Monday, 28th April 2008 at 7.45pm** in the **Meeting Room** of the **Village Hall**.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.50pm.