

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF FOXTON PARISH COUNCIL

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

PRESENT

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

County Councillor David McCraith

District Councillor Mrs Roberts

IN ATTENDANCE

2 members of the public

APOLOGIES

Mr Bentinck

Dr Oakley welcomed all to the meeting.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Several amendments were needed:

- i) On page 85, under the Recreation and Amenities Working Party Report, the first sentence should conclude with the words "Shepreth Road" (*not Shelford Road*).
- ii) On page 88, under the Recreation Ground Trust Report, the first sentence of the 9th paragraph should be reworded to read, "Dr McKeown proposed that the council approve a cheque for Hewitson's invoice for Land Registration".
- iii) On page 89, the last sentence of the final paragraph of the Recreation Ground Trust Report should begin "Dr Oakley reported ..."*(not "He also reported..."*).
- iv) Also on page 89, under the Dovecote /Meadow Project Report, the date given for the working party on the site should be 10th March (*not 17th March*).
- v) On page 90, under "Any Other Business", the 2nd paragraph should read: "Mr Barnes congratulated the County Council Highways Department on replacing the reflective marker at Shepreth (*not Barrington*) Road. Unfortunately, new holes had appeared in the recently repaired Barrington Road and the clerk was asked to inform Mr Cooper of the Highways Department."

Dr Oakley proposed that, with these amendments, the Minutes of the previous Meeting, held on Monday, 2nd February 2009 be signed as a true record. Dr McKeown seconded the proposal and all were agreed.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Parking provision for cycles at Foxton Station

Dr Oakley had heard nothing further from First Capital Connect about providing a cycle rack at the station.

Recreation and Amenities Working Party Report – gritting Foxton roads

Dr McCraith had contacted the CCC Highways Department to ask whether Shepreth Road could be included in its gritting schedule for Foxton. Unfortunately, the response was that the department's gritting resources were already fully stretched. However, as Mr McCraith had pointed out that the road was a bus route used by school buses, and that it included a dangerous corner where there had been a number of accidents, the Highways Department agreed that the situation called for a review. It was agreed that FPC would remind Highways Department of this in due course.

Planning Committee Report

Mrs Roberts, referring to the letter sent by Dr McCombie (expressing concern about a possible development of affordable housing off Station Road) recommended that, in order that residents could be informed early on, the council did not wait until a formal application had been submitted, but hold an open meeting, with some drawings from Mike Sugden of Circle Anglia, once the Housing Survey had been completed. Council members agreed that this was good advice. It was agreed that the clerk should contact Mike Sugden about proceeding with the survey.

Any Other Business

i) Lighting for path from Illingworth Way to the Recreation Ground

Mr Allars said he had searched the internet for suitable lighting and had found several possible lighting solutions. These included a freestanding lamppost; a low free standing bollard or a light that could be attached to a tree or post. It was agreed that the Recreations and Amenities working party would look into these possibilities and make its recommendation to the council.

ii) Potholes in Barrington Road

Mr Barnes said that the potholes had been repaired several times since the last complaint. Mrs Macintyre said that a new pothole had appeared.

PARISH PLAN UPDATE

Mr Allars said there had been a meeting of the steering group last week when the format for the final report had been discussed. A short questionnaire was going out to Foxton businesses to be returned by mid-March, and he said that the final report would be completed in May.

YOUTH SHELTER

Dr McKeown said that the solar light and panels had been ordered and he was researching suppliers of polycarbonate for the windows. It was agreed that Dr McKeown would obtain quotations before the next FPC meeting.

REPORTS FROM THE WORKING PARTIES

RECREATION AND AMENITIES

Dr McKeown reported that there had been a meeting on 24th February attended by himself, Mr Bentinck and Mrs Macintyre, which had covered the following matters:

1. Grass cutting

There had been no contact back from Herald yet and the clerk was asked to follow this up. *The clerk said that Herald had confirmed they would accept the contract.* Mrs Macintyre agreed to look into what course of action the group would recommend this year concerning weed killing.

2. Village Warden

Mr Salmons had started work on the Bike Track and it was agreed that Mr Bentinck would contact him and ask whether he would quote for similar work in the cricket compound: also to remind him to be wary of ‘spray-drift’ when carrying-out weed-killing next to the allotments. Mr Salmons would also be asked for a quotation to tile the Edis Way entrance to the Recreation Ground in a similar way to the end of the Illingworth Way path.

3. Trees

Mr Bentinck had contacted Chris Hindley about the Limes at Foxton Bottom. Mr Hindley would arrange a date with Mrs Macintyre to cut them back.

4. RoSPA report/Play area

As there were no major adverse findings in the 2008 RoSPA report, the group would defer any action until the report following the April 2009 inspection had been received.

5. Letter re Access to Recreation Ground

It was agreed that the clerk would be asked to draft a 2nd stage letter to the resident who has encroached on the Recreation Ground.

6. Youth Shelter

It was agreed that the clerk should be asked to order four replacement solar lights with panels from Scoolscapes. Dr McKeown was asked to obtain the measurements of the composite windows.

7. Graffiti on the Dovecote door

The perpetrator of the graffiti had recently admitted to this: he had repainted the door but had done a poor job and left the rest of his work around the village.

8. Any other Business

The group discussed the provision of a path to the allotments, particularly for residents who cross the Recreation Ground for access, and agreed to wait until a “natural” path appeared and then consider what would be most appropriate. The group also considered how to bring the old junior goalposts back into use. The wording for the Community Building car park sign was finalised, to enable nuisance-makers to be deterred, as “This car park is for users of these

facilities only. Any person causing a nuisance will be liable to prosecution".
It was agreed at the present meeting that this wording should be amended from "would be liable----" to "may be liable---".

Dr Grindley mentioned that a red van parked outside the meeting room had gained access through a gap adjacent to the approach road to the car park. It was agreed that the gap needed to be closed and this item was referred to the Recreation and Amenities Working party for discussion.

FINANCE

Mr Sutton gave details of the bank accounts as follows:

Deposit Account (This included the Recreation Ground Trust contribution to FPC for 2008/09 of £4,500)	£18,454.54
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Current Account	£83.17
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Cambridge Building Society (This included net interest of £186.83 for the 6 months to December 2008)	£14,793.02
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Mr Sutton proposed the following cheques for payment:

Foxton VHT (hire of Meeting Room on 5 and 20 January, Main Hall on 27 January and Lounge on 7 and 16 February)	£64.75
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Melbourn District Villages Association (donation to Melbourn Library)	£100.00
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Cambridgeshire County Council (street lighting maintenance and energy charge)	£1,208.43
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South Cambridgeshire District Council (planning application fee for lighting on the Recreation Ground)	£85.00
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J E Burns (salary for February and March, including pay increase of 24.4p per hour dating from 1 st April 2009))	£679.24
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J E Burns (expenses January and February)	£55.00
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Mrs Macintyre seconded the proposal and all were agreed that these payments, totalling £2192.42, be made and that £2,170 be transferred from the Deposit Account to the Current Account.

Mr Sutton said that the precept of £15,500 for the 2009/10 financial year had been confirmed. He said that he was finalising the figures for the current financial year. The clerk would be applying for a VAT refund of about £1560, which it was hoped would be received before the end of the month.

Dr Oakley thanked Mr Sutton on all his work preparatory to requesting the precept for 2009/10.

Mr Sutton reported that the council had received a letter from the Treasurer of Foxton Parochial Church Council asking whether the council, as per usual, would be willing to contribute towards the maintenance of the churchyard. Mr Barnes suggested an increase in contribution from £525 to £550. Mr Sutton agreed to look into this and to suggest a suitable level of contribution in next month's Finance Working Party report.

PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr Barnes reported as follows:

The committee had met on 17th February and considered the Appeal decision to permit an extension at 36 High Street (mentioned at the last FPC meeting). There were two areas where the District Council had an option on conditions and Mrs Roberts said she would ask SCDC officers to look at these carefully. The Planning Committee had noted the absence of any stated conditions regarding access and parking for the works or restrictions on hours of working in the inspector's decision and the inspector's opinion that the development would have very limited effect on natural light reaching the rooms of No. 38 High Street.

The committee wished to ask the Inspectorate for clarification of the reasoning behind this assessment on these points, as this would be helpful in considering future applications.

The committee considered the letter from SCDC Planning Services listing the Supplementary Planning documents and expanding on policies in the adopted Development Plan documents that had been adopted on 15th January 2009.

The committee also examined the consultation letter re new sites proposed for mineral and waste development – through the recent Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste (Preferred Options 2) Plan Consultation – and was broadly in agreement with the proposals. *Mr Barnes said he had tried to get in touch with Hauxton PC regarding the proposed waste disposal site there.*

Further matters reported at the present meeting:

Planning permission granted:

Mr Benham	Application No. S/2097/08/F for extensions at 4, St Laurence Road. Usual conditions plus first floor windows in side elevation to be fitted and permanently glazed with obscure glass.
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Mr Barnes said that the District Council had acknowledged FPC's representations on the South Cambridgeshire Local Development Framework (LDF) "Site Specific Policies DPD: Responding to a Housing Shortfall" consultation.

A further SCDC consultation had been received on LDF Supplementary Planning Documents relating to Biodiversity and to Listed Buildings: this would be considered at the next Planning committee meeting.

Dr Oakley then read out an e-mail from Saffron Garner, the SCDC officer dealing with the lack of a planning application from the owner of the former Q8 garage, which apologised for the delay in carrying out enforcement action. Mrs Roberts agreed to follow this matter up.

Mrs Roberts asked whether the council had received a planning application for the unauthorised fencing erected along the A10 on the Melbourn side of the level crossing. No application had been received and Mrs Roberts said she would chase the matter up.

POLICE LIAISON REPORT

Mr Barnes said that the local Police Panel's priorities were road safety including excessive speed, parking in the vicinity of railway stations and burglaries from non-residential properties. In Foxton, particular concerns were scooters causing a nuisance in the Community Building car park, parking at the station and careless parking.

RECREATION GROUND TRUST REPORT (RGT)

Dr McKeown reported as follows:

There had been no RGT meeting in February but an informal meeting took place between representatives of the RGT, Foxton Cricket Club and Foxton Football Club with regard to the proposed groundsman's compound. This made good progress and it was especially pleasing to discover that the width of the gate did not need to be modified.

Positive suggestions had been received following the article in "The Laurentian" announcing the council's intention to tidy the area by the churchyard.

Requests and suggestions from the informal meeting and the residents' comments would be discussed by the RGT on 10th March.

DOVECOTE/MEADOW PROJECT

Mrs Macintyre said that there would be a working party at the Dovecote field on Saturday, 10th March. The youth responsible for the graffiti on the Dovecote door had repainted it. However the standard was not good and gloss paint had been used. It would be necessary to sand the door and repaint. After some discussion, it was agreed that the matter should not be taken further with the culprit as the council appreciated his courage in owning up and his efforts to repair the damage.

CORRESPONDENCE

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

- 1) Letter dated 4 February from The Cambridge Housing Society about its affordable housing service: enclosing leaflet
- 2) Letter dated 6th February from SCDC Arts Development Officer, Andy O'Hanlon enclosing information about two arts events to be held at Comberton Leisure, invitations and posters.
- 3) Letter dated 11 February from the Warden of Melbourn Village College enclosing an invitation for FPC to send a representative to preview the college's 50th Anniversary Window and create a glass tile for the parish from 6.30pm to 8pm On Tuesday, 31st March at MVC. (*Mr Bentinck to attend*)
- 4) Letter dated 11th February from Jane Thompson, SCDC Community Services Officer, informing that the council has commissioned Strategic Leisure to complete an audit of village halls and community facilities across the district: brief enclosed.

- 5) Letter dated 13th February from Andrew Lansley MP enclosing a copy of a letter he had received for First Capital Connect saying that a car park at Foxton Station would not be financially viable.
- 6) Letter dated 13th February from the CCC Countryside Access Team Leader re Local Access Forum annual recruitment; waymarking for footpaths, bridleways and byways and grass cutting for footpaths etc: enclosing poster.
- 7) Letter dated 23rd February from the Secretary of Dynamo Foxton Football Club expressing the club's thanks for the £200 grant from FPC and inviting representatives to attend games on 7th March, commencing at 9.30am.
- 8) Letter dated February 2009 from Froglife, a UK wildlife charity, enclosing a copy of a leaflet entitled "Just add Water", which gives advice on building wildlife ponds in gardens and community areas.
- 9) Information from CPALC including:
 - Spring 2009 Bulletin
- 10) COPE newsletters, February and March 2009.
- 11) "Clerks and Councils Direct" magazine, March 2009.
- 12) Cards from Cambridge & South Cambs Domestic Violence Task Group (available at the village shop).
- 13) SCDC "Housing Futures" leaflet, January 2009 and "Council Housing in South Cambridgeshire", February issue.
- 14) Letter from Cambridge Water Company enclosing poster (displayed) for a charity concert to be held on 12th March to raise money for WaterAid.
- 15) Letter from the Spinal Injuries Association enclosing article and poster (displayed).
- 16) Highways Agency "Stakeholder News", February 2009.
- 17) Standards Board for England newsletter, February 2009.
- 18) Local Council Review, March 2009
- 19) "In-focus", The Cambridge Housing Society Ltd newsletter, Winter 2009.
- 20) Publicity material from Barcham Trees, Symbiosis Consulting (VTA Elite training workshop), Adventure Playgrounds Ltd, Associated Surfaces and Materials (play surfaces) and CGM (Commercial grounds maintenance and garden services).

A further letter had been received from Mr Phillips just before the meeting, but this was too lengthy to consider and was included in the circulating correspondence.

VISITORS' QUESTIONS

Mrs Howell said that First Capital Connect would be holding a roadshow at the station on 13th March.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mr Barnes asked whether First Capital Connect had planning permission for the development of their site at the railway station. Mrs Roberts and Mr McCraith were asked to look into this.

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

It was confirmed that the next meeting would be held on **Monday, 6th April 2009** at **7.45pm** in the **Meeting Room** of the **Village Hall**. The **Annual Parish Meeting** would be held on **Monday, 27th April 2009** at **7.45pm** in the **Meeting Room** of the **Village Hall**. The date of the **Annual General Meeting** would be held in **May** at a date to be announced at the council's April meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.30pm.