

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF FOXTON PARISH COUNCIL

HELD ON MONDAY, 1st MARCH 2010, AT 7.45 p.m.

PRESENT

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

County Councillor Dr van der Ven

IN ATTENDANCE

1 member of the public

APOLOGIES

Mr Allars

Dr Oakley welcomed all to the meeting.

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.

There were no individual declarations of interest.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

As no amendments were needed, Dr Oakley proposed that the Minutes of the previous Meeting, held on Monday, 1st February 2010, be signed as a true record. Dr McKeown seconded the proposal and all were agreed.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Cycle rack at Foxton Station

Dr Oakley said he had provided First Capital Connect with a photograph of the area where the council would like to see a cycle rack installed.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Dr van der Ven reported as follows:

Library support

Dr van der Ven thanked Foxton PC for its past support for Melbourn and District Library – the library access point in Melbourn that serves our villages - and said that support from the County was due to be cut by 50%. She said that volunteer staff (including Foxton residents) felt they would be able to cope, as the management of the library was becoming increasingly self-sufficient. Support was coming from a wide range of parish councils and from a growing volunteer force. The main focal point of the library, in terms of books, was access, collection and return of books belonging to the Cambridgeshire-wide system. Dr van der Ven said the new Under Fives Story Time on Thursdays 10-1:45 was proving popular.

There was a discussion of a request from Melbourn District Villages Association for a donation towards the maintaining the financial position of the library in 2010/11. The Library access point was used by pupils at Melbourn Village College and that Foxton residents were among the volunteers running the service. It was agreed that the council would continue to support the library

Meldreth, Shepreth and Foxton Rail User Group

The group had met on 23rd February, with eighteen people present and four apologies. Dr van der Ven said it had been a brilliant meeting with many pro-active people willing to get involved and do their bit. The group would be setting up a website and would post Minutes. It would also operate under the Railfuture Umbrella and be linked up through their website. Railfuture would be lobbying on the group's behalf on very local issues, with Network Rail, the Department of Transport, First Capital Connect, and the relevant local authorities. Dr van der Ven said that Village Liaison members were to be appointed so that there would be one person to champion issues at particular stations.

There were no representatives from Foxton at the first meeting, held in Meldreth in order to allow young people from Meldreth Manor School, who had been active in campaigning for disabled access, to attend. However, it was thought that the group might meet at Foxton Village Hall next time in June (date to be announced later).

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

There was no report as Councillor Roberts was absent from the meeting.

PARISH PLAN UPDATE

Mr Hockley (in the visitors' seats) said the project was making reasonable progress. The redraft had been 50% completed and the Planning Committee's contribution should be received by the end of the week. Mr Hockley and Mr Allars would be making a joint report on the project at the Annual Parish Meeting on 26th April.

The clerk said she had reported on progress and costs to Cambridgeshire ACRE.

REPORTS FROM THE WORKING PARTIES

RECREATION AND AMENITIES

Mr Bentinck reported as follows:

1. The owner of 1 St Laurence Road had already cut the hedge that the council had agreed to cut and left the cuttings on the verge. Dr Oakley had received complaints about this and hoped that Mr Salmons could clear these as soon as practicable. *Mr Sutton suggested that clearing these up could be combined with the clearing up of the encroachment onto the Recreation Ground at 12 St Laurence Road. Mr Bentinck said he would ask Mr Salmons to undertake both tasks as soon as possible.*
2. The task of clearing the footpath between the High Street and the station of mud and leaves had proved to quite a big job, but had now been completed. 1. The owner of 1 St Laurence Road had already cut the hedge that the council had agreed to cut and left the cuttings on the verge. Dr Oakley had received complaints about this and hoped that Mr Salmons could clear these as soon as practicable.

3. There had been a suggestion that the angle of the solar light on the Illingworth Way footpath to the Recreation Ground could be changed in order to light the path more efficiently.

4. Mr Bentinck had received an e-mail from the Cricket club requesting an increase in the council's contribution to the club towards the cost of grass cutting on the Recreation Ground. *After some discussion, Dr McKeown proposed an uplift of £50 to the contribution for 2010-11. Dr Oakley seconded the proposal and all were agreed.*

5. A formal letter had been sent to Mrs Meese about encroachment onto the Recreation Ground, which had not been well received (*Dr Oakley had received a letter in response*). *The council felt that all residents should be treated in the same way regarding encroachment and this had necessitated the formal letter being sent. However, it was agreed that, following the letter, Mrs Macintyre and Mr Salmons would arrange to meet Mrs Meese to discuss the situation.*

Mr Sutton reported that some orange tape from the Football Club was being used "to decorate" the Youth shelter.

FINANCE

Mr Sutton distributed copies of a spreadsheet itemising receipts and expenditure for the year ending 31st March 2010 and he congratulated councillors on keeping down expenditure in the second half of the year allowing an excess of income over expenditure of £3,863.46. Mr Sutton said that this sum included the £1,000 that had been allocated for new play equipment that had not yet been spent. Mr Sutton proposed that £1,000 of the excess be carried over to 2010/11 for the purchase of play equipment, Mrs Macintyre seconded the proposal and all were agreed.

Mr Sutton outlined the position with Recreation Ground Trust finances in the past year. Interest rates on the capital held were very low and, in addition, the Trust was now employing a Facilities Manager at considerable cost as well as needing to budget for landscaping of the area of the Recreation Ground to the rear of the Illingworth Way houses and relocation of containers. For these reasons he thought it would be reasonable to ask the council to refund some of the contribution to its finances made by the Trust earlier in the year. He proposed that £2,600 be returned to the Trust. Dr Oakley seconded the proposal and all were agreed. Mr Sutton said that subtraction of the £1,000 for play equipment and the refund to the Trust of £2,600 would leave the surplus at £253 – a position that would be satisfactory to the external auditors. Mr Sutton also said that the need for an annual contribution to the council from Recreation Ground Trust funds should be reviewed. Dr Oakley suggested that this should be an agenda item at the next Trust meeting.

Mr Sutton then gave details of the Bank Accounts as follows:

Deposit Account	£23,655.15
Current Account	£306.03
(This included one year's interest from the matured Standard Life Bond of £246.70 and Tennis Club rent for 2009 of £5)	
Standard Life Bank	
Premium 10-day Notice Account	£15,000.00

Mr Sutton proposed the following cheques for payment:

Foxton Gardens Association (bulbs) (<i>Transfer of EDF money for bulbs</i>)	£25.00
Cambridgeshire County Council (street lights maintenance and energy)	£1,285.92
J E Burns (salary February & March)	£618.75
J E Burns (expenses January/February)	£46.47
H M Revenue and Customs (tax on clerk's salary for 3 months to 5/4/10)	£145.40
Foxton Recreation Ground Trust	£2,600.00

Mr Barnes seconded the proposal and all were agreed that these payments, totalling £4,721.54, should be made, and that £4,470 be transferred from the Deposit Account to the Current Account.

The clerk said that the income receipts and payments ledger would be ready for signing off for the 2009/10 financial year at the next council meeting.

PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr Barnes reported as follows:

Planning Committee meeting held on 17th February when the following application was considered:

Mr A Dossett	S/1946/09/F for conversion, extension and alterations to existing house to form eco starter/breeder offices at 6 Cambridge Road.
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The committee recommended that the application be refused on the following grounds:

Planning permission had already been granted for the erection of a dwelling following demolition of the existing house (S/1162/08/F) and the new proposal to form eco offices would contravene the conditions for the replacement dwelling. The proposed eco office development, in conjunction with the above, would result in an over-development of the site. Other objections included inadequate access, insufficient parking and inadequate servicing.

Planning permission granted:

Primesight Ltd	Application No. S/1790.09A for a freestanding double-sided display unit at 18 Cambridge Road. Various conditions.
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Mr and Mrs Smith and O'Brian	Application No. S/1776/09/F for extensions at 2 Fowlmere Road Various conditions
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Amber Homes Ltd	Application No. S/1942/09/F for the erection of a dwelling (amended design) at land to the North of Mortimers Lane Fifteen conditions
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Planning permission refused:

Mr Gordon Baxter

Application Nos. S/1811/09F and S/1812/09/LB to alter and replace fences and gate (regularisation of unauthorised work) at 1 The Green

New fencing regarded as inappropriate.

A note had been received from Mrs Roberts indicating that the District Council was expecting a further planning application from Goreway Holdings regarding the new High Street entrance onto the Burlington Press site (current retrospective planning application refused), whereby the entrance could be used solely for vehicles entering the site and subsequently exiting the site via the Station Road entrance.

A letter had been received from Cambridgeshire County Council/Peterborough City Council re a consultation on the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste Draft Supplementary Planning Documents running from 15th February to 29th March 2010. It was agreed that the response should be delegated to the Planning Committee.

POLICE LIAISON REPORT

Mr Barnes thanked Dr van der Ven for giving her comments on the last Neighbourhood Police panel meeting at the February FPC meeting. He said that the police had stepped up the number of their visits to the Community Building car park and there had been no complaints in the past month about problems there.

Mr Barnes said that there had been numerous comments about the severe problems resulting from parking in Station Road and that the police had advised that they would, if necessary, deal with complaints if informed by telephone. *Mr Sutton suggested that parking problems might be discussed at the forthcoming Annual Parish Meeting. Mr Barnes said he would raise the problem of parking in Station Road at the next Police Panel meeting*

Mr Barnes reported that the police had held a surgery at the Village Hall on 26th February that had been attended by three councillors and several members of the public. The value of Neighbourhood Watch had been discussed and it was hoped that volunteers might come forward to run a Neighbourhood Watch scheme. *Dr Oakley agreed to include this topic in his report on the present meeting for "The Laurentian".*

RECREATION GROUND TRUST REPORT

Dr McKeown said that there had been no meeting of the Trust since the last Parish Council meeting.

The School Governors had contacted the Trust about payment for gas used in the pavilion in a period when separate metering was not available. The Hon Chairman, Treasurer and Correspondent of the Trust were gathering what data was available before arranging a meeting with the Chairman of the Board of Governors.

DOVECOTE/MEADOW PROJECT

Mrs Macintyre said that she and her husband had spread bark onto the path from the meadow to the school.

CORRESPONDENCE

Dr Oakley had been informed that SCDC were looking for Parish Council representatives to sit on their Standards Committee. Mr Barnes expressed interest and information was passed to him. Any nominations had to be in by June 2010.

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

- 1) Letter dated 27th January from NSPCC re its campaign to raise awareness of the NSPCC Helpline and enclosing feature story.
- 2) Copy of letter dated 23rd February from CCC Communities and Adult Services re budget proposals for Cambridgeshire Mobile Library Service.
- 3) Letter received 24th February from BG Sports Coaching requesting permission to use the Recreation Ground to run a course between 9.30am and 3pm on Monday, 12th April 2010. *The council agreed and the clerk was asked to confirm this with B G Sports.*
- 4) Letter dated 18th February from SCDC Community and Customer Services re the need for publicity for Neighbourhood Panels in South Cambridgeshire: enclosing posters.
- 5) Letter dated 16th February from Mrs Pat Richardson requesting the council's permission to plant a tree on the Recreation Ground to commemorate the 10th anniversary of her husband's death. *Referred to the R and A Working Party*
- 6) Letter dated 11th February from Cambridgeshire County Council/Peterborough City Council re Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste Draft Supplementary Planning Documents – consultation 15th February to 29th March 2010.
- 7) Letter received February 2010 from Mr Phillips re a report he had received of a “huge flame” in the youth shelter.
- 8) Information from CPALC including:
 - Memo re funding available from the Big Lottery Fund
 - CPALC Bulletin, winter 09/10
- 9) SCDC Standards Committee Newsletter for Winter 2009/10.
- 10) Poster and article from SIA (Spinal Injuries Association).
- 11) Cope newsletter March 2010.

VISITORS' QUESTIONS

Mr Hockley drew the councillors' attention to the number of potholes in the village.

Dr van der Ven suggested that an inventory of pot holes be made and said that they could be reported on the website street.scene@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mr Barnes said that there had been an announcement in the Cambridge Evening News

That the SCDC Chief Executive had resigned. Dr van der Ven said that Mr Greg Harlock had always intended his appointment to be for a short term.

Mrs Macintyre said that Mrs Pick had contacted her about protection of her property from cricket balls. The council had gone into the situation exhaustively the previous year without a satisfactory outcome. It was agreed that the matter was not the council's responsibility and that it should be settled between Mrs Pick and the Cricket Club. The clerk was asked to send a letter to this effect.

Mrs Macintyre said that Mr Salmons had observed attempts being made at the Burlington Press site to knock a branch from a listed tree. It was agreed, after some discussion, that Mrs Macintyre would contact the SCDC Trees Officer for advice about this and that the clerk would then liaise with Mrs Macintyre in writing to the Burlington Press.

Dr van der Ven said that there would be a public display at the weekend in Barrington Village Hall about the restoration of the pit at the Barrington Works site.

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

It was confirmed that the next meeting would be held on **Monday, 12th April 2010** at **7.45pm** in the **Lounge** of the **Village Hall**.

The **Annual Parish Meeting** would be held on **Monday, 26th April** in the **Meeting Room** of the **Village Hall**

The **Annual General Meeting** of the council would be held on **Monday, 10th May** in the **Lounge** of the **Village Hall**

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