

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF FOXTON PARISH COUNCIL

HELD ON MONDAY, 7th MARCH 2011 AT 7.45 p.m.

PRESENT

Dr Oakley, Dr Grindley, Mr Allars, Mr Barnes, Mrs Macintyre, Dr McKeown, Mr Sutton
County Councillor Susan van de Ven
District Councillor Deborah Roberts

IN ATTENDANCE

2 members of the public

APOLOGIES

Mr Bentinck

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 other 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, 7th February 2011 be signed as a true record. Dr McKeown seconded the proposal and all were agreed.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Letter from Foxton Cricket Club

A response to this was deferred, as not all council members had yet seen the letter.

District Councillor's Report – SCDC Chief Executive's visit to Foxton

Dr Oakley met Ms Hunter at the Village Hall on 10th February; she had been impressed by all the village facilities, both the buildings and the Recreation Ground.

S106 payment in respect of the Mortimers Lane development

It was confirmed that this payment had been made and paid into the council's account.

Planning – Mortimers Lane development and Burlington Press

Mrs Roberts said that yet another appeal was in the pipeline. She asked whether councillors had read her e-mail regarding SCDC's response to the failure to erect a barrier at the new entrance to the Burlington press site. This was confirmed. Dr

Grindley expressed disappointment that SCDC's response had not been firmer, ie comply or suffer enforcement, and thought the district council might be trying to avoid paying compensation. Mrs Roberts said she would press the Planning Officers and asked those present to report any large vehicles leaving the Burlington Press site by the High Street entrance. Mrs Roberts also said that Gareth Jones would be retiring from his post as Chief Planning Officer next month.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Before beginning her report, Dr van de Ven said she would be reporting a dead badger on the A10 footway/cyclepath between Foxton Bottom and Station Road to SCDC Environmental Services.

1. County Council budget cuts:

a) The setting:

Three arrests occurred during the council's eleven-hour budget setting meeting that was attended throughout by police, including a police guard for the Chairman's Lunch during the midday break, at which wine was again served. Dr van de Ven said she had asked the chairman soon after she joined the council whether the serving of wine in the middle of a decision-making day might be considered inappropriate and said she had been told that it was, in fact, perfectly appropriate. A small change had, however, occurred one year later - councillors can now opt out of paying for wine (councillors cover the full cost of the Chairman's Lunch so no public money involved).

b) Principles:

The County Council had made a five-year commitment not to raise council taxes, which means that it would be impossible to reinvest in many public services, which would now be lost. The public consultation clearly indicated that people favoured a tax rise in line with inflation if that would save public services, and ranked roads, buses and libraries as their top three priorities.

c) Buses:

There would be a 100% cut to bus subsidies resulting in the loss of the 139 bus service on April 17th. The free Cambridge City Centre shuttle bus would also be eliminated, even though this was a condition of the pedestrianisation of Cambridge many years ago. The loss of this service would make life very difficult for those with mobility problems.

d) Post-16 education transport subsidy:

This entitlement had not been eliminated as originally planned although some of the buses these young people needed to get to college would go, creating a gap that the council would now need to attend to.

e) "Localism":

A theme underlying many of these cuts was "Localism" and "The Big Society". Dr van de Ven said that cobbling together the raft of services which would be dumped on parish councils would cost money and that she had invited the council's Chief Executive to follow the example of the SCDC Chief Executive and attend local meetings in order to see the difficult mechanics involved in trying to pick up the pieces at ground level. Dr van de Ven said that she would bring a fuller picture of cuts to her annual report.

2. Ongoing Foxtton-related items:

a) Station Road double yellow lines:

Dr van de Ven said that, due to an oversight, County Highways did not advertise the Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) for the double yellow lines in Station Road in time for consideration at the January 2011 meeting of the Area Joint Traffic Management Committee. She had protested strenuously on learning that the TRO would now be advertised in July.

b) Level Crossing:

A Network Rail (NWR) representative came to a site visit at the level crossing and Dr van de Ven thanked Dr Oakley for attending the meeting. It had been a very useful and reassuring meeting, and NWR seemed very much on top of safety matters. Their contingency plan, for any future failure of the pedestrian gates, would involve an attendant personally locking and unlocking gates so that no one was forced to walk onto the A10, as before. A range of other measures was discussed, including the possibility of yellow-box painting on the level crossing itself to reinforce the necessity of keeping that space clear for moving traffic. Also discussed was the possibility of raising safety awareness at the crossing at the school. NWR had tried to contact CCC Highways to discuss some of its ideas but had not received any response - they would try again and Dr van de Ven would offer her support.

c) Rail User Group meetings:

The group had been offered free premises for meetings by Meldreth Manor School. Dr van de Ven asked whether the parish council like the group to take up this offer, or would prefer for the group to meet in Foxtton for one meeting per year. Dr van de Ven thought it was important to meet locally in order to pick up on local issues. She was now liaising with the primary school on involvement in the Foxtton station birthday celebration: two meetings about this event, one with the local history group and one with the Gardens Association, would shortly be taking place.

d) Barrington Quarry application:

Dr van de Ven had written that day in support of the parish council's letter and she had marked 11 April (the date at which the application should be considered by the Development Control Committee) in her diary. She would follow this up further given that the County Council had overlooked the parish council's previous input on this matter.

e) New Melbourn Youth Club:

The steering committee was going great guns, thanks to the commitment of each of the parish councils involved. Dr van de Ven thanked Mr Barnes for representing Foxtton and said that the group would meet again this week.

f) After-school Basketball Club:

Dr van de Ven said that she had been involved in setting up a new after-school Basketball Club at Melbourn Village College, and that the take-up of places included children from various other villages including Foxtton. The organisers were trying to fill in the gaps in the "Extended School" programme, using free premises and finding volunteers to help out.

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Mrs Roberts said that, only two years from the council tenant's vote on housing transfers (a consultation that had cost taxpayers £1.25 million), it had been confirmed that the tenant's participation group had put forward the idea that tenants might change their minds if they knew about the large debt that would have to be paid off. Mrs Roberts said that she had requested a copy of the Minutes of the last tenants' participation group meeting.

PARISH PLAN UPDATE

Mr Allars said that, excepting the Police Report, which he had still not received, he now had a rough draft of the Parish Plan. He said that Ian Sanderson had formatted the document very well, and it was hoped the Plan would be ready to send out during April or May. Dr Oakley, on behalf of the council, thanked both Mr Allars and Mr Hockley for all their hard work in producing the plan.

REPORTS FROM THE WORKING PARTIES

RECREATION AND AMENITIES

1. Foxton Dynamos

Dr McKeown reported that he had attended a meeting on 16th February to discuss the field requirements of Foxton Dynamos. Also present were Dr Grindley and representatives of the Foxton Dynamos. The club was forming new teams as existing members got older and needed a larger pitch. The club now needed one further pitch and had asked whether this could be accommodated on the Recreation Ground. Dr Grindley thought space might be found and offered to help map out a proposal. The FA review of Junior Football, due to come into force in 2012/13, was a complicating factor at the meeting. The Football and Cricket clubs would have to be consulted about Foxton Dynamo's request for a further pitch. Dr Grindley said that a second full-size pitch was needed and recommended that the council look to acquire additional land. He pointed out that 5-a-side and netball facilities were increasingly flood-lit and that, when the ducts were laid for the new lighting columns on the Recreation Ground, extra ducts had been provided should additional lighting be needed in the future. After the meeting, it was felt that the priority was to get an under-8 pitch on the Recreation Ground for one season. There was a general feeling that the Recreation Ground needed to be preserved as such and not become just a sports ground.

2. Grass cutting on the Recreation Ground

Dr McKeown said that Mr Bentinck had been approached by the Cricket Club, which was asking the council for a further £50 to cover additional fuel costs. This matter was deferred for discussion by the R and A group at its next meeting.

3. Access to the Recreation Ground

It was noted that the annual letters should now go out to residents whose houses have boundaries with the Recreation Ground with forms requesting permission for access from their properties to the Recreation Ground.

4. Use of Recreation Ground for events

Dr McKeown had formulated two pages of “Terms and Conditions” for those wishing to hold events on the Recreation Ground. It was agreed that this draft should be e-mailed to councillors for feedback.

5. Bike Park

There had been a debate about the use of this piece of land. Older boys had worn a groove in the mound, and this had been filled in to make the area more suitable for younger bikers.

6. Light Sensor

David Salmons had moved the light sensor, but it was noted that although the parish had enjoyed a sunny day, the light sensor was not working this evening.

7. Hawthorn Tree

David Salmons had planted the Hawthorn tree on The Green.

FINANCE

Mr Sutton gave details of the Bank Accounts as follows:

Deposit Account	£3,751.96
(This included interest for the period Dec. 2010-March 2011 of £0.72)	
Current Account	£9,343.72
(This included rent from Tennis club (£5), an S106 payment re Mortimers Lane development (£8,497.99) and a VAT rebate (£784.30)	
Standard Life Bank 10-day Notice Account	£30,000.00

Mr Sutton proposed the following cheques for payment:

Phillimore Garden Centre (trees & sundries)	£22.24
Foxton Village Hall (hire of Meeting Room 10 & 17/2 and Lounge 22/2)	£37.75
D Salmons Fencing Services (Village Warden Work, February)	£319.00
J E Burns (salary February and March)	£619.55
J E Burns (expenses January/February)	£17.88
H M Revenue & Customs (tax on clerk's salary for 3 months to 5/4/11)	£144.20
Approval for electricity meter for training lights	£306.00
P & D Specialist Services Ltd (works carried out for training lights)	£11,917.93

Dr Oakley seconded the proposal and all were agreed that these payments, totalling £13,384.55. should be made and that £2,751 be transferred from the Deposit Account to the Current Account

NB A cheque for a partial contribution from RGT of £1,340 to FPC was passed to the clerk to be paid into the Current Account, and the CCC grass cutting contribution of £943.86 for 2010 had been invoiced.

PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT

Dr Grindley reported as follows:

The committee had met three times since the last council meeting when the following matters were discussed:

Meeting on 17th February

Burlington Press

The committee considered the SCDC Chief Executive, Jean Hunter's, response to the council's letter of 26th January, and a draft from the Parish Clerk of the proposed reply. The contents were discussed in detail, line by line, and with particular reference to the potential effect on the residents of Foxton if no action were taken.

The letter was approved and it was agreed that it should be sent to Ms Hunter, with copies to District Councillor, Deborah Roberts and to County Councillor, Susan van de Ven.

Tree Application

J Callin	Application C/11/40/030 to reduce the canopy of an Ash tree and fell an Acacia and an Acer at 8 High Street
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Two members of the committee had visited the site, which is within the current conservation area, and informed the remaining members that it would be reasonable for the work requested to be carried out. Both Ash trees on the site (T1 and T2 on the plan) were very large with some unbalanced growth. Both trees would benefit from crown reduction, thinning and the removal of some branches. The committee also approved the felling of the Acacia, T3 and the Acer, T4. As the Acer was of significant size towards the front of the plot, the committee recommended that it be replaced with a small to medium sized tree in the near vicinity.

Meeting on 22nd February

Amber Homes Ltd	Application No. S/0045/11 for dwelling (revised design to include single-storey side and rear extensions) at 7 Mortimers Lane Refusal recommended on a number of grounds, including the proposed increase in the footprint of the building in the direction of the adjacent listed building at Nos. 1-3 Mortimers Lane
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Mr B Cooper	Tree application No. C/11/17/030/01 to fell a Beech tree with Beech bark disease at 2 Hall Close Recommended that as the tree was in a poor condition and close to the A10, it should be felled, and an Oak tree planted in its place
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Meeting on 2nd March

The committee considered a letter (dated 3rd February) from Cambridgeshire County Council with additional information regarding the Cemex application

(S/1080/10/CW) for importation by rail, of suitable restoration material, over a period of 5 years, to partially infill an existing quarry void and provide for the restoration of the western and north-western areas of Barrington Quarry to a combination of agriculture and conservation after-uses, and all associated works including railway refurbishment and the retention and continued use of existing weighbridge, office and workshop at Barrington Quarry.

The committee had a number of concerns. These included:

- Hours of working, noise and vibration
- Lighting
- Lack of information on construction traffic movements and volume while the Cemex light railway track was under construction and the impact this would have on the junction with the A10

These and other concerns were raised in the council's response to CCC's letter and the recommendation was made that there should be a Section 106-funded project associated with this application for traffic lights to be installed at the junctions of Station Road and Barrington Road with the A10, to be co-ordinated and synchronised with the closure of the level crossing gates, and set to delay the A10 traffic when the gates opened in order to allow traffic from the side roads to exit onto or cross over the A10.

The suggestion had also been made in the council's earlier response to this application that CCC consider the possibility of a railway link to the Cemex Light Railway from the up-line from London and the down-line to London in order to avoid any extra barrier closures on the A10.

Dr van de Ven asked to be "kept in the loop" and said that Network Rail would support a linking line.

The clerk subsequently sent a response to CCC's letter that included all the council's concerns and recommendations.

Proposal for a Wind Farm at Heydon Grange

Dr McKeown had attended an exhibition by Volkswind and reported as follows:

Dr McKeown said that this was not really a planning matter as no formal submission had yet been made. He had attended an exhibition by Volkswind that was aimed to give information to residents on what the wind farm might entail.

Dr McKeown said he had written a report and that copies were available for anyone who would like one: councillors had all received a copy by email.

In summary, the plan was currently for eight masts, (though in the past eleven masts had been proposed), each over 400 feet high, to be built on land adjacent to the Heydon Grange golf club. Dr McKeown said that these masts were the largest proposed to date proposed for an onshore site and would be clearly visible from either end of Foxton village.

Noise was the major concern and the expert present was at pains to point out that the design and control of the proposed masts was better than for those at Deeping St Nicholas that notoriously forced a couple from their home. He could not guarantee

that low-frequency beating would not occur at this site but said that it should be possible to alter the operation of the turbines to minimise this effect. Dr McKeown said that this did not inspire confidence in him.

Dr McKeown said “The Stop Heydon Wind Farm” group was very much in evidence and that no doubt those present at the current meeting would have seen reports in the local papers and on TV about the group’s objections. He said that both Andrew Lansley and the Imperial War Museum had spoken against the proposal.

Dr McKeown said that he thought Foxton residents should not be complacent about this proposal: the masts were massive engineering structures with visual, noise and environmental impact. He believed that residents should, as individuals, offer comment when appropriate on the desirability of this scheme. Furthermore, if it were presented to SCDC as a formal planning application, he thought that Foxton PC should discuss it and make its opinion known even though Foxton might not be one of the villages consulted by necessity.

It was pointed out that the owner of the land in question was not now wishing to proceed with the proposal. However, it was noted that his wishes could be overridden.

Dr Oakley thanked Dr McKeown for his report.

POLICE LIAISON REPORT

Mr Barnes said that there had been some police speeding checks in the village and warning letters had been issued.

RECREATION GROUND TRUST REPORT

There was no report.

DOVECOTE/MEADOW PROJECT

There was nothing to report.

CORRESPONDENCE

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

- 1) Letter dated 10th February from Jean Hunter, SCDC Chief Executive in response to the council’s letter raising concerns about the Planning Department’s handling of the retrospective application for the new access to the Burlington Press site.
- 2) Letter dated 15th February from Dr Jon Finney, CCC Development Control Engineer (City and South) re the Highways Authority views concerning the new High Street access to the Burlington press site.
- 3) Letter dated 23rd February from the CCC head of Passenger Transport Services re proposed changes and reductions to some bus services supported by financial contributions from CCC funds (responses by 11th March).

- 4) Information from NALC including:
 - Posters re parish or town council elections
 - Leaflets entitled “All about local councils”
 - Leaflet entitled “It takes all sorts – Local Councils: represent your community, make a difference”
- 5) Information from CPALC including:
 - CPALC leaflet entitled “So you want to be a parish or town councillor”
- 6) “Clerks and Councils Direct” magazine, March 2011 (*with article on Value Added Tax*).
- 7) COPE newsletter, March 2011.
- 8) Publicity material from Iles Waste Systems and Agriplant Ltd.

Dr Oakley had received an e-mail from Derek Seaton (BT Payphones) asking whether the village would be interested in adopting the K6 telephone box for £1. It was agreed that the clerk should contact Mr Seaton to say the council would like to adopt the box.

VISITORS' QUESTIONS

Mr Challis noted that potholes had been repaired. Referring to the earlier discussion about the use of the Recreation Ground, he urged that it should be made clear to people that it is not solely a sports ground. Mr Challis also said he had been interested in the County Councillor’s comments about the serving of wine at CCC lunches. On a more serious note he said that he would like to know why the Guided Bus project went wrong.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Dr McKeown said that he had been mistaken in reporting at the last meeting that the path at Vicarage Corner was clear. Mr Sutton agreed to have a word with Mr Fawcett about the need to trim back overgrown hedging.

Mr Sutton said that a series of meetings had been held about the proposed new Village sign and both Steve Tongish and the Local History Society had been consulted. He said there would be a note about the proposed new village sign in “The Laurentian” and a note for householders. Mr Sutton said that people had come forward with offers to help fund the project.

Dr Grindley said that a new village sign was part of the “pride of place” that residents could feel about their village and cited the improvement to the Station Road bus shelter.

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

It was confirmed that the next meeting would be held on **Monday, 4th April 2011 at 7.45pm** in the **Meeting Room** of the **Village Hall**.

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