

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF FOXTON PARISH COUNCIL

HELD ON MONDAY, 5th MARCH 2012 AT 7.45 p.m.

PRESENT

Dr Oakley, Dr Grindley, Mr Barnes, Mr McCreery,
Mrs Macintyre, Mrs McFadzean and Mr Sutton
County Councillor Susan van de Ven
District Councillor Deborah Roberts

IN ATTENDANCE

5 members of the public

APOLOGIES

Mr Bore and Mr Elliott

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.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

As no amendments were needed Dr Oakley proposed that the Minutes of the previous Meeting, held on Monday, 6th February 2012, be signed as a true record. Mrs McFadzean seconded the proposal and all were agreed.

MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Dr van de Ven began by saying that her verbal report at the previous FPC meeting should have included the fact that she was running a petition against bus subsidy cuts. She continued her report as follows:

1. Bus Services

The County Council would not look to replace the bus services they cut in April of last year, so, for Foxton, there would be no replacement for the 139 service. The Cabinet meeting deciding the final sweeping round of bus subsidy cuts would be held in Wisbech next day in order to make a point of getting out there and listening to concerns in other parts of the county. Dr van de Ven said there were few public transport links for people who wanted to get to that meeting. The "alternative

transport” being piloted though the Cambridgeshire Future Transport project was still very poor at best.

2. White lines at Vicarage Corner

These would be refreshed “in the spring” according to Mike Cooper of the CCC Highways Department.

3. Rail User Group

The Rail User Group’s AGM would be held on 14th March at 7.30pm at Meldreth Manor. Dr van de Ven offered her thanks to several Foxton residents who had offered their support. She said that the group had a new Webmaster and that this was important as the group’s public face. Dr van de Ven had not had time to pursue some of the group’s long-term aspirations, including parking, because of the amount of time needed to try and engage Network Rail on the problems for pedestrians at the level crossing. There had been an enormous amount of publicity about Network Rail’s promise to upgrade the crossing, but to date it was still just a promise as the group had been told that completion of the pedestrian gates would take a total of 6-8 weeks. Since all the media attention there had been another incident at the crossing involving one of the same people as before. Dr van de Ven said that it was vital that people continued to report any safety concerns.

4. Local Sustainable Transport Fund

A bid of £5 million had been submitted to the Department of Transport. This focused on the growth area between Alconbury, the Guided Busway, Cambridge and Ely and included a fair amount of cycle provision. Other rural areas of the county, especially South Cambridgeshire and Fenland, were not accounted for in the council’s strategic transport infrastructure planning so it was important to seek other means for meeting needs in those areas.

5. Melbourn Hub

Dr van de Ven said that among other projects happening in her cluster of villages and relating to services devolved from the county, the local library access point in Melbourn, involving volunteers from all the surrounding villages, was now preparing the detail of moving to the Melbourn Hub, which, if all went well, could be ready in Summer 2013.

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR’S REPORT

Mrs Roberts said the district council would not be raising its share of council tax for the forthcoming financial year. However, she expressed some concern about this decision as she felt it might lead to a sharp increase later on.

The council was also considering building some council houses, as present government policy allowed councils to retain all the rental income from council housing.

The council was installing solar panels on some council-owned houses, but this was leading to complaints about unfairness when neighbouring properties did not have these panels fitted. The initial action was to fit solar panels on 500 houses.

Mrs Roberts said she would chase up officers about removing the tree stumps from the grassed area in Station Road. Mrs Macintyre agreed to monitor the situation, as it was important that new trees were planted in the spring.

Mrs Roberts said that it might be necessary for the council to write to SCDC in the strongest terms about the lack of action in the matter of the former Q8 garage.

Finally, Mrs Roberts reported that she had held a meeting on 28th February for residents in Station Road and Hall Close to be able to discuss the proposal from Endurance Estates for a development off Station Road that involved a new access road across the grassed area.

PARISH PLAN UPDATE

Dr Oakley said that all residents should soon have the Parish Plan summary and Action Plan. The full Parish Plan would be available to view on 12th March in the Village Hall from 8pm.

REPORTS FROM THE WORKING PARTIES

RECREATION AND AMENITIES

Mr McCreery reported as follows:

1. Recreation Ground

The additional tree surgery should be carried out this month. The group was continuing to look at better use of the hard standing area and hoped to pull together a project over the next couple of months.

Mr McCreery said that, having turned down the somewhat expensive idea of an all-weather surface for the area in front of the ball wall, the group was now looking at various grids and meshes to protect a re-instated surface.

2. Play Area

Play Area Improvement Group

The group had held a successful coffee morning on Saturday, 11th February in the Village Hall lounge. The plans were generally welcomed and it was hoped equipment would be ordered shortly. It was hoped to procure one further small grant before the end of April.

Mr McCreery proposed, on the basis that the Play Area Improvement Group held sufficient funds, that the council gave its permission for the order to be placed by the FPC after ROSPA clearance. Dr Oakley seconded the proposal and all were agreed.

Picnic Benches/Seating

Mr McCreery further proposed that the Parish Council now order the two picnic benches, in recycled plastic, for the Play Area at a total estimated cost of between £900 and £1,100 excluding VAT and installation. Dr Oakley seconded the proposal and all were agreed.

He suggested that the council also consider for next year what would be the most suitable equipment for the picnic area of the Recreation Ground.

3. Foxton Woods

The dog litterbin had now been emptied and some work had been carried out on the fencing particularly on the fencing of the Eastern woods. A new notice board was in place.

4. South Cambs. District Council Open Spaces Survey

The District Council's survey of open spaces and their use in Parishes in the District would be sent off this month. The group had taken the opportunity of pointing out the shortage of football pitches and the wish for a Community Orchard.

5. Sports Clubs

An update meeting would be held later in the month to discuss a number of subjects including fertilising and spraying on the Recreation Ground. Mr McCreery said he had today received a letter from the Cricket Club looking for some assistance in purchasing a replacement roller. The existing roller was condemned in 2007 and was estimated to be well over 20 years old at that time. The Club would be applying for various grants to meet the estimated cost of £6,000. Mr McCreery said that as this letter had just been received he only mentioned it now for information purposes.

6. Fields in Trust

Mr McCreery proposed that, as this was the year of the council's QEII playing field application, the council join the Fields in Trust organisation at a reduced first-year subscription of £20 (normally £35). Dr Oakley seconded the proposal and all were agreed.

FINANCE

Mr Sutton gave details of the bank accounts as follows:

Deposit Account	£14,042.80
Current Account	£767.73
(This included the CCC grass cutting contribution for 2011 of £707.89 and Tennis Club rent for 2011 of £5)	
Standard Life Bank	£30,344.92

Mr Sutton proposed the following cheques for payment:

D Salmons (Village Warden duties, February)	£82.50
Esson Print Ltd (printing re the Parish Plan)	£192.00
J E Burns (salary February and March)	£623.55
J E Burns (expenses January and February)	£34.62
J E Burns (reimbursement for 6 reams printer/copier paper)	£29.94
H M Revenue & Customs (tax on clerk's salary for 3 months to 5/4/12)	£138.20

Mrs Macintyre seconded the proposal and all were agreed that these payments, totalling £1,100.81, be made and that £388 be transferred from the Deposit Account to the Current Account.

Mr Sutton also said that he would transfer a further amount from the Deposit Account to the Current Account to cover the tree work (already agreed) to be carried out by Town and Country Tree Surgery Company (£780 + VAT), the picnic benches (£1,078

+£90 carriage excluding VAT) and the subscription (£20) to Fields in Trust agreed at the present meeting.

PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT

Dr Grindley reported as follows:

Planning Committee meeting on 15th February

Planning Application considered:

Mr and Mrs Shelford	Application No. S/0013/12 for an amendment to existing design to allow a small two-storey extension consisting of a downstairs porch and upstairs en-suite bathroom at 8 Shepreth Road
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The proposed extension would encroach on the Root Preservation Area of a Beech tree subject to a Tree Preservation Order. Acceptance of the application was recommended, on the condition that everything possible was done to protect the tree and its roots, and that the tree should not be cut back.

Planning permission granted:

Mr and Mrs Bailey	Application No. S/1868/11 for a garden room at 20 Barrington Road
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Mr & Mrs Waring	Application No. S/2534/11 for a first floor rear extension at 30 Fowlmere Road
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Appeal Notice received:

Mr B Cooper	Application S/0931/11 for a new dwelling to the rear of 2 Hall Close
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The committee resolved that the clerk should submit a letter to the planning inspectorate advising them of the speed limit reduction from 60 to 50mph on the A10 and confirming the council's objection to the development as previously advised.

Correspondence received:

(i) A letter from Mr Gary Duthie, Senior Lawyer at SCDC, regarding the submission of a planning application on behalf of the Q8 garage, refuting that nothing was being done, but admitting that it was very low on his list of priorities. Mr Duthie said that it was taking a large amount of work to find out the information needed for the application. The letter also stated that an enforcement officer had visited the site recently but found no evidence of any car sales taking place.

It was agreed to ask the clerk to pass this letter on to District Councillor Deborah Roberts, and ask her to speak to Mr Duthie about the situation.

ii) A proposal had been received from the SCDC Lands offering to sell land to Endurance Estates for a new road between Nos. 29 and 31 Station Road to give access onto Station Road for a proposed development of 9 affordable and 10 private houses on land to the rear of the Press Cottages. The application site is outside the village development framework. An enclosed report of Endurance Estates claimed that local residents supported this development.

The committee agreed to draft a letter and questionnaire to be sent to households in Station Road and Hall Close to obtain the opinions of as many of the local residents as possible, and to reply to the SCDC Lands Officer on the outcome, making clear the Parish Council opinion of the proposed road and housing development in terms of planning policy, the Council's Neighbourhood Plan preparations and proposed action under the terms and provisions of the Localism Act

Planning Committee Meeting held on 29 February

Planning Application considered:

Simpers Ltd

Application No. S/0173/12 for demolition of an existing dwelling and structures, and erection of seven new dwellings with garaging. Two of the dwellings being allocated as “affordable housing” – one as social rented and one as “intermediate”

The committee recommended acceptance, with the following conditions:

1. During the period of construction, no power-operated machinery shall be operated on the site before 0800 hours on weekdays and Saturdays, or after 1800 hours on weekdays and 1300 hours on Saturdays (nor at any time on Sundays or Bank Holidays) unless otherwise agreed in writing with the Local Planning Authority in accordance with any agreed noise restrictions.
2. During the period of construction, that the developer liaise with the Church (situated opposite) to avoid noise at times when services (particularly funerals and weddings) are taking place.
3. Construction and tradespersons' vehicles should not be allowed to park on the High Street at any time.
4. No further windows, doors or openings of any kind shall be inserted in any elevation of the development, unless expressly authorised by planning permission granted by the Local Planning Authority in that behalf (to safeguard the privacy of occupiers of adjoining properties)
5. That surface water should all drain to a soakaway, and that none should be allowed to flow onto the High Street, and that the access road should have measures to ensure containment of flash flooding.
6. Notwithstanding the provisions of Article 3 and Schedule 2 of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995 (or any order revoking and re-enacting that order), the following classes of development should be expressly prohibited in respect of the two affordable units, unless expressly authorised by planning permission granted by the Local Planning Authority in that behalf:
 - Part 1, Development within the curtilage of a dwelling house, all classes
 - Part 2, Minor operations, class A (erection of gates, walls or fences)

The committee also asked that the following points be noted:

(i) The committee recommend that the proposed main dwelling at the south end of the application site be constructed of buff-coloured brick (rather than the proposed red brick) to fit in better with surrounding buildings.

(ii) The road through the proposed development gives access via a gate to the field at the north end, and has been cited by the developer as being required for secondary access for the farmer. However, it is the committee's understanding that there is currently no such arrangement for the farmer, and that this gate seems expressly to exist to allow further development in future on the green belt adjoining the site, to which the planning committee would object.

Correspondence:

Having written to the planning inspectorate confirming opposition to the development at 2 Hall Close, and reinforcing the original objections, it was noted that there already seemed to be a building in the back garden of the same property. It was agreed to ask the clerk to write to South Cambridgeshire District Council about this, and recommend that SCDC make a site visit and advise the council on the matter.

Meeting with residents:

Planning committee members attended a meeting on 29th February, convened by District Councillor Deborah Roberts at the Village Hall, to hear from residents who would be affected by the proposed development of a new road onto Station Road and mixed housing on land behind the Press Cottages in Station Road. Twenty-two residents were in attendance, who, with the exception one or two present, indicated that they were opposed to the proposals.

Results of Council Questionnaire:

Responses were received from 45 households (77 adults).

40 households (89%) were opposed to the proposed new road with 5 (11%) in favour.

34 households (76%) were concerned at the loss of the green bank and 10 (22%) were unconcerned.

36 households (80%) were opposed to the development as proposed with 8 (18%) in favour.

Proposed Sale of Land by SCDC:

The parish council declared the landscaped bank on Station Road (land currently in SCDC ownership but maintained by the Parish Council) to be a local community asset and approved the wording of a letter to be sent to SCDC formally requesting that it should not be sold to a developer, but instead transferred to the Foxton Parish Council for the benefit of the local community under the terms and provisions of the Localism Act.

Mrs Roberts said that Mr Ridgeon had offered £100,000 for the land to provide the proposed access road to the Endurance Estates proposed development. Dr Grindley said that the parish council's letter to SCDC raised a number of SCDC policy issues in connection with this matter.

POLICE LIAISON REPORT

Mr Barnes reported five incidents of anti-social behaviour:

- Cambridge Road 2 incidents
- Hall Close/Station Road 1 incident
- Hillfield 1 incident
- Maltings Lane/Caxton Lane 1 incident

Mr McCreery reported that a fire had been attempted at the youth shelter, but that there had been no significant damage.

DIAMOND JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

Dr Oakley said that the Parish Council should take a lead in organising celebrations for the Diamond Jubilee. It was hoped that these could coincide with the official launching of the new play area equipment and the designation of the Recreation Ground as a Queen Elizabeth II site. A plaque would be required to display the names of grant donors to the Play Area improvements. It was also hoped that the new village sign could also be unveiled at the same time. Mrs McFadzean volunteered to set up a working group to organise the events.

RECREATION GROUND TRUST REPORT

There was no report for the present meeting.

DOVECOTE/MEADOW REPORT

There was nothing to report.

CORRESPONDENCE

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

- 1) Memo received 2nd March from CCC re Subsidised Bus Services Review giving link to website.
- 2) Invitation from Age UK to its spring meeting on “Assistive Technology” to be held at Duxford Museum between 10am and 12.00 noon on Wednesday, 28th March: poster on Age UK’s shopping service enclosed.
- 3) “Clerks and Councils Direct” magazine, March 2012.
- 4) Leaflet on RoSPA playground inspections.
- 5) Publicity material from HMT Services (grass cutting), Norse (landscape development and fencing), Wicksteed Playscapes and Barcham Trees.

VISITORS’ QUESTIONS

Mr Challis commended the Planning Committee for sounding the opinion of Station Road and Hall Close residents about Endurance Estates’ proposed new development (including a new access road) off Station Road.

Mr Wilson said that a very high price had been paid for a 1-acre plot of amenity land (ie land not for development) at the junction of Shepreth Road with the A10, and thought the matter should be investigated.

After some discussion, Mrs Roberts agreed to look into the matter.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

It was confirmed that the next meeting would be held on **Monday, 2nd April 2012** at **7.45pm** in the **Meeting Room** of the **Village Hall**.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.12pm.