

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF FOXTON PARISH COUNCIL

HELD ON MONDAY, 4th MARCH 2013 AT 7.45 p.m.

PRESENT

Dr Oakley, Dr Grindley, Mr Barnes, Mr Elliott, 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

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.

Dr Oakley said he would be seeking renewal of the dispensation from the district council.

Dr Grindley declared an interest in Mrs Ward's planning application that would be referred to in the course of the meeting.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

As no amendments were needed Dr Grindley proposed that the Minutes of the previous Meeting, held on Monday, 4th February 2013, be signed as a true record. Mrs McFadzean seconded the proposal and all were agreed.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Village Infrastructure (Roads)

It was confirmed that Cemex had agreed the funding for half the costs of repairing road edges in Barrington Road. *On a separate matter, it was agreed that the clerk would liaise with Dr Grindley in applying for a grant from Cemex towards the cost of improving the training lights on the Recreation Ground.*

VILLAGE INFRASTRUCTURE

Dr Oakley reported as follows:

1. Foxton Level Crossing

Dr Oakley said that the level crossing had a continuing earthing problem needing constant repair. This added weight to finding a long-term solution to the crossing. Network Rail's Foxton level crossing feasibility study was due next month. He said Dr van de Ven had asked the county council for a briefing before publication so that the issues it might raise could be anticipated.

REPORTS FROM THE WORKING PARTIES

RECREATION AND AMENITIES

Mr McCreery reported as follows:

1. Recreation Ground

Mr Salmons had now carried out the necessary repairs to play equipment arising from the Play Inspection Report organised through Kompan. The major item was treating and re-hanging the gate to avoid the risk of trapped fingers and Mr McCreery was in touch with Kompan about rectifying a further five minor issues.

As the report was very comprehensive and would be followed up with a second one in July, Mr McCreery proposed that the council cancel the regular annual RoSPA report as being unnecessary. *Dr Oakley seconded the proposal and all were agreed. The clerk would arrange cancellation of the 2013 RoSPA inspection.*

2. QEII Registration

The executed Deed of Dedication had been received from Fields in Trust.

The council now had to lodge the appropriate forms with the Land Registry. Owing to the different registration numbers of the pieces of land and the split ownership between the parish council and the Recreation Ground Trust there were twelve forms to complete.

The plaque had now been received and Rachael was investigating the building of a plinth to be sited on the Recreation Ground.

The council had also received its complimentary Royal Oak Sapling grown from an acorn from a royal estate. Mrs Macintyre had kindly agreed to nurture this, as at present it was only about 18 inches high.

3. Half Pipe Project

The Half Pipe committee was making good progress with its fund raising. The Waitrose campaign had raised £235, and the pantomime over £1,900, giving the committee a balance of around £2,700 with a further £1,000 each promised by the parish council and an individual donor. The committee was now beginning the external fund raising campaign.

FINANCE

Mr Sutton gave details of the Bank Accounts as follows:

Deposit Account	£14,665.93
Current Account	£60.74
10-day Notice Account	£22,656.97

Mr Sutton proposed the following cheques for payment:

Foxton Village Hall (hire of Meeting Room 7/1/13)	£15.00
ESPO (2 invoices for 6 chairs and a 6-tray storage unit)	£325.20
Austin's Memorials (sign for council office)	£81.00
J E Burns (salary February and March)	£627.95
J E Burns (expenses January and February)	£70.56
H M R C (tax on clerk's salary for three months to 5/3/13)	£131.80
Fields in Trust (renewal of membership fee)	£25.00
D Salmons (Village Warden duties February and extra work)	£195.00
Land Registry (registration of plots of land for Fields in Trust)	£80.00

Mrs Macintyre seconded the proposal and all were agreed that these payments, totalling £1,551.51 be made, and that £1,550 be transferred from the Deposit Account to the Current Account.

PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT

Dr Grindley reported as follows:

Appeal against planning refusal (ref.APP/W0530/A/12/218375):

Goreway Holdings	Application No. S/0836/12/FL for dwelling on land adjacent to 7 Station Road Appeal dismissed
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The appeal was dismissed on the grounds of the harm that would arise to the living conditions of the residents occupying the adjoining property, 7 Station Road. In addition a suitable undertaking to contribute to infrastructure had not been submitted.

The inspector agreed with the representations made by Foxton parish council.

Referred Planning Application:

Mrs J Ward	Application No. S/2608/12/FL for construction of two dwellings following demolition of existing at 14 Fowlmere Road
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South Cambridgeshire district council agreed to refer this application to its Member committee for a site visit and decision as requested. Dr Grindley said that Councillors Peter Sutton and Rachael McIntyre would attend to represent Foxton parish council.

Mr Sutton had prepared what he would say, which would include the parish council's approval of both applications made by Mrs Ward. The present application would provide, besides the house for Mrs Ward, an additional much needed small dwelling in the village. The occupants of the adjacent listed building had no objection to the application.

Local Development Plan consultation:

Dr Grindley said that the following areas of green space had been identified for protection as Local Green Space.

- PC15 The Green on Station Road, Foxton
- G30 Foxton Recreation Ground
- G31 The Green, Foxton
- G32 The Dovecote Meadow, Foxton

Dr Grindley said that the district council had now extended the time allowed for parish councils to identify Local Green Spaces that they feel should be protected in the Local Plan.

Cambridgeshire county council consultation on Cemex application:

The CCC consultation on Cemex application (S/01080/10/CW) for the importation by rail of restoration material at Barrington Quarry invited comment on submission of details for alterations to the railway level crossings on Barrington light railway in respect of conditions 19, 30, 40 & 41.

The closing date for the consultation was 15th March and the matter would be considered at the Planning Committee's next meeting.

Parish Plan – Expansion of Conservation Area:

Dr Grindley said that David Bevan, SCDC Conservation manager would attend the meeting of the Foxton History Society on 13th March (at 7.30pm at the Village Hall). Mr Bevan would explain what was involved in a detailed appraisal and how the History Society could assist.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH SCHEME

Dr Oakley said that enough volunteers had now come forward to be able to run the scheme and the council would provide funding. Mr Sutton proposed a maximum of £400. Dr Oakley seconded the proposal and all were agreed. It was suggested that the team leader at Bassingbourn, Vic Nixon, could offer advice.

Dr Grindley said that, following the recent spate of burglaries, some action was needed in Foxton to feed information to the police quickly.

POLICE LIASON REPORT

Mr Barnes said that there had been two types of burglary recently. The first method was “smash and grab” with the perpetrator parking in daylight outside homes or in driveways. The other type of burglary occurred at night where the perpetrators targeted cash, jewellery and car keys. He said that the police should be called on 999 if anything suspicious was observed. The 101 number should be used for discussing matters of concern.

Mr Barnes said there had been an incident of anti-social behaviour in Rowlands Close and a public disorder and weapons case, which was currently under investigation by the police. The same people may have been responsible for a further incident in St Laurence Road.

Before leaving this topic, Mr Elliott said that a homemade crack pipe had been found in an Illingworth Way garden.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Dr van de Ven reported as follows:

1. Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC) was no longer supporting the Neighbourhood Panel meetings in South Cambridgeshire, due to the popular wish that these remain police-led, rather than general council issue meetings where such things as pot holes etc were reported on, which was what the County Council had pushed for in the other four Cambridgeshire districts. Dr van de Ven said she had been attending the panel meetings since their inception and had found them an excellent way of providing residents with close contact with the police, and for the police to deploy their limited resources in a way that best met community expectations.

2. Following the franchise extension granted by the Department for Transport (initially six months, and then, as would be likely, an additional two years) First Capital Connect (FCC) had formally invited the Meldreth, Shepreth and Foxton Rail User Group to form a Community Rail Partnership, which Dr van de Ven hoped would mean some additional officer support from both FCC and CCC for some of the group's projects. This could involve opportunities for local businesses, for example advertising on the rail network in exchange for incentives to travel to Foxton by rail. Overall officer support should increase the level of support from FCC and make things run a bit more smoothly.

Dr van de Ven said the Group would like to thank Duke of Edinburgh volunteers, including one from Foxton, who tidied up Meldreth Station gardens during a cold morning in half term. The Rail User Group would next meet on 13th March, at 7:30pm, at Meldreth Manor School.

3. The A10 Corridor Cycling Campaign would meet again on 12th March (earlier than planned on account of the huge level of interest and activity). Dr van de Ven said that, interestingly, the 2011 Census data was indicating a higher than expected level of cycling to work in the A10 corridor between Royston and Cambridge and this had been picked up by the CCC transport strategy team in their work on prioritising types of transport investment for the coming decades –it was notable that along the A10 corridor there was little vision to augment bus services due to the presence of rail transport. Dr van de Ven said that the Cycling Campaign's website was well worth a visit.

4. Dr van de Ven asked whether the parish council had been contacted yet by Shepreth Parish Council in order to co-ordinate a plan of action in terms of asking SCDC for help in the matter of litter on the A10 near Foxton Bottom. *Mrs Roberts said she would talk to the SCDC Environmental Health Department.*

5. Dr van de Ven said a question had been raised by a member of the public (first to the chairman and then to herself) about the detail of road adoption in Edis Way. Unfortunately there were no electronic maps showing the requested information but the land searches team could provide sight of paper maps.

8. Dr van de Ven said that there was frustrating, and somewhat shocking, news from CCC that they could no longer provide general engineering advice on

prospective highways schemes that did not fall within the strict remit of Minor Highways Improvements. This was apparent from recent casework in Meldreth. The advice to parishes was that they could hire consultants to give advice. She said that this did not seem appropriate from the local authority and she would be following the matter up.

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Mrs Roberts said that work had commenced on improvements to the Caxton Lane cottages. Households had, however, been without hot water for about eight weeks. She had spoken to the site manager who said there had been funding and on-site problems - new people were coming in and he would keep her informed.

Replacement trees were being planted the next day for those felled on the grassy bank in front of the Press Cottages. Mrs Macintyre would visit the site.

Mrs Roberts had received an e-mail from concerned residents regarding the appeal by Goreway Holdings against the refusal of planning consent for the building of a house adjoining No 7 Station Road.

Mrs Roberts said she would be speaking at the Planning Committee meeting to be held on 6th March when Mrs Ward's application was considered.

The question of members' allowances was discussed at a full council meeting when it was decided not to support rises.

Mrs Roberts also reported that two councillors had changed party allegiance to become Independent members. Finally, she said she had been approached by Mr Ridgeon's agent to discuss a proposed development at Station Road.

COUNCIL OFFICE

All the furniture had now been installed and the date of the next surgery would be advertised in "The Laurentian".

RECREATION GROUND TRUST

Mrs McFadzean had nothing to report.

Mr Sutton had had a site meeting with Mr Garrick, the Facilities Manager, to assess future works needed. The gravel car park would need to be made more presentable and he would need a session with Mrs Howell to co-ordinate action on other items on the list of works needed, including an alternative to the noisy roller shutter between the Meeting Room and the kitchen.

A donation to the Bowls Club was being considered, which had a £1,800 shortfall in the costs of obtaining professional assistance to improve the quality of the Bowling Green. - the grass was riddled with disease and had a serious thatch problem with very little aeration.

Mr Sutton suggested a contribution of £500, although this would be a matter to be decided at the next meeting of Trustees.

DOVECOTE/MEADOW REPORT

Mrs Macintyre said the fence mentioned at the last meeting was still in need of removal.

CORRESPONDENCE

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

- 1) Letter dated 1ST February from University of Cambridge (North West Cambridge Development) advising that the University's governing body has formally approved the first phase of its development at North West Cambridge and giving details.
- 2) Letter from Barcham Trees enclosing an independent report on the health of its trees.
- 3) Poster and article from SIA (Spinal Injuries Association) re holding "Fish and Chip Supper" events on Friday, 17th May 2013 in aid of the Association.
- 4) Posters re Thriplow Daffodil Weekend, 17th March 2011 11am-5pm.
- 5) "Clerks and Councils Direct" magazine, March 2013 plus order form for mugs commemorating the 60th anniversary of the Queen's Coronation.
- 6) Various emails from CPALC.
- 7) Publicity material from Online Playgrounds, Sovereign and ELBE (playground equipment).

VISITORS' QUESTIONS

Mrs Ward thanked the council for its support with her planning application.

Mrs Howell warned that the rent for the council office (5% of the pavilion budget) would probably be increased. The Village Hall Trust AGM would be held on Tuesday, 23rd April.

Mr Hindley asked about the felling of trees in Barons Lane – he had been away when this had happened.

Dr Oakley summarised the situation and said the parish council had not been consulted about the felling of the trees. Dr Grindley said that the council was very busy on action regarding trees as outlined in the Parish Plan and had started to collect data on all the trees in the area covered by the plan. There was a plan for further tree planting in the village but it was not yet ready for implementation.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mrs Roberts said that SCDC officers should let the parish council know when they intended to fell trees as failure to do so caused a lot of trouble.

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

It was confirmed that this would be held on **Monday, 8th April 2013** at **7.45pm** in the **Village Hall Meeting Room**.

The **Annual Parish Meeting** would be held on **Monday, 29th April** at **7.45pm** in the **Village Hall Meeting Room**.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.20pm.