

## MINUTES OF A MEETING OF FOXTON PARISH COUNCIL

HELD ON MONDAY, 3<sup>rd</sup> APRIL 2006, AT 7.45 p.m.

### **PRESENT**

Mr Pusey, Mr Hockley, Mr Brooksbank, Mr Chilton,  
Dr Grindley, Mr Kennedy, Miss Thake

### **IN ATTENDANCE**

8 members of the public

### **APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from County Councillor  
David McCraith, Dr McKeown and Mr Barnes

Mr Pusey welcomed all to the meeting.

### **DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

Mr Hockley declared an interest in the planning application for 11 Caxton Lane to be discussed during the Planning Report.

### **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

One amendment was needed. On page 108, under "Dovecote/Meadow Project", the last line of the first paragraph should read, "Mr Pusey said he had negotiated a discounted price for the green oak from Mr Smart (*not Mr Stuart*)".

Mr Kennedy proposed that, with this amendment, the Minutes of the previous meeting, held on Monday 6th March 2006, should be signed as a true record. Mr Hockley seconded the proposal and all were agreed.

### **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MEETING**

#### *Defective Lights etc at the Community Building*

Owing to Mr McCraith's absence from the meeting, there was no progress report.

#### *Care Needs for the Elderly*

Mr Hockley said that as the chairman of the Harston scheme was ill, there was a delay in joining the scheme.

#### *Old School site*

Mr Pusey reported that he had contacted Charlotte Smith of the Bedfordshire Pilgrims' Housing Association and they had met on 28<sup>th</sup> March. Ms Smith said the housing association was interested and that she would talk to Andrew Hall (CCC). The Bedfordshire Pilgrims' Housing Association's architect would have a look at the site. Ms Smith said that her view of the development at the site leaned towards retention of the old school building. The clerk agreed to e-mail District Councillor Roberts about this matter.

Letter from Mr Reeve about a possible road bridge at the level crossing

The clerk confirmed that a reply had been sent.

Snack bar opposite the garage on the A10

It was reported that the van was no longer operating from this site.

Adoption of Hardman Road/Edis Way

Mr Kennedy reported that Meldire had now appointed someone to resolve outstanding matters. However, he was unable to gain any information from Geoff Barnes (CCC), who was dealing with this matter, as he was away until Tuesday.

Footpath gaps

Mr Brooksbank said he had contacted the relevant CCC officer to report gaps in the footpath between Foxton Wood and Fowlmere Road and the Recreation Ground. Apparently this was an ancient Right of Way.

Sale of Small Parcel of Land

Mr Pusey reported that the solicitors had been instructed about the sale on the 18<sup>th</sup> March.

**REPORTS FROM THE COMMITTEES**

**RECREATIONS AND AMENITIES**

Mr Chilton reported as follows:

- The new basketball goal post had now been installed and two new swing seats had been fitted in the Play Area.
- There had been a site meeting with the groundsman, Mr Cambridge, and Mr Chilton and Mr Pusey, at which the sites for the new seats were agreed. The bases had been laid ready for arrival of the seats including an extra base for Vic Phillips' seat. Unfortunately children had spoilt the wet concrete before it had set by walking on it.
- The sockets for the 5-a-side goals had been attended to and were now below ground level and covered with soil so they would not affect the cricket pitch outfield surface. The groundsman was happy with the results.
- Tree work around the village had been carried out by Cleanaway apart from the large ash tree at the bottom of the Illingworth Way footpath. *The clerk agreed to chase up Town and Country Tree Service, who had been awarded the contract for reducing the crown of this tree by 30%.*
- A resident in Illingworth way had carried out substantial thinning of trees and undergrowth near the Play Area without either his, or the council's, knowledge (from what he had heard), so the council could not be held responsible.

A discussion followed about the last item and Mr Pusey said he had already had a complaint. It was agreed that the clerk should write to the resident responsible. Applications for access to the Recreation Ground from rear gardens in Illingworth way and St Laurence Road were due to go out shortly and it was suggested that the letters to residents about renewal of their access might carry a warning that it might not be

granted to residents who carried out works/alterations to the Recreation Ground without the council's approval.

### **FINANCE**

Mr Hockley gave details of the Bank Accounts as follows:

Deposit Account (This included interest for the period 5/12/05-5/3/06 of £60.05)	£26,759.08
Current Account (This included the RGT's contribution to the gift for the internal auditor of £37.95 and a VAT rebate of £524.11: both sums recently paid in)	£612.97
Cambridge Building Society	£13,401.13

Mr Hockley proposed that the following cheques be approved:

CALC (affiliation fee for 2006/07)	£289.21
Foxton Village Hall Trust (hire of Meeting Room 6/2, lounge 21 & 28/2 and electricity for streetlamps outside the village hall for 2005)	£61.69
Linda Laxton (British Wild Flower Plants – plants for dovecote field)	£450.04
Wicksteed Leisure Ltd (basketball goal and swing seats)	£737.79
V W Mead (refuse collection, ground maintenance, and fitting swing seats, March. plus expenses)	£64.77

Dr Grindley seconded the proposal and all were agreed.

The clerk had prepared the income and expenditure accounts ledger for the 2005/06 financial year. Mr Chilton proposed that these accounts be signed, Miss Thake seconded to proposal, and all were agreed. Mr Pusey and the clerk, Mrs Burns then duly signed the accounts.

### **PLANNING**

In Mr Barnes' absence, Mr Hockley reported as follows:

#### **Planning applications considered at the meeting:**

S C Frewin	Application No. S/0387/06/LB for internal and external alterations at 65 High Street No recommendation
S C Frewin	Application No. S/0388/06/F for alterations to outbuilding and erection of garden wall and gate at 65 High Street No recommendation
Mr and Mrs S Tongish	Application No. S/0409/06//F for a single storey extension at 1 Hardman Road No recommendation

Mr and Mrs Clark	Application No. S/0503/06/F for an extension to dwelling and addition of pitched roof to garage at 1 Fowlmere Road No recommendation
Mr and Mrs Matthews	Application No. S/0572/06/F for a bay window at 11 Caxton Lane No recommendation

**Planning permission granted:**

Simon and Alison Wilson	Application No. S/0118/06 for an extension at 7 Hardman Road Usual condition
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The council had also received notice of a SCDC Chairman's Delegation meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> March at which the application (S/1239/06/F) for alterations to the barn at 1 High Street would be considered. The SCDC officer recommendation was refusal. The council had opposed this application and was disappointed that it had not yet heard the outcome of the meeting.

**POLICE LIAISON REPORT**

Miss Thake said there was nothing to report – it had been a quiet month.

**RECREATION GROUND TRUST REPORT**

Mr Pusey reported that the purchase of the extension to the Recreation Ground had finally been completed. The Trustees had met on 14<sup>th</sup> March and would meet again tonight after the present meeting. The main item to be considered was the grant application to WREN (Waste Recycling Environmental Ltd) towards the infrastructure work that was needed on the extension. After a number of calls to Gerald Browning (CCC) it had been agreed that the County Council would meet the cost of supplying water to the extension if the parish council obtained a satisfactory quotation for the works from Cambridge Water Company. Mr Pusey said that the Trustees were in contact with their solicitors and with the Charity Commission over the terms of occupancy of the site.

**Recreation Ground Extension Committee**

Mr Brooksbank said that the main item under consideration had been the application for a grant from WREN subject to the Recreation Ground Trust's approval.

Foxton Garden Association had reported that, following a survey, the 27 allotments would be fully subscribed. He said the FGA would be submitting a request to the RGT to erect sheds on the allotments.

*Mrs Howell (in the visitors' seats) asked whether there would be restrictions on the size and design of the sheds. Mr Brooksbank said that this was the intention.*

*Mr Challis (also in the visitors' seats) asked what would be the likely rental. Mr Brooksbank said this was still to be confirmed, but that the FGA would not look to make a profit. However, the costs of the water usage would have to be covered by the users of the extension.*

Mr Pusey said that the principle that had been established was that the RGT could let the allotments area at a non-commercial rate to the FGA.

### **DOVECOTE/MEADOW PROJECT**

Mr Pusey said there had been a successful planting day on 12<sup>th</sup> March. The contract for the building works had gone out to tender and two firms had already visited the site. Following the parish council's last meeting, a second organisation had responded about the restoration of the plaque. Within two days, the firm had provided a tender, including a method statement that SCDC said it would accept. Fortunately, it had not been too late to cancel the order for a method statement (at a cost of £600) with Mowlem.

The two tenders for the restoration of the plaque were for £1410 and £2652. As the firm with the lower tender was one of SCDC's recommended firms, Mr Pusey proposed that the lower tender be accepted. Mr Kennedy seconded the application and all were agreed.

Mr Pusey said it was intended to complete the restoration of the plaque before commencement of the main building work.

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

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

- 1) Letter dated 1<sup>st</sup> March from Cemex re postponement of Barrington Liaison Group meeting to a date to be arranged.
- 2) Letter dated 5<sup>th</sup> March from Mr and Mrs Trevanion (Illingworth Way) requesting advice re purchase of a strip of land to the rear of houses in Hillfield. *(Referred senders to SCDC Housing Department)*
- 3) Letter dated 9<sup>th</sup> March from CCC Senior Definitive Map Officer re consultations on Public Path Order applications under the Highways Act 1980
- 4) Letter dated 10<sup>th</sup> March from Rob Mungovan, SCDC, re consultation draft (enclosed) on the District Council Biodiversity Strategy: response by 14<sup>th</sup> April. *Passed to RB*
- 5) Letter dated 13<sup>th</sup> March from Cemex re the decision to suspend the application for development at the Cemex site at Barrington.
- 6) Letter dated 14<sup>th</sup> March from CCC Customer Relations Officer enclosing copies of the new Concessionary Fare leaflet *(Passed to the Post Office)*
- 7) Letter dated 16<sup>th</sup> March from Andrew Lansley enclosing a copies of the press release that he had received from Cemex UK re its decision to halt plans for development and his response.
- 8) Letter dated 21<sup>st</sup> March from CCC passenger Transport Officer re proposed increases in bus fares: form for comment enclosed.

- 9) Letter dated 28<sup>th</sup> March from SCDC Community Development Manager re free finance training for community groups.
- 10) Letter dated 31<sup>st</sup> March from CCC Head of Strategic Planning enclosing:
  - Submission Cambridgeshire Statement of Community Involvement and response form
  - Statement for Arrangements for Inspection of the SCI
  - Statement of DPD matters
  - Statement of Consultation and Representations  
(*Representations by 12<sup>th</sup> May 2006*)
- 11) Letter dated 27<sup>th</sup> March from DEFRA re “Getting to grips with the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005” – a parish council guide to environmental enforcement.
- 12) Information from CALC including:
  - Memo re clerk’s training grants, Minutes of area meetings
  - Application form for clerk’s training bursary scheme
  - NALC Financial report to county Associations
  - Minutes of meeting of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Association of Local Councils (South Cambridgeshire Parishes Area) meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> March
- 13) “Community Action”, Cambridgeshire ACRE’s magazine, spring edition.
- 14) Various material from SCDC including:
  - Large display sheet on the “Naturally Active” website
  - SCDC/Cambridge City Council Disability Sports and Social Club Directory 2006
- 15) Letter from CCC Road Safety Officer enclosing poster (displayed) and leaflet.
- 16) “Clerks and Councils Direct” magazine, March 2006.
- 17) “Networking East”, March 2006.
- 18) “Act” – arts in Cambridgeshire on tour – February-June 2006.
- 19) “Vital Communities – Meet the artist day” – information and poster – displayed.
- 20) Publicity material from The Local Channel (offer of free website), Hays (accounting services) and the national Extension college.

### **VISITORS’ QUESTIONS**

Mr Howard (who had not been present all through the meeting) said he had decided to stand as a governor for the Addenbrookes Hospital Trust. He then went on to mention that he had had a “big clear out” on the Recreation Ground (*by the Play Area*). He claimed a lot of trees had died and some of them were covered in ivy, which would eventually kill them. He said the parish council was spending a lot of money on projects, but needed to look after what it already had. Of the nine silver birches that had been planted in the area, only three were left.

*Mr Pusey said that this matter had been discussed earlier (in the Recreation and Amenities Report) and there had been a complaint from the owner of one of the neighbouring properties about the clearance. Mr Chilton said that it was not long ago that there had been complaints about people being able to look into their windows from the Play Area. There was a balance to be kept between those who wanted the growth thinned and those who wanted the growth to be encouraged. Money was also a consideration. Dr Grindley said the principle governing work on the Recreation Ground was that no one should undertake work there without the permission of the parish council.*

*The argument continued for several minutes more.*

Chris Hindley Asked whether a disused litterbin in the High Street could be transferred to a location in the hedge of his property in Hardman Road. Its presence there might prevent the litter presently being dropped in Hardman Road by children discarding their snack wrappers and cans after visiting the village shop. He was prepared to relocate the old bin himself.

*All were agreed to this course of action.*

Mr Challis said he could fully understand Mr Chilton's feelings of frustration about the planting in the Play Area. He said that Mr Chilton does an excellent job. He then asked for some clarification about the plaque.

*Mr Pusey explained that this was the original date plaque on the wall of the dovecote, which needed expert restoration to prevent it from disintegrating.*

### **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Mr Hockley said that he had spoken to Paul Quigley at the County Council who had told him that none of Foxton's streetlamps were to be adopted by CCC. This meant that Foxton would be taking over 18 streetlamps.

### **DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

It was confirmed that this would be the **Annual General Meeting** to be held on **Monday, 8<sup>th</sup> May 2006 at 7.45pm** in the **Meeting Room** of the Village Hall.

The **Annual Parish Meeting** would be held on **Monday, 24<sup>th</sup> April at 7.45pm** in the **Meeting Room** of the Village Hall.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.05pm.