

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF FOXTON PARISH COUNCIL

HELD ON MONDAY, 7th APRIL 2008, AT 7.45 p.m.

PRESENT

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

County Councillor David McCraith

District Councillor Mrs Roberts

IN ATTENDANCE

6 members of the public

APOLOGIES

None received

Dr Oakley opened the meeting by saying that the open forum held at the council meeting on 3rd March, in which the problems in the car park arising from the use of the Village Hall car park for football had been aired, had been very successful – it showed that if there was a problem in the village, this was the way to address it.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Dr Oakley proposed that the Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday, 3rd March 2008 be signed as a true record. Mrs Macintyre seconded the proposal and all were agreed.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Any other Business

- i) *Correspondence – Invitation to the SCDC Built Heritage Awards reception (item 7)*

Mrs Roberts said that she had arranged that an invitation to this event had been sent to the parish council as well as to Mr Pusey and Mrs Cairns.

- ii) *Any Other Business – reinstatement of ground after recabbling work by EDF*

The clerk said she had written to EDF asking for a contribution to the replanting of bulbs and reseeded of grass on the Shepreth Road verge, and suggesting a site meeting after the completion of the recabbling to discuss any problems with the reinstatement of the disturbed areas. She had met with two officials who had seen the letter and who said that EDF would supply some bags of bulbs.

REPORTS FROM THE WORKING PARTIES.

RECREATION AND AMENITIES

Mr Bentinck reported that a meeting had been held on Saturday, 5th April with himself and Dr McKeown in attendance when the following points were discussed:

1. Signs

Mr Bentinck said that Algar had reported to the clerk that the signs were ready and he had agreed to collect them to avoid a delivery charge. Further signs were due soon viz a disclaimer for the Bike Park (awaiting further advice from RoSPA inspector on Thursday 10th April) and a sign showing recognition of donors towards RGT developments.

2. Trees

Mr Bentinck arranged with Chris Hindley to remove the Prunus tree at the entrance to West Hill Road.

Mr Salmons had completed the work on the Mycroft's trees.

Mr Barnes had been in touch with an SCDC trees officer about the Wilsons' trees: he had advised that the tree nearest the Church should come down and that the other two be trimmed. SCDC had also advised on the Hall Close Oak tree, especially about owl/bat boxes.

Mr Barnes was following up the matter of the Horse Chestnut on Station Road, recently damaged by winds.

Two Copper Beech trees had been obtained by Foxton Gardens Association but the parish council was not convinced they would be right for the suggested location on the Recreation Ground extension and alternatives were being sought.

3 Progress with Recreation Ground Extension

Mr Bentinck relayed Mr Salmons' concerns that the Picnic site needed to be rotovated, stones cleared and grass seed laid as soon as possible. Leftover plastic ground tiles from the repair to the Recreation Ground were now ready for the Bike Park.

4. Treatment of weeds etc. on the Recreation Ground and Allotments

As the treatment of plantain was not carried out in 2007 (funds were re-assigned to trees), the working party would arrange for two treatments this year, starting in the near future.

5. Path onto the Recreation Ground from Illingworth Way

Mr Salmons had now completed this work.

6. Any Other Business

The R & A Working Party intended to review grass cutting in the future including the number of cuts, quality of work and the areas to be covered (including the verge leaving the village Southbound).

The project for a youth shelter was progressing well. A meeting had been held on 17th March attended by approximately 20 youths. It was made clear that they would need to carry out fundraising activities. Mrs Roberts had been making active progress regarding funding.

Letters had now gone out to residents whose property adjoins the Recreation Ground and the clerk had received 4 replies to date.

Mr Bentinck said that the RoSPA inspection of the Play Area would take place on Thursday, 10th April at 11.30am. As he would be away on that date a volunteer was needed to meet the inspector as the council has paid an extra £35 for the meeting. The inspector would also check the BMX area free of charge and write a report. *Mr Barnes agreed to meet the inspector.*

Mr Bentinck added that most of the graffiti had now gone.

FINANCE

Dr Oakley said that the clerk had completed the Receipts/Payments accounts for the 2007/08 financial year together with the bank reconciliation: he believed them to be accurate and proposed that they be signed. Mr Allars seconded the proposal and all agreed that these accounts should be signed. The accounts were then signed by Dr Oakley and the clerk.

Dr Oakley then gave details of the Bank Accounts as follows:

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|---|------------|
| Deposit Account (This included interest for the period 3/12/07-2/3/08 of £75.64) | £18,66.50 |
| Current Account (A contribution of £4,500 from RGT had been paid into the account but had not yet been cleared and a VAT rebate of £788.96 had been claimed but notification of payment had not yet been received) | £50.62 |
| Cambridge Building Society | £14,287.71 |

Dr Oakley proposed the following cheques be approved:

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| Foxton VHT (hire of Meeting room 23/1, 4/2, 20/2 & 3/1 and the Lounge on 19/2 & 17/3) | £63.00 |
| CALC (affiliation fee 2008/09) | £365.71 |
| D Salmons Fencing Services (Village Warden duties, March) | £97.50 |
| D Salmons Fencing Services (extending path from Illingworth Way to the RG) | £500.00 |
| St Laurence PCC (contribution to churchyard maintenance) | £525.00 |
| HMRC (tax on clerk's salary for 3 months to 5/4/08) | £191.82 |
| D Pusey (reimbursement for materials for dovecote) | £85.72 |
| Giles Landscapes Ltd (fencing, groundworks etc on RG extension) | £11,267.70 |

Dr McKeown seconded the proposal and all were agreed that these payments, totalling £13,096.45, should be made and that £13,097 be transferred from the Deposit Account to the Current Account.

PLANNING

Mr Barnes reported that a short council meeting had been held on Wednesday, 19th March: the Minutes would be available at the next FPC meeting.

Planning application considered at the Meeting on 19th March:

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| Mr and Mrs Love | Application No. S/0305/08/F for the conversion of carport roof to playroom/guestroom at 55A High Street Approved |
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Planning permission granted:

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| G McKenzie (1919) ltd | Application No. S/1806/07/F for 3 dwellings at 5-9 Mortimers Lane Numerous conditions including no windows, doors or openings of any kind to be inserted, an approved landscaping scheme to be in place, the implementation of a programme of archaeological work and conditions relating to vehicle movements, parking turning etc and time limits for the operation of power-operated machinery |
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Dr Oakley noted that Mr Mead's farmland had been sold.

PARISH PLAN UPDATE

Mr Allars reported that the steering group had held a good meeting in March. A timescale was needed for the questionnaire, which would be preceded by an explanatory leaflet to be delivered to residents by mid July. Publicity for the project would include a poster campaign and a stall at the village fete. He said the school had been asked to organise a competition to design a cover for the final report. It was hoped that the questionnaire would go out in late July.

POLICE LIAISON REPORT

Mr Bentinck reported that there had been no further adverse comments about noise in the Village Hall car park. Twenty young people had come to the next meeting about youth facilities in Foxton, together with one parent and four councillors. Topics considered included the new bike park and the siting of a youth shelter. It was agreed that a site for the shelter near the hard court would be desirable, with eventual fencing-in of the hard court. A report of the meeting had been e-mailed to both Mrs Roberts and the Police. He and Mrs Roberts then attempted to get some prices and quotations. SCDC officer, Jane Thompson, thought a shelter would cost in the region of £5-6 thousand pounds with installation costs of about £600. Dr Grindley had said that the Football Foundation might help with a 5-a-side pitch. Mrs Roberts suggested that the council make a contribution to the projects from its contingency fund and get in any applications for funding from the District Council early while there was still money available.

Mr Allars thought it was important to finish the work on the Recreation Ground extension before embarking on another project. Dr Oakley thought the two projects were not related and that it was important to press on with the youth facilities. Mrs Roberts suggested that she and Mr Bentinck look at similar facilities in other parishes

RECREATION GROUND TRUST REPORT AND COMMUNITY PROJECT ISSUES

Dr McKeown reported that the Trust had met on 31st March and dealt with items as follows:

1. The Trust considered the need for repairs to the roof of the Village Hall and to the pavilion. It agreed to a quotation for repairing a leak around a Velux light in the pavilion and for the replacement of cracked tiles found on the roof of the Village Hall. Furthermore it arranged for an extensive survey of the rest of the roof whilst repairs were being made. A quotation obtained by the school for attention to the paint and stained woodwork of the exterior of the building seemed excessive and so further quotations were requested.

2. The Trust noted that the School Governors were prepared to discuss the need for a fourth camera on the security system and asked the council's R&A Working Party to liaise with them.

3. Lease preparation was proceeding on the Pre-school Garden and the Cricket Nets. Legal niceties and the wish to show accurate dimensions of the plots had caused the latest delays. (After the meeting Dr Grindley and Dr McKeown made the measurements of the plots.)

4. The RGEC group had held a meeting on 11th March when the allocation of funding to the various sub-projects had been agreed in the light of the agreement that FPC would fund some of the work, including the provision of two standpipes for the allotments. *The council agreed to pay for the standpipes.*

5. The Trust noted that Giles Landscapes had completed the earthworks and had made good progress with the fencing. *(It was noted that the fencing had now been completed to a good standard and when Dr Grindley checked the measurements, these were found to agree very accurately with those specified.)* FPC had been invoiced for the work and Dr McKeown was asked to pass Giles's invoice, together with quotations for the work from both Giles and unsuccessful bidders.

4. The Bike Park would be inspected by RoSPA during the inspector's next visit, and was already receiving encouraging use by youngsters. Dr McKeown had established that SCDC would pay up to 90% of the grant against copy invoices. He was requested to submit a copy of Giles's invoice to Jane Lampshire. *(This was effected after the Meeting.)*

Dr Grindley submitted a plan for the picnic area including the provision of table and bench units and the RGT agreed to purchase three of these initially.

Foxton Cricket Club was concerned about security of tenure on the pitch itself. The Trust considered that as the Cricket Club was party to the management of the playing fields through its membership of the Foxton Sports Clubs Association, there was no need for a separate agreement.

Dr Grindley showed a plan of the Groundsman's Compound required by the Cricket and Football Clubs: the Trust had no objection and would ask FPC to seek planning permission.

Dr Grindley also reminded the meeting of its obligation to help reinstate training lights for the Football Club: again the Trust was in agreement with the principle.

The meeting noted that a successful open meeting with youngsters of the village had been held under Mr Bentinck's chairmanship, which highlighted the facilities most desired by the youth of the village. Work was in hand to create a plan based on these wishes.

Dr Oakley noted that a change to the managers of the investment accounts needed to be made.

Mr Barnes reported that a false fire alarm had caused him to visit the Village Hall site at 2.30am. The engineer replaced a sensor and Mr Barnes suggested that the Village Hall Trust also be warned of the possibility of sensor failure.

DOVECOTE /MEADOW PROJECT

The SCDC Built Heritage Award for the Dovecote restoration had been framed and was handed round the room for all to see. It was agreed that the award should be displayed somewhere in the Village Hall. It was noted that both the architect and the builder for the project had also received certificates. Mrs Roberts and Dudley Pusey had recently posed for a Royston Crow photograph at the dovecote site. Mrs Roberts suggested that a letter of thanks to the District Council for its help in funding this project would be appropriate. It was agreed that the clerk would liaise with Dr Oakley in writing such a letter.

CORRESPONDENCE

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

- 1) Letter dated 3rd March from the CCC Environment and Community Services Department re a workshop for councillors on tackling congestion in Cambridgeshire at Shire Hall on 18th March.
- 2) Letter dated 4th March from SCDC inviting a Member of FPC to the Built Heritage Awards reception.
- 3) Letter dated 8th March from Oliver Walston (Thriplow Farms) with a map showing where the public may walk on his land and showing a track that should not be used by the public as it crosses wildlife areas, and requesting help in ensuring the public does not walk on areas kept for wildlife only.
- 4) Letter dated 31st March 2008 from the CCC Portfolio Holder for Communities, Cllr Sir Peter Brown, (writing as Chairman of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Post Office Network Change Group) re Post Office closures in Cambridgeshire: enclosing the Post Office Closure briefing prepared by Cambridgeshire ACRE.

- 5) Letter dated 31st March from the CCC Chief Executive enclosing a copy of the Council's Integrated Plan for 2008.
- 6) Letter (received March) from CCC re bus services enclosing a table giving a breakdown showing which operator has won which contract.
- 7) Letter (received March) from Caroline Mead (Cambridge Oxfam Walk) enclosing an article for the local parish publication re the 2008 Oxfam Walk. *Copy passed to the editor of "The Laurentian"*
- 8) Letter dated 4th April from SCDC re parish council details for the 2008/09 municipal year.
- 9) Letter dated 4th April from the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Biological Records Centre, which is co-ordinating a pond survey: enclosing freepost response cards.
- 10) Information from CALC including:
 - Memo re Affiliation fee invoice together with Annual Report to members, Budget summary for 2008/09 and Service Level Agreement between CPALC and Member Councils
 - Details of workshop for Chairman's Professional Development (Stages I and II) to be held on various dates between July and August
 - Details of new office e-mail addresses
 - EERA memo on planning for Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation in the East of England: including timetable for the post-consultation period
- 11) Information from Cambridgeshire ACRE including:
 - Copy of "Making a Difference in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough" brochure from the Local Network fund for Children and Young People
 - Leaflet on Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Life Awards 2008 (*passed to SB*)
 - "Community Action", magazine for Spring 2008
- 12) Information from COPE including
 - COPE newsletter, April 2008
 - Mission Statement
 - Details of march to be held on 5th April in aid of saving Brookfields Hospital
 - Cambridgeshire NHS/CCC leaflet entitled "Protection of Vulnerable Adults from Abuse"
- 13) South Cambs magazine, Spring 2008.
- 14) Updated issue of CCC Family Directory of Childcare and Children's Services in Cambridgeshire (filed) and poster with details of the CCC Childcare Information Service for Cambridgeshire.
- 15) "The Future for Council Housing in South Cambridgeshire", issue 3.
- 16) Standards Board for England newsletter, March 2008.
- 17) Invitations from Barcham Trees to attend talk on "Trees in Towns" on 9th April and one-day seminar (in Cardiff) on below ground ecosystem and implications for tree health, 13th November 2008.

- 18) CCC booklet entitled “Cambridgeshire Music – Guide to Music-Making across the County”.
- 19) Letter dated 12th March from CCC re Cambridgeshire’s Registered Trader Scheme: enclosing posters.
- 20) Booklet produced under the aegis of several bodies entitled “Enjoy England – Celebrate St George’s Day”.
- 21) Leaflet on new services for local councils from The Local Channel.
- 22) Memo on Terminal Control North – proposed changes to airspace: enclosing leaflets.
- 23) “Clerks and Councils Direct” magazine, March 2008.
- 24) Publicity material from Target Print Ltd, Myerscough courses (Arboriculture and Urban Forestry), Steelway Fensecure (fencing), Sutcliffe Play and Wicksteed (play equipment), Associated Surfaces & Materials (safety surfaces), Universal Services (sports equipment), Littlethorp (shelters), LGS Services (audit services), Digital Copier Systems, plus invitation to subscribe to “Building” magazine.

Lord Walston’s map and letter (item 3) were passed round to both councillors and visitors. It was agreed that Mr Challis would write an item on this for “The Laurentian” and that the clerk would display a copy of the relevant part of the map on the FPC Notice Board together with a copy of Lord Walston’s letter.

VISITORS’ QUESTIONS

Mr Challis said that it had been gratifying to see progress on the project to provide facilities for young people in the village, and stressed that it was important not to lose impetus as this could lead to disillusion.

Mr Manning asked about the pond survey mentioned in the correspondence report as he had a pond in his garden.

A Freepost response card was passed to Mr Manning.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mrs Macintyre said Mr Shelford had asked her whether the Lime trees in Shelford Road could be tidied up, as there was a lot of growth that needed to be cut back. The matter was referred to the Recreation and Amenities Working Party.

Mr McCraith said that the new CCC Chief Executive took up the post at the beginning of the month. He also said that he had been urging the other parish councils that he represented to adopt a similar strategy to that of Foxton when dealing with youth issues.

Mrs Roberts raised the matter of the proposed eco-town at Hanley Grange and recommended that the council send a representative to the meeting about this being organised by County Councillor Tim Stone.

Mr Barnes said he was in agreement with Lord Walston’s plans as discussed in the Correspondence report.

The clerk again reminded councillors that there were still some past sets of circulating correspondence that had not yet been returned to her.

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

It was confirmed that the next meeting would be the **Annual General Meeting** to be held on **Monday, 12th May 2008** at **7.45pm** in the **Meeting Room** of the **Village Hall**.

The Annual Parish Meeting would be held on **Monday, 28th April 2008** at **7.45pm** in the **Meeting Room** of the **Village Hall**.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.10pm.