

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF FOXTON PARISH COUNCIL

HELD ON MONDAY, 14th MAY 2012, AT 7.45 p.m.

PRESENT Dr Oakley, Mr Barnes, Mrs Macintyre, Mr Elliott,
Mrs McFazdean and Mr Sutton

IN ATTENDANCE 5 members of the public

APOLOGIES District Councillor Deborah Roberts, Mr Bore, Dr
Grindley and Mr McCreery

ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

The clerk invited nominations for the position of chairman. Mr Sutton proposed that Dr Oakley be re-elected as chairman of the council. Mrs Macintyre seconded the proposal and all were agreed. Dr Oakley said he would be pleased to continue in office and then took the chair.

ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

Dr Oakley then proposed that, with his agreement, Dr Grindley be re-elected as Vice-Chairman. Mrs McFadzean seconded the proposal and all were agreed.

**ELECTION OF THE WORKING PARTIES, PLANNING COMMITTEE
AND OTHER POSITIONS**

Dr Oakley proposed that, as several councillors were absent from the meeting, membership of the Working Parties, the Planning Committee and other positions remained as before, namely:

RECREATION AND AMENITIES WORKING PARTY

Mr Barnes, Mrs Macintyre, Mr McCreery and Mrs McFadzean

FINANCE WORKING PARTY

Mr Sutton, Dr Grindley, Dr Oakley and Mr McCreery

PLANNING COMMITTEE

Dr Grindley, Mrs Macintyre, Mr Sutton, Mr Bore and Mr Elliott

The working parties and the Planning Committee would each elect their own Chair

OTHER POSITIONS

Transport Representative: Dr Oakley

RGT: Mrs McFadzean

Dovecote/Meadow: Mrs Macintyre

Police representative: Mr Barnes

Children and Youth: Mrs McFadzean

If any changes needed to be made, these could be decided at a later meeting. All were agreed.

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, 2nd April 2012, be signed as a true record. Mr Sutton seconded the proposal and all were agreed.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Recreation and Amenities report

i) Half Pipe proposal

A proposal had been received from a large group of young people for a half pipe to be installed on the site of the BMX track. As this was likely to be an expensive project, competing with other desirable improvements, Mr Sutton suggested that the matter be referred to the Recreation and Amenities group for consideration. All were agreed.

ii) Repairs to War Memorial steps

Mr Barnes reported that these steps had been scraped again. It was agreed that the lowering of the pavement at the site made it easy for vehicles to mount the pavement. It was agreed that parking at the junction of High Street with Station Road exacerbated the problem and the matter was referred to the Planning Committee. Mrs McFadzean suggested that the council could write to Burlington Press asking the firm to reinstate the pavement surrounding the War Memorial.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Dr van de Ven reported as follows:

Mobile Library Service: Various posters and information memos were being disseminated for the Jubilee weekend. Dr van de Ven had ordered some of these and asked the council to let her know if the council would like any.

Duke of Edinburgh Award: Melbourn was including "Timebanking" in its list of volunteer activities. This was also a new project being piloted by the county council and was about swapping favours and skills – from dog walking to baby sitting to gardening, or reading aloud and visiting people who are infirm.

Double yellow lines in Station Road: The proposal for extension of the double yellow lines, which both she and the parish council had approved, was agreed by cabinet last month. Dr van de Ven had written an article for "The Laurentian" in order to explain the incredibly long process, the balance of considerations, and the rules that govern any amendment to the proposals consulted on – ie that consultation responses could be applied to reduce proposed measures but not to expand upon them. She had not

been given a date for their application but was guessing this would be around mid-summer.

White lines at Vicarage Corner: Dr van de Ven said she was chasing up the promised refreshed white lines.

Uneven pavement at Vicarage Corner: Dr van de Ven had been out to see the pavement between St Lawrence Road and Hardman Road. She said there was no budget for redoing the entire length of pavement and it was not on the Highways priority list, but she had asked CCC Highways Department whether they would attend to the worst part of the pavement, which seemed to be at Vicarage Corner itself.

Flood Management: Following on from the Flood and Water Management Act of 2010, the county council now had a stronger role in terms of coordinating the work of different agencies (e.g. Anglian Water and the Environment Agency) for localized flooding. A data bank of flood incidents in Cambridgeshire could be added to through the county council website.

Station garden replanting and free compost: The Rail User Group had arranged for a skip-load of free compost to be available at the primary school from 13-22 June. The compost would be used for the changeover of plants in the station platform tubs, and there would be plenty left over for the school, the allotment group and the Foxton Garden Association. Anyone was welcome to help themselves and the school would arrange out-of-hours/weekend collection times. Dr van de Ven asked that if people could also let the group have any spare plants, or if they could come along to help on the replanting days that had been arranged, or would like to sponsor a tub, that would be greatly appreciated.

Signal box visit: Dr van de Ven and the Rail User Group's signalling experts had visited the Foxton Signal Box last week. Network Rail had stressed that Foxton PC and residents were welcome to visit and said that if those interested would let her know the group would arrange this. Two changes were going to be made:

- 1) Visibility from inside the signal box would be improved by moving some of the equipment currently obstructing the view
- 2) Four new CCTV cameras would be added at the level crossing specifically to capture pedestrian movement over the crossing, so that should someone experience problems these could be reviewed on film (currently only some movements were captured because the cameras were designed to capture vehicle movements only).

Level crossing pedestrian gates: The Rail User Group would be getting an update from the Network Rail managing Director on Monday next week. Dr van de Ven said he would have a lot to explain because the new locking mechanisms had been delayed and the group had been given a date of July 30th - apparently this was due to having to adhere to the established procurement system. She said that it went to show what a nightmare the Network Rail bureaucracy was, if even the Managing Director could not speed things up. The new CCTV cameras were to be installed at the same time.

Superfast Broadband project: The county council was rolling out a superfast broadband project and it was important to feed information about the quality of one's home broadband (for more information, and to participate, the website to visit was www.connectingcambridgeshire.co.uk).

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

In Mrs Roberts absence, there was no report.

REPORTS FROM THE WORKING PARTIES

RECREATION AND AMENITIES

In Mr McCreery's absence, Mrs McFadzean gave his report as follows:

Play Area

The new equipment had arrived and should be installed by Tuesday. Mr McCreery had arranged for the RoSPA inspection to be carried out on Wednesday, 16th May. Invitations to attend the formal opening on 4th June had been sent to the major donors County Councillor Susan van de Ven and District Councillor Deborah Roberts. The SCDC Chairman, Councillor Orgee had agreed to attend the opening ceremony. Mr McCreery was waiting for a quotation for new signs for the Play Area, which should be in place before 4th June. *Mrs McFadzean said that there would be no grant from Tesco after all. The Recreation Ground Trust had underwritten £4000 of the donations, but there was a shortfall of £3,258. It was suggested that further donations could be sought at the formal opening on 4th June.*

Picnic Benches/Seating

Two new picnic benches had been delivered and Mr McCreery would be meeting with Mr Salmons on 16th May to agree their siting.

Sports Clubs

Mr McCreery wished his thanks to be recorded to Ian Cambridge and Matt Grey who had seeded the winter training area with seed supplied by the parish council. In addition, as agreed, the clubs had provided and spread fertiliser over the Recreation Ground.

Half Pipe

There was considerable interest in replacing the existing BMX track with a half pipe. A letter had been sent to the parish council with a petition in support of this project. Mr McCreery believed that, before committing to any change, and if it could be afforded, there should be a consultation to establish if this would be the majority choice of the village's youth, or whether they would prefer to keep the existing BMX track.

QEII Application

This was progressing slowly, but the plaque would not be received until the re-registrations of the various parcels of land were complete, which Mr McCreery still hoped would be before 4th June.

Other Matters

A new solar light had been purchased and Mr Salmons would install it on the corner of the allotments. If this operated successfully, it was intended to install a similar solar light in the Dovecote Field.

FINANCE

Before outlining the current financial position, Mr Sutton said the Annual Governance Statement had to be agreed in order to complete the Annual Return for the external auditors, Moore Stevens. Mr Sutton read out all the items in the Statement and proposed that the council give an affirmative response. Dr Oakley seconded the proposal and all were agreed that the responses were correct and could be signed by the chairman and the clerk. Mr Sutton, as responsible Finance Officer would also sign the already agreed financial figures.

Mr McCreery had asked Mr Sutton to contact AON about including the new play equipment in the council's insurance policy and he agreed to do this. Mr Sutton said he had received an amendment to the current year's premium for £35.83 (to cover the new equipment for the short period remaining till the expiry of the present policy in June) and he proposed that this payment be included with the others to be approved tonight and to pay the outstanding premium for the forthcoming year (approx. £2,400) at the next meeting.

Mr Sutton then gave details of the bank accounts as follows:

Deposit Account	£21,751.67
(This included the 1 st half of the 2012/13 precept in the sum of £10,500)	
Current Account	£237.22
(This included Club contributions to running and maintenance costs for the training lights of £180.00)	
Standard Life Bank	£30,678.62

Mr Sutton proposed the following cheques for payment:

Foxton Village Hall (hire of Meeting Room 5/3 12/3 & 2,23/4 & Lounge 19/3)	£71.50
Melbourn District Villages Association (FPC contribution to Melbourn Library)	£100.00
R McCreery (reimbursement for 20kg grass seed)	£72.00
R McCreery (reimbursement for solar light)	£39.98
21cc Fireworks LLP (Jubilee beacon)	£432.00
Npower Ltd (electricity for training lights 1/3/12-30/4/12)	£59.22
Playsafety Ltd (BMX track inspection)	£75.60
D Salmons (Village Warden duties March & April)	£180.00
J E Burns (salary April & May)	£623.75
J E Burns (expenses March & April)	£89.73

Mrs Macintyre seconded the proposal and all were agreed that these payments, totalling £1,779.61 (and including the £35.83 payment to AON) should be made and that £1,593 be transferred from the Deposit Account to the Current Account.

Mr Sutton concluded by saying that AON had been very helpful to him.

PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT

Mrs Macintyre reported as follows:

The committee had met on 23rd April when the following application was considered:

Amber Homes	Application No. S/0616/12/FL for construction of a new access and hardstanding with realignment of curtilage boundaries at 5-7 Mortimers Lane Approved
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Neighbourhood Plan:

Some discussion took place about the way forward for creation of a Neighbourhood Plan for the village. Dr Grindley had drafted a letter for the clerk to submit to Cambridgeshire County Council, requesting a visit from one of their officers to meet the Planning Committee to discuss how best to proceed.

The committee had also met on 10th May when the following application was considered:

Mr Ridgeon (Goreway Holdings)	Application S/0836/12/FL for the erection of a dwelling at land adjacent to 7 Station Road
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The proposal was fundamentally the same as Application No S/1284/11 dated July 2011, which had been refused approval by SCDC and was subject to an Appeal (ref. APP/W0530/ /A/11/2166754). The Inspector had concluded that, on the balance of national and local policies and the concerns of the local residents, the appeal must fail.

The clerk has been contacted by the occupant of no. 7 Station Road who had apologised for not being able to attend the FPC Planning meeting and confirming that she had written to SCDC stating the same objections to this application as she had to the original.

The committee's decision was to recommend refusal of the application as this proposal was fundamentally the same as the previous application for the reasons set out in SCDC's refusal of that application, the appeal decision and the serious detrimental affect it would have on the adjoining property.

Correspondence:

27th April - The Clerk wrote to NALC, re The Localism Act as it related to land in Station Road.

28th April - The clerk had sent an acknowledgement to Endurance Estates in response to their letter dated 8th March.

30th April – The clerk had written to SCDC regarding contradictions between the submission made by Endurance Estates in support of their development and the facts revealed by FPC's comprehensive public consultation.

30th April – The clerk had written to SCDC requesting support and guidance in the preparation of the Neighbourhood Plan. It was agreed that Keith Miles, Planning Policy Manager, should be invited to a Planning Committee meeting to which all other Councillors would be invited.

A letter had been received from SCDC dated 4th May stating that the site for proposed development to the rear of the Press Cottages was submitted to SCDC as part of the SHLAA the results of which would be published this summer. The parish council would be notified in due course of the public consultation.

POLICE LIAISON REPORT

Mr Barnes said that the police non-emergency telephone number had been changed from the 0345 number to 101. Incidents since the previous report were as follows:

Foxton Railway Station	Failure to pay rail fare
Station Road/Cambridge Road	1 burglary
High Street	1 vehicle crime
Illingworth Way	1 Anti-social behaviour incident

RECREATION GROUND TRUST (RGT) REPORT

Mrs McFadzean reported as follows:

The trustees had met to discuss a proposal for the enclosure of the Pre-School outside play area. The proposal for a formal hedge was deemed to be inappropriate visually and to give rise to maintenance problems. The trustees would agree to a timber fence between 600 and 900 cm in height with an additional 3rd gate.

JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

Mrs McFadzean said that volunteers organising the celebrations had met on 11th, 18th and 25th April. A programme had been agreed, but this would not include the new Village Sign, as it would not be ready in time. The evening of 4th June would end with the lighting of the Jubilee beacon for which a gas canister would be needed. £64 had been allotted for prizes and decorations including flags and balloons had cost a further £60.95. The committee also wanted to have craft activities and would need to purchase materials. Together with printing costs and the purchase of the beacon, £614 had been spent so far. Tesco had donated a £10 voucher.

Mrs McFadzean suggested that those attending the celebrations on the Recreation Ground bring a gazebo if there was likely to be rain on the day.

DOVECOTE/MEADOW REPORT

Mrs Macintyre reported that she had walked the Dovecote meadow path and found it to be very muddy.

CORRESPONDENCE

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

- 1) Letter dated 12th April from CCC warning that Stagecoach will be making a number of changes to their bus services from 10th June 2012.
- 2) Letter dated 2nd May enclosing poster re changes to Friday waste and recycling collections.

- 3) Letter dated 8th May with proposal for a Half Pipe on the Recreation Ground: enclosing petition.
- 4) RoSPA Play Area Safety Inspection Report (BMX track), April 2012.
- 5) Information from Living Sport re its Community Games programme.
- 6) “The Playing Field”, Cambridgeshire Playing Fields Association magazine, Spring 2012.
- 7) “Clerks and Councils Direct” magazine, May 2012.
- 8) Publicity material from Proludic, The Children’s Co. Ltd., Miracle Design and Play Ltd (play equipment), Littlethorpe Bus Shelters, Nottssport, and Lightmain and Glasdon (general equipment).

VISITORS’ QUESTIONS

Mrs Ward that, if the council purchased a half pipe, the young people might lose interest in a few years’ time.

Mr Barnes said that enthusiasm for the half pipe would be gauged by the extent to which the young people who had requested it participated in fund raising.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mr Sutton said the Village Sign had been ordered, but a decision had not yet been taken on whether to have a plain, or a stepped, plinth. It was agreed that the group should make the decision in consultation with Mr Salmons.

Dr Oakley suggested that the Recreation and Amenities working party considered arranging a litterpick event.

Mr Barnes reported two bad potholes outside the village shop. The clerk agreed to contact Mr Cooper (CCC Highways Department).

Mr Sutton said that Mike Matthews had done the council’s internal audit for the past two years and recommended that a gift from the council would be appropriate as a gesture of goodwill. All councillors were agreed and Mr Sutton said he would organise the gift.

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

It was confirmed that the next meeting would be held on **Monday, 11th June 2012** at **7.45pm** in the **Meeting Room** of the **Village Hall**.

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