

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF FOXTON PARISH COUNCIL

HELD ON MONDAY, 6th JUNE 2005, AT 7.45 p.m.

PRESENT Mr Broadley, Mr Brooksbank, Dr Grindley, Mr Kennedy and Miss Thake

County Councillor David McCraith

District Councillor Deborah Roberts

IN ATTENDANCE 3 members of the public

APOLOGIES Apologies were received from Mr Pusey, Mr Barnes, Mr Hockley, and Mr Chilton

Mr Broadley welcomed all to the meeting.

minutes of the previous meeting

As no amendments were necessary, Mr Broadley proposed that the Minutes of the previous meeting (the AGM), held on 9th May 2005, be signed as a true record. Mr Kennedy seconded the proposal, and all were agreed.

matters arising from the minutes

Police Liaison

Miss Thake agreed to continue to represent the council in liaising with the police.

Planning – P Ridgeon’s application (S/0813/05/F)

Mr Broadley confirmed that the council’s response to this application had been sent to the District Council. The clerk said she had telephoned Mr Sexton (SCDC Planning) to ask how matters stood and had been told that a site meeting was planned.

reports from the committees

RECREATION AND AMENITIES

In Mr Chilton’s absence, the clerk read his report as follows:

1. Recreation Ground

Mr Chilton had contacted Mr Dash about work that needs to be carried out including installation of the new seat, resiting litterbins and re-laying the loose slab supporting the village sign. Mr Dash would commence the work as soon as possible although this might be a week or two owing to his large backlog of work in progress.

2. Vandalism

There had been a lot of vandalism on the Recreation Ground on the night of Bank Holiday Monday, when a large group of teenagers (the usual gang) were seen sitting on the Recreation Ground fence near the car park at 9.30pm. At around 12.30pm there was a lot of noise coming from the Recreation Ground and, on inspection the following morning, it was found that five sections of railing had been smashed off and broken. Furthermore, a section of the roof on the slide hut had been broken off and signs defaced: there had also been a number of attempts to light fires. When Vic Mead spoke to Mr Chilton that morning, he said he had reported the damage to the police - however, PC Sutton was on leave, and his replacement had not seemed interested. Mr Mead also said that there had been trouble in other areas of the village that night continuing till around 4.30am. Mr Chilton said it appeared that a large number of youths had been sleeping out for the night and many beer cans etc had been found on the Recreation Ground that morning. He said that Mr Mead had the repairs in hand.

Miss Thake said that it was essential that people telephoned the police and get a crime number whenever there were incidents of this sort. Some people were afraid of reprisals, but the police would treat calls as confidential. Mr Kennedy said he would get the telephone number for the police published again in “The Laurentian”, and would provide the clerk with a notice giving the telephone number to display on the Parish Council Notice Board and in the Village shop. Miss Thake also said that coat-hangers at the bowls club had been set on fire.

Mr McCraith repeated how important it was that as many as possible members of the public report trouble to the police and get an incident number. This was the only way to get action.

The clerk reported that Mr Cooper had cut back some of the growth preventing the grass being mowed at the junction of Barons Lane with St Laurence Road and that Mr Chilton said that, although Mr Cooper had cut back some branches, the undergrowth had not been touched at all. The clerk also said that Mr Cooper had criticised the standard of grass cutting in the village (in the course of a telephone call), but that Mr Chilton had not noticed any particular faults when he had walked through the village.

Mr Broadley said that the Bowls Club fence had still not been repaired/renewed and the clerk was asked to check on what had been agreed at previous meetings.

Dr Grindley said that he was under pressure from the Football club about the groundsman's compound and training lights.

It was agreed that all these matters, and the question of the tree work needed on the Recreation Ground, should be referred to the next meeting of the Recreation and Amenities Committee, which Mr Broadley said he would ask Mr Chilton to organise.

#### FINANCE

In Mr Hockley's absence, the clerk gave details of the bank accounts as follows:

Current account £50.82

Deposit Account £15,724.01

Cambridge Building Society £81,94.98

(This included a cheque for £25 for W Heriot's W.I. speakers fee)

The clerk said that as Mr Pusey and Mr Hockley were absent from the meeting no cheques could be signed at the present meeting. Payments that would need to be deferred until the July meeting included:

SCDC (emptying dog bins 1/04/05-30/06/05) £88.71

Foxton Village Hall Trust (hire of meeting room 9/05/05) £12.50

V W Mead (refuse collection and ground maintenance, May) £63.58

The clerk said that she had warned the District Council and Mr Mead that their payments would have to be deferred until July and had also asked Cleanaway to defer submitting their bill until July.

#### PLANNING

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

Planning Permission granted:

Vicar and PCC St Laurence Church Application No. S/0433/05/F for footpath and gate at St Laurence Church

Several conditions

South Cambridgeshire DC Application No. S/0642/05F for additional residents' parking area at Hillfield

Two conditions

Miss E Salmon Application No. S/0686/05/F for a conservatory at 19 Fowlmere Road

Usual condition

Planning applications considered at the meeting:

EDF Energy Ltd Application No. S/0866/05/F/CIRC for rebuild of existing overhead line Shepreth to Sawston

No recommendation

D M Ash and H J Rayner Application No. S/1674/04/F for 3 dwellings and garaging at land between 3 & 11 Mortimers Lane

No recommendation

Dr and Dr Baxter Application No. S/1040/05/F for erection of outbuildings at 1, The Green

The council decided that no recommendation was needed about the buildings, but the clerk was instructed to comment that there should be restrictions on the parking of contractor's vehicles due to the dangerous bend at The Green and that their hours should be restricted.

#### police liaison report

Police matters had been covered in the Recreation and Amenities Committee Report. Mrs Roberts said that two SCDC officers might be able to help with the problems in the village with antisocial behaviour and asked Miss Thake to give her a contact number.

#### recreation ground trust report

Mr Broadley said that at the last meeting of the Recreation Ground Trust (immediately after the last FPC meeting) it was decided to site the skateboard park on the new Recreation Ground extension. Dr Grindley had agreed to redraw the plans. Mr Brooksbank had investigated the mound of earth on the site and this proved to be hard topsoil that could be spread over the site.

It would now be necessary to consult RoSPA again and to consult the school, the occupants of the house nearest the proposed site and the Foxton Gardens Association whose members would take up the allotments.

#### foxton community project

Mr McCraith said that he had spoken to both Mr Browning and Mr Tarling at the County Council and the Sports Pavilion taps had now been replaced. He gave out some copies of the status List of Works at the

Community Building including the Sports Pavilion. Dr Grindley said that one of the taps might not be working, but because of a problem with the associated isolating valve, it could not be tested.  
dovecote/meadow project

Mr Broadley reported that he had received the draft leases from Hewitsons, the council's solicitors, who were waiting for some answers from the County Council's solicitors.

correspondence

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

- 1) Letter dated 12th May from CCC Office of Environment and Community Services re Cambridge Core Traffic Scheme (Stage 4) – consultation 16th May – 18th July 2005: enclosing consultation leaflet and flyers.
- 2) Letter dated 12th May from CCC Customer Relations Officer with details of changes to local bus services.
- 3) Copy of letter dated 13th May from the SCDC Leader of the Council, Daphne Spink complaining about Cambridge Evening News reporting.
- 4) Copy of letter dated 17th May from the Editor of the Cambridge Evening News to Daphne Spink in response to her complaint.
- 5) Letter dated 19th May from SCDC Chief Executive's Department re Council Tax capping, enclosing summary of arguments against capping.
- 6) Letter dated 25th May from Andrew Lansley MP enclosing a copy of a letter he received from the Chief Constable for Cambridgeshire regarding the investigations into the disappearance of Fred Moss.
- 7) Letter dated 25th May from the East of England Public Examination Panel Secretariat re the commencement of the Examination in Public in September 2005 and outlining the process in the intervening period.
- 8) Letter dated May 2005 enclosing copies of "Parent Directory of Childcare and Children's Services in Cambridgeshire.
- 9) Letter dated 1st June 2005 from the Panel Secretariat for the East of England Public Examination enclosing the Draft List (with a 28 day consultation period) of Matters and Participants for the forthcoming Examination in Public opening on 14th September 2005: draft timetable for the Examination will be available at the first Preliminary meeting to be held on 14th June 2005.
- 10) Letter dated 11th May 2005 from Foxton Primary School requesting FPC's permission to hold the school's "Foxton Family Fun Day" on the 10th July. It was agreed there was no problem about this and the clerk was asked to contact Jill Broadbent to confirm the council has no objections.
- 11) Information from CALC including:  
Agenda for Next meeting of the South Cambridgeshire District Association on 9th June 2005  
Details of Workshop on Charity Trustees and the Law to be held on Saturday, 16th July 2005
- 12) Information from Cambridgeshire ACRE including:  
"Harvest" magazine May/June 2005  
Invitation to send two FPC representatives to the "Calor Village of the Year" County Finalists' Evening on 7th July 2005
- 13) Letter from the BE partnership re SCDC Facilities Bank and Touring Film Kit Launch Evening to be held at Sawston VC on 23rd June 2005 at 7.30pm. It was suggested that this might be of interest to Dr Greg Butler, and the clerk was asked to contact him.
- 14) Memo from Kompani (playground equipment) re a Play Seminar at Ipswich on Thursday, 9th June 2005.
- 15) Letter from Directions Plus enclosing article about the organisation, the Disability Information and Advice Service for Cambridgeshire, which has moved premises.
- 16) Letter requesting a donation from Vitalise (previously the Winged Fellowship Trust).
- 17) Letter from Malcolm Wicks (Minister of State for Pensions) on behalf of the Age Partnership Group about age legislation to be introduced in 2006: enclosing newsletter.
- 18) Publicity from Hays (accountancy), Starbridge (graffiti removal) and Shaw's (council books, forms & records).

SCDC's letter about rate capping (item 5)

Mrs Roberts outlined the consequences if south Cambridgeshire were to be capped by the full amount in excess of the governments's guidelines. These would include the loss of many jobs at the council and a great deal less funding available.

Mrs Roberts said that the District Council had learned that letters from parish councils supporting the rate

increases asked for by those councils threatened with rate capping could be helpful, and urged Foxton Parish Council to write in support of South Cambridgeshire District Council's precept increase. A discussion followed and, although it was felt that the District Council had made serious mistakes, it was thought that rate capping would not be helpful. All were agreed that the clerk should write to the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister in support of SCDC's precept after contacting Ruth Leyshon (SCDC) to find the name of the Minister to whom she should write.

visitors' questions

Mr Challis said that he thought Mrs Roberts was scare-mongering. However, he said that although he would not like to see people lose their jobs at the district council, he thought that the council needed some check to learn from its mistakes and should also look at areas where they might be spending taxpayer's money unnecessarily. He said that if a parish wanted some new facility or feature, they should raise the money themselves.

Dr Grindley said that where a local community was raising money for a project the majority of the funding did not come from the District Council. However, a District Council grant did help to attract funding from other bodies.

Mr Challis also said that when he recently travelled by train and parked in Station Road he was struck by the number of cars parked near the station. He said that the council would recall that Railtrack had formerly made it a condition for opening a car park at the Station that there should be double yellow lines in Station Road. He wondered whether it would be worth writing again to ask for car parking to be provided at the station.

Mrs Roberts said that free parking was provided at Meldreth, Shepreth and Great Shelford Train Stations. The clerk was asked to write to Network Rail to ask for some car parking provision at the Station.

any other business

Mr Kennedy remarked on the amount of graffiti he had noticed round the village.

Mr Brooksbank said he had received a verbal request from Foxton Gardens Association for more mulch. It was agreed that Mr Brooksbank should take this matter up with Mr Chilton.

Dr Grindley raised the matter of Parish Plans. He said it had been intended that a public meeting to discuss whether Foxton should embark on a project to produce a Parish Plan should be combined with the July meeting and that he should provide an item for "The Laurentian" about it. He also thought that it had been agreed to invite Mr Stan Reese (Cambridgeshire ACRE) to talk about Parish Plans at that meeting. It was agreed that the clerk should look this up in the past Minutes.

date and time of next meeting

It was confirmed that the next meeting would be held in the Village Hall Meeting room on Monday, 4th July 2005 at 7.45pm.

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