

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF FOXTON PARISH COUNCIL

HELD ON MONDAY, 2nd JUNE 2007, AT 7.45 p.m.

PRESENT

Dr Oakley, Mr Allars, Mr Barnes, Mr Bentinck, Mr Kennedy,

County Councillor David McCraith

District Councillor Mrs Roberts

IN ATTENDANCE

6 members of the public

APOLOGIES

Dr Grindley and Dr McKeown

Dr Oakley welcomed all to the meeting.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

No amendments were needed. Mr Kennedy proposed that the Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday, 14th May 2007, be signed as a true record. Dr Oakley seconded the proposal and all were agreed.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Former Q8 garage

The clerk had written to SCDC to ask that planning issues relating to this site be expedited. Mrs Roberts said she had spoken with a planning officer about this matter and warned the officer that the time the owner had been given for submission of a planning application had nearly elapsed. She also met with Saffron Garner, the officer dealing with this matter who was now re-starting procedures: enforcement might be necessary.

Mr Mead's Resignation

Mr Bentinck had prepared an advert for the vacancy arising from Vic Mead's resignation and copies were circulated to councillors. He had called the position "village warden" rather than "handyman".

Car wash Facility at the level crossing

The clerk reported that she had telephoned Network Rail, as she had not had a response to her letter describing the hazard at the level crossing posed by cars turning right into the car wash. She was told that Network Rail was planning a site visit and she had then written to the Safety Department to ask when the site visit would take

place. The clerk had informed the SCDC Planning Services Department that Network Rail was intending to make a site visit. Mrs Roberts said that this was very interesting, as she understood that previously Network Rail had raised no objections to the car-wash application.

Correspondence (item 9)

Dr Oakley said he had read the notes of the Traveller Liaison Forum meeting (held 27th March) with some concern as it appeared that Foxton could very well be in line for having a Gypsy/Traveller site. Mrs Roberts said that at present she was not included in the discussions on this matter but, after the last planning meeting, an officer had suggested she contact the SCDC Legal Department. The advice was that, in theory, she could be involved again, but that it would be better not to involve herself for a while longer. Mrs Roberts said that if anything occurred that affected either Foxton or Fowlmere, she would make sure they were represented and she would speak at the council. Neither Foxton nor Fowlmere fitted the very strict criteria for the location of sites although the criteria were being relaxed because of the difficulty in finding enough suitable locations.

Mr Barnes said that things had moved further and faster than was suggested at the Histon meeting. It was agreed that both Mrs Roberts and Mr Barnes would attend the drop-in session at the SCDC offices re the site options report (see “Correspondence, item 6 of these Minutes)

Visitors’ Questions – Car Park at Foxton Station

The clerk had written to Network Rail about the provision of a car park at the station, with the letter copied to both County Councillor David McCraith and Andrew Lansley, MP.

REPORTS FROM THE COMMITTEES

RECREATION AND AMENITIES

Mr Bentinck said that the committee had held a meeting on the Recreation Ground on 31st May and reported as follows:

1. Replacement for Vic Mead

Mr Bentinck said that this was an urgent matter as Victor Mead intended to step down at the end of June. He had requested that the sign in the shop and the ad due to go into "The Laurentian", made mention that this was a paid position. Mr Allars suggested a possible candidate (who was approached at the end of the meeting) and said he could be interested in job-sharing but was therefore unlikely to be useful for the RoSPA checks. The possibility of David Salmons for the ‘handyman’ duties had been discussed. A ½ day RoSPA training session would be necessary for whoever was found to fill the post. In the meantime, while Vic was on holiday between 9-23rd June, he and David Allars would cover bin-duty if absolutely necessary.

2. RoSPA report for the Play area

Mr Bentinck said that comments contained in the report were discussed while physically examining the equipment. Whilst there were no ‘High Risk’

indications, there were many ‘Medium’ and ‘Low-Medium’ ones, which the advice stated, “require appropriate action within resources and individual site assessment.” These observations were highlighted and it was agreed that quotations would be sought from Wicksteed or others to address any ‘Medium’ risk indications. The tops of the Springer Steppers and some parts of the swings needed replacement and the remainder were mostly safety-matting issues.

3. Trees at rear of 14, Barons Lane

It was agreed that the 3 trees needed to be removed and that David Salmons’ quotation of £150 was fair. The committee would like to see appropriate replacements for these trees however.

4. Play Area

Councillors had taken a detailed tour of the grounds surrounding the children’s play area and Mr Bentinck explained that, whilst he had not seen a copy of the instructions to David Salmons on clearing the area, he was concerned that much of this was due to be cut-down or have paths put through it. The committee was so concerned about this that it wished to call a halt to the work and re-think the future of this area, possibly calling in Rob Mungovan for expert advice. It might even be possible to obtain funds for this. The committee needed to see details of what work Mr Salmons was asked to quote for in this area.

5. Damaged trees

Mr Bentinck said he had sought quotations from three firms.

6. Step at Edis Way corner / entry to the Recreation Ground

Mr Bentinck had agreed to get a quotation from David Salmons to replace the step with a concrete runway and, possibly at a later date, have safety tiles put in when doing same in play area.

7. Signs

Mr Bentinck said that some new signs for the Play Area were needed that should be resilient. These were: 2x “No Access After Sunset”, 2x “No Dogs Allowed”, and 2x General Statement (as already on display) but possibly re-assess age limits – currently, “No entry to over 11’s”. 2 x “Do not climb on the equipment” and “Do not hang on the ring” (for the basketball net). Mr Allars agreed to speak to residents adjoining the play area to agree on a sign asking for privacy to be respected.

There was some discussion about the age limit for use of the Play Area with some in favour of raising it, but no definite conclusion was reached. It was reported that Villiers Park students were using the Play Area and were over the age limit although not doing any damage.

8. Re-positioning the junior goalposts

This was discussed as a future project.

It was noted that Mr Salmons was not very happy with the frequency he was being asked to quote for various works. This led to a discussion about how this could be avoided. The clerk said that if Mr Salmons worked as an employee he would have to pay tax on his earnings, otherwise, quotations for work would be needed. As Mr Salmons was self-employed, it was unlikely he would wish to be an FPC employee. The clerk offered to telephone CALC for advice on the matter and was asked to go ahead.

The council also agreed to use the advert for the vacancy caused by Vic Mead's resignation that had been prepared by Mr Bentinck, who agreed to organise the advert being placed in "The Laurentian".

FINANCE

Mr Kennedy gave details of the Bank Accounts as follows:

Deposit Account	£22,763.42
Current Account	£55.03
Cambridge Building Society	£13,775.16

Mr Kennedy proposed the following cheques for payment:

Viking Direct (suspension files, document wallets and copy paper)	£85.38
I M Sanderson (computer software reconfiguration)	£20.00
Digital Copier Systems (work on printer/copier)	£58.75
V W Mead (refuse collection, maintenance, repairs and expenses)	£48.72
CALC (fee for Chairman's workshop)	£40.00

Mr Allars seconded the proposal and all were agreed that these payments, totalling £252.85, be made and that £252 be transferred from the Deposit Account to the Current Account.

PLANNING

Mr Barnes said that there were no planning applications to be considered by the meeting. However, regarding the council's own application in respect of the extension to the Recreation Ground, he, Dr Grindley and Dr McKeown had met on site with David Hamilton, SCDC Landscaping officer to discuss the landscaping of the site. Some changes to the fencing area were discussed.

POLICE LIAISON REPORT

Mr Bentinck reported that Cambridgeshire Constabulary was initiating two Melbourn Neighbourhood Panels. This was very welcome although he thought the distribution of villages between the two panels could be improved, as Harston was not in the same panel as Foxton. He had registered as the parish council police liaison contact.

RECREATION GROUND TRUST AND COMMUNITY BUILDING ISSUES

The Trust met on 29th May when officers were elected as follows: Chairman, Dr Oakley, Vice-Chairman Mr Barnes, Treasurer Mr Kennedy and Correspondent confirmed as Dr McKeown.

As one of those matters for which the Trust was responsible as landlord, Dr Grindley was asked to meet a representative of Mills and Douglas in an attempt to rectify the plumbing issues at the pavilion. It was also being explored whether or not the Velux light issue could be regarded as a latent defect. Mr Barnes volunteered to obtain information from the school on the cost of a further security camera.

The weeds on the Recreation Ground extension would be flailed (*Dr Grindley had already cleared the grass from around the marker stakes*)

The Trustees were picking up the threads of Leases and Agreements negotiated by the previous Trust members and it was agreed that the Recreation Ground Extension Committee (RGEC) should continue to oversee implementation. Members noted with satisfaction that the Trust had gained funding for infrastructure. Dr Grindley volunteered to lead the development of the picnic area.

Issues over the planning application were discussed – both Mr Barnes and Dr Grindley had been in touch with the district council. The need for a groundsman's enclosure for equipment storage was also discussed.

Finally, it was noted that the agreement on the Trust Deed had not yet been reached, and Trustees undertook to seek solicitor's advice on the detailed points of contention.

DOVECOTE/MEADOW PROJECT

Mr Pusey (in the Visitors' seats and a member of the Friends Group) reported to the council as follows:

An Open Day had been held on 7th May and a volunteer team worked on the meadow. He said that hedge cutting would need to be undertaken soon. There would be a species count on Tuesday, 12th June and the next meeting would be on 26th June.

Dr Oakley thanked Mr Pusey for his report.

CORRESPONDENCE

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

- 1) Letter dated 16th May from Cambridge Council for Voluntary Service re the South Cambridgeshire Voluntary Networking Project: enclosing survey.
- 2) Letter dated 19th May from Cambridgeshire Constabulary re Melbourn Neighbourhood Panels, which will be supported by Neighbourhood Special Constables, to be formed from 1st July 2007. *Feedback requested*
- 3) Registration form for contact with Melbourn Policing Team. *Passed to SB*
- 4) Pack of various leaflets from Cambridgeshire Constabulary. *Passed to SB*

- 5) Letter dated 22nd May from Greg Harlock, SCDC Chief Executive re the district council's Improvement Plan.
- 6) Letter dated 29th May from SCDC re consultation with the travelling and settled communities to take place at South Cambridgeshire Hall, Cambourne on Thursday, 19th July from 3-7pm. The aim of the drop-in session is to provide the opportunity to read the site options report that will be considered by SCDC members on 26th July.
- 7) Letter received 2nd June from Vic Phillips enquiring re "Foxton Historian's job" and querying the whereabouts of a plaque presented for/on behalf of those people who built the hard court. Also enquiring re framed photograph of John Haynes. *Mrs Howell (in the Visitors' seats) said that this was in safekeeping. It was suggested the clerk contact Mrs Ward about the plaque.*
- 8) Letter received 2nd June from Vic Phillips reporting that repairs or replacement are needed for the seat used by cricket fans. The matter of the David Mead seat is also raised with a plea for its early instalment.
- 9) COPE Newsletter, June 2007.
- 10) South Cambridgeshire Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership Newsletter January- March 2007.

The clerk was asked to reply to both of Mr Phillips' letters.

VISITORS' QUESTIONS

Mr Challis said that it was the season for overgrown hedges and specifically mentioned the hedge bordering 1, The Green in Caxton Lane.

Mr Challis was asked to write an item for "The Laurentian" on this matter and the clerk was asked to write to the owner of the Caxton Lane hedge.

Mr Challis asked whether there was anything to report on the drive to get a car park at the station.

The clerk said she had written to Network Rail and copied the letter to County Councillor, David McCraith and to Andrew Lansley, MP. She had stressed in the letter that the council was not looking for a large number of parking spaces. Mr McCraith said that he had received his copy letter and would follow it up after allowing a fair interval for Network Rail to reply.

Mr and Mrs Corley raised the matter of the Oak tree on the piece of land in Hall Close adjoining their property that they had written to the council about. They were disappointed not to have received a response from the council. Mr and Mrs Corley had been advised that the tree was not listed as it was growing on land that had no registered ownership. However it was a tree worth preserving and a tree surgeon they had employed had recommended an inspection involving two pica examinations and a climbing examination at a cost of £450. He said that it would be possible for he and his wife to claim adverse possession of the land.

Mr Corley also reported that the Cherry tree on the same piece of land had been removed.

Mrs Roberts said she would like to see the SCDC Tree Officer to ask whether some funds could be allocated to work on this tree. Mr Oakley proposed that the council undertake to do the necessary work on the tree. Mr Allars seconded the proposal and all were agreed. The clerk was asked to obtain quotations.

Mr Pusey said that Vic Phillips had telephoned him about the history project at the Village Hall. He also said how delighted he was that "Awards for All" had granted RGT £9,000 towards the infrastructure costs for the Recreation Ground extension. Finally he questioned whether the interests of the village was being adequately served at district council level if District Councillor Deborah Roberts was limited in her access to council discussions.

Mrs Roberts assured the meeting that she was able to put forward the village's interests at the district council and would continue to do so. Dr Oakley said he was sure this was the case.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mr Bentinck suggested that with so many organisations in the village an "Organisation Tree" would be useful. He agreed the work on updating the village guide, presently being undertaken for Foxton's website, went some way towards this, but was not the same thing. He further said that with the senior football posts being stored in the compound from now on, the facilities for older children were reduced and the Recreation Ground was becoming an "old people's Recreation Ground". He thought there should be more provision for youngsters.

R Barnes said that a large parked vehicle was still obstructing the entrance to Hillfield Road. Mrs Roberts said she would follow this up.

Mr Allars said that people were putting their wheelie bins actually on the road for collection. Mrs Roberts said that the bins were supposed to be put out for collection so that they could be easily accessed: the main thing was that they should be taken back to their usual location as soon as possible after collection.

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

It was confirmed that this would be held on **Monday, 2nd July 2007 at 7.45pm, in the Village Hall Meeting Room.**

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.15 pm.