

## **MINUTES OF A MEETING OF FOXTON PARISH COUNCIL**

**HELD ON MONDAY, 3<sup>rd</sup> JUNE 2013 AT 7.45 p.m.**

### **PRESENT**

Dr Oakley, Mr Bore, Mr Barnes, Mr Elliott, Mr McCreery, Mrs Macintyre, Mrs McFadzean and Mr Sutton

County Councillor Susan van de Ven

### **IN ATTENDANCE**

2 members of the public

### **APOLOGIES**

District Councillor Deborah Roberts and Dr Grindley

Dr Oakley welcomed all to the meeting.

### **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

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

No amendments were needed, and all were agreed that the Minutes of the previous Meeting, held on Monday, 13<sup>th</sup> May, should be signed as a true record.

### **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

#### *Elections (page 10)*

Dr Oakley said that he would now be acting as the council's representative on the Village Hall Trust in place of Mr Bore.

#### *Matters Arising from the Minutes (page 10) – council website*

Mr Elliott reported that he and Dr Grindley had attended a meeting with SCDC officers Paul Grainger and Lauren Gilman. Mr Grainger said that it looked as though the district council would go ahead with the mapping project and it was hoped that Foxton parish council's website would fit in with the SCDC mapping system and that the FPC website could be arranged through Ms Gilman.

### **VILLAGE INFRASTRUCTURE**

Dr Oakley reported as follows:

#### **Railways**

Dr van de Ven and Dr Oakley had attended a meeting at Shire Hall on 10<sup>th</sup> May for an advance look at the Foxton Level Crossing feasibility study commissioned by Network Rail. The study came to the conclusion that the option of doing nothing should not be considered, particularly in the light of the overriding safety concerns. Thus the considered options were to bypass the level crossing to the North, South or on a direct line with the A10. A bypass to the South and on a direct line were both

rejected (on the grounds of the effect on housing and infrastructure) making the preferred option a bypass to the North. Three possible routes for a northern bypass were given. The options for the road to go over or under the railway were discussed in relation to the effects on the railway, on landowners and on cost. The cost of having the road go over, rather than under, the railway was significantly less and would also be less disruptive to the railway: this was therefore Network Rail's preferred option. A pedestrian/cycle bridge/subway would be provided at the Station together with parking facilities. Equestrian crossing would be accommodated at the bypass. The existing A10 would become a cul de sac from the North, and exiting Station Road would be by a left turn only.

Dr Oakley said that it was, of course, early days and that implementation would naturally depend on funding, which could come from Government/Network Rail or from the county council or from a combination of the two. It was true to say though that the mere fact Network Rail had commissioned this study showed how serious they were in dealing with the level crossing.

### **Roads**

There was concern about the state of Caxton Lane and the county council had been asked to look at this again, although it was doubtful that there would be the money to effect proper repairs. The entrance to "Burlington Park" in the High Street had been repaired by the owner at the county council's demand. Dr Oakley said that potholes should still be reported, as there were still some problem areas. Unfortunately it was likely that, given the general state of the roads, the lack of funds to provide long-lasting and effective repairs, and the bad weather, this would become a year round problem rather than one restricted to the winter months only.

Dr Oakley had received more complaints about speeding in the village especially along the High Street outside the shop and in Fowlmere Road. He proposed that the council investigated the possibility of having a 20 mph speed limit in the centre of the village and a 40 mph limit on the final 400m of the approach to the village from Fowlmere.

*The clerk mentioned the difficulty of turning right from Station Road into the High Street when cars were parked across the junction.*

### **Water/Drainage**

There were a couple of quite major water leaks in the High Street, which had been reported and should be investigated this week. Also the leakage at the pump at the end of Mortimer's Lane was becoming severe and the council would have to do something about this, although the situation was complicated as the pump was listed.

## **REPORTS FROM THE WORKING PARTIES**

### **RECREATION AND AMENITIES**

Mr McCreery reported as follows:

#### **Recreation Ground**

Mr McCreery said he had received some spares from Kompan and had inspected the Play Area equipment and carried out minor repairs such as tightening shackles.

The first spray application of weedkiller was still to take place.

### **QEII Registration**

The Land Registry had now confirmed the amended registration of title for the Recreation Ground and Allotments. The Deed of Dedication and the Land Registry forms had been passed to the Clerk for safekeeping. A copy of the Land Registry data had been forwarded to Fields in Trust to conclude the registration of the Recreation Ground as a QEII field.

A goodie box would be available for the Family Fun day on 14<sup>th</sup> July.

### **Skatepark Project**

The working party would hold a site meeting later in the month with the grant application people from WREN.

The next major fund raising event to be held would be a Fun Run on Sunday, 8<sup>th</sup> September. The organiser had notified the police, highways, ambulance and fire & rescue services and there had been no objections. The run would start and finish on the Recreation Ground and cover part of Thriplow Farms who had agreed to their land being used. There would be no cricket match on that day. *Mr McCreery asked for formal approval from the parish council. All were agreed.*

### **Trees**

Mrs Macintyre had carried out a survey to identify trees in the village that were the responsibility of the parish council. Once these were mapped the group would obtain a quotation for a professional survey to identify any problems that needed to be addressed.

### **Dovecote**

The new posts and solar lights had been installed. These were considerably taller than the previous post and would, hopefully, be a useful aid to those using the path to the school, particularly in the winter.

The meadow had been cut by Richard Barnes.

### **Litter Pick**

It was proposed to hold this event on Sunday, 18<sup>th</sup> August. Mr McCreery said that he would put a notice in "The Laurentian" requesting volunteers.

### **FINANCE**

Mr Sutton gave details of the Bank Accounts as follows:

Deposit Account	£21,537.86
Current Account	£56.62
10-Day Notice Account	£22,720.63

Mr Sutton proposed the following cheques for payment:

CAPALC (affiliation fee 2013-14)	£422.10
Aon UK Limited (insurance policy renewal)	£2,290.95
1 <sup>st</sup> Half Chairman's Honorarium	£80.00
Austin's Memorials (balance due for office sign)	£189.00

R McCreery (reimbursement for 2 solar lights)	£79.97
J E Burns (reimbursement for 5 reams copy paper)	£23.94
D Salmons (Village Warden duties, May plus extra work)	£255.00
J E Burns (salary June)	£310.68

Dr Oakley seconded the proposal and all were agreed that these payments, totalling £3,651.64, should be made and that £3,652 should be transferred from the Deposit Account to the Current Account.

Mr Sutton concluded by saying that the Annual Return for 2012/13 would be finalised this week and submitted to the external auditor.

### **PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT**

In the absence of Dr Grindley, Mr Bore reported as follows:

The committee had met on 20<sup>th</sup> May when the following matters were considered:

#### **Planning application:**

Mr Paul Ridgeon	Application: No. S/0882/13/FL for dwelling at land adjacent to 7 Station Road Refusal recommended
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This application was very similar to two previous applications for a dwelling on the same plot, both of which were refused. On both occasions an appeal had been made, and on both occasions the refusal was upheld.

The committee felt that all the previous reasons for refusal were valid, and felt that members of the planning committee should make a presentation at the meeting of the District Planning Committee when this application was discussed.

#### **Correspondence**

Notices of approval were received for Planning Application S/0593/13/FL and Listed Building Consent S/0596/13/LB, both for the alterations and change of use of 46 High Street to a tearoom.

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#### **Planning application considered at the present meeting:**

Michelle Austin	Application No. S/0530/13/FL for log cabin/study at 50 High Street
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Councillors studied the plans and all were agreed that the application should be approved.

Dr Grindley had been approached by Jenny Clark, SCDC Lands Officer, concerning a request from the owners of 39 Station Road to purchase a small parcel of land owned by SCDC. Ms Clark wished to know whether Foxton parish council had any objections. Dr Grindley had made a site visit and thought it would be very sensible to allow the purchase. The matter was briefly discussed and all were agreed that there were no objections and the clerk was asked to confirm this to Ms Clark

### **COUNTY COUNCILLORS' REPORT**

Dr van de Ven reported as follows:

#### County Council matters

Cambridgeshire County Council, following the elections, was now in “no overall control” (*by any one political party*). At the full council meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> May, the combined smaller political groups won a vote to bring the “Cabinet and Strong Leader” model to an end, and to re-introduce the committee decision-making system which had served the council for many years, before central government imposed the “Cabinet and Leader” system in the year 2000 through the Local Government Act. Owing to legal constraints, the committee system would not be able to commence until May 2014 and would then be set for a term of five years. For the coming year, the largest political group, the Conservative Group, would run a final year of the “Cabinet and Leader” system with the new leader being Cllr Martin Curtis. Dr van de Ven said that she had voted for the committee system, having received a very strong message from residents in the run-up to the election that opening up the decision-making structure to all councillors, and reducing the party-political role in council decisions, would be welcome. For the coming year she had joined the Adult Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee; the Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire Joint Spatial Planning and Transport Committee (which was involved in the Local Plan and the Transport Strategy); and the School Transport Appeals group.

Highways staffing shortages were apparently partly to blame for the inability to tackle road maintenance. Dr van de Ven had asked Mike Cooper to have a second look at Caxton Lane following residents’ concerns.

#### The A10 Corridor Cycling Campaign

Members held a very successful event on 19<sup>th</sup> May, cycling from Trumpington and Royston in two groups, and convening at Phillimore’s Garden Centre, who kindly hosted a group of about 150 people for refreshments. Sir Graham Bright, the Police and Crime Commissioner, joined the group and plans for safer cycling were discussed. The campaign would next be working on producing a strategy and work plan for the coming year.

#### Meldreth, Shepreth and Foxton Rail User Group

The Rail User Group would meet on 12<sup>th</sup> June at Foxton Village Hall when British Transport Police would be attending to report on their risk-taking work at Foxton level crossing. The Rail User Group had been able to accomplish a great deal but the number of people involved was quite small and the group had lost its note-taker who was moving out of the area. Dr van de Ven said any new members would be most welcome.

Dr van de Ven thanked Mrs Macintyre, and a new clutch of volunteers, for turning the plants around at Foxton Station, and Foxton Gardens Association for a grant to help cover costs.

The group was preparing to sign a Community Rail Partnership agreement with First Capital Connect, Cambridgeshire county council, South Cambridgeshire district council and Network Rail and would like to invite the four parish councils (Meldreth, Melbourn, Shepreth and Foxton) to participate as well. The idea was to keep things simple and to affirm the good work that was already being achieved. Having the local

councils on board would enhance good communication and the chance to seize extra opportunities that might arise.

It was thought that the partnership could meet about three times a year with the meetings chaired by the Meldreth, Shepreth and Foxton Rail User Group, and supported by a member of the county council transport team (who happened to live in Melbourn). A draft agreement had been drawn up. It was aimed to have a simple signing ceremony, probably at Meldreth Station, in late September. Dr van de Ven asked whether Foxton Parish Council would be willing to join. *This was agreed.*

### **DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

In the absence of Mrs Roberts, there was no report.

### **POLICE LIAISON REPORT**

Mr Barnes reported as follows:

Matters still under investigation were a motorbike stolen from Caxton Lane and a break-in at Barrington Road.

Burglaries had occurred in Edis Way, Hardman Road, Mortimers Lane, West Hill Road and Station Road. The outcome of the court appearance of two recently arrested suspects was still awaited.

### **RECREATION GROUND TRUST REPORT**

Mr Sutton said that meetings had been held to discuss the award of the contract for external painting of the Community Building and to go through the contract with the county council and select the paint colour. A subsequent meeting had been held to discuss the replacement shutters and a sound system and loop for the main hall. He said that the Trustees would meet later in the month.

### **MELBOURN AREA YOUTH DEVELOPMENT (MAYD) UPDATE**

Mrs McFadzean reported as follows:

The group had extended its activities from being just a youth club. Melbourn had been identified as an area of concern together with Gamlingay and Shelford as a result of anti social behaviour. In partnership with MAYD, two detached youth workers would be present on Friday evenings to support and engage with young people in the Melbourn area. This could be extended to the surrounding villages should the need arise.

The Bike Bank project was due to start this month for another six individuals, on the same night as the Youth Club, for six weeks.

The organisation "Sportivate" had provided free places for eight young people to learn horse riding in St Ives during the summer holidays. MAYD would provide the transport and youth workers.

As part of MAYD's outreach programme, the Youth Club would hold sessions throughout the summer holidays in the five villages targeting the year 6 primary school leavers. Details would follow in "The Laurentian" and on posters throughout the village.

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

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

- 1) Letter dated 16<sup>th</sup> May from Cambridgeshire ACRE re changes to its services
- 2) Letter received May 2013 from Autela Payroll Services giving information about H M Revenue & Customs' new Real Time Information system PAYE implementation etc.
- 3) Various e-mails from CAPALC.

## **VISITORS' QUESTIONS**

Mr Challis said that he had been listening to discussions about the level crossing for the past thirty to forty years and pointed out that if and when the crossing should be closed, the benefits would be mainly for the through traffic.

*This point was generally agreed.*

Mrs Howell said that tree branches and ivy were coming over the wall at the Burlington press site in?

*The clerk was asked to write to Mr Ridgeon about this problem.*

## **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Mrs Macintyre said the footpath at Shepreth Woods needed an application of weedkiller. Mr Barnes said he would follow this matter up.

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

It was confirmed that this would be held on **Monday, 1<sup>st</sup> July 2013 at 7.45pm** in the **Village Hall Meeting Room.**

Mrs Macintyre gave her apologies for this meeting in advance.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9pm.