

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

**HELD ON MONDAY, 6<sup>th</sup> JULY 2009, AT 7.45 p.m.**

**PRESENT** Dr Oakley, Dr Grindley, Mr Allars, Mr Barnes, Mr Bentinck, Mrs Macintyre, Dr McKeown, Mr Sutton  
County Councillor Susan van de Ven  
District Councillor Deborah Roberts

**IN ATTENDANCE** 2 members of the public

**APOLOGIES** There were no apologies

Dr Oakley welcomed all to the meeting with a special mention for Mrs van de Ven the new County Councillor.

### **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations.

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

As no amendments were needed, Dr Oakley proposed that the Minutes of the previous Meeting, held on Monday, 1<sup>st</sup> June 2009, be signed as a true record. Dr Grindley seconded the proposal and all were agreed.

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

#### *Recreation and Amenities Report – encroachment onto the Recreation Ground*

The clerk had received advice from CALC and it was agreed that she would draft a letter to be sent to CALC's Legal Department regarding the encroachment problem at 12 St Laurence Road.

### **PARISH PLAN REPORT**

Mr Allars handed out draft copies of the Plan to be studied in advance of the meeting to review the draft to be held on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> July. He asked that the working Parties and Planning Committee agree their responses if possible before the meeting.

### **REPORTS FROM THE WORKING PARTIES**

#### **RECREATION AND AMENITIES**

Mr Bentinck said the group had met on 18<sup>th</sup> June and reported as follows:

#### **1. Grass cutting**

Mr Bentinck had met a representative from CGM to discuss the problems encountered with the grass cutting this season and had driven round the whole

village taking photos and making notes. CGM returned on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> to tidy-up the unsatisfactory areas. However Mr Bentinck informed them that they had still missed the edge of the Village Hall car park and done a particularly bad job on the Fowlmere Road entry into the village. A set of spare plans had been posted to CGM for them to keep in its vehicle.

## **2. Weeds/Sports Clubs Compound**

After checking with Mr Sutton that provision was in place, Steve telephoned CGM and gave the firm approval to spray weeds on the Recreation Ground for plantain etc. at the 2008 price. *The firm had now carried out this work and Matt Grey and Andy Cambridge had been informed.* Mr Grey had informed him how the Cricket Club was having to keep the new covers on the Recreation Ground rather than in the compound, as the brambles were puncturing the tyres: he was talking to Richard Barnes about the possibility of rotavating it. The council would also have to consider what should be done in this area. *It was reported that roavation had been done by Tony Shelford.*

## **3. Village Warden**

Mr Bentinck had given Dave Salmons the go-ahead to strim the footpath between Illingworth Way and the Recreation Ground and to repair the bench at the top of Caxton Hill. Comments were received that rubbish was being left in the shelter on the Recreation Ground. This had been mentioned by various people to the Foxton youths but it was possible that they were not the culprits.

## **4. Litter and dog bins**

A letter has gone out to the SCDC Environmental Officer, Stuart Harwood-Clark, about dog bins together with a map showing the council's request. The financial implications would be considered once a response had been received.

## **5. Trees**

Mrs Macintyre reported a damaged/dying Hawthorn tree on the Village Green.

## **6. RoSPA Report/Play area**

The group had briefly examined the report from RoSPA following the annual inspection. There appeared to be no "High Risk" observations and the group would look at their Medium and Low Risk observations and take action if necessary. It was hoped to report further at the next meeting. It was pleasing to note that the report included not only the Bike Track but also the shelter and the ball wall.

## **7. Access to recreation Ground letter**

Following advice from CALC, the group was obtaining a plan showing official boundaries which would be submitted to CALC, along with notes of its actions taken so far, for advice on the correct way to proceed with the protection of Parish Council land from encroachment by residents.

## **8. Youth Shelter**

The polycarbonate windows had arrived and Dr McKeown and Mr Salmons were liaising over their fitment.

## 9. Any other business

The group discussed the proposed new light standard for the Illingworth Way path onto the Recreation Ground and agreed on a specification. Mr Salmons had been approached for a quotation for its installation.

Mr Bentinck had received an answer-phone message and an e-mail from Mr Howard reporting that the slats had been broken-off a bench in the children's play area. Mr Salmons was asked to repair it but he took it away as it was damaged beyond repair: he believed that it had been vandalised. The police had been informed.

It was noted that hedges etc were obstructing the pavement in various places. *Mr Challis (in the visitors' seats) was asked to include an item in "The Laurentian" asking residents to cut their hedges back.*

### FINANCE

Mr Sutton circulated a report showing receipts and payments for the first three months of the current financial year and then gave details of the Bank Accounts as follows:

Deposit Account	£17,712.51
(This included interest for the period 2/3/09-7/6/09 of £2.47)	

Current Account	£14,889.00
(This included funds withdrawn from the Cambridge Building Society in the amount of £14,811.05 and a cheque from EDF for £25.00 for the purchase of bulbs)	

Cambridge Building Society	0.00
(Interest of £18.03 had been applied on closure of the account and the closing balance of £14,811.05 had been transferred to the Barclays Bank Current Account)	

Mr Sutton proposed the following cheques for payment:

S Bentinck (reimbursement for photocopying maps etc re grass cutting)	£20.08
Playsafety Ltd (annual inspection of play area and bike track)	£162.15
Foxton VHT (hire of Lounge x2, Meeting room and Main Hall, May)	£51.25
D Salmons Fencing Services (Village Warden duties May and June)	£241.50
NALC (2009/10 subscription to the Local Council Review)	£12.00
J E Burns (salary June and July)	£614.40
J E Burns (expenses May and June)	£66.58
H M Revenue and Customs (tax on clerk's salary for 3 months to 5/7/09)	<u>£142.40</u>

Mr Sutton proposed that £15,000 be transferred to the Standard Life Bank as a 1-year bond, and said to reach this sum the funds from the Cambridge Building Society would need to be topped up by £188.95.

Dr Oakley seconded the proposals and all were agreed that these payments, totalling £1,310.36, be made and that £1,474 be transferred from the Deposit Account to the Current Account.

## **PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT**

Mr Barnes reported as follows:

### **Planning Permission granted:**

Mr P Browne	Tree application No. C/11/17/030/04 for extensive tree work at 51 High Street Work should not be carried out during the nesting season
F Smart & Son Ltd	Application No.S/0508/09/F for an extension to existing storage building at orchard Farm, Fowlmere Road Numerous conditions

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The Planning committee had met on 16<sup>th</sup> June when the following applications were considered:

Mr and Mrs Price	Application No. S/0523/09/F for extensions at 62 Fowlmere Road Approved with recommendation that consideration be given to parking for up to 3 vehicles
Mr Patrick Browne	Application No. S/0590/09/F for detached garage and conversion of former cow barn to living accommodation at 51 High Street Refusal strongly recommended for a detached garage in this location
Mr Patrick Browne	Application No. S/0591/09/LB for alterations and conversion of brick cattle building to 3-bed dwelling with conservatory extension at 51 High Street Refusal recommended

(Grounds for opposition to this application included the views that the proposed detached garage would be wholly inappropriate in the setting of the listed building and its landscape and that garages would be an appropriate use for the existing cow barn that could also be connected to a smaller residential unit)

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

Mr Luigi Pesci	Application (retrospective) No.S/1841/08/F for a 2-metre high timber fence to front boundary at 69 Station Road
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This application was discussed at some length. The council believed there were factual errors in the application. It was agreed that the council would object to the application on the grounds of factual error and ask for a site visit by the SCDC Planning Committee.

The council had received a letter from Gareth Jones thanking the clerk for the information she had included in her letter to him about the new entrance made on the High Street to the Burlington Press site. Subsequently to the receipt of this letter, it was noted that the new entrance had been observed by the Head of the CCC Highways Department, who immediately recognised the traffic problems that would ensue from the use of this entrance. It was generally felt, however, that, sadly, it would not prove possible to prevent this access being allowed, even though it had been made without planning consent. Mrs Roberts said she would speak to Gareth Jones.

As nothing further had been heard either about the former Q8 garage or the FPC's own application for light standards on the Recreation Ground, the clerk said she would telephone Saffron Garner (SCDC Planning officer) about these matters.

### **POLICE LIAISON REPORT**

Mr Barnes said that the next meeting of the local police panel would be held at Bassingbourn on 21<sup>st</sup> July. He reported that a Foxton resident on The Green had suffered a serious break-in to an outbuilding used as an office on Friday, 26<sup>th</sup> June. Dr Oakley had received an e-mail from Mr Laird complaining about motor scooters and motorbikes being driven round the Community Building car park: any information such as number plates would be useful. Mr Barnes said he would raise the matter at the next local police panel meeting. It was asked whether crime statistics for Foxton might be separated from those of Fowlmere rather than being reported together

### **RECREATION GROUND TRUST REPORT**

Dr McKeown reported as follows on a Recreation Ground Trust (RGT) meeting that had been held on 10<sup>th</sup> June when six Trustees were present:

1. Picnic tables had been placed on the area in front of the allotments and Pre-school garden and these were being put to good use when cricket was being played.
2. The opening of the extension to the Recreation Ground was discussed and it was decided that the invitation should be from the RGT rather than FPC. *Dr McKeown said that invitations had now been sent to all particularly identified groups and individuals.*
3. The design of a display board acknowledging the contribution of grant aid and individual effort was agreed and David Allars undertook to order it. *The board had now been received and David Salmons had agreed to fit it to the fencing to the allotment area.*
4. The development of the sports compound was also discussed and the co-operation of the sports clubs was sought to clear the ground after the killing of the weeds. Dr Grindley agreed to draw up a plan of the location of equipment once the size of the container required by the Football Club (FCC) had been established. *FCC had confirmed that it would prefer a 40 ft or, if available, a 30 ft unit.*
5. The Meeting noted the arrival of the polycarbonate panels for the shelter and asked for David Salmons to be approached about fitting them. *Mr Salmons had agreed and now had the job in hand.*

6. A suggestion that the ball wall be moved closer to St Laurence Road was rejected.

7. Mr Sutton reported that some of the Trust funds had been transferred to Standard Life in order to seek a better interest rate.

8. The Cricket Club was to be asked to propose a solution to the problem of balls entering properties in Edis Way, recognising that individual householders wanted different arrangements. *An email had been sent but no response had yet been received.*

Dr McKeown further reported that Mr Barnes had offered to supply materials for a base on which the container for the sports compound would stand.

### **DOVECOTE/MEADOW PROEJCT**

Mrs Macintyre reported that transects had been carried out across the meadow but the results had not yet been analysed. A bee orchid had been found in the meadow.

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

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

- 1) E-mail dated 2<sup>nd</sup> June from Mr Laird asking the council to raise the matter of nuisance from mopeds being driven round the Community Building car park at night.
- 2) Letter dated 5<sup>th</sup> June from Ray Manning, SCDC Council leader, giving the results of the South Cambridgeshire District Council Housing Transfer Ballot.
- 3) E-mail dated 22<sup>nd</sup> June from Mr Bochhoven expressing his concerns about the possibility of netting being installed to rear fences of Edis Way houses prevent cricket balls coming into the gardens.
- 4) Letter dated 30<sup>th</sup> June from CCC detailing changes to Stagecoach and Whippet bus services.
- 5) Letter dated 23<sup>rd</sup> June from Mr Ron Beech requesting copies of the past three-year's FPC accounts under the Freedom of Information Act.
- 6) Information from Cambridgeshire ACRE including:
  - Letter asking for information re progress of Foxton's Parish Plan
  - "Community Action" magazine, Summer 2009
- 7) Copy of the CCC Cambridgeshire Archaeology Historic Environment Team Annual Report 2008-9.
- 8) South Cambs magazine, Summer 2009.
- 9) Local Council Review, Summer 2009.
- 10) Second issue of "Green Vision News" from Cambridgeshire Horizons.
- 11) "Clerks and Councils Direct" magazine, July 2009.
- 12) Cope newsletter for July.

- 13) Publicity material from Barcham Trees, D W Lighting (street lamp maintenance), Arein (Notice Boards etc), SMP and Sutcliffe Play (play equipment), J Parker (wholesale plants) (*passed to RM*) and Glasden.

E-mail from Mr Bochoven re cricket balls (Item 3)

There was a short discussion of this item. There had been a meeting with Mr Bochoven, who said he was reluctant to have netting erected at his rear boundary, as this would interfere with his view of the Recreation Ground. Mr Sutton had researched prices for individual netting for Mrs Pick's property. Another option that was being considered was protecting the gardens at risk from cricket balls in the long term by planting trees in front of the fences of the affected house(s) in Edis Way. The clerk was asked to make this an agenda item for the next meeting when options for the different option should be available.

**VISITORS' QUESTIONS**

Mr Challis said that he bench at the top of Caxton Hill in memory of Rod Newberry had been smashed up soon after it had been installed; he was delighted that it had been repaired. He asked what height was envisaged for the trees that might be planted to help prevent cricket balls entering the Edis Way properties.

*It was thought that, if the option of planting trees were adopted, the trees would be between 12 and 15 feet high when fully grown.*

Mrs Howell commented that the fence bordering the A10, that had been erected by the owners of 62 Station Road, ruined the spinney.

*The council expressed some sympathy with this view.*

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

County Councillor van de Ven gave a short address to the council that included details of her efforts in relation to the parking problems at local stations and the related problem of the new charges that had been introduced for parking at stations. . Another topic covered was student discount fares. Mrs van de Ven said she did not think that politics should influence her job as a councillor and that she was restricting the number of committees she joined in order to allow time for local issues. She had become a member of the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Committee and was visiting the Pupil Referral Unit in Foxton.

Mr Barnes raised the matter of the rail depot at Foxton that appeared not to have any planning permission. Mrs van deVen said she would look into this. She also agreed to let Mr Allars have a copy of her report on the footfall at Foxton and Meldreth stations.

Mrs Macintyre said that she would see if the sports compound needed rolling.

Dr Grindley said that there was a nasty pothole in the road outside the church gate. The clerk said she would report this to the CCC Highways Department.

Dr Oakley reported having received a further e-mail from Mr Bochoven concerning the time the proposed training lights would be turned off. Dr Grindley stated that this would be 9.00 pm rather than 9.30pm as reported in July's Laurentian. Dr Oakley said he would let Mr Bochoven know.

**DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

It was confirmed that the next meeting would be held on **Monday, 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2009** at **7.45pm** in the **Meeting Room** of the **Village Hall**.

Mrs Macintyre tendered her apologies in advance for this meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.40pm.