

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

**HELD ON MONDAY, 4<sup>th</sup> JULY 2011 AT 7.45 p.m.**

### **PRESENT**

Dr Oakley, Dr Grindley, Mr Barnes, Mr Elliott, Mr McCreery, Mrs Macintyre, and Mrs McFadzean  
County Councillor Susan van de Ven

### **IN ATTENDANCE**

8 members of the public

### **APOLOGIES**

Mr Bore, Mr Sutton and District Councillor Deborah Roberts

Dr Oakley welcomed all to the meeting.

### **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.

Dr Oakley said that this dispensation was due for renewal and an application had been made, which had still not yet been processed.

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

As no amendments were needed, Dr Grindley proposed that the Minutes of the previous meeting, held on Monday, 9<sup>th</sup> May 2011, be signed as a true record. Mr McCreery seconded the proposal and all were agreed.

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

#### *District Councillor's Report – Fly tipping on Foxton Hill*

It was confirmed that the refuse had been cleared up within 48 hours of being reported.

#### *Parish Plan*

Dr Oakley said he proposed to write to Brian Hockley saying that Mr Sutton and Dr Grindley would liaise with him and other members of the Parish Plan Group on the publication of the plan.

#### *Planning Committee Report*

Dr Grindley said he had spoken to Paul Sexton (SCDC), following Mrs Roberts' warning about site meetings and he had encouraged the committee to go ahead with a site meeting at "The Barns", Mortimers Lane to establish the situation regarding a link between the two buildings with the new owners of the property. The meeting

with the owners had been very satisfactory and they had subsequently sent an e-mail message to the effect that they would be submitting a planning application in respect of the required link between the two dwellings on the site.

## **COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

Dr van de Ven reported as follows:

### **1. Bus Subsidies**

The County Council had announced that it is halting its programme of bus subsidy cuts. Cuts were the most draconian in England, and unlike bus subsidy cuts by other local authorities, Cambridgeshire County Council's were done without a basis of research on transport needs. By definition, subsidised buses tend to serve people who are isolated and less mobile. An application for Judicial Review was pending and related specifically to a special needs child. No decision about the next steps would be taken until the next budget to be set in 2012. (The application for Judicial Review had already cost the council £10 and a hearing would cost between £50,000-100,000.)

### **2. "Cambridgeshire Future Transport"**

Dr van de Ven said this was a project to redeploy everything the County Council spends on transport (about £30 million, the bulk being in home-to-school transport) in a smarter way, coming up with localized solutions involving micro-franchises, and had just been announced. The project had been conceived over an intensive five-month period in which local county councillors had been rigorously excluded, so that, in spite of being based on the premise of local solutions to local transport needs, there had been a gap in local input. CPALC was invited but came only once - this ticked the "parish council involvement" box. First details to county councillors were announced a week ago, with only scant information available so far (all documentation had been held on a confidential basis).

### **3. Community transport**

Community transport arrangements for children from outlying areas of Melbourn and the other four villages supporting the new youth club were just about in order. Melbourn Village College had given permission for its mini-buses to be used without charge, except for petrol. CCC, which manages insurance, had given the go-ahead, and Royston and District Community Transport would provide five volunteer drivers. There would be a small charge to cover petrol. At the moment MAYD was looking for volunteer escorts, and identifying those children who need lifts. The service should start in September.

### **4. Library Access Point**

Dr van de Ven said that this organisation was wondering whether the council would still like to make the donation agreed earlier this year.

### **5. Heavy Commercial Vehicles (HCVs)**

Dr van de Ven said that the County Council was setting out the framework for a new policy in which "local communities" would be expected to monitor the presence of HCV's in rural areas and wondered whether the council knew about this. She was concerned that the "Localism Agenda" was devolving too much too fast without

adequate communication with parish councils about what they felt was reasonable and sensible.

## **6. Station garden and local history**

Dr van de Ven listed the ways in which local residents and firms had helped with the station improvements:

- Mike Sharman had given talks at local primary schools
- The school had helped with planting together with Mark and Ann Howard and the First Capital Connect (FCC) Station Services Manager. (Left-over compost had been given to the school and to Foxton Gardens Association)
- Foxton Village Shop had provided the plants
- Phillimores had provided moisture retention compost
- Country Homes and Gardens had provided gardening tools and watering cans
- Wrights Mowers had bought two water butts to make for easy watering and Dave Salmons had kindly installed them
- Melbourn Village College made bird boxes for each station with advice from SCDC Ecology
- The Wrights, FCC, Rachael Macintyre and Dr van de Ven were watering the plants and looking for more helpers

## **REPORTS FROM THE WORKING PARTIES**

### **RECREATION AND AMENITIES**

Mr McCreery reported as follows:

#### **1. Recreation Ground**

David Salmons had replaced the metal post to prevent unwanted vehicle access to the Recreation Ground from St. Laurence Road last month. The keys to the post and to the main gate entrance from the car park were now being held at the village shop. The council would need to erect signs notifying the public where the keys are held in the event of an emergency. These would be located on the post at the St Laurence Road entrance and at the gate from the car park.

The waste bin on the Recreation Ground had now been replaced.

It was discovered, after investigation, that the Tennis Club had renewed its lease with the Parish council, and this would expire in 2013.

Grass cutting of all areas was done towards the end of June and the weed spraying was carried out on the 22<sup>nd</sup> June to cover a two-year period.

#### **RoSPA Report on Play Sites**

The annual inspection of play sites had been carried out in April, and the resulting RoSPA report was reviewed with the Play Initiative Group: a number of items required attention. In particular the following remedial work needed to be carried out:

- Replacement of the tops of the Rocker Platforms.
- Repairs as necessary to the surfacing beneath the swings
- Removal of the broken wobble board. (*This would not be replaced at present*)

The group had also agreed to put an additional personal gate into the play area from the North side. This would not be effected until the Playgroup Initiative Group had produced their plans for the whole area, at which time a replacement for the wobble board could also be considered.

## **2. Sports Club use of Recreation Ground**

Mr McCreery said that following on from a number of meetings with the Football, Cricket and Dynamo Football Clubs, he would like to put the following proposals forward for approval by the council:

### **(i) Foxton Cricket Club**

He proposed approval be given for the addition of the junior cricket pitch and practice area presently in use with the following conditions:

- The corners of the cricket square to be permanently marked
- The corners of the practice area to be permanently marked
- The practice area only to be used with the mobile cricket nets
- The pitches nearest to Hardman Road to be used as little as possible and mainly for second team matches
- Roping off the cricket square to be kept to a minimum both in area and time period

*Dr Grindley queried the size of the pitches.*

### **(ii) Foxton Dynamos**

Mr McCreery proposed that formal approval be given to site an under-10's football pitch, measuring 60 yards by 40 yards, to the North West of the cricket square. In addition that approval be given (for future use) to site an under 8's pitch, measuring 40 yards by 30 yards, to the South East of the cricket square.

## **3. Sports Club Meetings**

The group recommended that at least two meetings per annum should be held involving representatives from Foxton Football Club, Foxton Cricket Club, Foxton Dynamos Football Club and the Recreation and Amenities Working Party of Foxton Parish Council.

## **4. Other Matters**

### **Village Warden**

A new contract for the Village Warden, Mr David Salmons, had been prepared to run for the 4-year term of the present council. Mr Salmons had signed the contract today.

### **Dog fouling**

There had been complaints about dog fouling in the Dovecote area. There would be a review of notices in the village about dog owners' responsibility to clean up after their dogs.

### **Seating for the Bus Shelter**

Mr McCreery proposed that the council go ahead with a bench-style seat at an estimated cost of £400 plus VAT and installation. This was agreed by all.

### **Paths**

Mr Barnes had been in touch with the County Council (Peter Gaskin) about grass cutting of public rights of way. The paths were apparently cut in mid-May. The group would consider whether to join the Parish Paths Partnership scheme after considering its implications.

### Hedge

Mr McCreery said that the hedge on the A10, from opposite the car-wash to the lay-by at Barrington Road, needed to be cut and asked who was responsible for maintaining it.

### **FINANCE**

Mr McCreery gave details of the bank accounts as follows:

Deposit Account (This included interest of 90p for the period 7/3-5/6)	£9,566.86
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Current Account	£60.07
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Standard Life Bank	£30,344.92
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Mr McCreery proposed the following cheques for payment:

CGM (Cambridge) Ltd (cutting verges 26/5)	£216.00
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Playsafety Ltd (annual inspection of 2 play sites)	£176.40
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The Business Machines Company Ltd (cleaning of printer/copier and supply of toner unit)	£172.80
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Glasdon UK Ltd (Topsy litterbin plus fittings)	£183.84
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Foxton Village Hall (hire of Meeting Room 6/6 and Lounge 29/6)	£22.75
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J E Burns (salary June and July)	£622.55
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J E Burns (expenses May and June)	£89.48
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H M Revenue and Customs (tax on clerk's salary for 3 months to 5/7/11)	£139.60
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D Salmons (Village Warden duties, June)	£96.00
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Dr Oakley seconded the proposal and all were agreed that these payments, totalling £1,719.42 should be made and that £1,680 should be transferred from the Deposit Account to the Current Account.

### **PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT**

Dr Grindley reported as follows:

There had been a Committee meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> June attended also by District Councillor Deborah Roberts, Mr Barnes, residents from Nos. 63,65 and 69 Station Road. The following applications were considered with Mr Tom Yeo in attendance representing Mr Cooper:

Mr Brian Cooper	Application No. S/0931/11 for outline consent for a single dwelling at 2 Hall Close
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There were numerous concerns about this application, chiefly the access from the A10 for which there was no established usage, and the affect on the amenity and



It was agreed to commission the remedial work and alterations to the showers in the Pavilion, to fit UV protective film over the roof windows in the Pavilion and to request a full professional roof survey of the whole Village Hall/School/Pavilion complex.

Malcolm Bore reported on a meeting he had with the Village Hall Committee (VHC) to discuss increasing storage at the Village Hall and to have adjoining access to outside space for Pre School. Various options were discussed and further discussions with the VHC would be required to discuss the feasibility of all options.

January's had been appointed to revalue the Trust's assets as this had not been done for 10 years. In financial matters it was agreed to pay the outstanding amount of £4,910 due on the completion of the Training Lights project, and to make an investment with the Principality Building Society.

### **DOVECOTE/MEADOW PROJECT**

Mrs Macintyre reported that the annual plant survey had shown no change in 4 years so would not be carried out next year, and that mowing would take place in August. The thistles would also be strimmed.

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

A letter expressing concern on the monitoring the welfare of older people was received from Mrs Betty France. It was agreed that her idea of a neighbour watch would be communicated to the Foxton Help Group.

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

- 1) Letter dated 15<sup>th</sup> June from CCC Environment Services re the Cambridgeshire Street Lighting project for replacement of street lighting in Cambridgeshire over the next 5 years using Government PFI Credits. (*Copy to RMcC*)
- 2) Letter from SCDC Development Control Officer, Nigel Blazeby, dated 16<sup>th</sup> June, in response to the council's letter re the new access to the Burlington Press site from the High Street.
- 3) Memo received June from CCC giving guidance on how local communities can change speed limits.
- 4) Letter dated 17<sup>th</sup> June from SCDC advising that SCDC will celebrate Olympic Open Weekend by holding a free family fun day at Milton Country park on Sunday, 24<sup>th</sup> July: enclosing poster.
- 5) Letter dated 2<sup>nd</sup> June from SCDC Standards Committee re election of parish council members to the Standards Committee: enclosing supporting statements from the four candidates and voting form.
- 6) "Community Action", Cambridgeshire ACRE's magazine for Summer 2011.
- 7) "Clerks and Councils Direct" magazine, July 2011.
- 8) Local Council Review, Summer 2011.
- 9) "COPE" magazine, June 2011.

- 8) Information from Barcham Trees re the “Big Tree Plant Campaign

### **VISITORS QUESTIONS**

Mrs Ward asked about the puddle, which readily forms at Vicarage Corner.

*County Highways would be informed.*

Mr Mungovern asked whether or not the Parish Council was informed that the District Council was going to fell the two horse chestnut trees in Station Road, which had happened in the previous month.

*The Council had not been informed when this work was to be done and were therefore caught unawares when various members of the public rang both the Clerk and The Chairman to complain. There had been a serious lack of communication from SCDC on this and the Clerk was asked to write SCDC to complain and ask the district council to make sure it didn't happen again.*

The issue of parking problems in Station Road was raised again by residents.

*After some discussion Dr Oakley pointed out that the Parish Council had done all it could within its limited powers to deal with this problem and that it was now up to the County Council to push for further measures. Dr Van de Ven agreed with this and said she was continually investigating possible solutions and remedial measures.*

### **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

BT had offered the Council the opportunity to purchase the red telephone box in Fowlmere Road for £1. Dr Oakley said that he wished all Councillors to view the purchase contract from BT and said he would canvas their opinions later in the month.

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

It was agreed that there would be no August Meeting. It was confirmed that the next meeting would be held on **Monday, 5<sup>th</sup> September 2011 at 7.45pm** in the **Meeting Room** of the **Village Hall**.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.25pm.