

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF FOXTON PARISH COUNCIL

HELD ON MONDAY, 3rd AUGUST 2009, AT 7.45 p.m.

PRESENT

Dr Oakley, Dr Grindley, Mr Allars, Mr Barnes, Mr Bentinck, Mr Sutton

District Councillor Mrs Roberts

IN ATTENDANCE

Catherine Shilton (Cambridgeshire ACRE Rural Housing Enabler), Darren Blade (representing Circle Anglia) and two members of the public

APOLOGIES

County Councillor Dr van de Ven, Dr McKeown, Mrs Macintyre

Dr Oakley welcomed all to the meeting.

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, 6th July 2009, be signed as a true record. Mr Allars seconded the proposal and all were agreed.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Any other Business

It was confirmed that the pothole in the High Street outside the church had been repaired.

REPORT BY CATHERINE SHILTON FROM CAMBRIDGESHIRE ACRE AND DARREN BLADE OF CIRCLE ANGLIA ON HOUSING NEEDS IN FOXTON

Ms Shilton presented her report, which showed that it was difficult for local people on average incomes to buy a house in the village. Based on the information supplied by households responding to the Housing Needs Survey, 12 households would be in a position to rent only and the properties needed to satisfy this need were:

- 5 x 1-bed flat
- 4 x 2-bed houses
- 3 x 2-bed bungalows

The Housing Register showed a total demand for 29 dwellings to which should be added the above 12 dwellings identified by the survey (as shown above) giving the

need for a total of 41 new affordable homes in the village. Ms Shilton said that this number was unlikely to be achieved and a realistic aim was for 20-25 affordable dwellings within the parish. These houses would be provided by a Housing Association and would be for either rent or shared ownership and would be for people with a local connection.

The site so far identified was off Station Road. This was an exception site (one where the local District Council would not normally release land for housing).

Dr Grindley mentioned the Moore's Farm site, which had planning permission for a group of houses and Mr Barnes mentioned the old school site. The first site was in a different category to the Station Road site, and the old school site would only allow for a very few houses and was, in any case, unlikely to become available as the Pupil Referral unit occupying the site was likely to stay.

Darren Blade of Circle Anglia said his Housing Association was looking for a development of about 16 houses on the Station Road site with a cost of about £10,000 per house for the land.

Dr Grindley said that the council's interest was more wide-ranging in terms of future housing in the village. Mrs Roberts said there would need to be a public consultation in the village on the proposals for the Station Road site and suggested that Circle Anglia "flesh out" their plans for the site. Dr Oakley agreed and asked Circle Anglia to come back to the parish council once more detailed plans had been prepared. He thanked both Ms Shilton and Mr Blade for coming to the meeting.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

In her absence, Dr Oakley read Mrs van de Ven's report, which is given below:

Cambridgeshire Transport Commission has reported back to County Council (July 21). The basic message is that the £540 million Transport Innovation Fund bid is the only pot of money of its kind and will not be around for long. With the predicted rate of growth for the Cambridge area (about 30%), congestion will inevitably evolve into gridlock, with a host of adverse effects. The Commission's recommendation is to make the bid but with the proviso that congestion charging not be implemented until public transport infrastructure has been in place for one year, and unless and until a certain level of congestion is reached. County Council decision to be made in October.

Burlington Press Entrance, High Street: Victoria Keppey, CCC Development Control, would not give an informal opinion on the changes to this entrance; CCC are waiting for SCDC Planning Officer Paul Derry to deal with the matter. I forwarded her email to Cllr Roberts - copied FYI below. I also spoke to Mike Cooper to ask if he knew who had visited the site informally (as mentioned at July parish council). It wasn't him, and he didn't know who it was.

Network Rail site off Barrington Road: This too is with SCDC. I went to see the site, contacted Paul Sexton and Paul Derry to query whether planning permission should have been requested. Paul made a brief, unofficial site visit in passing. There is no record of a planning application and he suspects they would have permitted development rights, but he will look into it. I asked if he would report back to Cllr Roberts.

CCC meeting with First Capital Connect: CCC Executive Director for Highways and Infrastructure Brian Smith has now agreed to invite FCC to meet and discuss ways in which the two parties might cooperate on behalf of services to rail users at Foxton, Shepreth and Meldreth. Work in progress.

Barrington Liaison Group meeting July 9: Cemex intends to suspend use of the site as a depot. Several buildings to be demolished, and pit restoration to commence. This will involve using the cement plant's rail line to Foxton to import clay - approximately two train loads per day over several months. Start date not yet given. Cemex intends to keep options open in terms of very long term for quarrying. I've had queries from a Foxton resident about the restoration project and details on these future options, which I'm following up.

DISTRIC COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Mrs Roberts began by reporting planning matters. These included two refusals by the Planning Services Department – a retrospective application for a fence in Station Road and an application for changes at the Bury. She understood that Saffron Garner (SCDC Planning Officer) was writing a report on the situation at the former Q8 garage and would follow this up. Mr Barnes said that work had been going on at the site and that a tree had been felled. Mrs Roberts said she would contact the Planning department next morning. She said she had spoken to Paul Derry (SCDC) about the new Burlington Press access. H had spoken to the owner and a retrospective application should be submitted. The clerk was asked to contact Mrs Roberts if, after a week, the application had not been received.

Mrs Roberts also reported having sent an e-mail to Dr Oakley about Comberton Parish Council's concerns about lack of democracy in the running of the District Council.

Referring to the proposed Station Road development, Mrs Roberts said that, although in the past parish councils had had the last word on developments on exception sites, this principal now appeared to be becoming undermined. Dr Grindley commented that this was disturbing news.

Finally, Mrs Roberts reported having attended a meeting on Gypsies and Travellers where a great deal of disquiet had been expressed about the proposed sites for the travelling community and advised the parish councils to keep an eye on the situation.

PARISH PLAN UPDATE

Mr Allars said the parish council had held a meeting in July to scrutinise the draft Parish Plan. Dr Oakley and Mr Sutton were respectively asked to provide items on the workings of the council and the council budget. Dr Grindley said he would like to look at the procedure for finalising the Plan and recommended that the content included illustrations and pieces on what villagers most cherished about Foxton and about its housing needs. He recommended interaction between the Parish Plan steering group and the FPC Planning Committee. Mrs Roberts mentioned the need to extend the conservation area.

REPORTS FROM THE WORKING PARTIES

RECREATION AND AMENITIES

Mr Bentinck said the group had not met in the past month and reported as follows:

1. The net for the ball-wall needed replacing. A sturdier rope version would cost about £300. *Dr Grindley suggested contacting Richard Barnes who might have some ideas.*
2. Mr Bentinck had received a letter from SCDC re litter and dog bins showing the location of all the bins in Foxton and who empties them. SCDC did not see the need for an additional bin to the rear of the Dovecote field, and, as this was not public land, considerable cost would be incurred if SCDC provided a bin in this location. Similar costs would be incurred if SCDC provided a bin at the Illingworth Way entrance to the Recreation Ground. However, SCDC could provide a red 50 litre bin on The Green and this would be emptied free of charge. *There was some discussion about the last bin and Mrs Roberts agreed to find out the dimensions.*
3. It had been agreed to install a solar light attached to the compost container at the corner of the allotments to illuminate the path from Illingworth Way onto the Recreation Ground.
4. A letter had been received from Lily Mead asking the council's permission to plant a tree in the Recreation Ground in memory of her late husband, James Mead: the letter included a list of Mr Mead's contributions to the village. *It was agreed that the request would be dealt with through the recently agreed procedure and that the group's decision would be reported at the next FPC meeting.*

Dr Grindley said that permission had been received for the installation of training lights on the Recreation Ground. However, there were some conditions that did not appear to make much sense. The clerk was asked to write to EDF requesting a survey to establish the cost of connecting the lights to the electricity supply.

It was reported that the covers belonging to the Cricket Club were being left on the Recreation Ground rather than being stored in the sports compound and that this was not an acceptable situation.

The clerk said that the relevant documents relating to a resident's encroachment onto the Recreation Ground had been sent to CALC for consultation by its legal department.

FINANCE

Mr Sutton gave details of the bank accounts as follows:

Deposit Account	£16,238.51
Current Account	£83.14
(This included a cheque for £30.50 mistakenly made out to FPC that should have been made out to St Laurence PCC)	
Standard Life Bank	
1-year bond maturing 12/2/10	£15,000.00
Mr Sutton proposed the following cheques for payment:	
St Laurence PCC	£30.50

CGM Cambridge		
Grass-cutting May/June/July	460.00	
Weed killer on RG 23/7	<u>287.50</u>	£747.50
Foxton VHT (hire of Meeting Room 1/6 and Lounge 10 & 16/7)		£34.00
D Salmons Fencing Services (Village Warden duties etc, July)		£198.50
D Allars (reimbursement for plastic folders and 5. watercolour sets as prizes)		£104.93
B Hockley (reimbursement for stamps, colour and black/white copying & document wallets)		£145.20

Dr Oakley seconded the proposal and all were agreed that these payments, totalling £1,260.63, should be made and that £1,230 should be transferred from the Deposit Account to the Current Account.

PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr Barnes reported as follows:

The committee had met on 21st July when the following application had been considered:

Mr K Mills

Application No. S/0922/09/F for the installation of 8 Velux roof lights at 81A High Street
Refused on the grounds that there was conflicting information in the drawings, insufficient floor thickness and headroom in the roof space and because most of the proposed lights would overlook the recently approved development to the East of the application site.

A letter had been received from SCDC listing the applications to be considered at the chairman's Delegation Meeting on 3rd August, including the above application for which the officer recommendation was approval.

Planning permission granted:

Foxton Parish Council

Three 6-metre high lighting standards on the Recreation Ground
Various conditions including some that would be queried

Planning permission refused:

Mr Patrick Browne

Application No. S/0590/09/F for detached garage and conversion of former cow barn to living accommodation at "The Bury", 51 High Street
Changes inappropriate to the building and which would detract from the setting of the Listed Building

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 “The Bury”, 51 High Street The proposal would result in cumulative harm to the character and historic fabric of the building
Mr Luigi Pesci	Application No. S/1841/08/F (retrospective) for a 2metre high fence to the front boundary at 69 Station Road Situation at a prominent corner at the junction with Station Road visually harmful to the local area and its character.

An Adoption Statement had been received for Supplementary Planning Documents relating to Biodiversity and works to or affecting the setting of Listed Buildings.

POLICE LIAISON REPORT

Mr Barnes said that the recent report from the Police Panel meeting in July was still treating Foxton and Fowlmere together for incidents of crime. Total crime in the two villages had fallen in the past year from 19 to 13 incidents. There had been a lot of damage to the sports club at Fowlmere. Incidents of vehicle theft remained stable.

Since the report had been issued there had been theft of lead from the Burlington Press. The Rural Community Action Team had warned of tack and horsebox thefts.

There was a new Police Sergeant for the area and two Police Constables and four PC Support Officers.

RECREATION GROUND TRUST REPORT

Dr McKeown had e-mailed a short report, which Dr Oakley read out as follows:

“The RGT had an extraordinary meeting after the Parish Council meeting on Monday 6th July at which it agreed to raise cheques to pay invoices received.

It also hosted the opening ceremony for the extension to the Recreation Ground as part of the Foxton Family Fun Day on Sunday 12th July. This marked the culmination of years of effort by the Recreation Ground Extension Committee under the Chairmanship of Dr Rob Brooksbank, and the RGT would like to record its thanks to Dr Brooksbank for his leadership in bringing a complex project to a successful completion.”

Mr Sutton said that a substantial amount of the Trust’s funds deposited with CAP bank had matured and the funds had been deposited with Abbey at 3.2%.

Mr Sutton also said that he had spoken to one of the youths using the shelter who claimed it was older youths who were responsible for the litter: he thought the original spokespeople for the youths should be invited to attend a meeting.

DOVECOTE/MEADOW REPORT

In Mrs Macintyre’s absence, there was nothing to report.

CORRESPONDENCE

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

- 1) Letter dated 5th June (received July) from CCC Children and Young People's Services Department, giving position statement on Children's Centres development in Cambridgeshire: enclosing schedule of centres and managers.
- 2) Letter dated 8th July from SCDC Planning Department re Gypsy and Traveller Development Plan Document: Issues and Options 2 – Site Options and Policies Public participation: enclosing a copy of the Public Notice, CD and documents. (*Passed to the Planning Committee*)
- 3) Letter dated 9th July from CCC Highways Department enclosing information leaflet re highway maintenance.
- 4) Letter dated 13th July from CCC Customer Service Department inviting support in providing volunteers to support communities through the current global swine flu outbreak.
- 5) Letter dated 16th July from SCDC Health & Environmental Services Department re the 2005 Gambling Act: enclosing draft revised policy document.
- 6) Letter dated 16th July from SCDC Health & Environmental Services Department re litter and dog bins with schedule showing location of bins in Foxton.
- 7) Letter dated 21st July from Mrs Lily Mead asking the council's permission to plant a tree on the Recreation Ground in memory of her late husband.
- 8) Letter dated 22nd July from Catherine Shilton of Cambridgeshire ACRE informing that the Housing Needs Report for Foxton has been completed and suggesting attending a parish council meeting.
- 9) Letter dated 22nd July from Kirstin Bicknell, the Arts Development Manager, inviting councillors to attend the college's 50th anniversary tea party and dedication of the Anniversary window on 12th September between 2 and 4pm: enclosing poster.
- 10) Information from SCDC including:
 - Standards Committee newsletter, Summer 2009
 - Best Practice check list for meetings
 - Governance Toolkit for Parish & Town Councils
- 11) Cambridge Housing Society "In-Focus" newsletter, Summer 2009.
- 12) Posters re school holiday workshops at local Village Colleges.
- 13) Cope newsletter for August.
- 14) Publicity material from BTVC (plants and tools). *Passed to RM*

VISITORS' QUESTIONS

Mrs Howell reported that a Darling and Wood van was being regularly parked overnight in the Community Building car park to be replaced during the day by a car.

Mr Allars agreed to follow this up.

Mrs Howell also reported that the path through the Dovecote meadow was becoming overgrown. She said it appeared the Recreation Ground was sometimes being used by outside bodies for commercial purposes and if this were the case they should pay a fee.

Mr Barnes said he would clear this matter with Jenny Jones the school Head

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Dr Oakley said he had been alerted by Mrs Roberts that the SCDC Standards Committee requires a special dispensation for members of the council also to act as Trustees of the Recreation Ground Trust. He had downloaded the appropriate forms for signing by councillors.

Mr Sutton pointed out that the sign for the sports pavilion in the High Street needed to be changed, as the spelling was incorrect.

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

It was confirmed that the next meeting would be held on **Monday, 8th September 2009** at **7.45pm** in the **Meeting Room** of the **Village Hall**.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 10.00pm.