

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF FOXTON PARISH COUNCIL

HELD ON MONDAY, 6th SEPTMBER 2010, AT 7.45 p.m.

PRESENT

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

8 members of the public

APOLOGIES

Dr Oakley

Dr Grindley 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.

There were no other declarations of interest.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

One amendment was needed. Under the Finance Report, page 29, the figure given for the balance in the Deposit Account should have been £6982.42 (*not* £6988.42). Dr Grindley proposed that, with this amendment, the Minutes of the previous Meeting, held on Monday, 5th July 2010, be signed as a true record. Mr Allars seconded the proposal and all were agreed.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Any Other Business – Registration of Members' Interests

The clerk had contacted SCDC and had been advised that members' Registration of Interests forms should be reviewed yearly – usually at the Annual General Meeting. As the council had already had its AGM in May, the agenda for the October meeting would include a review of members' interests.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

1. Dr van de Ven reported that Melbourn Village College would be supporting a regeneration of the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme and had applied for a grant to help lessen the cost of the equipment needed to complete the various stages of the award, thereby reducing the financial burden on those young people who would like to apply.

2. The next meeting of the Meldreth, Shepreth and Foxton Rail User Group would be on 22nd September at Shepreth Village Hall. The Fen Line Services Manager would be attending the meeting. The new 50% student discount for 16-19 year olds was being offered - a big improvement on the previous 30% discount. The Rail Users Group would be getting notice boards at all three stations, and Dr van de Ven asked people to use them to keep up to date with the Group's activities.

3. Dr van de Ven had asked whether the period of trial for the recycled compost scheme, currently being offered at Thriplow, could be extended since it was not being well promoted at present with the bags stacked up in front of the office building where visitors (especially gardeners who visit the green waste area) could easily miss them.

4. Dr van de Ven said that there were dozens of public consultations currently being carried out and that it was hard to keep track of them all. Many pertained directly to people's lives, but it was impossible to respond to them all in a meaningful way. The first stage of the Central Government's Localism Bill was an impact assessment on a "Provision for Referendums to veto excessive council tax increases" with a deadline of 10th September. She said the proposal was to do away with council tax capping and to introduce local referendums on "excessive" tax increases including parish precepts. Dr van de Ven said she was not happy with the proposal for a variety of reasons and would give the clerk the relevant links. The County Council's consultation on Library Services would continue until the end of September, and Youth Services were also consulting on reorganisation and a major cut to services.

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Mrs Roberts said that the new Chief Executive would be taking up the post at the end of the month. She said that staff at the district council were demoralised in view of impending cuts in the council's funds. The council's planning portal on the Internet was not working well and efforts were being made to improve it.

Mrs Roberts mentioned the council's "Local Heroes Award" and recommended that parish councils nominate people for this award.

Mrs Roberts also expressed the view that holding referendums under the Localism Bill – Provision for referendums to veto excessive council tax increases would be expensive.

Mrs Roberts reported that, on "Health and Safety" grounds, the sale of unwanted items at the Thriplow recycling centre had been discontinued. She thought this was a great pity as this had been a welcome feature at the site and the sale of these items had extended their useful life.

EUROPEAN UNION (EU) HISTORICAL VILLAGES INITIATIVE

This agenda item resulted from an initiative from Nigel Lloyd and Jane Hampshire and, if adopted, would involve Foxton in becoming a member of a network of European Historical Villages. The parish council would have to be involved as a recognised local authority and would have to be the official initiator of the project and the receiver and distributor of EU funds.

Jane Hampshire (in the visitors' seats) explained that Nigel Lloyd's work was to link people throughout Europe and seek EU funding. Dr Grindley congratulated her on putting the proposal forward by means of a briefing that had been circulated to all councillors prior to the present meeting. The overall impression had been that taking this project forward would place a huge administrative burden on the council.

One councillor said that his workplace had gained significant amounts of EU money, and another said that he had encountered great difficulties in the course of his work in trying to access EU funding. Dr Grindley asked Mrs Roberts whether such a project might be better carried out by the district council. A discussion followed about the possibility of entering into a "twinning" arrangement with another European village.

Dr Grindley said this was something that might be looked into, but said that the general feeling was that the EU Historical Villages Initiative would be too big a project for the council at present.

NEW VILLAGE SIGN

The Foxton Gardens Association (FGA) had made an offer to the council of £1,500 towards the cost of replacing the existing village sign. Dr Oakley had suggested a working party formed from two members of the council and two FGA members, with input from the Foxton Historical Society, should be tasked with formulating proposals for a new design in a more appropriate and appealing material. Mrs Roberts had a local contact that might be helpful and Dr van de Ven suggested a grant might be available from the Community Aggregates Fund. Mr Allars suggested approaching the Burlington Press as they had provided the plinth for the existing sign.

Dr Grindley proposed that the council proceed with the project. Mr Allars seconded the proposal and all were agreed. Mrs Macintyre agreed to head the project supported by Mr Sutton.

PARISH PLAN UPDATE

Mr Allars said that the plan was very close to being finalised, although there were one or two items outstanding.

PARKING IN THE HIGH STREET

Parking in the High Street in the area between the village shop and the dovecote was presenting serious problems. Mr Allars said he had telephoned the police about the large white van, which has been causing some of the problems. One solution that had been suggested was to create a lay-by along part of the High Street by repositioning the footpath and hedgerow fronting the land (Dovecote Meadow) presently being leased from CCC and being maintained by the parish council. Other remedies considered were double yellow lines at the junction of the High Street with Station Road, notices asking people using the White Horse public house to use the pub car park, or the gravel car park off Hardman Road, and notes on vehicles requesting owners not to use the area for long-stay parking.

The suggestion to form a lay-by did not meet with general approval. The use of double yellow lines was not favoured, but the use of notices would be pursued.

The clerk read a recently received letter from Mr Matthews (resident in Caxton Lane) complaining about the hazardous parking near the blind corner in the High Street close to the junction with Caxton Lane. It was agreed that parking at this location did present a serious hazard.

REPORTS FROM THE WORKING PARTIES

RECREATION AND AMENITIES

Mr Bentinck said the group had met in August and reported as follows:

1. Grass cutting was being carried out reasonably well, although, under new team management, some areas had been missed.
2. The Village Warden (Mr Salmons) had completed a number of jobs in addition to his normal duties. These included: strimming the path for Illingworth Way onto the Recreation Ground, renewing broken fence rails round the Recreation Ground, cutting the hedge at St Laurence Road, collecting and disposing of a wooden bench and painting the Youth Shelter.
3. The SCDC Trees Officer had been asked to make a site visit to advise on the Horse Chestnut trees on the Recreation Ground to the rear of 28 Illingworth Way.
4. Planting of Mrs Richardson's tree (in memory of her late husband) on the Recreation Ground was being delayed as the sports container had not yet been moved to its new location. *Dr Grindley said he was expecting a call from Mr Welch*
5. The group set up to oversee improvements to the Play Area would be holding a fund-raising event at the weekend.
6. The Youth Shelter had been repainted and, hopefully, would be more graffiti-resistant.
7. The R & A group had completed its contribution to the Village Plan
8. The "Rock on the Rec" event had been much quieter this year, but although the organisers had cleared up the inner area well, there was a great deal of litter on the outer boundary. *Mr Barnes was of the opinion that most of the mess was due to youngsters.*

Mrs Roberts said that, although funds were scarce at present, Fowlmere PC had obtained some grant funding from the District Council.

FINANCE

Mr Sutton gave details of the Bank Accounts as follows:

Deposit Account	£5,171.42
Current Account	£120.93
Standard Life Bank	£30,000.00

Mr Sutton proposed the following cheques for payment:

Phillimore Garden Centre (materials for wood-staining youth shelter and painting bus stop)	£80.35
CGM (Cambridge) Ltd (grass cutting July/August)	£423.00

Foxton VHT (hire of Meeting Room 5/7 and Lounge 13/7)	£25.50
Teloepa Garden Design (raking off Dovecote Meadow)	£120.00
Good Riddance Pest Control (removal of wasps' nest in Memorial shelter)	£40.00
Anglo Fabrications Ltd (4no. polycarbonate panels for bus shelter)	£150.40
D Salmons Fencing Services	
• Village Warden duties, July/Aug	298
• Painting youth shelter	<u>100.00</u>
	£398.00
J E Burns (salary August/September)	£619.55
J E Burns (expenses July/August)	£46.60

Dr Grindley seconded the proposal and all were agreed that these payments, totalling £1,903.40, should be made and that £1,833 be transferred from the Deposit Account to the Current Account.

PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr Barnes reported that the committee had met three times since the last council meeting:

Meeting on 19th July 2010

The following applications were considered:

Mr Peter Mead	Application No. S/1029/10/F for erection of 13 houses and 1 bungalow (to extend time limit for implementation) at Moore's Farm, Fowlmere Road Approved
Cambridgeshire County Council	Application No. S/0180/10/CW for importation by rail of suitable restoration material over a period of 5 years to partially infill an existing quarry void and provide for the restoration of the western and northwestern area of Barrington Quarry, Haslingfield Road, Barrington

The following points were made in the response to this application:

1. Railway refurbishment
 - a) Increased traffic on the A10 and at Barrington
 - b) Increased noise levels
 - c) Possible "vibration" damage to nearby houses
 - d) Effect of the barrier being down at the Foxton level crossing for a minimum of 24 minutes per day will increase traffic congestion in Station Road, Foxton
2. Infill of existing quarry void
 - a), b) and c) as above
3. General observations
 - a) Cemex originally stated work was only done 5 days per week. Now, apparently, work is to be carried out 7 days per week

- b) The council proposes a link from the existing “upline” from London to the Cemex track on the south side of the A10 level crossing, thereby reducing the number of times the barrier has to come into operation

An acknowledgement of this response had been received from Cambridgeshire County Council.

Meeting on 10th August 2010

The following application was considered:

Amber Homes Ltd	Application No. S/1154/10 for dwelling (revised design) at 7 Mortimers Lane Refusal recommended. Grounds for refusal included the scale of the proposed extensions and their being detrimental to the environment of the adjacent listed building
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Notice (dated 27th July) of an Appeal by Amber Homes had been received from SCDC following the refusal of planning permission for an earlier application (S/0610/10) for erection of dwelling (amended design) and carport, with ancillary accommodation above, and omission of house on plot 5 at plots 5 and 7, land north of 3 Mortimers Lane

Meeting on 1st September 2010

Mr and Mrs D A Boreham	Application No. S/1227/10 for a single-storey rear extension at 63 High Street Approved
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Amber Homes Ltd	Application No. S/1186/10 for dwelling (revised design) at land between 3-11 Mortimers Lane Refusal recommended. Grounds for refusal included increase in footprint of dwelling, its being detrimental to the environment of the adjacent listed building and reduced parking allowance
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Matters reported at the present meeting

Planning permission granted:

Foxton Primary School	Application No.S/0664/10/F for erection of ecospace classroom at Foxton Primary School Usual conditions
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Planning permission refused:

Mr Patrick Browne	Application Nos. S/0690/10/F and S/0691/10/LB to alter and convert brick barn to 2-bed dwelling with workshop Grounds for refusal included harm to the special character and appearance of this building
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A joint letter (dated 28th July) from Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council re the completion of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough

Minerals and Waste Plan and Submission of Development Plan Documents to the Secretary of State for Examination had been received.

A further letter (dated 2nd September) had been received from Cambridgeshire County Council re the proposed revision of the Local Validation List for applications for planning permission.

Mrs Roberts reported that when the question of the former Q8 garage was discussed at a recent planning sub-committee meeting, officers had made a case for non-enforcement on the grounds that there was no evidence of “harm”. District Council members were not happy with this view, as it gave out a message that the planning authorities could be flouted with impunity.

Mrs Roberts said that she had not yet followed up the matter of the tree with a preservation order that had been felled at the Burlington Press site. Mrs Macintyre understood that, at a hearing last Thursday, contractors had pleaded “not guilty” with respect to the felling of the tree; there would be a further extended hearing.

Dr van de Ven said it would be good to have a representative from FPC at meeting of the Barrington Liaison Group on 17th September.

POLICE LIAISON

Mr Barnes reported that there had been a meeting of the local Police Liaison panel towards the end of July. Police had been using speed cameras in the previous three months followed up by increased enforcement activity. There had been a slight increase in the number of offences committed in Foxton and Fowlmere in the same period. There had been a number of break-ins at the Fowlmere Nature Reserve. There had been some reduction in anti-social behaviour and complaints about cars playing loud music had been dealt with. Foxton Station had one of the most frequently damaged ticket machines with thefts amounting to some £17,000. The new sergeant for the area was a John Capes centred at Cambourne and a replacement was awaited for the PCSO who had moved to Cambridge City. There had been another noisy party in Station Road and a break-in at St Laurence Road.

RECREATION GROUND TRUST REPORT

Dr McKeown said the trustees had not met since the last council meeting. It had, however, been agreed to renew the trust’s policy with its existing insurers.

Mr Sutton, treasurer for the Trust, said that he was dividing the Trust’s funds with an amount invested with Santander Business Banking for 1 year at interest of 2.5% (a reduction on the previous rate of 3.2%). The remainder was invested with Standard Life Cash Savings, a division of Barclays, one half in a bond to July 2011 at 2.0% and the other half on a short-term basis.

DOVECOTE/MEADOW REPORT

Richard Barnes had cut the meadow and Jon Cairns had raked up and heaped the cuttings. The hedges had been cut on both sides of the High street boundary and the one bordering the school playing field.

CORRESPONDENCE

The clerk summarised the correspondence received in the past month, which is given in full below:

- 1) Letter dated 16th July from County Councillor, Sir Peter Brown re reductions to the Mobile Library Service: enclosing details of arrival and departure times at various locations.
- 2) Letter dated 20th July from Michael Oakman (CCC Area Maintenance Manager) requesting map/sketch showing locations for new salt bins. (*Replied 20/7/10*)
- 3) Letter dated 26th July from CCC West Highways Division re Winter Service – Gritting Arrangements.
- 4) Letter dated 27th July from Mr Pester complaining about the Horse Chestnut trees on the Recreation Ground to the rear of his property.
- 5) Letter dated 16th August from Shepreth Parish Council thanking FPC for the beneficial effect on Shepreth following Foxton’s litter-pick event.
- 6) Letter dated 19th August from the Peterborough Office of the Land Registry outlining the benefits of registering property: enclosing a reply form.
- 7) Letter dated 20th August from Andrew Lansley MP replying to a query regarding the Foxton Parish Plan and funding for health care.
- 8) Letter dated 21st August from Foxton Gardens Association offering to contribute £1,500 towards the cost of a new village sign.
- 9) Letter dated 25th August from Harston & District Village Warden Trust suggesting the council might like to re-assess the degree of interest in Foxton for the Trust’s services: enclosing information about the trust and its services.
- 10) Letter dated 2nd September from Mr Matthews complaining about thoughtless car parking near the blind corner in the High Street at the exit from Caxton Lane.
- 11) Information from Cambridgeshire ACRE including:
 - Notice (with reply form) of AGM to be held on 28th September 2010 in St Ives at 5.30pm
 - Invitation to event “Big Society – what are the opportunities for your Community?” to be held at 6.30 pm on 28th September at St Ives.
- 12) Letter dated 26th August from the Cambridgeshire Police Shrievalty Trust (that works to improve the security of the homes of elderly and vulnerable people in the county) requesting a donation.
- 13) Large poster about Sports and Recreation in the East of England.
- 14) COPE newsletter for August 2010.
- 15) Luminus Group newsletter “Headlines”, July 2010 plus booklet.
- 16) “Clerks and Councils Direct” magazine, September 2010.
- 17) Sure Start Children’s Centres poster “Teddy bears’ Picnic” (*displayed*).
- 18) Memo and newsletter from the “No need for Nuclear” campaign.

- 19) South Cambs magazine Autumn 2010.
- 20) Publicity material from Barcham Trees, SMP Playgrounds and Glasdon.

VISITORS' QUESTIONS

Mrs Howell said she would be loath to see a proliferation of yellow lines in the village and urged greater use of the public house car park.

Mr Howell said that something really needed to be done about cars parking across the junction of Station Road with the High Street.

Mrs Lyons, resident in Mortimers Lane asked about the present position regarding the new development opposite her house.

A general discussion followed. Mrs Roberts said that the original application had been for two commercial houses and one affordable house. There had been a number of subsequent applications and the district council had, at some point, agreed not to insist on a low-cost house in lieu of an amount of money to be spent by the council as seen fit. Mrs Roberts said that there should be no criticism of the parish council, which had consistently opposed changes to the original plan.

Mrs Cooke said that, although parked cars had been mentioned as a deterrent to speeding, they could encourage speeding to reach a gap.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

It was confirmed that the next meeting would be held on **Monday, 4th October 2010** at **7.45pm** in the **Meeting Room** of the **Village Hall**.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.55pm.