

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF FOXTON PARISH COUNCIL

HELD ON MONDAY, 1st NOVEMBER 2004, AT 7.45 p.m.

PRESENT

Mr Pusey, Mr Barnes, Mr Broadley, Mr Hockley, Mrs Thake

County Councillor Professor Milton

District Councillor Mrs Roberts

IN ATTENDANCE

4 members of the public

APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Mr Chilton, Dr Grindley and Mr Kennedy

Mr Pusey welcomed all to the meeting.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Two amendments were needed:

- (i) On page 60 under the Finance Report, penultimate sentence, the words “per month from the 1st September 2004” should be added.
- (ii) On page 62, the 3rd paragraph after “Further application considered at the meeting” should begin “Mr Barnes reported a conversation with Paul Sexton (SCDC) that day and declared an interest. The last time an application for housing on this site had been made (2001) it had been turned down. Mr Mead disagreed with the reason given for this and said ----”.

Mr Barnes proposed that, with these amendments, the Minutes of the last meeting held on 4th October 2004 should be signed as a true record. Mr Hockley seconded the proposal and all were agreed.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Old School Site

Mr Pusey asked Mrs Roberts if she would arrange a meeting with the SCDC Housing Officer, Sarah Lyons at the SCDC offices at Cambourne. It was agreed that Mr Pusey, Mr Barnes and Professor Milton would attend.

Hardman Road

Mr Pusey said that the Clerk had obtained details of the type of lamp used in the streetlamps in Hardman Road. The County Council had been given the details and it was hoped the streetlamps would be included in the County Council’s maintenance programme.

Correspondence

Item 3 – Sawston Sector Liaison Group meeting

Mr Pusey said that at present, the council had nobody to represent it on police matters.

Item 18 – Meeting re possibility of Marshall Airport coming to Duxford

Mr Hockley reported that he had attended the meeting on 14th October. It had been set up so that local councils could better understand the reported proposals for Marshalls to move their operations to Duxford airfield, and hence decide how to react.

At present there is an early draft report by Arrup Associates, commissioned by Marshalls to consider the pros and cons to one of several possible sites including Duxford and Wyton.

Mr Hockley said that one of the prime movers appeared to be “Cambridge Infrastructure Partnership”, which is, apparently, a quango funded by the Government and the County Council. He said the draft report was not in the public domain, nor available to SCDC Planners: it was not clear whether the final report, or just a sanitised summary of it, would eventually be made public.

Mr Hockley said that the meeting as a whole found this completely unsatisfactory and the tone of the meeting was against any proposal to move Marshalls to Duxford. Such a proposal would involve extensive additional facilities and hangars at the western end of the airfield, a 500 metre extension westwards of the runway, and a re-routing of the A505 to pass to the north of the existing housing developments and the Officers Mess area at the airfield – the new route running from the M11 roundabout and rejoining the existing line of the A505 near the pet crematorium.

District Councillor Roberts expressed great reservations. Mr Hockley said that his own cynical view was that Marshalls would favour whichever site seemed to offer the least opposition to the proposal. However, it was not an option for Marshalls to remain at its present site at Cambridge Airport, as this would leave 12,000 houses already in the structure plan needing building land.

Mrs Roberts said that if Marshalls came to Duxford, the hangars that would be erected near the Citroen garage would be huge and that there would be considerable noise from engine testing. She said that Whittlesford PC had subsequently invited the chairmen of 13 parish councils and District Councillors to a further meeting (unfortunately Foxton had been missed off the list of those invited). The next meeting of parish councils on this issue would be on the 26th November at 7.30pm in Thriplow Village Hall.

Any Other Business

(i) Development

Mr Pusey said that a group of parishes had met before the last meeting of the parish Council to discuss the question of future large-scale development in the area. A newsletter had been produced for circulation in the villages involved. Not all of these had been delivered before the District Council’s presentation about future housing already included in the structure plan held at Melbourn on the 25th October. EERA had questioned the need for the 18,000 additional houses requested by the ODPM. The group of parish councils would meet again on 9th November and the SCDC consultation process would come to an end on 12th November. Mr Pusey said that in

his view no development should take place until the infrastructure was in place to support it.

(ii) Village Website

Mr Pusey said that Ian Sanderson had been doing brilliantly in getting this established. He had a list of five possibilities for a name for the website. After a short discussion Mr Broadley proposed the name “foxtoncamb.info” as this name avoided confusion with other places with the same name. Mr Pusey seconded the proposal and all were agreed. The annual cost would be £6.99. It was agreed that Mr Broadley and Mr Pusey would arrange for a token of thanks to Mr Sanderson for work so far undertaken.

MOTION TO ADOPT “STANDING ORDERS AND CHAIRMANSHIP” WITH AMENDMENTS

The Sub-Committee had met to consider the document and had circulated the proposed amendments. As no objections had been received, Mr Broadley proposed the document with amendments be adopted. Mr Hockley seconded the motion and all were agreed.

REPORTS FROM THE COMMITTEES

RECREATION AND AMENITIES

In Mr Chilton’s absence, Mrs Thake reported as follows:

The Committee had met on 24th October. Present were Mr Pusey, Mr Chilton, Mrs Thake, Mr Broadley and Mr Barnes.

1. Recreation Ground Extension

Mr Pusey reported that progress was being made. *Mr Pusey said he would amplify on this later in the meeting.*

2. Skateboard Park and Sports Compound

Mr Broadley reported that work was moving forward: Colin and Dudley had taken level measurements of the site; Sally had been to look at other skateboard facilities in the area and would be obtaining quotations from Clever Curves and Wicksteed. The quotations would include the groundwork for the new sports compound. The task of clearing and levelling the ground was discussed and it was agreed to ask Mrs Roberts to ask Mr Onslow if he could carry out this work, the top soil being used to construct 1 or 2 mounds at the back of the Recreation ground for BMX bikes. Mrs Thake had received a quotation from Clever Curves but this was very high and the guarantee only covered 6 years. *It was agreed that Mrs Thake and Mrs Roberts would decide where the mounds should be sited before Mrs Roberts contacted Mr Onslow.*

3. Trees on the Recreation Ground

This matter was discussed and it was felt that the advice of the SCDC trees Officer should be sought with regard to the condition of the tree at the end of the Illingworth Way footpath and to see whether preservation orders were in place on the Horse Chestnut trees on the site of the new Sports Compound.

The trees in the car park were also discussed and it was suggested that the clerk be asked to obtain fresh quotations for these to be trimmed back together with such works as may be recommended by the trees and woodlands officer to the tree at the end of Illingworth Way footpath.

4. Damaged seat on Recreation ground

This was again a topic of conversation, and it was agreed to obtain quotes to replace it with a new seat. The clerk was asked to contact the members of the family that donated the original to see if they have any objections to a plaque being put onto its replacement (the wording as on original). Mr Challis (in the visitors' seats) said that he thought it was Vicky Hardman who should be contacted.

5. Street Lights

Mr Pusey reported that he was still in the process of getting the lights included on the County Council service contract.

6. Grass Cutting Contracts

The tenders for the grass-cutting contract had now been sent out, four quotes were being sought, with a closing date of 30th November.

7. New Signs

The new signs had now arrived (29th October) and would be erected as soon as possible. They include metal signs giving directions from the High Street to the village hall and sports pavilion and to the car park.

8. Disabled Access to Play Area

The consultation document received from Wicksteed had been passed to David Broadley to carry out an assessment of the council's compliance with the new regulations. *It was thought this would not give rise to any great expense.*

9. Consultation on the Importance of Play

A consultation document on the importance of play for children had been received and this was passed to Sally Thake to respond to owing to her involvement with the children of the village.

10. Commemorative Tree

The family of the young football club member who died recently had requested that they be allowed to plant a tree in his memory on the Recreation Ground.

It was thought that rather than it just being another tree on the Recreation Ground, it would be nice if it could be incorporated as a feature of the new extension scheme. The family would need to be consulted on the matter (Colin Grindley to contact).

It was also suggested that the plaque on the tree near the car park be replaced. *Mr Challis (in the visitors' seats) thought that reference to the plaque might be found in the Parish Council Minutes for the period 1954-55)*

11 Damage on Recreation Ground

It was reported that a cover to an electricity junction box near the tennis club fence had been removed; it had been covered with wood as a temporary measure, but needed to be replaced with the correct cover as soon as possible.

A wooden rail had also been broken on the fence near the sports pavilion; again this would be repaired as soon as possible.

The rope swing had also now been removed.

FINANCE

Mr Hockley said that before giving details of the bank accounts he would ask Mr Pusey to withdraw while an item in which he had an interest was discussed. After Mr Pusey had left the room, Mr Hockley recommended that the Chairman's Honorarium be increased. The yearly amount had remained at two instalments of £60 since 1995, and he proposed that this be increased to two instalments of £70 per year in view of the length of time elapsing without an increase, and the immense amount of work that Mr Pusey was undertaking on behalf of the council. Mr Broadley seconded the proposal and all were agreed.

Mr Hockley gave details of the bank accounts as follows:

Current Account	£52.26
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(Mr Hockley said that a VAT rebate had been applied for in the sum of £664.27 and this would shortly be credited to the account)

Deposit Account	£12065.61
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Cambridge Building Society	£7963.78
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Mr Hockley proposed that the following cheques be approved:

Stewart Bullard (grass-cutting September/October)	£906.48
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Lawrence Printers (500 A4 newsletters)	£39.95
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SCDC (emptying dog-bins 1/10/04-31/12/04)	£86.13
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The Sign Workshop (8 signs)	£362.25
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Foxton Village Hall Trust (hire of meeting Room 6,9 and 28 September)	£34.50
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J E Burns (salary September/October including back pay from 1 st April)	£539.69
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J E Burns (expenses September/October)	£31.62
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V W Mead (refuse collection and ground maintenance, October and back pay from 1 st April)	£62.17
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D Pusey (1 st half Chairman's Honorarium)	£70.00
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Mr Broadley seconded the proposal and all were agreed that these payments, totalling £2132.79, should be made and that £2132 should be transferred from the Deposit Account to the Current Account.

Mr Hockley said that, as a consequence of Mr Blakesley's resignation from the council, the matter of signatories to the bank accounts would need to be addressed.

PLANNING

Mr Barnes reported as follows:

Planning permission granted:

Dr and Mrs J McCombie	Application No. S/1621/04/F for an extension at 21 High Street Four conditions
P and A Lloyd	Application No. S/1848/04/LB for the installation of two solar heating panels at Home Farm, The Green Three conditions
Mr J Welch	Application No. S/1367/04/F for the erection of light industrial and storage units at 27 Royston Road Various conditions including ones relating to pollution control and landscaping

Planning application amendment considered at the meeting:

Mr and Mrs L Wilson	Application No. S/1874/04/F for erection of bungalow and garage following demolition of existing building at 22 Caxton Lane No recommendation
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Mr Barnes said that a letter had been received from the SCDC Planning Office regarding the application (S/1946/04/O) for outline planning consent for houses on land at Moore's Farm. A copy letter from January's was enclosed with a correction to paragraph 5.2 in the application regarding the personal circumstances of the site's owner.

RECREATION GROUND TRUST REPORT

Mr Pusey said that there had been no further meeting of the Trust since he last reported. However, he had been chasing up officers at the County Council: a survey of the whole area was needed including ownership. A meeting of the Trustees had been called for 18th November, and Mr Callin had been asked to provide the figures for the sinking fund in time for the meeting.

Mr Hockley said that the accounts were being looked at by the internal auditor for his approval and would be presented to the meeting.

COMMUNITY PROJECT

Mr Pusey said that following a meeting with the County Council, the boiler was now working. A suitable light fitting for the external lights that satisfied lighting standards was still being sought. Mrs Howell (in the visitors' seats) said that the Velux representative had not turned up. She said that Velux had talked about a maintenance contract and she commented that the Village Hall Trust had been led to believe that the windows would be low maintenance. Mrs Howell also mentioned the problem of vehicles parking on the blockwork near to the entrance to the Village Hall and

suggested a “No Parking” sign. It was thought that this would not be appropriate in this location and that a set of pre-printed notices (asking drivers to refrain from parking there) should be at the ready, so that they could slipped under the screen-wipers of offending vehicles.

DOVECOTE/MEADOW PROJECT

Mr Pusey reported that he had received draft leases for both the Dovecote and the meadow. Both of these were different from the preceding ones. He and Mark Kennedy had looked at both leases, and they had also been circulated among the group of Friends. All comments on the Dovecote lease had been sent directly to Andrew Hall at County Council, who had accepted them. The draft lease for the meadow came in later and comments had still to be relayed. One problem with the draft meadow lease was that there was a clause that said only one month’s notice was required for the County Council to get the site back: it was thought this would be detrimental to obtaining grants for the project.

The leases stipulated a rental of £50 per annum for the Dovecote, and £1 per annum for the meadow.

Mr Pusey said that an Open Day had been held on 13th October. The press had been present and the Local heritage Initiative thanked for its generous grant.

Mr Pusey said that he was still hoping to get the footpath made whilst the contractors were still on the site. He hoped that rather than having the footpath follow two sides of a rectangle, a corner could be cut off before the path joined the hollow way. He said he had accepted after consultation with other Councillors a price of £1499.96 plus VAT with the contractors in line with the County Council’s bill rate (this should avoid the necessity of seeking further quotations). Mr Hockley proposed acceptance of this quotation, Mr Broadley seconded the proposal, and all were agreed.

CORRESPONDENCE

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

- 1) Letter dated 28th September from CCC Education, Libraries & Heritage Care & Education enclosing draft policy for the development of play facilities and opportunities and inviting comments. (Original with draft policy passed to DC)
- 2) Letter dated 29th September from CCC Environment and Transport Department re bus service tenders April 2005.
- 3) Letter dated 11th October from Andrew Lansley enclosing a copy of his letter to EERA regarding the RPG14 Strategy Review and possible development in the M11 corridor.
- 4) Letter dated 11th October from Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service re South Cambs District Performance Plan: enclosing leaflets.
- 5) Letter dated 14th October from South Cambridgeshire Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership enclosing a copy of its Annual Review 2003-2004.

- 6) Letter dated 14th October from the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister re new ethical framework regulations.
- 7) Letter dated 19th October from Anglian Water in response to the council's letter about odour complaints in Fowlmere Road.
- 8) Letter dated 20th October from CCC Environment and Transport Department enclosing a copy of the new information booklet "Organising Events on Roads".
- 9) Letter dated 22nd October from South Cambridgeshire Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership with reminder about the South Cambridgeshire Community Safety Partnership Strategy consultation Event to be held at Marshall Airport on 3rd November.
- 10) Briefing note from CCC Environment and Transport Department re Lost Highways Project and the need to register historic public rights of way as the Government has introduced a "cut-off date" (1st January 2026) when these will be extinguished: copy of Countryside Services Team annual Report 2003-4 enclosed.
- 11) Letter from CCC Social Services Department re the need for more workers for the Community Support Service: article attached.
- 12) Letter from SCDC Sports Project Officer enclosing a poster about the Healthy Walks Scheme – Milton Country Park, and a copy of the Directory 2004-05 for the older adult and those returning to a more active lifestyle.
- 13) Information from CALC including:
 - Memo giving update on CALC office staffing and bursary training awards
 - Memo informing of minor adjustments to year-end accounts and enclosing revised copy of accounts to 31st March 2004
 - Memo re training alternative for the Certificate in Local Council administration
- 14) Information from Cambridgeshire ACRE including:
 - Information sheet on grants available for funding projects from the Local Network fund
- 15) Booklet from "The Local Channel"
- 16) Invitation to the Cambridge and District Community Mediation Service on 9th November.
- 17) "Clerks and Councils Direct" magazine, November 2004.
- 18) Publicity material from Pecks (ground maintenance machinery).

Professor Milton commented on the insufficient time allowed for consultation in the letter from CCC Environment and Transport Department re bus service tenders. He said that as parish councils usually only met once a month, two months should be allowed for consultation to allow time for such letters to be circulated and discussed. He said he would raise the issue at County Council.

Mr Pusey said he had received a letter from Mr Matthews re the threat of large-scale development in the area.

A letter had also been received from Mr Studd with a copy of a letter from the County Council about the traffic issues that Mr Studd had raised. The County Council proposed repainting the current centre lines on the road at the junction of Caxton Lane with the High Street and at the bend in Shepreth Road near the A10. It was thought the centre line at Vicarage Corner should also be repainted. It was agreed that the clerk and Mr Hockley should liaise in replying to Mr Studd.

VISITORS' QUESTIONS

It was reported that coaches were turning across white lines in contravention of traffic flows outside the former Q8 garage.

Mrs Roberts said she would look into the matter

Mrs Howell pointed out that the plans for the dovecote meadow did not show the area to the rear of the Howell's barn that should be available for access.

Mr Pusey said he would look into this and reply to Mrs Howell.

Mr Challis informed the council that Stan Barnes, a previous chairman of the council District Councillor had recently collapsed and been taken to hospital.

The council expressed its regret, and agreed that a card should be sent.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mr Broadley said he had received a request from the occupants of 47, Hillfield for more parking in the bungalow area. Mrs Roberts said she would look into this.

Mr Broadley also said that he had been studying the Environment Agency's consultation document on the burning of substitute fuels at Rugby Cement and said he would report further at the next meeting.

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

It was confirmed that this would be held on **Monday, 6th December 2004 at 7.45pm, in the Village Hall Meeting Room.**