

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF FOXTON PARISH COUNCIL

HELD ON MONDAY, 7th NOVEMBER 2005, AT 7.45 p.m.

PRESENT

Mr Pusey, Mr Hockley, Mr Barnes, Mr Brooksbank,
Dr Grindley, Dr McKeown, Miss Thake

County Councillor David McCraith

District Councillor Deborah Roberts

IN ATTENDANCE

8 members of the public

APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Mr Chilton and Mr Kennedy

Mr Pusey welcomed all to the meeting.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST

The council would be discussing the clerk's holiday entitlement during the Finance Committee's report, and the clerk was asked to leave the room when this item came up for discussion.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Three amendments were necessary:

- (i) Dr McKeown's name had been omitted from the list of councillors present at the meeting.
- (ii) On Page 54 under "Matters Arising (Inaugural meeting about the extension ground)" the date of the meeting should have been given as 11th October (*not 11th November*).
- (iii) On page 56, in the last paragraph of the Recreation and Amenities Committee Report, the word "was" after RGT land should be deleted.

With these amendments, Mr Brooksbank proposed that the Minutes of the previous meeting, held on 3rd October 2005 should be signed as a true record. Dr McKeown seconded the proposal and all were agreed.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Old School Site

Mr Pusey said that he and the vice chairman had met with Bob Sproson (CCC) and David Silk, the head of the pupil referral unit. As the original agreement for the placing of the unit at Foxton had been for a two-year period, the staff, students and

their parents were anxious to know what would happen in September 2006. The pupils had settled in well at Foxton and would be happy to stay there.

These concerns had been put to Andrew Hall (CCC) at a meeting in the village hall the following day, attended by Mr Hall, Mr Pusey, Mr Hockley and Mr Barnes. The subsequent response was that the site would only become surplus to requirements when a suitable alternative location was found for the pupils in the unit.

Mr Pusey said that the intention had been that FPC would be looking for a Housing Association partner for the future development of the site with the County Council's agreement.

A discussion followed about the best way to proceed. Mrs Roberts said she would be seeing the relevant district council officer that week regarding a possible Housing Association partner.

While it was thought the pupil referral unit had not caused the village any problems and did a valuable job, the council's wish remained that at some time in the not too distant future the site should be developed in the way originally proposed – that is with low-cost homes for old people, key workers and first-time buyers. It was agreed that the clerk, in liaison with Mr Pusey, would draft a letter to the CCC Educational Department seeking clarification of the present situation and reminding the county Council of its original assurances about the site.

Puddles in the Village

Mr Hockley reported that he had taken a number of digital photographs of the affected areas but had been unable to get hold of Mr Cooper of CCC South Highways Department to discuss the matter.

Visitors' Questions

1) Mr Abbotts' concerns about Planning Matters

Mr Pusey reported that Mr and Mrs Abbotts had examined the past Minutes in a session at the village hall, and that the clerk would be making photocopies of requested items.

2) Mr Millers complaints about the garage on the A10 by the level crossing and cars and lorries parked on the opposite side with some being offered for sale

Mrs Roberts reported that she had spoken to Mr Blazeby in the Development Services Department. She said that if FPC wished to clarify/rectify the situation, they should ask the District Council to investigate whether cars are being sold and then press the owner to make a planning application. She said the matter of vehicles on the opposite side of the road would be part of the investigation. There was a rumour that the owner intended to start selling petrol again and Mr Barnes thought there might be safety issues if the equipment had not been properly maintained. Mrs Roberts said this was a matter for the Environmental Health Department and she agreed to follow it up. Mrs Roberts said that any letter to the district council about the garage should be addressed to Nigel Blazeby, though Mr Barnes thought it should be sent to a higher-ranking officer. It was agreed that the clerk should write to the district council's Planning Director for the attention of Mr Blazeby.

Defective lights at the Community Building

Mr Pusey reported that during John Kaye's visit to repair lights at the Community Building, the lock to the outbuilding housing the electricity supply had been broken and the firm was denying responsibility. One light had not been repaired and John Kaye would need scaffolding to effect the repair for which they would need the council's authorisation. Mr Pusey had subsequently spoken to Chris Sproston (CCC) who had been very helpful and had promised that the County Council's contractors would fix the lights in 48 hours. Mr Pusey thought this should bring FPC nearer to a maintenance contract with the County Council. Mr Barnes said the school had switched to a different contractor.

Any Other Business

1) Water leak in Mortimers Lane

It was confirmed that this had been dealt with.

2) Grant Money for the Skateboard Project

Mrs Roberts said she had the information in her car about SCDC funding available and would let Dr McKeown have it after the meeting.

REPORTS FROM THE COMMITTEES

RECREATION AND AMENITIES

In the absence of Mr Chilton, the clerk read his report to the meeting as follows:

1. Skateboard/BMX project

This would be covered as a separate item.

2. Bowls Club Fence

The repair to the Bowls Club fence had been delayed owing to the suppliers sending differently coloured fencing for each section. He had agreed with Mr Salmons that the use of more than one colour would not give an acceptable result. The chain-link fence was made to order and there would thus be a delay in effecting a repair.

3. Seats on the Recreation Ground

A letter had been received from Mr Phillips offering to install the new seat either in the same position as the one that had been damaged or at a different site and to carry out repairs to the damaged one. *The letter was discussed by the council and it was agreed to adopt the second option, which would give the village two seats rather than one.*

4. Tree work and spraying the Recreation Ground

A quotation had been received from Cleanaway with the breakdown as follows:

Reduce the crowns of 3 trees in the gravel car park	£550
Remove the metal frame from the Oak tree	£60
Fell small dead chestnut tree (to the rear of the churchyard)	£40
To spray Recreation Ground against plantains (suggested this left	

until the Spring as the growing season is now over) £990

A quotation for felling the large Ash tree at the end of the Illingworth way footpath was deferred pending further investigation, as the contractor was not convinced this was necessary. It was intended to arrange that a core sample be taken to establish whether the tree needed to be felled or could just be reduced.

The quotation was discussed and it was thought the sum quoted for spraying against plantains was much higher than charged on previous occasions. It was agreed the clerk would look this up in the records.

5. **Vandalism**

See Police Liaison Report below.

6. **Remaining work on the Recreation Ground**

This would be completed as soon as possible.

Skateboard/BMX Project

Dr McKeown reported as follows:

He had written to the twelve families in Foxton who had expressed interest and been involved in fund-raising at the outset of the project to ask about their current level of interest. He had received only three replies that indicated some had moved on, some were moderately interested and there was one suggestion for an alternative activity.

Dr McKeown proposed that he seek to establish the level of interest in the village as a whole by means of an article in "The Laurentian".

Mr Pusey said that the parish council had a commitment to the provision of a skateboard/BMX park. However, skateboarding/BMX activity seemed very low at the present time.

Dr McKeown recommended that a facility for scooters should be included. He also said that although, through hard work, a sum of £2000 had been raised for the project, recent estimates for the current plans were in the region of £40,000.

Mr Pusey said that when the council acquired the extension to the Recreation Ground there would be an opportunity for landscaping.

Miss Thake suggested that the idea for a skateboard/BMX park was a good one and suggested the council go ahead on a smaller scale than originally envisaged. Mr Pusey said that when landscaping the area a mix of some surfacing and some soil infill would be needed.

FINANCE

Mr Hockley gave details of the bank balances as follows:

Deposit Account	£17,241.64
Current Account	£51.14
Cambridge Building Society	£8300.05

Mr Hockley proposed the following cheques be approved:

Foxton Village Hall Trust (hire of Meeting room on 5/9/05 and 3/10/05 and the Lounge on 6/9/05 and 6/10/05)	£44.00
SCDC (emptying dog-bins 1/10/05-13/12/05) <i>(the clerk had received a second invoice for the same period that she had been told to ignore by SCDC)</i>	£88.71
J E Burns (salary October/November)	£495.11
J E Burns (expenses September/October)	£33.53
V W Mead (refuse collection and ground maintenance, October)	£52.08
Tela Textus Associates Ltd (annual charge for hosting the village website)	£20.99

Mr Barnes seconded the proposal and all were agreed that these payments should be made, and that £734 should be transferred from the deposit Account to the Current Account.

(At this point the clerk was asked to leave the room)

Clerk's Remuneration – Holiday Pay

(The following report is included in the Minutes from notes given to the clerk after the meeting)

Mr Hockley said that the Cambridgeshire Association of Local Councils recommend that the conditions of service for Parish Council Clerks follow the guidelines laid down in the National Association of Local Councils and the Society of Local Council Clerks.

Mr Hockley said that Foxton Parish Council already followed this agreement in a number of respects, in particular pay scales. It was now proposed that, with immediate effect, FPC should follow this agreement in respect of holiday pay and entitlement.

He said the council's clerk is currently contracted to the council for 32 hours per month. A full-time clerk, working 37 hours per week, would work 37 x 52 hours per annum, less holidays. The council's clerk works 32 x 12/52 hours per week, which is 7.4 hours per week on average. According to the tables issued by CALC, at this number of hours worked, our Clerk would be entitled to 41.0 hours per annum holiday pay out of this contracted time of 32 hours per month. However, this would reduce the actual hours of work, which would not be appropriate, I feel, with the clerk's current workload.

Mr Hockley therefore proposed increasing the clerk's contracted hours to 36 per month, which would give an entitlement of 45.0 hours annual leave. This approach would necessitate that the clerk should take 3.75 hours (=45.0 divided by 12) notional holiday per month and hence do actual work of 32.25 hours per month within the allocation of 36 hours per month. In other words the clerk should book 36 hours of time per month and actually work 32.25 hours. Mr Hockley further proposed that this be adopted from the start of the present quarter, i.e. 1 October 2005.

(Mr Hockley said he had consulted CALC about this, and they believe either approach given in the above two paragraphs would be acceptable, provided the agreement was in writing and understood by both parties.)

Mr Pusey seconded the proposals, and all were agreed.

The clerk was then called back to the meeting and resumed taking the Minutes.

PLANNING

Mr Barnes reported as follows:

Planning Permission granted:

Dr K J Stone	Application No.S/1529/05/F for change of use of agricultural land to garden land at land to the rear of 11 West Hill Road Various conditions
Mr P and Mrs K Cox	Application No.S/1265/05/F for extensions and conversion to annexe at Orchard House, 40 Barrington Road Usual condition
Mr and Mrs Fellows	Application No.S/1814/05/F for an extension at 5 Barons Lane Usual condition
B Wright and K Crawley	Application No.S/1313/05/F for an extension at 37 Station Road Several conditions
Mr and Mrs Shelford	Application No.S/1668/05/F for replacement dwelling (renewal of time-limited planning permission S/1364/02/O) Numerous conditions

Mr Barnes then mentioned a matter deferred since the last meeting – Certificate of Lawful Existing use or Development (S/1147/05/DC) in respect of “Brookside”, Hoffers Brook Farm, Royston Road, Harston. Mr Barnes said that the District Council was allowing the people living there to continue in residence, as there were no longer any restrictive conditions for people living there.

Planning application considered at the meeting:

M and J Kohler	Application No. S/1915/05/F for an outbuilding at “Bartholmews”, Shepreth Road Refused on the grounds that the development would be in a conservation area, in front of the building line and would have an adverse impact on neighbouring property
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RESPONSE TO CEMEX PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

Mr Brooksbank reported on the Barrington – Cemex Public meeting that he had attended on 2nd November as follows:

The meeting had been well attended with about 400 present and covered three areas, viz the current plant, the proposed development and how Barrington and its parish council should proceed.

Current works

The main problems associated with the existing plant were:

- Noise and vibration from lorries and trains continuing into the night with alleged damage to listed buildings
- The village water pump no longer functioning allegedly due to the amount of water drawn from the water table by the plant
- Pollution causing poor air quality at times.

The ratio of those speaking against the current works to those defending it was about 3:1

Proposed development

Again the ratio of those opposing and defending the proposals was 3:1.

There was heated debate concerning the health risks from pollution and particulates and the use of substitute fuels (claimed not to be allowed in the USA.) A plant similar to that proposed is working in Rugby and a high dust output was reported. Although there was much concern over the pollution risks, the overall view of the meeting, and of Barrington PC, was that there were no facts to support an objection to the proposal based on air pollution.

There were objections based on the visual impact of the proposed development, in particular the size of the proposed chimney. A proposal was made that Cemex be asked to provide a 3D computer model of the proposed plant that would allow people to “walk through” the landscape and get a better feel for the visual impact. It was agreed that there was a good case to object on the grounds of visual impact and that a 3D model would be requested from Cemex.

Road and rail traffic also gave rise to objections with concerns that the new road would adversely affect traffic flow on the A603- possibly leading to Orwell and Barrington being used as a rat run. It was felt these concerns also provided a good case for objecting to the proposals.

It was also agreed that a case for opposition could be made on environmental grounds as some people felt that the area that would be covered by the new development and road was one of natural beauty and that footpaths would be lost.

The concerns over the water table were felt to be too weak to make a case for opposition on this ground. The case for objecting on the grounds of noise and light pollution was also felt to be weak.

Other Points

It was stated that only 6 people from Barrington are currently employed by Cemex. This was countered by a claimed circa 100 extra jobs created locally.

A chemical engineer present pointed out that burning waste as fuel is very attractive nationally.

Consideration was given to what would happen if the proposed plant were not built and the existing plant closed. There was concern that a large hole would be an attractive site for landfill, which would have implications for pollution and very serious ones for road traffic.

The Way Forward

1. Barrington

Mr Brooksbank said that when an application is put to the County Council (not SCDC as this is a mineral rights application), Barrington PC would oppose it on the grounds summarised above. There was an expectation that, if refused, the application would be referred to the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister and Barrington envisaged a costly fight.

2. Other Villages

A concern was raised that the net was not being cast widely enough to enlist the help of other villages in opposing the proposal. An Orwell resident raised concerns that Cemex would “divide and conquer” as Orwell would oppose the road and Barrington would oppose the plant.

3. Foxton

Mr Brooksbank said that, in his view, there would be concerns in Foxton over air pollution. As Barrington PC states that there is insufficient evidence to object on these grounds, it would probably be unwise for Foxton PC to object for this reason. He said there would be a visual impact for Foxton residents if the development went ahead and that he supported the request for a 3D model. However, he said the visual impact might not be worse than at present. Road and rail traffic would probably be no worse for Foxton unless the landfill scenario materialized. He also said that the loss of environmental amenity would probably not directly affect Foxton residents.

Although the chair of the meeting had initially said that the meeting would end with a poll of opinion, in the event he declared the opposition unanimous, which Mr Brooksbank found questionable.

Mr Pusey thanked Mr Brooksbank for his report.

As Barrington PC would be holding a further meeting on Wednesday, 9th November, the council considered its response to the exhibition staged by Cemex and to Mr Brooksbank’s report of the Public meeting.

It was said that at present only 20% of the total traffic to the Cemex plant went by rail and that the council should press for as much rail use as possible. Mr Barnes raised the matter of the water table, but Mr Hockley said that the plant would use less water under the new proposals. Dr McKeown said that the proposals would have a beneficial impact on jobs and the application should be supported on this ground. Also, the new road would take traffic out of the village.

Mr Pusey pointed out that the Cemex plant was one of the few cement-producing sites in the south of England and that it seemed logical that the plant should be retained, although he would like to have seen a proposal for a smaller plant.

Mr Brooksbank said he gathered that overall FPC was not objecting to the proposal.

Mr McCraith said that the County Council had had a presentation but he had waited to get the feeling of FPC before saying anything. He suggested that it might be possible to negotiate with Cemex in relation to a car park for Foxton Station and added that he and Mr Lansley were pressing hard for a car park there.

POLICE LIAISON REPORT

Miss Thake had nothing to report. Mr McCraith said that Adrian Stephenson, Community Beat Manager, had asked him whether things had improved in Foxton and he had said he thought there had been an improvement. Mr McCraith was asked to ensure that the impression was not given that everything was all right now as the offenders were still in the village and there could be further trouble.

RECREATION GROUND TRUST

Mr Pusey said there had been an inaugural meeting of the Recreation Ground extension Group on 11th October and submitted a copy of the Minutes for circulation to parish councilors.

Mr Brooksbank reported on the meeting. He said that representatives on the Recreation Ground Extension Committee included those from Foxton PC, Foxton Gardens Association and the Cricket Club. There were no attendees representing the skateboard Project or Foxton Preschool but representatives from these groups should be present at the next meeting. The committee was getting quotations for the leveling of ground for the cricket nets and for the landscaping of the Skateboard/BMX Park. The committee had agreed that each internal group would be responsible for its own funding and development.

Mr Pusey said there a sticking point in the acquisition of the land had occurred in the past month as one clause had to be tightened up to prevent any houses or other significant development on the site: the precise wording had yet to be agreed by all parties.

Mr Pusey said that Mr Hellingsworth (SCDC Trees officer) would be visiting the site to talk about landscape restraints/requirements on 8th November..

Discussions on the detail of the sinking fund calculations had commenced with the Trust's auditor. A meeting with the school and the contractor providing an upgrade to the security camera system was to be arranged in the near future.

COMMUNITY BUILDING PROJECT

Mr McCraith asked whether there had been any progress on the pavilion – he had contacted Bill Tarling. So far as anyone knew there had been no progress, and Mr Pusey said that Mr McCraith needed to go to a higher-ranking officer. Dr Grindley said that cracks had appeared in the pavilion floor that were not just superficial surface cracks. Dr Grindley was asked to provide Mr McCraith with details of outstanding works and defects in relation to the pavilion.

DOVECOTE/MEADOW PROJECT

Mr Pusey said there had been a meeting of Friends on 6th October. The lease had been delayed by a month due to the County Council's solicitor who had asked for copies of the plans to attach to the lease. These had been sent but the CCC solicitor then said that specifications were needed. However, the specifications would not be available until planning permission had been granted. It had now been agreed that the lease would say that the specifications would be subject to written approval by the county Council. Mr Pusey said that had two possible thatchers had been identified.

CORRESPONDENCE

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

- 1) Letter dated 22nd September from Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Services enclosing an article on the service provided by the South Cambs Community Fire Service Team for advising on smoke alarms and in some cases fitting them.
- 2) Letter dated 26th September from HDRA re its Master Composter scheme.
- 3) Letter dated October 2005 from Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Joint Waste Partnership (RECAP) re its waste strategy consultation: enclosing information and questionnaire.
- 4) Letter dated 4th October from Cambridgeshire CC re its draft Customer Charter.
- 5) Letter dated 5th October from Cemex giving schedule of drop-in exhibitions for development proposals at Barrington.
- 6) Letter dated 6th October from CCC Customer Relations officer, Stephanie Wade re changes to local bus services.
- 7) Letter dated 24th October from the NHS Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire Primary Care Trusts enclosing posters on the future of mental health services in their areas.
- 8) Letter dated 28th October from Cambridgeshire Horizons (set up by the Cambridgeshire Local Authorities to respond to the area's critical housing and infrastructure needs) with an invitation to a Question and Answer meeting on Tuesday, 29th November at Bar Hill: enclosing booking form. (*The Chairman to attend*)
- 9) Joint letter dated 4th November from Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City council re the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Draft Supplementary Planning Document – the Design and Location of Major Waste Management Facilities and enclosing CD: responses due by 19th December.
- 10) Information from CALC including:
 - Memo enclosing NALC guidance note on the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 (response by 18th December)
 - Agenda for the next meeting of the South Cambridgeshire District Association to be held on 21st November
 - Training schedule for the Certificate in Local Council Administration
 - Memo re Village Halls network (run by Cambridgeshire ACRE)
 - Training sessions leaflets
 - October Bulletin
- 11) Information from Cambridgeshire ACRE including:
 - “Village Halls” newsletter, October
- 12) Standards Board for England newsletter, November 2005
- 13) Request for a donation from Victim Support, Cambridge and Ely.

- 14) Invitation to attend the twelfth Annual General Meeting of the Cambridge Mediation Service on Wednesday, 16th November at 12.30pm
- 15) "Clerks and Councils Direct" magazine, November 2005.
- 16) Local Council Review, November 2005
- 17) Cemex newsletter, October 2005
- 18) Publicity from SMP Playgrounds, Matta products (UK) Ltd, and Miracle Design and Play Ltd.

Dr McKeown complained that councilors were not always being informed of meetings/deadlines for response that would occur before the next meeting. The clerk apologized for any omissions and said she would try to ensure that these did not occur in future.

VISITORS' QUESTIONS

Mr Abbotts said the clunch pit area would make a natural leisure area for the youth of the village and a footpath should be created. He also commented about the number of motorbikes driving towards Lord Walston's fields (when this occurred, he telephoned the police).

Mr Abbotts said he was amazed by the council's relaxed approach to the Cemex proposals and thought measurements of the dioxin levels were called for.

Mr Brooksbank said that dioxin levels had been measured over the past ten years and concerns about dioxins had been satisfied.

Mr Abbotts said that he had been under stress at the last meeting. He alleged that, after inspecting past council Minutes, references to Mortimers Lane were full of inaccuracies. Mr Abbotts added that he had copies of old maps relating to Mortimers Lane and that the width of the road should be 9m at the entrance but that it is narrower than this due to encroachment of gardens onto it.

Mr Pusey said that a footpath through the clunch pit was a possibility that the council was looking at. He asked Mr McCraith to investigate the possible encroachment of the highway at Mortimers Lane.

Mr Mitchell pointed out that a Station car park on the opposite side of the A10 to the garage would mean commuters crossing the road on foot to get to the Station and then back again to their cars.

Mr Pusey said that yellow hatching had been suggested at the level crossing. Mr Brooksbank said that a car park on that side of the road could exacerbate the already difficult traffic-flow situation.

Mr Challis was heartened to have heard for the first time a realistic appraisal of the situation regarding the Skateboard/BMX project and said he thought it would be ludicrous to spend £40,000 on it.

Anne Sanderson, speaking on behalf of Foxton Help Group, asked whether FPC would consider a further survey of the need for personal alarms and a community warden.

Mrs Roberts said that Fowlmere had one of these schemes that had been running for several years and currently applied to 17 residents. Fowlmere PC had negotiated a special price with SCDC whereby the box (costing about £100) belonged to the person needing it. She said Fowlmere PC precepts £1000 a year for this scheme. If a similar scheme should be set up in Foxton, Mrs Roberts thought that Dorothy Woods (Fowlmere PC) would help Mrs Sanderson in negotiations with Help the Aged.

It was agreed that Mrs Sanderson would draft a questionnaire for consultation.

Mrs Howell asked whether there was any progress with restarting the Youth Club.

Miss Thake said that the difficulty was the recruitment of helpers. Those who initially expressed an interest were deterred when they realized they would need training and a CRB check before they could take part.

Mrs Howell said that the lock to the meter store would have to be repaired and she would be obtaining a cost for this. Mr. Pusey felt that Kaye's operative might in some way be liable for the damage.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mrs Roberts said she had looked at the microfiche and maps relating to The Green. Mr Pusey said he had found most of the maps too faint to be of help and thought a visit to the Peterborough Land Registry would be needed to establish the boundary line of The Green.

Miss Thake said that the hedge at Vicarage corner needed to be cut back. Mr Pusey asked the clerk to refer this matter to the Recreation and Amenities Committee.

Mr Barnes mentioned that the speed humps at Thriplow were breaking up. Mr Pusey said that these humps required to be negotiated at speeds much lower than 30mph to avoid damage to one's vehicle. Mr McCraith was asked to investigate.

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

It was confirmed that this would be held on in the Village Hall Meeting room on **Monday, 5th December 2005 at 7.45pm.**

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 10.25pm