

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF FOXTON PARISH COUNCIL

HELD ON MONDAY, 6th DECEMBER 2004, AT 7.45 p.m.

PRESENT

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

County Councillor Professor Milton

District Councillor Mrs Roberts

IN ATTENDANCE

7 members of the public

APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Dr Grindley

Mr Pusey welcomed all to the meeting.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

One amendment was needed:

On page 69, under “Matters Arising – correspondence item 18”, the first sentence of paragraph 5, should be amended to read “District Councillor Roberts expressed great reservations”.

With this amendment, all were agreed that the Minutes of the previous meeting, held on 1st November 2004, should be signed as a true record.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Old School Site

Mrs Roberts said that although she had spoken several times to Sarah Lyons about a meeting nothing had happened. She had spoken to another officer, Mike Sugden, at SCDC expressing her concern, and said she would report back.

Police/Public Liaison

Mr Pusey said that, owing to Mr Blakesley’s resignation, the council had no-one representing it with the police. Mrs Thake kindly volunteered to take on this role and was thanked. Mr Pusey read out an e-mail he had received concerning a problem some residents were having with nuisance-knocking on doors. There had been confrontations and the police had been informed. The police asked that all such incidents be recorded – time, place etc - so that a pattern could be discerned and the police take appropriate action.

Meeting re Marshall’s Airport

Mr Hockley reported that a further meeting had taken place with parish council representatives and district councillors. This had been a “holding” meeting whilst further developments were awaited. Another meeting would be held in January 2005.

It had been decided that the group's function was one of liaison. Mrs Roberts said that a pressure group was being organised and that a meeting of interested people (including barristers, people with financial expertise and media people) had been held at Thriplow, so the momentum was growing.

Large-scale Development

Mr Pusey reported that there had been a further meeting of representatives of the group of interested parish councils and district councillors on 9th November. It was planned to meet again with representatives from EERA after Christmas. He said that Catherine Cairns would advise on the approach to be taken to this meeting. Consideration had been given to holding a public meeting, but, because presently the direct impact of proposals on the A10 corridor is not as great here as elsewhere nor as immediate, it was thought it would not be appropriate to hold such a meeting at this juncture. However, Mr Pusey warned of a caveat in the report that EERA would undertake a review of where to put an extra 25,000 houses, so that vigilance was still needed.

Village Website

Mr Pusey reported that this was now running. Mr Kennedy said that progress, although slow, was being made in updating information for the site.

Correspondence – Mr Studd's letter re Traffic issues in Foxton

The clerk reported having written to south Highways division to say the council would like the centre line at the Caxton Lane/High Street junction to be repainted and asking if the same treatment could be given to the centre line at Vicarage Corner. Mr Studd (in the visitors' seats) handed out copies of a letter he had received from South Highways Division and a discussion of the difficulties in improving the situation at the Caxton Lane/High Street junction took place. Professor Milton agreed to look into the matter.

Visitors' Questions

(i) Q8 Garage

Mrs Roberts had checked with the officer dealing with this. She said that the SCDC's view was that the matter was essentially one that needed to be resolved between the two parties and that the district council should not be involved. Regarding the traffic hazard arising from coaches crossing into Millers garage at the second entrance from the level crossing, Mrs Roberts suggested writing to South Highways Division. It was agreed that Mr Hockley and the clerk would liaise on this.

(ii) Mrs Howell's Barn

Mr Pusey said that the question of the Howell's rear access to the barn was covered in the lease.

(iii) Stan Barnes

Mr Challis (in the visitors seats) said that Mr Barnes had made a good recovery and was out of hospital.

Any Other Business

(i) Parking in Hillfield

Mrs Roberts said that, owing to illness, she had not been able to follow this matter up but would do so.

(ii) Rugby cement

Mr Broadley said he had not yet studied the Environment Agency's consultation document on the burning of substitute fuels at Rugby Cement.

REPORTS FROM THE COMMITTEES

RECREATION AND AMENITIES

Mr Chilton reported as follows:

- a) Grass cutting tenders had been received, but varied considerably in their presentation: they would take time to analyse and compare.
- b) New signs had now been erected in the High Street. Further signs for the Recreation ground had still to be erected.
- c) The drainage outside the Village Hall had been attended to. Mr Chilton reported that the drain had no filter, making the task of clearing it very disagreeable.
- d) The clerk had contacted Mrs Herod about replacing the Hardman Memorial seat and there were no objections to the council going ahead as proposed.

The Trees Officer had not yet paid a visit to inspect trees on the Recreation Ground.

- e) Mr Chilton said there had been some confusion about the siting of the mound for the Skateboard Park. This would be close to the Play Area.
- f) *A new location for one pair of the fixings for the junior goal post was needed. A discussion followed and it was agreed to move the set near the tennis courts to a site near the pavilion. It was thought the installation of a new set of fixings might be cheaper than moving the existing ones. Mr Chilton agreed to arrange for the filling in of the socket in the line of the footpath from St Laurence road onto the Recreation Ground.*
- g) Mr Chilton said that the damaged fence rail on the Recreation Ground had been repaired.
- h) The Illingworth Way footpath to the Recreation ground was in a bad condition, and Mr Chilton said he would measure for matting to repair it.

Mr Broadley said he had still to go through the document about disabled access to the Play Area. Mrs Thake had spoken to a representative from Wicksteed, who said that there would not be all that much to do – it would mainly be a case of painting the equipment in bright colours.

Skateboard Park

Mr Broadley reported that he had received a quotation from Wicksteed of between £42,000 and £45,000 plus VAT. This was nearly double the price envisaged so the economies would need to be found. Another meeting of the group would be arranged in the near future.

Mr Challis (in the visitors' seats) said that the whole project had begun as a result of the problems caused by skateboarding in the village and asked whether the problems still existed. It was confirmed that although the problems had abated, the group of youths involved with the project were keen to go ahead, and it was thought there would be new youngsters eager to skateboard when the present ones were older.

Mr Hockley asked Mr Chilton to let him have estimates as soon as possible.

FINANCE

Mr Hockley reported as follows:

Current Account (This included a VAT rebate of £664.27 for the period 1/4/04-31/10/04)	£715.74
Deposit Account	£9933.61
Cambridge Building Society	£7963.78

Mr Hockley proposed the following cheques be approved:

Cambridgeshire ACRE (membership renewal 2004/05)	£25.00
Foxton Village Hall Trust (hire of meeting room 4 October)	£11.50
J Mills (re website foxtoncambs.info)	£22.98
V W Mead (refuse collection, ground maintenance and expenses, November)	£68.39
D Pusey (2 nd half chairman's honorarium)	£70.00

Mr Broadley seconded the amendment and all were agreed that these payments, totalling £197.87 should be made, and that £467 should be transferred from the Current Account to the Deposit Account.

PLANNING

Mr Barnes reported as follows:

He had received the latest version of the Local Structure Plan and reported that Foxton was still classed as an infill village.

Planning application refused:

Mr and Mrs A Shelford	Application No.S/1588/04/F for garage with studio/office over. Height (2-storey) and mass would have a detrimental effect on the street scene.
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Planning application withdrawn:

J and R McLellan	Application No.S/1871/04/F for extensions and carport at 18 Barrington Road.
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Planning application considered:

Mr Pusey said he had still heard nothing about whether the County Council would include the streetlamps in its maintenance schedule.

DOVECOTE/MEADOW PROJECT

Mr Pusey said that he now had the amended leases, although one or two items had been omitted from the current drafts. Despite an officer from the County Council having looked at the footpath line, no decision had been made and the school governors had been asked to give their view. Mr Pusey said he would be meeting the headteacher, Jenny Jones, this week. The next meeting of the governors was February 2005.

There had been a hedge-clearing and planting day with seeding under the hedge after removal of the black plastic sheeting.

Mr Pusey said that SCDC had some spare grant – up to £5,000 – for green space projects. He and Mrs Roberts would attend a meeting this Wednesday at the SCDC offices at Cambourne to try to procure a grant.

CORRESPONDENCE

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

- 1) Letter dated 25th October from the Environment Agency with details of its Flood awareness Campaign 2004/05 with request form and prepaid label for leaflets and posters.
- 2) Letter dated 2nd November from SCDC's Returning Officer giving leave to proceed with the co-option of another councillor to fill the present vacancy.
- 3) Letter dated 3rd November from CCC Environment and Transport Department enclosing a copy of its winter gritting and snow-clearing leaflet.
- 4) Letter dated 8th November from CCC South Highways Division re refreshing the centre line at the High Street/Caxton Lane junction.
- 5) Letter dated 10th November enclosing a schedule of when the next parish council elections will take place (2007 for Foxton).
- 6) Letter dated 15th November from Harston PC asking whether Foxton PC had received any complaints of an unpleasant odour that can be smelt along the road to Barrington. (*Telephoned to say no complaints received so far*).
- 7) Letter dated 16th November from SCDC's Democratic Services Officer, seeking nominations on behalf of FPC to the Standards Committee.
- 8) Copy of letter dated 18th November from Mr Studd to CCC South Highways Division expressing his discontent with the measures suggested by south Highways to deal with the road hazards in Foxton that were the subject of a previous letter to them, and asking them to reconsider.
- 9) Letter received 18th November from Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Fire Authority re the Integrated Risk management Plan 2005/06: enclosing leaflet and prepaid envelope for reply (views to be received by 17th January 2005).
Passed to GB

- 10) Letter dated 18th November from Whittlesford PC about the next meeting of the parish council group about the possibility of Marshalls at Duxford to be held on 26th November.
- 11) Letter dated 19th November from Andrew Lansley enclosing a copy of the reply (to his letter of 11th October) that he had received from EERA regarding the RPG14 Strategy Review and possible development in the M11 corridor.
- 12) Letter dated 23rd November from Andrew Lansley enclosing a laminated poster (*displayed*) with information to constituents on how to contact him.
- 13) Letter dated November from CCC, chief Executive's Department on CCC's Corporate Plan 2005-09: enclosing leaflets.
- 14) Letter dated 26th November from Cambridgeshire constabulary giving an update on the reorganisation of policing in the Southern Division.
- 15) Letter dated 26th November from Cambridgeshire County Council re the meeting of South Cambridgeshire Environment and Transport Area Joint Committee to be held on 13th December: enclosing a draft agenda. *Passed to BH*
- 16) Details of SCDC's Capital Funding Training Day, Saturday, 27th November
- 17) Information from CALC including:
 - Memo re Quality Parish Initiative enclosing questionnaire. *Passed to DP*
 - Memo enclosing copies of a guide to becoming a Quality Council
 - Details of various CALC training sessions and workshops
 - Information re The National Strategy for Town and Parish Councils and Clerk's training Bursary Scheme
 - Information re "Cookies for a Cure" part of the British Leprosy Relief Associations fund-raising activities (*Passed to G Smith, editor "The Laurentian"*)
 - Bulletin, November 2004 (*Item on Section 137 payments*)
- 18) Information from Cambridgeshire ACRE including:
 - "Harvest" magazine November/December 2004
 - Annual Review 2003-2004
 - Booklets on Local Network Fund for children and young people; Arts in Cambs. On tour; and Community Development course, January 2005-June 2005
- 19) Leaflets from the Standards Board for England on "Local Investigations – guidance for monitoring officers and committees" and "Lobby groups, dual-hatted members and the Code of Conduct" and copy of newsletter for November
- 20) Copy of memo to Head Teachers from DEFRA re its new publication, "The Rural Services Review" (copy enclosed).
- 21) NALC Local Council Review, November and Annual Review and Accounts 2003-2004

- 22) Posters (one displayed) and leaflets from SCDC on Christmas waste and recycling.
- 23) CCC leaflet on tree inspections. *Passed to DC*
- 24) Publicity material from MD Landscapes (grass-cutting etc)

VISITORS' QUESTIONS

Mrs Howell said that Andrew Lansley MP had booked a room for a surgery between 2 and 4pm on Friday, 21st January 2005.

It was agreed that the clerk would place a notice on the Parish Council Notice Board and ask Graham Smith to include the item in "The Laurentian".

Mrs Howell also mentioned that there were a number of places in the village where the pavements were flooding, including the High street and Station Road.

It was agreed that Mr Hockley would supply Professor Milton with a list of places where pavement flooding was occurring.

Mr Miller asked whether there had been any complaints about vehicles parking in the unofficial lay-by opposite his premises.

No complaints had been received, but it was pointed out that the lay-by was the property of the County Council.

Mr Challis asked whether there was any more information about the plaque on the oak tree.

The clerk said she had not yet had time to research the matter.

Mr Challis said that there were difficulties in joining the High Street from Caxton Lane. Two problems were the height of Mr Callin's hedge and the fact that the only appropriate building on which to erect a mirror was the Oast House and this was a very unsuitable location on aesthetic grounds.

A discussion followed and Professor Milton agreed to seek advice at County Council.

Mr Apps had several points to raise. He said that the completion of the road surface at Hardman Road was a great improvement, but several streetlamps were not functioning in Hardman Road/Edis Way. Also there were no white lines at the junction with the High Street. Weeds were also coming up through the pavements.

Professor Milton was asked to follow these matters up, although as far as the weeds were concerned, treatment was no longer allowed.

Mr Apps also said that parked vehicles in the village were becoming a real problem

Finally, Mr Apps said that the hedging put in by the boundary fence on the Recreation ground was becoming very messy.

Mrs Thake said that the trouble was that, because the ground was full of rubble, a lot of preparatory work would be needed before any further planting could take place. The matter was referred to the Recreation and Amenities Committee. Mr Barnes suggested that clearing the ground might be a project, under supervision, for some of the pupils in the Pupil Referral Unit now occupying the Old School.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mr Chilton asked whether there was any further information about the sale of cars at the site of the former Q8 Garage. Mrs Roberts said she needed to ask more questions. It was thought that the garage might be going to resume selling petrol.

Mrs Roberts warned that while the current police investigation was ongoing, the police were very stretched. Old people should be warned to be particularly careful about possible distraction burglaries.

Mr Pusey reminded those present that there was still a vacancy on the council.

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

It was confirmed that this would be held on **Monday, 10th January 2005 at 7.45pm in the Village Hall Meeting Room.**

Mr Chilton gave his apologies in advance for this meeting. Mr Pusey wished the Season's Greetings to all present.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 10.45pm.