

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF FOXTON PARISH COUNCIL

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

PRESENT

Mr Pusey, Mr Broadley, Mr Barnes, Dr Grindley, Mr Hockley, Mr Kennedy, Mrs Thake

County Councillor Professor Milton

District Councillor Mrs Roberts

IN ATTENDANCE

4 members of the public

APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Mr Chilton

Mr Pusey welcomed all to the meeting.

CO-OPTION OF NEW COUNCILLOR

Mr Pusey proposed that Mr Rob Brooksbank (sitting in the visitors' seats) be co-opted as a councillor. Mr Kennedy seconded the motion and all were agreed. Mr Brooksbank then joined the other councillors.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

No amendments were needed. Mr Hockley proposed that the Minutes of the previous meeting held on 10th January 2005 should be signed as a true record. Mr Kennedy seconded the proposal and all were agreed.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Old School site

Mrs Roberts reported that there had been a meeting between the SCDC Housing Department and Hereward Housing. Hereward Housing had looked at the site and had ideas for its development. Mrs Roberts suggested that if the parish council would like a second meeting, this could be arranged. It was agreed that Mr Pusey, Dr Grindley and Mr Hockley would like to be involved and that the meeting would take place at the SCDC offices at Cambourne. Mrs Roberts asked to be given a choice of dates.

Large-scale Development

Mr Pusey reported that he had attended a meeting on 27th January on the East of England Plan at which Alan Moore, Head of EERA Planning, had been a speaker. Notes on this meeting had been made by himself and Rob Searles (Meldreth PC) and had been circulated by e-mail. The government had only offered investment for affordable housing, but this would only worsen the infrastructure deficit. EERA is

pressing for an investment of £1.5 billion by the Government in the infrastructure that is vital to if there are to be substantial numbers of new houses in the area.

Mr Pusey said that the A10 group of parishes is planning to meet again on 17th February, with a representative of EERA attending.

Mrs Roberts said that the whole scenario of large-scale development in the area was a nonsense as the figures had not been substantiated. However, as Marshalls had now turned down Duxford as a site to which they could relocate, the firm might choose to remain at its present site in Cambridge. This would mean that the large housing allocation earmarked for Marshall's Cambridge site would have to be moved to another location. She said the ODPM needed to be told what a nonsense the whole thing was, and that a close watch was needed on the situation.

Mr Pusey said that neither individuals nor councillors were in favour of an early review of the East of England Plan. He said that Catherine Cairns had agreed to make a draft submission to EERA on behalf of the A10 group. She had also agreed to make the written submission for Foxton.

The pros and cons of holding a public meeting about the proposed large-scale development were discussed. In the end it was agreed that the most pressing need was for as many as possible individual responses to be made during the consultation period. It was agreed to do a leaflet drop in the village. Catherine Cairns would submit an article for the *Laurentian* that would include the e-mail address for responses (www.eera.gov.uk), as this is the organisation's preferred mode for responses.

Traffic Issues in Foxton raised by Mr Studd

Professor Milton and Mr Pusey had walked round the village and taken photographs of several places where the white-lining was in need of attention - some of these were in particularly dangerous locations. The matter was now with Mr Cooper of the CCC South Highways Division.

Q8 Garage

Mr Pusey and Professor Milton had visited the garage and had not received a favourable impression. Professor Milton asked about alternative access to Mr Miller's site. Mr Miller (in the visitors' seats) said that the land in question was not registered with the Land Registry, but that the electricity box on it was his. Mr Miller said the chief problem was still the difficulty of vehicles turning onto the site from the A10. Mrs Roberts said there had been no further developments and that no planning application from Q8 had yet been received.

Parking at Hillfield

Mrs Roberts reported that David Rutland (SCDC Housing Department) had looked at the parking provision in Hillfield and had made a tentative plan for visitors' parking, which would extend the existing parking area. A formal consultation would be needed with the residents of Hillfield as soon as possible.

Andrew Lansley MP's Surgery 21st January

The clerk said that there had been no feedback from this surgery.

Pavement Flooding

Mr Hockley said he had not been able to carry out the necessary photography due to the lack of hard rainfall.

Streetlamps in Edis Way

The work had still not been done so the estate was still not adopted. Mr Pusey suggested that the best way forward would be a joint letter from the residents to the developers, Meldire. Professor Milton suggested that residents looked at their agreements with the developers. He also said that the relevant papers went to the CCC Legal Department in February 2004. The CCC Lighting officer had paid a visit to the site last week.

Correspondence

i) CPRE Local Development Framework workshop 5th March (item 9)

Dr Grindley would attend this event. *At this point the clerk asked whether it was still intended to invite Mr Reese from Cambridgeshire ACRE to speak to the council about Village Plans. It was agreed that she should invite Mr Reese to attend the next meeting if this was not too short notice.*

ii) Rugby Cement meeting (item 10)

Mr Broadley said that following the recent liaison meeting (which Mr Kennedy attended in his stead) he had been invited to attend an Extraordinary Liaison Group Meeting on 2nd February to provide a further update on plans at Barrington. Mr Broadley reported as follows:

Rugby Ltd (with the approval of Cemex, the company taking the firm over) had chosen Barrington as the preferred site for a feasibility study and the meeting was for the purpose of explaining the scope of the study and involving the Liaison Group in the communication and consultation process. No commitment had yet been made to either invest in, or close, the site.

The project encompassed technical, planning, environmental, communication and consultation issues, and the study should be completed by June 2006.

Technical

Technical issues would include an assessment of the amount of raw material on the site; the feasibility of a dry technique for clinker manufacture; the use of alternative fuels; cement milling; road/rail infrastructure and support services.

Planning and Environment

Various planning permissions would be considered with an application for an environmental permit running concurrently. It was anticipated that these applications would be sought by the second half of 2005.

Communication and Consultation

Rugby would advise the media in the next two months, but wanted local involvement first. There would be a public consultation at the end of the study.

A further liaison group would be held in two months' time. Any concerns could be raised by contacting Bob Millard (a former site manager) directly by writing to Barrington Works.

Mr Pusey thanked Mr Broadley for his report.

reports from the committees

RECREATION AND AMENITIES

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

The committee had not met in the past month, but there were some items to report:

1. Grass cutting

Mr Chilton had taken up with Cleanaway the queries the council had before awarding the firm the contract. These had been answered to his satisfaction and the quotation had been accepted.

2. Replacement seat and goal post sockets

The cost of a replacement seat was still being researched as were prices for an additional set of goal-post sockets to be located near the new pavilion.

3. Signs

The remaining signs from those recently ordered were due to be installed in the next two weeks.

Mrs Thake asked Mr Broadley to report on the progress of the skateboard park.

Skateboard/BMX Project

Mr Broadley said that, following the decision at last month's meeting to consider the feasibility of resiting the Skateboard/BMX Park to an area in the new extension to the Recreation Ground, he had tried to contact SCDC officer Jane Lampshire. As she was on leave, he had spoken to another officer, Paul Thorby, and, to fit in with office hours, Mr Pusey would meet Mr Thorby in his stead.

Meanwhile, Mr Broadley said that he had written to the Cambridgeshire Constabulary advising them that the council was reconsidering the site of the facility and explaining the reasoning behind this. He had explained that the council is seeking advice from the District Council Planning and Environmental Health Departments and RoSPA re planning permission, noise pollution and safety issues before proceeding further. Mr Broadley said he had invited comments from Francesca Morris at the Cambridgeshire Constabulary's Community Safety Unit and asked her whether she had any objection to a possible change of site and asked her whether she would like to visit the site being considered.

Mr Broadley said that he was aware that Mrs Thake had spoken to some of the skateboarders and explained the current situation, and that he would be arranging a meeting with them to discuss the issues involved.

Mr Broadley said that he was keen, as would be, he was sure, his fellow councillors, that this proposed change of site did not delay the project and hoped that there would be more news for next month's meeting of the parish council.

Mrs Roberts said that Jane Lampshire was due back at work shortly, and that she would speak to her.

Mrs Thake asked Mr Pusey to give an update on the Recreation Ground extension.

Recreation Ground Extension

Mr Pusey said that the County Council survey of the Recreation Ground had taken place including land owned by the Parish Council, the Recreation Ground Trust and the school and he was hoping to hear further in 4-5 days and to arrange a meeting. Points outstanding included an agreement about the rear boundary of the old vicarage, the footpath from St Laurence Road onto the Recreation Ground and a small piece of land bounding Hardman Road

Once the plan of was agreed, the residents affected would be consulted and then the land could be registered. The completion of the survey also removes one of the obstacles to the sale of the allotment land.

Mr Broadley said that a working group for the allotments would be formed from the Parish Council and the Gardens Association together with a representative of the Board of School Governors (Mr Benham was willing to undertake this role). Mr Brooksbank had expressed an interest in joining the group. *It was agreed that the clerk would liaise with Mr Pusey to set up a meeting with Mr Benham.*

Disability Discrimination Act

Mr Broadley said that he had looked at the provisions of this act, which did not ask providers of facilities to do more than is reasonable. However, he still needed to do an assessment and said he would report further at the next meeting of the parish council.

It was noted that Vic Mead had repaired the Recreation Ground fence and the clerk was asked to convey the council's thanks to Mr Mead.

FINANCE

Mr Hockley said that the committee had made estimates for the next financial year. With the precept for 2004/05 of £11,900 and RGT support of £4,000, the committee expected a surplus for the year of £1,579. The precept proposed for 2005/06 was again £11,900, and with a Recreation Ground Trust contribution of £4,500 to the management and maintenance of the Recreation Ground, it was anticipated that the accounts for 2005/06 would show a small deficit of £600 – this would be more than balanced by the expected surplus in the current year.

The grass-cutting contract for the year 2005/06 would be less than had been budgeted for: a figure of £3020 rather than £4300 had been accepted. After some discussion it was agreed to increase the amount in the contingency fund for the year and leave the proposed precept at £11,900. With a contingency of £1000 the budget would show a small surplus of £180.

Mr Hockley then proposed that the council ask for a precept of £11,900 for the year 2005/06. Mr Pusey seconded the proposal and all were agreed. The clerk was asked to write to the district council asking for this sum as precept for the coming financial year.

Mr Barnes said he thought the general public was not sufficiently aware of the support the parish received from the Recreation Ground Trust. It was agreed that this should be discussed with Mr Challis.

Mr Hockley gave details of the bank accounts as follows:

Current Account (This included £4,000 RGT support and the rent of £5 from Foxton Tennis Club for 2004)	£4056.15
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Deposit Account	£9565.23
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Cambridge Building Society (This included interest for the 12 months to December 2004 of £164.96)	£8128.74
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Mr Hockley asked proposed that the following cheques be approved:

SCDC (emptying dog-bins 1/1/05-31/3/05)	£86.13
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Foxton Village hall Trust (hire of Meeting Room on 6/12/04, 1//105 and 25/1/05 and lounge 11/1/05 and annual refuse charge)	£173.50
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Foxton PCC (contribution to churchyard maintenance, 2004)	£475.00
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Foxton Post Office store (photocopying (ST) and beer for Ian Sanderson re Foxton website)	£14.32
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V W Mead (refuse collection and fence repair and expenses, January)	£87.33
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CALC (new model contract and employment guide)	£10.00
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Mr Kennedy seconded the proposal, and all were agreed that these payments, totalling £846.28, should be made, and that £3155 be transferred from the Current Account to the Deposit Account.

PLANNING

Mr Barnes reported as follows:

Planning Permission refused:

Mr and Mrs Studd	Application No. S/2224/04/F for a bungalow on land adjacent to 4 Shepreth Road. Out of keeping with other houses this side of the road, which are characterised by dwellings in generous plots. Concerns re retention and protection of existing trees.
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Planning permission granted:

S Lodge and R Sharman	Application No. S/2299/04/F for extensions at 68 and 70 Station Road. Various conditions.
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The council had received a copy of a report to the SCDC Development and Conservation Control Committee, by the Director of Development Services. The report concerned the application for the erection of 13 houses and one bungalow at

Moore's Farm, Fowlmere Road for Mr P Mead (Application No. S/1946/04/O) and recommended Delegated Approval for determination on 17th December 2004.

Mrs Roberts said she had been at the meeting and that the application had been given outline planning consent. However, she had stated that Foxton PC was concerned about flooding and this had been included in the agenda, and that clarification was needed about where the farm would be run from.

POLICE LIAISON REPORT

Mrs Thake said she had spoken to PC Sutton, who was supposed to be instituting some foot patrols. However, police time might have been diverted to the matter of the fire at the rear of 2, Hall Close. Mrs Roberts said that she had been told by PC Sutton that most cases of vandalism are caused by people within the village: the fire was a potentially very dangerous situation and was considered to be arson.

Mr Kennedy said that he would redraft his article on vandalism for "The Laurentian" to include the fire.

Mrs Thake reminded those present that next week was the schools' half term so more trouble might be expected.

RECREATION GROUND TRUST

Mr Pusey reported that a meeting had been held on the 25th January. Mr Callin has some of the figures for the Sinking Fund and had promised he would complete them over the next few weeks, although the final calculation would still need to be done. There was some rubble in the verge at Edis Way and this matter was referred to the Recreation and Amenities Committee.

FOXTON COMMUNITY PROJECT

Mrs Howell (in the visitors' seats) said that the process of dealing with outstanding problems had disappeared "into a black hole". She had e-mailed Bob Tarling (CCC) to no avail but would continue to chase things up. Professor Milton offered to help.

DOVECOTE/MEADOW PROJECT

Mr Pusey said that the leases were now with CCC's solicitors. Mr Barnes (speaking as member of the school's Board of Governors) said that agreement had been reached on the line of the footpath through the field. Mr Pusey expressed his appreciation and wondered whether the County Council was going to be informed.

Mr Pusey said that there was no more news about the grant applied for from the Historic Buildings Fund. A letter had been sent to the council's insurers about the likely additions to its insurance cover.

CORRESPONDENCE

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

- 1) Letter dated January 2005 from Cambridgeshire Police authority re the consultation with the business sector and general public on the Authority's budget for 2005/06.
- 2) Letter dated 7th January from Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service re the South Cambs Arson Reduction Group litter bin campaign: enclosing adhesive notices for litter bins. *(it was agreed these would not be helpful)*
- 3) Letter dated 12th January from HYDRA with article on its Master Composter Scheme (copy sent to "The Laurentian").
- 4) Letter dated 14th January acknowledging the council's correspondence re a grant for the Dovecote/Meadow project.
- 5) Letter dated 27th January from the SCDC Community Development Officer enclosing the 2005 edition of the Community Services Funding Toolkit.
- 6) Letter dated 28th January from Rugby Cement advising that an Extraordinary Liaison meeting will be held on 19th January 2005.
- 7) Letter dated 31st January from Ian Apps expressing his concerns re possible relocation of the proposed skateboard park from the original agreed position. *(A reply from the council would be sent)*
- 8) Letter dated 2nd February from the Clerk to the Governors of Foxton Primary School saying that Mr Stuart Benham was willing to join a group to manage the development of the Recreation Ground extension.
- 9) Letter dated 3rd February from Cambridgeshire County Council saying that the Electoral Commission has considered the recommendations of The Boundary Committee on the future of local government electoral arrangements for Cambridgeshire County Council and has decided to accept them subject to the five modifications listed.
- 10) Letter dated 4th February from Guilden Morden PC to a large number of local parish councils re Operation Ancona, the enquiry into the disappearance and suspected murder of Fred Moss and inviting councillors to attend a meeting (to be arranged – suggestions as to date, time and place welcomed).
- 11) Notice of CPRE event to be held on 22nd February, 7-9pm on "The East of England Plan: the threats for Cambridgeshire.
- 12) Letter from ODPM re the Freedom of Information Act 2000 – authorisation of the Qualified Person and amendments to Schedule 12A of the Local Government act 1972.
- 13) Information from CALC including:
 - Memo re East of England Plan Consultation
 - Notification of special conference on 8th March to include Quality Parish Initiative and new Clerks Contract
 - Training update on Certificate in Local Council Administration
 - Update from NALC chief executive on the Asian Disaster
 - Update on the Freedom of Information Act – General Right of Access – January 2005

- Memo on Association of Burial Authorities special “Umbrella” membership scheme
 - Table of Parochial Fees from January 2005
 - Memo on part-time clerks’ hourly rates and car allowances from 1st April 2005
 - Details of various workshops: for chairmen, on employment issues within parish councils and on Charity Trustees and the Law.
 - Bulletin, January 2005
- 14) Information from Cambridgeshire ACRE including:
- Leaflet on Calor “Village of the Year”
 - Harvest Magazine January/February 2005
- 15) Posters from NCMA (re unregistered childcare) and Thriplow Daffodil weekend (both displayed).
- 16) Leaflets fro RoSPA and Cambridgeshire Archaeology (public events 2005)
- 17) Publicity from The Local Channel (re Freedom of Information Act); and Glasdon

VISITORS’ QUESTIONS

Mrs Howell said that the Playgroup asked for consideration to be given to siting the garden area in the plans for the extension to the Recreation Ground closer to the school. She also said that there would be a meeting of the Village Hall Management Committee at 8pm on Tuesday, 15th March.

Mr Challis said that there had been two functions at the Pupil Referral Unit on the old school site, but that these had not been well advertised. He recommended that such events should be advertised in “The Laurentian” in good time.

Mr Pusey said he had attended one of the functions but very short notice had been given. It was agreed that it would be preferable that such events should be better advertised in future and with more notice.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Ms Roberts said that she would be attending the meeting proposed by Guilden Morton PC and that, in her view, the police supervision of the search by gypsies for Fred Moss had been very unsatisfactory. On the subject of Village Plans, she warned that these involve an awful lot of work: some grant aid might be available from the District Council towards the cost. The first task would be a questionnaire and then someone would need to collate and prepare the material. Mrs Roberts said she would try to obtain some village plans – Shelford had produced a particularly good one.

Mr Pusey suggested that it might be possible to limit efforts to the planning aspects of such a plan in the first instance. Mrs Roberts said she would make enquiries into the feasibility of this.

Dr Grindley said that conservation matters were of importance as well as planning issues.

Professor Milton said he would like to attend the meeting about Foxton level Crossing and it was confirmed that this would be held on Friday, 4th March at 9.30am in the sports pavilion.

Mr Broadley brought the meeting's attention to the Environment Agency's consultation document on revisions to the Substitute Fuels Protocol This has been revised for the burning of substitute fuels in cement and limekilns. Mr Broadley gave details of how to contact the National Customer Contact Centre (tel.08708 506506 or e-mail enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk)

Mr Broadley also mentioned the accreditation scheme for Quality Council status, but it was thought that the council did not wish to be involved with this at the present time.

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

It was confirmed that this would be held on **in the Village Hall Meeting Room on Monday, 7th March at 7.45pm.**

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.40pm