

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF FOXTON PARISH COUNCIL

HELD ON MONDAY, 4th JULY 2005, AT 7.45 p.m.

PRESENT

Mr Pusey, Mr Barnes, Mr Brooksbank, Mr Chilton,
Dr Grindley, Mr Hockley, Mr Kennedy, Miss Thake
District Councillor Deborah Roberts

IN ATTENDANCE

8 members of the public

APOLOGIES

None received

Mr Pusey reported that he had received a letter of resignation from Mr Broadley. His resignation was due to pressure of work. The council expressed its gratitude to Mr Broadley for all his work for the council, particularly with the Skateboard Project. The clerk was asked to write a letter of appreciation to Mr Broadley.

In the absence of any other nominations, Mr Pusey proposed that Mr Hockley be the new Vice Chairman. Mr Chilton seconded the proposal and all were agreed. The clerk confirmed she would set in motion the procedure for co-opting another member of the council and in the meanwhile Mr Pusey asked that if anyone knew who might be willing to serve they would contact the council.

Mr Pusey welcomed all to the meeting, and, as Mrs Roberts needed to leave the meeting early, asked her to comment on the issue of “dual-hatted members” on which the council needed clarification.

Mrs Roberts began by describing some examples of complaints about district councillors that had involved the Standards Board for England. In one case, the Board had sent a barrister to argue its case. Even when a case is dismissed, councillors involved could be significantly out of pocket in defending themselves. Mrs Roberts said it all went to show how careful councillors needed to be these days and advised the council to have an early agenda item that allowed councillors to declare any interest that might be relevant in subsequent agenda items. She said that councillors needed to be careful both about the language they use and being sure of their facts.

A discussion followed about various aspects of the foregoing including the need to withdraw from discussion of a planning matter where the site in question is near a councillor’s place of residence. It was also stressed that members should withdraw on matters where the public would perceive their having an interest, even if this was not the case.

Mrs Roberts said that where there was any uncertainty, the council could always contact the SCDC’s Monitoring Officer. Concerning planning matters, Mrs Roberts said that a notice should be displayed of all planning applications to be considered at least three working days before the relevant meeting and give the time and date of the meeting so that any interested members of the public could attend.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

One amendment was needed. On page 24 under the Recreation Ground Trust Report, the words “(with the cost absorbed in the sale of the land)” at the end of the first paragraph should be deleted.

Mr Pusey proposed that, with this amendment, the Minutes of the previous meeting held on 6th June 2005, should be signed as a true record. Mr Kennedy seconded the proposal and all were agreed.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Mr P Ridgeon’s planning application (S/0813/05/F)

Mrs Roberts said that she had been assured that this application had been refused.

Correspondence – SCDC’s letter about rate capping

The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister had acknowledged receipt of the parish council’s letter in support of the district council. Mrs Roberts said that an announcement on the threatened rate capping was due in the next fortnight.

Visitor’s Questions – request for a car park at the station

The clerk said she had written to Network Rail who had passed her letter on to WAGN. She had received an acknowledgment of the letter from WAGN, and had also had a telephone call from them earlier in the day. She had been told that it was unlikely that WAGN would be able to provide a car park, but that her letter had been passed to the Head of Infrastructure and to the Traffic Manager.

Any Other Business – Mulch for Foxton Gardens Association

Mr Brooksbank said that he had learned that last year the Association had bought the mulch and spread it and had then invoiced the parish council.

REPORTS FROM THE COMMITTEES

RECREATION AND AMENITIES

Mr Chilton said the committee had met in the last month and gave his report as follows:

1. Recreation Ground

It had been agreed to obtain quotations for the repair of the Bowls Club fence. David Salmons had been asked to quote for the work.

There had been a request for training lights to be reinstated, as the power for them was lost when the old village hall was demolished. Mr Grindley had been asked to obtain a quotation from 24Seven to take a feed from the new supply to the Bowls Club with a separate meter box in the new cricket compound (FPC would have to pay the installation costs for this facility, but not for the electricity used).

2. Skateboard/BMX Project and Cricket nets and groundsman's compound
(Dr Grindley left the room owing to his interest re the Cricket Club and Foxton Sports Clubs Association)

This had been discussed at length and it had been decided it should be recommended that the Skateboard Park and the cricket nets should be sited on the new Recreation Ground extension with the groundsman's compound adjacent to the Bowls Club. *Mr Chilton said that Mr Broadley had produced a newsletter to go out to the youths involved in the project.*

Mr Chilton proposed that the Skateboard/BMX park and the cricket nets be sited adjacent to each other on the new extension to the Recreation Ground and that the groundsman's compound (including storage of the Cricket club's sight screens) should be sited where the metal container is, adjacent to the Bowls Club). Mr Pusey seconded the proposal and all were agreed.

(Dr Grindley was then invited to return to the meeting and was informed of the above decisions)

3. Recreation Ground Extension

No update had been available at the time of the committee meeting as important documents had gone missing. There was a suggestion that the council might lease the land for an agreed period with a clause stating that at the end of the lease the council could purchase it at the agreed price so that projects for the site could be speeded up.

4. Vandalism

Most of the damage caused in the latest round of vandalism had been repaired and the rest would be completed as soon as possible.

Mr Barnes asked about a letter from SCDC that had been distributed to some houses in the village relating to vandalism and said that some had been wrongly addressed. Mrs Roberts said that she had contacted SCDC Safety Officer, Belinda Cunningham, and given her Miss Thake's name as a contact. She also said that PC Sutton and another officer would be doing a foot patrol of the village.

5. Other Items

Tree work It was agreed to ask Cleanaway to quote for the work that needs to be carried out as the firm does this type of work and much more as well as grass cutting. Quotations would also be obtained for cutting back the hedge on Vicarage Corner and for spraying the Recreation Ground to remove plantains.

Brick wall at the War Memorial The state of the wall was discussed. Some bricks had been removed and it was agreed that the clerk should be asked to contact Burlington press to ask them to carry out repairs as the wall appears to be in the firm's ownership. It was pointed out that if the parish council carried out repairs, it would be liable for future upkeep and maintenance.

After some discussion it was agreed that the clerk should write to Mr Ridgeon asking him to effect repairs. Mrs Roberts suggested that an SCDC Building Controls officer had a look at the wall.

Power junction box near the tennis court The junction box cover had been removed once more and this time it had not been found. It was agreed that Vic Mead should be asked to obtain a more secure cover.

Play Area Following Mr Broadley's assessment for disabled access, it had been agreed to ask Mr Dash to paint the equipment in the colours required.

Mr Pusey reported having received a letter from Mr Lloyd saying he regretted that he now felt unable to continue mowing that part of The Green in front of his house and suggesting that the council's contractors now add this area to their schedule. Mr Lloyd also mentioned in his letter a further tract of land alongside his garage that he understood to be jointly owned by the parish council and the developers of the Stocks Farm site, and that FPC might also consider including this in the contractor's schedule. The clerk was unable to offer any information on the latter point, as the file on the Village Green had gone missing at the time when the Stocks Farm development was ongoing. Mrs Roberts said she would look into the matter.

Mr Pusey also said that Mr Howard had reminded him of the tidying-up exercise to cut back growth (on the RG area to the rear of Illingworth Way houses) carried out by some youths doing community service some time ago, and suggested this might be repeated. Mr Kennedy said that there had been damage to Mr Howard's fence where people were squeezing round the fences put in place to prevent access.

FINANCE

Mr Hockley gave details of the bank accounts as follows:

Deposit Account	£15767.76
(This included interest for the period 7/3/05-5/6/05 of £43.75)	
Current Account	£50.82
(A recycling credit of £231.21 had been received from SCDC and would be paid in)	
Cambridge Building Society	£8194.98

Mr Hockley proposed that following cheques be approved:

SCDC (emptying dog bins for the period 1/4/05-30/6/05)	£88.71
Foxton Village Hall Trust (hire of Meeting Room 9/5 and 6/6 and Lounge 28/6)	£34.50
J E Burns (salary June/July)	£496.28
J E Burns (expenses May/June)	£43.37
Inland Revenue (tax on JEB/VWM earnings for 3 months to 5/7/05)	£190.74

Mr Barnes seconded the proposal and all were agreed.

PLANNING

Mr Barnes reported as follows:

Planning permission granted:

Mr and Mrs Shelford	Application No. S/0723/05/F for an extension and alteration at Beech Tree Farmhouse, Shepreth Road Usual conditions
---------------------	--

provide 20 photocopies of the form. It was agreed to hold a meeting in the Village Hall Meeting Room at 8pm on 18th July to make the council's response to the plan.

POLICE LIAISON REPORT

Miss Thake said there were no other police matters to report than those already covered earlier in the meeting.

RECREATION GROUND TRUST

Mr Pusey said that the county council had lost the files for the landholdings but now had copies from the Land Registry. The chairman reported that the sinking fund calculations were awaiting a reply from Dr Grindley.

FOXTON COMMUNITY PROJECT

Mrs Howell (in the visitor's seats) said that nothing further had been done since April. Dr Grindley said the taps in the pavilion were still not right but he had been in touch with Gerald Browning.

DOVECOTE/MEADOW PROJECT

Mr Pusey said that the Friends of the project had met on 28th June and the Minutes of the meeting had been circulated with a financial control statement for the project. The council's approval was needed for several recommendations.

Mr Pusey proposed that the council accept the draft leases and write to inform Hewitsons (solicitors) to confirm this. Dr Grindley seconded the proposal and all were agreed.

Mr Pusey also said that an architect was needed for the project. Four names had been suggested to him by the SCDC Historic Buildings office. These were: Anthony Baggs (Cambridge Historic Buildings Group), Shaun MacGarry, Simon Ward and Tim Bond. Following the recommendation of the Friends' group, he proposed that the first three of the architects be invited to quote for drawing up a specification for tender (he had not had a response from Tim Bond). Mr Hockley 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 2nd June from Cambridgeshire County Council/Peterborough City Council re the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste Development Plan – issues and Options Consultation with website address.
- 2) Letter dated 3rd June from DEFRA re the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005.
- 3) Letter dated 10th June from CCC Environment and Community Services Department re Jointly Funded Improvement Schemes – 2006-7 bidding round (responses by 22nd August). *Passed to BH*

- 4) Letter dated 13th June from the SCDC Community Projects Officer re the South Cambs Debating Competition for young people 2005/06.
- 5) Letter (undated) received 14th June from Vic Phillips to the Chairman of FPC re Mr Challis's article in "The Laurentian" re vandalism.
- 6) Letter dated 13th June from Cambridge Open Studios enclosing publicity material.
- 7) Letter dated 15th June from "The Listing" a monthly guide to events in Royston and surrounding areas: enclosing response form. *Passed to TH*
- 8) Letter dated 20th June from CCC Environment and Community Services Department re divisional reorganisation of Highway Maintenance.
- 9) Letter dated 20th June from Network Rail in response to FPC's letter asking for car parking provision at Foxton Station saying that the letter had been forwarded to WAGN, and WAGN's acknowledgement dated 27th June.
- 10) Letter dated 21st June from BT Payphones re BT's proposals to re-align a payphone provision to meet consumer demand: consultation period ends 23rd August 2005.
- 11) Letter dated 27th June from Cemex re next meeting of the Liaison Group to be held on 12th July at 7.30pm: enclosing agenda. *Passed to MK*
- 12) Copy letter (dated 28th June and forwarded by Hewitsons) from CCC's Principle Property Solicitor re outstanding queries re Dovecote.
- 13) Letter dated 28th June from the office of the Deputy Prime Minister acknowledging FPC's letter about the possible capping of South Cambridgeshire District Council.
- 14) Letter dated 30th June from CCC Environment and Community Services Department about changes to mobile library routes.
- 15) Letter dated 30th June from Ian Apps with a number of questions for the parish council including progress on the skateboard park, adoption of Edis Way and vandalism in the village.
- 16) Letter dated 30th June from CCC Environment and Community Services Department about its Village Benefits Service: enclosing poster and leaflets.
- 17) Information from CALC including:
 - Bulletin May 2005
 - Form re Independent Internal Auditors (*Passed to BH*)
 - Details of refresher workshop for councillors 29th October
 - Booklet entitled "Pointers to Good Practice – a guide for town and parish councils"
- 18) Information from Cambridgeshire ACRE including:
 - "Harvest" magazine July/August 2005
 - Memo re Local Network Fund (a fund available for children and young people aged 0-19 years with leaflets)
 - Notice of AGM to be held on 8th September at St Ives
- 19) Notice of vacancy for Regional support Officer.

- 20) Leaflet on free countryside events July- December 2005.
- 21) Letter from SCDC enclosing the latest edition of the Arts event guide and a poster advertising a “Celebrating the Classics” concert.
- 22) Local Council Review, July 2005 and Standards Board for England newsletter No.4
- 23) Publicity material from Record Playground Equipment Ltd (equipment for 11-15 year olds) and Burwell Community Print.

Item 10

There was some discussion about this item and the clerk was asked to respond saying that the village wished to retain one cash machine and one red telephone kiosk, with the response copied to Ofcom.

Item 11

Mr Brooksbank agreed to represent the council in the Barrington Liaison Group but said he would be unable to attend the meeting on 12th July. Mr Kennedy agreed to attend this meeting and the letter with the agenda for the meeting was passed to him.

Mr Pusey had received a letter from the Cambridge Water Company offering grants of £250 for village schemes and this was passed to Dr Grindley.

Mr Pusey had also received a Networking East leaflet and this was included in the circulating correspondence.

VISITORS' QUESTIONS

Mr and Mrs Cooke said there were some diseased trees **on the verge near their house** and asked whose responsibility they were.

It was confirmed that they should contact the CCC Highways Department at Whittlesford.

Mr Challis said he appreciated all the work that the council does for the parish and understood that it would be difficult to find someone else to occupy the vacancy. However, he felt that part of the difficulty in finding volunteers to serve on the council might be due to the length of parish council meetings. He said that agenda items should be managed with greater despatch and that discussions often degenerated into mere chitchat.

Mr Apps had written prior to the meeting posing a number of questions:

1. What is the current state of play with the Skateboard Park and have the young people involved in the project been updated?
2. Was there an update on the adoption of Hardman Road and Edis Way?
3. He had noticed graffiti on the surrounding wall at the back of the old school – what was the parish council going to do?
4. In view of increasing levels of vandalism does the parish council still consider the proposed footpath from the High Street to the school to be a sensible move and had the parish council carried out a risk assessment?

Mr Pusey answered as follows:

1. *The Skateboard Park is a big project and the parish council had had to reassess its siting and this had taken time. Following mr Broadley's resignation it had been necessary to transfer the management of the project to the R & A Committee. The young people involved in the project would be updated shortly by means of a newsletter.*
2. *The adoption of Hardman road and Edis Way was a matter between the county council and the developers, Meldire. However, Mr Pusey would raise the issue with County Councillor David McCraith.*
3. *The wall at the school belongs to the county council and is its responsibility. Miss Thake added that the graffiti was a legitimate Art project at the school.*
4. *The footpath had been decided on some considerable time ago and there were no plans to reconsider it.*

Mr Thomas asked about possible vandalism in the area of the proposed new footpath and said there was no view of the area.

Mr Pusey said that it was planned to have another CCTV camera at the school that would cover the area. Mr Barnes indicated that the camera would rotate.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Rob Brooksbank asked if people with responsibility for trees overhanging footways could be asked to cut them back.

Miss Thake said that the main village hall would be painted during the school holidays and that this would necessitate the removal of the table tennis tables etc used hitherto by the Youth Club. She suggested that as the Youth Club has closed for the time being, perhaps other Youth Clubs could be offered the equipment on loan. There was some discussion and it was thought that once the equipment had been lent it would be difficult to recover. Miss Thake said that nobody was currently willing to help with the Youth Club. It was agreed that the village should be warned about the imminent loss of the equipment in the hope that volunteers to run the club might come forward, and Miss Thake agreed to draft an item for "The Laurentian".

Dr Grindley suggested that as the council had a considerable amount of business the production of a Parish Plan be not pursued at this time. Mr Pusey reminded members that it was a requirement that most, if not all, of the plan would be produced by volunteers who were not parish councillors. Given the continuing threat of large-scale development, the village should be consulted. Dr Grindley was asked to publicise the project in "The Laurentian" and invite volunteers for involvement in it.

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

It was confirmed that the next meeting would be held in the Village Hall Meeting Room on **Monday, 1st August 2005 at 7.45 pm.**

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 10.30 pm.