

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF FOXTON PARISH COUNCIL

HELD ON MONDAY, 6th SEPTEMBER 2004, AT 7.00 p.m.

PRESENT

Mr Broadley, Mr Hockley, Mr Blakesley
(*unavoidably late for the start of the meeting*) Mr
Chilton, Mr Kennedy, and nearer 7.45pm Mr Barnes
and Mrs Thake

County Councillor, Professor Milton (at 7.45pm)

IN ATTENDANCE

19 members of the public, rising later to 58

PLANNING

A planning meeting had been arranged to commence at 7pm in order to allow time for full discussion of a proposal that had been received (S/1674/04/O) for outline planning permission for up to 8 houses on the land between Numbers 3 and 11, Mortimers Lane

Mr Hockley opened the meeting, in the absence of Mr Pusey and Mr Blakesley, (Chairman of the Planning Committee) by outlining the concerns regarding this application. These were:

- High density of the development in relation to the rest of Mortimers Lane
- Drainage
- The poor condition of Mortimers lane with potholes and surface water
- Inadequacy of road for the extra traffic that would be generated
- Junction of Mortimers Lane with Fowlmere road is dangerous and on a bend
- The need to ensure that all additional vehicles, including those of visitors can be accommodated within the development and off Mortimers Lane as fire engine access impossible if cars parked there

Mr Hockley said that the council had received several letters from residents (including a joint letter) expressing their concerns, in particular about the density of houses for which permission is being sought. He had also received an e-mail from Mr Pusey that had expressed the concerns outlined above. Mr Broadley had received an e-mail from Mrs Roberts, which he read out to the meeting. This said that she had made enquiries at the SCDC Planning Department and elicited the information that the landowner's agent had given the figure of "up to 8 houses" without any prior discussion with the Planning Department. She understood from Bidwells, the agents, that this would be rectified. A meeting had been arranged to discuss acceptable numbers, but she, personally thought it vital not to ruin the rural nature of the lane by filling the site from front to back. Mrs Roberts thought there should only be lane-front development of the site, with dwellings of a suitable size and style to fit in with the area.

Comments and questions were then invited from the visitors' seats. These follow in italics, with replies in normal type, and included:

Three houses would be more acceptable than eight.

The drainage ditch is at the back of the site not at the front as shown on the plan.

Mr Blakesley said that the government is looking for greater density on new developments. Mr Hockley pointed out that the application is for outline planning permission, and that a more detailed application would need to be made should outline planning consent be given.

The size of the plot was queried.

It was confirmed that this was 0.64 acres and that the maximum number of houses for the plot would be eight.

It should be noted that Mortimers Lane is a "No through" road. There are difficulties with access for fire engines, which have to reverse into the road because they are unable to turn.

Another resident said that her property, which adjoined the site, was a listed building and asked if this would be taken into account.

Mr Blakesley said this would need to be taken into account when the full application was submitted.

The matter of new planning laws regarding social housing was raised.

Mr Blakesley was not sure to what size of plot these referred but thought that it might be possible to acquire some Green Belt land for this purpose

The date of the Planning meeting to discuss the outline planning application was asked for.

It was confirmed that the consultation paper had to be returned by Wednesday, 7th September and that the District Council would be able to supply the date of the meeting.

The full backing of the council was asked for in replying to the District Council's consultation form.

Mr Broadly proposed that the Mortimers Lane residents be supported in their concerns. Mr Hockley seconded the proposal and all were agreed. The wording of the reply was deferred until after the main Parish Council meeting.

The following planning matters were then dealt with in the time remaining and Mr Blakesley reported as follows:

Planning Permission refused:

Mr and Mrs Payne

Application No. S/0579/04/F for a dwelling at rear of 59 Station Road.

Refused on grounds including adverse effect on the visual quality of surrounding countryside, and siting of driveway.

Information had been received that an appeal against this decision had been made to the Secretary of State.

Planning Permission granted:

Mr and Mrs Young	Application No. S/0556/04/F for conversion of garage to sitting room at 48 High Street. Usual conditions.
Ms C Austin	Application No. S/0736/04/F for removal of Condition No 1 of Planning Permission Ref. S/0146/03/F requiring the use of the garage as a hat showroom and office to be discontinued on or before 30 June 2004. Various conditions.
Mr and Mrs T Broadbent	Application No. S/0237/04/F for erection of dwelling following demolition of existing bungalow at orchard End, 31 Shepreth Road. Numerous conditions
Mr and Mrs Collis	Application No. S/0945/04/F for extensions at 54 Station Road. Various conditions.
Mr and Mrs L Wilson	Application No. S/2318/03/O for erection of two bungalows following demolition of existing bungalow at 22 Caxton Lane. Numerous conditions including some relating to vehicles in connection with the necessary works.
Mr and Mrs Pesci	Application No. S/0965/04/F for an extension at 69 Station Road. Usual conditions.
C and F Waltenberg	Application No. S/1063/04/F for boundary fence at 13 Edis Way. Conditions include submission of landscaping scheme.

Certificate of Lawful Existing Use or Development granted to property at 22 Cambridge Road.**Tree applications considered:**

D J Thomas (Villiers Park)	Ref: C/11/17/30 amendment to add removal of a pine tree to works already agreed at Villiers Park. No comment.
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Tree application considered at the meeting:

J D Callin	Ref: C/11/40/30 to cut down two cherry trees and remove root bowls at 8 High Street. No comment.
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Planning applications considered:

J Welch	Application No. S/1367/04/F for the erection of light industrial and storage units at 27 Royston Road. Approve.
Mr and Mrs A Shelford	Application No. S/1588/04/F for garage with study/office over at Beech Tree Farmhouse, Shepreth Road. No recommendation.
Mr and Mrs J McCombie	Application No. S/1621/04/F for an extension at 21 High Street. No recommendation.
Mr J D Callin	Application No. S/1102/99/F, being amended application, for 2 dwellings on land adjacent to 8 High Street. No recommendation.

Mr Broadley then opened the main meeting and continued with planning matters by starting a discussion on the prospect of a new town of 9000 houses near Foxton. This had been suggested as a possibility in the Buchanan Report produced for the East of England Regional Assembly (EERA), previously known as the East of England Local Government Conference (EELGC)

Mr Blakesley said that rumours about a new town had begun two years ago. He said that EERA was now pushing for a lot of building in this area due to proposed expansion at Stansted and the growth in employment. The Buchanan Report indicated the area between Baldock and Cambridge and included mention of the area north of Royston. A criterion for development was that it should be within 5 kilometres of a railway station. Mr Blakesley said that it was clear that unless our views are heard at this stage, Foxton could end up inside a new town. He said that consultation with relevant parties would take place on the Buchanan report, followed by a public consultation. Foxton Parish Council had taken the initiative and invited representatives from ten parish councils along the A10 corridor to discuss the proposals at a meeting on 9th September. However, it was stressed that this was not a public meeting. There would also be a meeting on the 24th September at the SCDC offices at Cambourne. Representatives of affected parishes were invited and Andrew Lansley MP would be in attendance. After this meeting, Foxton PC would be better informed and there should then be a public meeting in Foxton. He said that the overall feeling of the village was against large-scale development.

Catherine Cairns (Countryside Agency) said she had attended the launch of the Buchanan Report and had come away somewhat reassured. She said EERA would be submitting their report to the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (OPDM) in September and an examination in public would be due next summer. Her personal interpretation was that development would not begin until 10-15 years later.

Mr Blakesley said that Stansted already have strong action groups. He said that Foxton PC had learned to be cynical through experience and we still needed to make our voice heard.

Mr Hockley asked about stakeholders in the consultation on the Buchanan Report. Professor Milton pointed out that EERA is an unelected body, and that South Cambridgeshire had had no input.

(In the following discussion comments by members of the public are in italic type)

An Action Group is needed.

Mr Broadley said that funding would be considered at the meeting to be held on 9th September to which representatives of nearby parish councils had been invited and from this a group might be formed. This meeting would be followed by the meeting at Cambourne on 24th September, and then by a public meeting for Foxton residents.

Expertise is needed to fight large-scale development.

Mr Broadley said this is what the council have in mind. Professor Milton warned against suggesting alternative areas.

What is EERA?

Katherine Cairns said that this was an unelected body, previously known as the East of England Government Conference. Mr Blakesley said that the members of EERA were put forward by local authorities according to political representation. As Independents were not allowed, this had led to there being no representative from South Cambridgeshire.

Areas around Stansted have more open country.

Professor Milton said he considered the reasoning for development of the M11 corridor to be a fallacious, as the M11 was intended for commuter traffic and was already overloaded.

Mr Hockley asked whether it could be decided tonight what level of funding the council was prepared to put in the pot. He proposed a sum of £1000. Mr Kennedy seconded the proposal and all were agreed.

A member of the public had made enquiries and had been told not to hire a barrister – a planning consultant was needed. However, there were pitfalls in this approach as planning consultants work for development companies who build towns and this would cause a conflict of interest. Ideally a retired planning consultant was needed.

Mr Hockley said the consultant the council had in mind had no connection with this site.

How many other parish councils have shown an interest?

Mr Broadley said that about ten parish councils had been invited to send representatives to the meeting on 9th September. These were parishes north of Royston and those near the railway line.

A member of the public suggested a Mr Wallace as a consultant.

Another member of the public recalled Andrew Lansley's remark (at the opening of the Community Building/School) that he "would lie down in front of the bulldozers".

The Parish Council meeting then returned to the normal agenda.

APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Mr Pusey Dr Grindley and District Councillor, Mrs Roberts

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

One amendment was needed:

On page 37 under “Correspondence – Item (16), the second sentence should read “Mr Barnes, in his capacity as School Governor thought -----with the Parish Council”.

Mr Broadley proposed that, with this amendment, the Minutes of the previous meeting held on 5th July 2004, should be signed as a true record. Mr Hockley seconded the proposal and all were agreed.

MATTERS ARISING

The Old School Site

Mr Broadley reported that work was progressing. However, there had been a serious spate of vandalism on the site that had been reported to the police. A meeting was due to be arranged with the County Council on the day-to-day running of the school. There would be a further meeting with the District Council about the long-term future of the site.

Road Surface, Hardman Road

The road had now been surfaced, but not yet adopted. The Clerk read out a letter from the CCC Street Lighting Section about the streetlights in Hardman Road/Edis Way saying a snag list had been submitted to the developer. The letter also said that the school access streetlights do not satisfy the County Council lighting specification. As the County Council had acted as agent for the project it was hard to understand why they had supplied lights that did not comply with their own lighting specification.

Code of Practice

Unfortunately it had still not been possible to arrange a meeting and this item would be carried forward.

Letter from Massucco Buttress re Right of Way (7 Edis Way)

Nothing further had been heard.

Any Other Business

(i) Footpath between Hillfield and Rowlands Close

Mrs Roberts had said she would follow this up, but was not present to report.

(ii) Damaged Barrington Road Sign

The clerk had not yet followed this up, but would do so.

Correspondence

Item 1

Dr Grindley was not present to say whether he had been to the Countryside Agency one-day conference on Parish Plans in Cambridgeshire.

Item 5

It was agreed that the Clerk and Mrs Roberts would make further efforts to obtain information about the work area at the side of the railway track just off the Barrington Road where floodlights had been installed.

Item 12

The Clerk confirmed that she had replied to the Flagship Housing Group re a proposed small development of affordable homes giving the name of owner of the site in question.

Item 13

It was noted that the seat donated by Len Cambridge had been installed on the Recreation Ground and the clerk was asked to write a letter of appreciation to Mr Cambridge.

Visitors' Questions - Recreation Ground hedge

Mr Broadley said that Mr Apps had been keeping the hedge alive, but that it needed weeding. There were also weeds appearing in the block-work in the middle of the Community Building car park. The Clerk was asked to contact the school to ask them to deal with this.

Any Other Business

(i) Churchyard maintenance

Mr Boreham (in the visitors' seats) said that the churchyard was cut as often as required and that it cost £70 plus VAT for each cut, with about ten cuts a year. Mr Challis (also in the visitors seats) thought the parish council were fortunate not to have to spend much more than they do presently – in fact they had a bargain.

(ii) Substitute fuels in Cement and Lime Manufacturing - correspondence with the Environment Agency

The Clerk said that Mr Pusey had received an e-mail on this subject, which she had included in the circulating correspondence.

REPORTS FROM THE COMMITTEES

RECREATIONS AND AMENITIES

Mr Chilton reported as follows:

He had received a quotation for the repair of the Bowls club fence for £150. Mr Broadley proposed that the quotation be accepted, Mrs Thake seconded the proposal and all were agreed.

The damaged litterbin had been replaced and the five-bar gate onto the Recreation Ground had been repaired.

The annual letters requesting access to the Recreation Ground had been distributed and some replies had been received.

Mr Ned Bourne had volunteered to maintain the War Memorial and the Clerk was asked to write to thank him and to write also a letter of appreciation to Mrs Barbara Boreham who had maintained the War Memorial previously.

There had been problems with the grass cutting, but after a telephone call making clear the council's dissatisfaction in strong terms, matters had been rectified. The contract for next year had to go out to tender, but Mr Chilton said he needed to verify the areas to be maintained before doing this.

Skateboard Park

Mr Broadley said that Mrs Thake was helping in obtaining estimates for the work of clearing the site and erecting the equipment. Meanwhile, the youths involved in the project were applying for a grant of £1000. It was estimated that the overall cost of the Skateboard Park would be in the region of £20,000.

Finally, Mr Chilton said that vandalism in the Play Area had been cleared up but the telephone kiosk in Fowlmere Road had been vandalised.

FINANCE

Mr Hockley said that he was reviewing the Clerk's hours and duties and had received the new CALC recommendations for pay rates and mileage.

The Clerk said that she had discussed the procedure needed to get the new signatories to the Cambridge Building Society officially accepted and recorded by the Society. They had at first wanted all the signatories to visit the Great Shelford branch together, but had finally agreed that signatories could call in separately, provided they all used the Great Shelford branch, and brought in the requisite proofs of identity. The Clerk passed the relevant document and Pass Book to Mr Hockley.

The Clerk also said she had received a credit from Viking Direct for poor quality envelopes supplied by the firm and she would order some of better quality.

Mr Hockley gave details of the bank accounts as follows:

Current account	£452.69
(This included a payment of £20 from the RGT and the annual SCDC recycling payment for - £381.61 this year)	
Deposit Account	£8443.66
Cambridge Building Society	£7963.78

Mr Hockley proposed that the following cheques be approved:

Playground Management Ltd (annual inspection of Play Area)	£84.01
Glasdon UK Ltd ("Froggo" bin and "Topsy" liner)	£401.05
SCDC (emptying dog bins 1/7/04-30/9/04)	£86.13
Stewart Bullard (grass-cutting July/August)	£906.48

J Pollard (works on Recreation Ground re gate and litterbin)	£246.75
Moore Stephens (audit for year ending 31/3/04)	£141.00
J E Burns (salary August/September)	£415.05
J E Burns (expenses July/August)	£15.92
V W Mead (refuse collection and ground maintenance July/August)	£83.05
Foxton Village Hall Trust (hire of meeting Room 5 and 12 July and Lounge 13 July)	£32.00

Mr Blakesley seconded the motion and all were agreed that these payments, totalling £2411.44 should be made, and that £2009 should be transferred from the Deposit Account to the Current Account.

PLANNING

All planning matters had been dealt with earlier in the meeting.

RECREATION GROUND TRUST REPORT

There had been no meeting of the RGT and no progress had been made on establishing the value of the sinking fund and no progress on Heads of Terms for the allotments and additional land for the Recreation Groun. Richard Hodgson (CCC) had now left his post and there had been no progress in registering the land. Professor Milton was asked to make efforts at County Council to get some progress.

COMMUNITY PROJECT

Mr Broadley said there had was trouble with opening windows and that there had been some water penetration into the building. Mrs Howell (in the visitors' seats) said the replacement water heater had failed and that the meter for the gas supply to the pavilion had never worked. She was getting no response from the County Council about these problems. Professor Milton was asked to chase these matters up.

DOVECOTE/MEADOW PROJECT

Mr Kennedy reported as follows:

The Friends of Foxton Dovecote Group had now received an offer of a grant from The Countryside Agency through the Local Heritage Initiative (LHI).

The grant, totalling £25,000, should meet the bulk of the requirement to fully restore the dovecote to its former condition with a thatched roof and to allow for access to the field.

Mr Kennedy said there were also two other applications for grants from the Village Green Space Fund and the Historic Buildings Grant.

He said the LHI grant was offered subject to certain conditions, which the Parish Council would need to consider. These were as follows:

- 1) The council must have a lease on the land of at least 15 years before it can claim a grant. (*Dudley Pusey was chasing this*)

- 2) The council must also provide educational leaflets and an information board. *(The Friends were working on this)*
- 3) The council must be able to confirm that the other funding is in place, within three months of work commencing, that the other grants have been secured. *(The Friends were working on these grant applications)*
- 4) The council must provide the LHI with copies of the drawings. *(Colin Grindley was working on these)*

Mr Kennedy said that with the initial grant, together with the money already raised and the additional grants applied for, the council was confident that there would be sufficient funds to complete the work.

He said that a public launch day would be held later in the year to promote the work within the village and to acknowledge the grant received from the LHI and the support of their sponsors in Nationwide Bank, The Heritage Lottery Fund and the Countryside Agency. The Friends were preparing a press release for this.

Mr Kennedy then proposed that the Parish Council accept the grant from the Local Heritage Initiative. Mr Hockley seconded the proposal and all were agreed.

Professor Milton said he had received an e-mail from Andrew Rowson, which informed that Andrew Hall had been briefed by Richard Hodgson and would be able to move things forward after his return from holiday on 14th September.

CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk summarised the correspondence received in the past two months, which is given in full below:

- 1) Letter dated 5th July from Rugby Cement advising that the next meeting of the Barrington Liaison group will be held on 14th July: enclosing the agenda and Minutes of the last meeting.
- 2) Letter dated 5th July from Network Rail re damaged gate giving access to Foxton Station from the footpath from High Street: network Rail's maintenance contractor to investigate and take any necessary action.
- 3) Letter dated 14th July from SCDC Development Services Department acknowledging Mr Pusey's letter re Foxton Dovecote/Meadow Project.
- 4) Letter dated 15th July from Cambridge City Council saying that the council's letter addressed to the Labour representative on the East of England Regional Assembly had been opened by the City Council's Manager of Members' Support Services as currently the City Council has no labour appointee. The letter addressed to the Liberal Democrat representative had been forwarded to Councillor Ian Nimmo-Smith.
- 5) Letter dated 23rd July from South Cambridgeshire Community Safety Partnership enclosing a quarterly update newsletter.
- 6) Letter dated 25th July from CCC Environment and Transport Department re streetlights in Hardman Road, Edis Way and the school; access road. The letter states that a snag list has been submitted to the developer and that the

school access road streetlights do not satisfy the County Council road lighting specification.

- 7) Letter dated 28th July from CCC Environment and Transport Department (South Highways Division) re the 2005/6 bidding round for jointly funded minor improvement schemes. *Passed to BH*
- 8) Letter dated 28th July from Mrs Lyons complaining that the grass in Mortimers Lane had not been cut this season.
- 9) Letter dated July 2004 from Cambridgeshire Police Authority saying it is looking into the possibility of including articles from the authority in local parish newsletters. *Details and copy of "The Laurentian" sent by GB.*
- 10) Letter dated 29 July from SCD Environmental Services Department re the provision of plastic recycling banks with details of their location (nearest Melbourn car park).
- 11) Letter dated 3rd August from CCC Environment and Transport Department re the County Council's speed management review Programme.
- 12) Letter dated 6th August from CCC/Peterborough City Council re Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Waste Local Plan, and how to obtain a copy if desired.
- 13) Letter dated 9th August from the SCDC Conservation Manager re milestones in need of repair and refurbishment within Foxton Parish: enclosing information from the Cambridgeshire group of the Milestone Society. *Passed to BH.*
- 14) Letter dated 17th August from SCDC Environmental Services Department re Draft Statement of Licensing Policy (copy to be sent in September) enclosing a list of frequently asked questions.
- 15) Letter (undated) from the SCDC Community Projects Officer re funding support from South Cambs: enclosing update to funding toolkit, invitation to funding fair (8th September) and grant application forms for South Cambs Wildlife Enhancement grants. *Seen by DB*
- 16) Letter (undated) from SCDC enclosing "Healthy Walks" poster (displayed).
- 17) Letter dated 18th August from SCDC re Tenants' Open Day to be held at Sawston on 4th September.
- 18) Letter dated 19th August from Andrew Lansley MP enclosing a copy of his press release issued following publication of the Buchanan Report into transport and development in the London, Stansted, Cambridge and Peterborough area. A meeting will be held at SCDC offices at Cambourne on Friday, 24th September at 7.30pm with representatives of parish councils invited to attend.
- 19) Letter dated 19th August from the office of the Deputy Prime Minister enclosing consultation papers on (1) a draft Code of Conduct for Local Government Employees and (2) A review of restrictions on the political activities of Local Authority Employees and Pay of Political Assistants.

- 20) Letter dated 25th August from Carol Wilson, Community Contact Officer, Sawston Sector Police, informing that she has tendered her resignation owing to uncertainty about the delivery of Community Safety and enclosing a memo on Cam Community.
- 21) Letter dated 30th August from Orwell PC asking for any comments about local experience with Youth shelters and village “Estates Managers”. (*The Clerk to reply*)
- 22) Letter dated 1st September from the SCDC Chief Executive re the Budget consultation Evening to be held at the council’s offices on Wednesday, 22nd September at 7.30pm.
- 23) Letter dated 3rd September from CCC Environment and Transport Department re liaison with the department on changes to bus services etc.
- 24) Letter dated 3rd September from CCC Environment and Transport Department re changes to bus services.
- 25) Information from CALC including:
 - Memo re training for Certificate in Local Council Administration.
 - Details of workshop for new councillors and training session for clerks
 - August Bulletin
 - Agenda for AGM of South Cambridgeshire Association
- 26) Information from Cambridgeshire ACRE including:
 - Invitation to AGM at 2pm, Saturday, 25th September with reply form
 - Memo re celebration of 80 years Community Action and programme of events
 - “Harvest” magazine July/August
 - Information about the Farmers’ Market Toolkit
 - Information re nominations for The Queen’s Award for Voluntary Service
- 27) Sawston Newsletters for July and August 2004.
- 28) “Networking East”, issue 6.
- 29) “The List”, South Cambridgeshire Arts Directory 2003-05.
- 30) “The Event” South Cambridgeshire guide to arts and Entertainment July-October 2004.
- 31) Local Council Review, September 2004.
- 32) Invitation to cheese and wine party to celebrate Springboard, Cambridgeshire’s Toolkit for the Arts, to be held at Sawston VC from 7.00-9.00pm on Wednesday, 22nd September.
- 33) Publicity material from Glasdon.
- 34) Copy of e-mail to Dudley Pusey re substitute fuels protocol consultation– next steps.

VISITORS’ QUESTIONS

Mrs Howell reported that there had been a fire in the cigarette bin outside the Village Hall last Friday evening.

Mr Stevens said that the Bowls Club had already repaired part of the Bowls Club fencing.

Mr Challis said it was pleasing to see the new seat on the Recreation Ground.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mr Broadley thanked everyone for coming to the meeting.

Professor Milton, referring to the completion of the road surface in Hardman Road, said, "All things come to him who waits".

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

It was confirmed that this would be held on **Monday, 4th October 2004 at 7.45pm, in the Village Hall Meeting Room.**

Mr Barnes gave his apologies in advance for this meeting. There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.10pm.