

## **MINUTES OF A MEETING OF FOXTON PARISH COUNCIL**

**HELD ON MONDAY, 4<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2010, AT 7.45 p.m.**

### **PRESENT**

Dr Oakley, Dr Grindley, Mr Allars, Mr Barnes, Mr Bentinck, Mrs Macintyre, Mr Sutton

County Councillor Susan van de Ven

### **IN ATTENDANCE**

2 members of the public

### **APOLOGIES**

Dr McKeown

Dr Oakley welcomed all to the meeting.

### **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

All Parish Councillors have received a dispensation from the SCDC Standards Committee to permit them to discuss, without prejudice, matters concerning Foxton Recreation Ground Trust of which they are all trustees and thus have a personal interest.

There were no other declarations of interest.

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Before continuing with the agenda, Mr Barnes asked the chairman if he could address the meeting. Mr Barnes said that, due to family illness and his interest in the Moore's Farm development he had had to resign his position as chairman of the Planning Committee. Dr Oakley, on behalf of the council thanked Mr Barnes for his contribution in all his years in office as chairman of the Planning Committee.

### **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

No amendments were needed, and Dr Grindley proposed that the Minutes of the previous meeting, held on Monday, 6<sup>th</sup> September 2010, be signed as a true record. Mr Sutton seconded the proposal and all were agreed.

### **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

#### *County Councillor's Report - Localism Bill*

Dr Oakley said that CPALC was also worried about the cost of administration. He also mentioned the CPALC's proposed quality rating scale for parish councils and he had informed CPALC that he felt this to be divisive.

#### *District Councillor's Report – Thriplow recycling centre*

Dr van de Ven said that, although the sale of unwanted items at the centre had been reported as being discontinued, this service would be continued.

### Parking in the High Street

Yellow lines having been rejected for the High Street, polite messages left on inconsiderately parked cars would be the way forward along with publicity for the car park just off Hardman Road

### Village Sign

It was reported that a local resident had kindly offered to make a contribution towards the cost of the sign.

## **COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

Dr van de Ven reported as follows:

### 1. Youth Services

The County Council would almost certainly be cutting all funding to open access youth clubs. The Youth Services team, including the Locality Manager, had now visited Melbourn Youth Club, which is open to the cluster of villages in the locality. Melbourn PC has, in principle, said it wishes to make up the difference in lost support in order to keep the club going. Roughly half the membership of the club (about 40 at present) is from Melbourn with the other half from surrounding villages. The list below is taken from attendance last year to give an idea of the geographic take-up.

Melbourn	19	Barrington	2
Fox ton	3	Heydon	1
Meldreth	3	Shepreth	1
Fowlmere	3	Bassingbourn	1

Dr van de Ven said that parish councils in the area might consider supporting the club financially.

### 2. Services for young parents and children based in Melbourn

Dr Van de Ven said that the local Children's Centre carries out a variety of support services aimed at very young children and parents for the area – mostly based around baby care (breast-feeding clinics, parent support, stay and play, etc). A Toy Library had also recently been started up. She said this was located at Melbourn Village College, near the entrance to McSplash and was open on Mondays and Fridays from 9:30am-12:30pm and was a free service.

### 3. Rail

Thanks to Foxton residents and rail users who took the trouble to fill out the "Customer Comment" form, First Capital Connect (FCC) would be trialling a new ticket screen sometime from January 2011. Dr van de Ven said that the Rail User Group meetings were well attended and that the group had been able to push forward a number of items. She had been contacted by Passenger Focus, the national rail watchdog who would be coming here tomorrow to discuss the group's main concerns; they had asked for feedback concerning information provided by FCC when services were disrupted. Dr van de Ven said it was known that the information screens were not always in good working order and that if anyone would like to get back to her on this matter she would feed the information back to Passenger Focus.

### 4. Mobile Library

Dr van de Ven said the mobile library was continuing to stop at West Hill Road and this was directly due to residents' response to the consultation, and she thanked them very much for taking the trouble to respond.

5. Winter gritting review

Dr van de Ven said the council's gritting map did not include Shepreth Road, and she had complained about this, as she had requested last winter that it be added to the gritting schedule on account of the road being on a bus route. She urged the parish council to write again about this, as it was important to keep up the pressure.

## **DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

There was no report available.

## **REVIEW OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS DECLARATIONS**

The relevant forms were distributed to councillors who amended their forms to bring them up to date so that the clerk could inform the SCDC Monitoring Officer of any changes.

## **PARISH PLAN UPDATE**

Two reports were outstanding; namely, the Police Liaison report and the finalised Planning Report. There had been a meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> September when the items discussed included the shortfall in recreational facilities, car parking near the station and congestion in the High Street.

Dr Grindley said the Planning Committees report for the Parish Plan had been reviewed at its meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> September and additional wording had been proposed regarding the following:

- The identified shortfall in recreation provision of one football pitch and one Astroturf, netted and illuminated, court for 5-a-side football/netball.
- The established need, currently unmet, for a car park near the station.
- Congestion due to parking in the High Street, near the junction with Station Road, could be resolved if residents were encouraged to use the nearby Hardman Road car park, or if some additional parking facilities were provided nearby.
- The fact that surface water drains are at capacity, following the development of Hardwick Road and Edis Way, as evidenced from the resultant flash flooding, during very heavy rain, to parts of the High Street and Fowlmere Road. Remedial drainage work had improved, but not eliminated, this situation.

The committee also considered that a practical proposal was required to meet the identified shortfall in affordable housing, and to seek further guidance and consultation with SCDC on the proposed extension to the conservation area.

### Affordable Housing

The committee met with Mr Darren Blake of Circle Anglia Housing Association on 13<sup>th</sup> September 2010 to discuss the latest affordable housing proposal. After discussion it was concluded that:

1. The layout previously reported to FPC was preferred, but with the amended site boundary now shown, as this would allow for a larger open space and more tree planting.
2. The committee could not support the provisional agreement reached by the vendor of the land requiring Circle Anglia to provide vehicular access/right of way from the affordable development to the vendor's adjoining land, as an existing access was already available for that purpose.
3. The committee would prefer the dwelling design and materials chosen to be more in character with the neighbourhood.
4. A public meeting would be called to consider any resultant planning application.
5. Circle Anglia agreed to amend their proposal for further consultation, prior to submission of a formal planning application.

### Conservation Area

Members of the committee had met David Bevan of SCDC on 13<sup>th</sup> September to review the proposed extension of the conservation area. Following his inspection, Mr Bevan advised that there was a case to extend the conservation area as proposed, subject to a detailed appraisal being prepared and adopted. Examples of the appraisal required had now been forwarded. In the meantime, SCDC had been asked to provide maps to show the whole parish, all of the built up area, and also the existing and proposed conservation areas for inclusion in the parish plan.

It was agreed that Dr Grindley would meet with Mr Allars and Mr Hockley to amend the Planning Report for the Parish Plan.

## **REPORTS FROM THE WORKING PARTIES**

### **RECREATION AND AMENITIES**

Mr Bentinck reported as follows:

#### **1. Grass cutting**

Mr Bentinck said that grass cutting had been carried out today and there would be discussions about any further cuts deemed necessary this year. The wet weather meant that grass cutting had not been very satisfactory recently.

#### **2. Village Warden**

Mr Salmons had submitted two large invoices. These, however, included 7 hours' work connected with the removal of the container to the Recreation Ground extension. He had also stripped and repainted the Station Road bus shelter, repainted the youth shelter, built a ramp for the container in the sports compound, removed a vandalised bench (thought to have been vandalised at

the time of the “Rock on the Rec” event), repaired a loose gatepost and installed a drop bolt fixing to the Sports Compound gate.

### 3. Recreation Ground

Cricket Square: Mr Salmons had received comments that the cricket square was becoming too large. Photographic evidence indicating its previous size could be useful in dealing with this problem. Councillors agreed that the council’s permission should be sought for any actions taken to effect changes on the Recreation Ground.

Play Area: There had been a fund-raising event to help with the cost of improvements to the Play Area. It was reported that there was now no bench in the Play Area.

Fireworks: There had been a request to have a fireworks display on the Recreation Ground but this had had to be refused on advice given to Mr Bentinck when he attended a Health and Safety course.

Training Lights: Mr Welch had very kindly donated £1,000 towards the cost of training lights on the Recreation Ground.

Sports compound: The cricket container had been moved to the Sports compound with Mr Welch’s help. Mr Sutton was thanked for attending this operation and it was noted that no member of the Cricket Club had been present. Richard Barnes had offered to obtain paint for the container.

Mr Welch had offered to provide another large container and Mr Barnes noted Mr Welch’s considerable support for the village over many years. It was agreed that letters of thanks should be sent to all those who had assisted in the removal of the container to the Sports Compound.

Illingworth Way Solar Light: It was reported that this had not been working and it was thought this might be due to the lack of sunlight during the day and that the light’s orientation should probably be changed.

Trees: Mrs Macintyre said that three firms had been asked to quote for the removal of two Horse Chestnut trees plus some dead trees and the remedial work needed on the trees at Vicarage Corner.

#### Other matters:

It was also thought that a set of principals relating to the use of the Recreation ground by the various sports clubs should be laid down and that annual accounts should be submitted together with copies of public liability insurance.

The occupant of the office in the Press building had offered to pay half the cost of a bench at the bus stop.

### **FINANCE**

Mr Sutton gave details of the Bank Accounts as follows:

Deposit Account	£3,339.33
Current Account	£8,180.04

(This included a tax rebate in respect of the formerly held Cambridge Building Society Account of £4.51 and the 2<sup>nd</sup> ½ of the 2010/11 precept in the amount of £8,125)

Standard Life Bank	£30,000.00
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Mr Sutton proposed the following cheques for payment:

Phillimore Garden Centre (materials for wood-staining youth shelter and painting bus stop)	£30.39
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CGM (Cambridge) Ltd (grass cutting September)	£352.50
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D Salmons Fencing Services

V.W. duties, September	247.50
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Painting youth shelter etc	<u>400.00</u>	£647.50
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Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal	£16.50
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A further cheque was required for the payment of the Moore Stephens external audit fee for the council's 2009/10 accounts, but the clerk had omitted to bring the invoice to the meeting. This payment was included in the list of payments to be approved, with the cheque to be signed later by Dr Oakley and Mr Sutton. Dr Grindley seconded the proposal and all were agreed that these payments totalling £1,046.89, should be made and that a sum of £7,100 (less the amount required for the audit fee payment) should be transferred from the Current Account to the Deposit Account.

## **PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT**

Dr Grindley reported as follows:

The committee met on 13<sup>th</sup> September when, besides the matters already covered in the Parish Plan update and some administration, the following planning application was considered:

Mrs Carol Thomas	Application No.S/1105/10 for a front dormer at 57 Station Road No recommendation
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### **Matters reported to the present meeting:**

Planning permission granted:

Mr and Mrs Sinnatamby	Application No. S/0956/10/F for extension to front porch, alterations to garages and erection of conservatory following demolition of the existing.
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Letter from SCDC dated 14.09.2010: for information enclosing the planning appeal form by Amber Homes against the refusal (June 2010) of planning consent to application S/0610/10/F for Plots 5 & 7 Mortimers Lane. (omission of dwelling on plot 5 and single storey extension & new carport with accommodation over).

Letter from CCC dated 27<sup>th</sup> Sept 2010: re pre-hearing meeting and examination on Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Minerals & Waste Plan to be held on 5<sup>th</sup> Oct 2010 at 11am in the Barbican room, Park House, Shire Hall).

Copy letter from Frances Hawken to SCDC Planning: complaining of continued unauthorised access/egress from High Street to the Burlington Press site contrary to the decision to refuse planning permission refs. S/0756/10/F & S/0757/F.

**Tree application considered at the present meeting:**

Mrs J Pepper	Application No. C/11/40/030 to fell a conifer to ground level close to main drain, presenting root problems in the front garden at 15 High Street No comments
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Matters to be referred to the next planning committee meeting:

CCC proposed revision to the local validation list for planning permission (deadline 29.10.2010).

Letter re SCDC & CCC North West Cambridge food store provision (deadline 18.10.2010).

SCDC letter dated 29<sup>th</sup> Sept 2010 re land at rear of 18 Rowlands Close: request by owners to purchase grassed area from SCDC for incorporation in rear garden (deadline 20.10.2010).

**POLICE LIAISON REPORT**

Mr Barnes said that following the Rail Users meeting, Foxton Station, whose ticket machine had suffered a record amount of vandalism, would get a new ticket machine.

**RECREATION GROUND TRUST REPORT**

There was no report from the Recreation Ground Trust.

**DOVCOTE/MEADOW REPORT**

Mrs Macintyre had been given the name of someone with a cutting machine available for hire. It was hoped, however, that Richard Barnes would cut the meadow again the next time a cut was needed.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

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

- 1) Letter dated September 2010 from CCC Children & Young People's Services Department enclosing feedback from the consultation relating to the integration of the council's Connexions and Youth Work functions: formal consultation document to be published on 9<sup>th</sup> September.
- 2) Letter dated 7<sup>th</sup> September from Foxton Football club confirming the accuracy of the reference to the club in the council's briefing note re training lights for the Recreation Ground.

- 3) Letter dated 7<sup>th</sup> September from CGM enclosing a form requesting feedback on the firm's performance. (*Passed to SB*)
- 4) Letter dated 14<sup>th</sup> September from CCC Environmental Services enclosing copy e-mail re the Winter Service Review.
- 5) Letter dated 17<sup>th</sup> September from the Land Registry (Peterborough) re voluntary registration of land and property.
- 6) Letter dated 24<sup>th</sup> September from SCDC Democratic Services Section enclosing the supporting statements for the four nominees for the election of a Parish Council Member to the Standards Committee, and voting slip (to be returned by 22/10/10).
- 7) Letter dated 28<sup>th</sup> September from SCDC Planning and New Communities Department re its IT system: requesting parish representatives to work in a group to improve systems.
- 8) Information from CPALC including:
  - Agenda for AGM to be held on 13<sup>th</sup> November 2010 and copies of accounts for year ending 31/3/10
  - Membership News 2010-11
- 9) Local Council Review, Autumn 2010.
- 10) Cambridgeshire ACRE magazine "Community Action", Autumn 2010.
- 11) CCC magazine "Your Cambridgeshire", Autumn 2010.
- 12) Letter from the Open University enclosing poster.
- 13) Publicity material from Littlethorpe (shelters), Agriplant (agricultural contactors) and Dura-Sport (play mounds).

### **VISITORS' QUESTIONS**

Mr Challis asked Dr van de Ven whether the County Council was likely to act on the suggestion that the Chief Executive's salary be reduced by 10%. He also asked for clarification on the complaints regarding the size of the cricket square.

*Mr Bentinck said that the Village Warden had received five complaints about the present size of the cricket square and had passed them on to him.*

### **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Mr Allars asked what decisions had been taken regarding the parking problems in the High Street. It was confirmed that the council would pursue the course of providing notices directing drivers to park in the gravel car park off Hardman Road. It was agreed that parking issues in the High Street would be an agenda item for the next FPC meeting to decide on a course of action about asking the sports clubs to avoid parking in the High Street when matches are taking place on the Recreation Ground both during and after play.

Dr Grindley asked about the time-scale for the extension of the double yellow lines in Station Road, but this information was not available.

Mr Barnes suggested white lining at the blind corner near the Oast House: this remedy was thought to be effective. Mr Barnes then proposed a letter of thanks be sent to Mr Ridgeon for the repairs carried out to the wall behind the War Memorial and it was agreed the clerk would write.

Mrs Macintyre spoke of the need to tidy up the area of the Recreation Ground where the cricket container used to be so that Mrs Richardson's memorial tree could be planted. She also said a Station Road resident had reported dead trees on the corner of Station Road. This matter was referred to Dr van de Ven. Mr Barnes reported that a Hall Close resident had a van advertised for sale at the side of the A10.

### **DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

It was confirmed that the next meeting would be held on **Monday, 1<sup>st</sup> November 2010 at 7.45pm** in the **Meeting Room** of the **Village Hall**.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.45pm.