

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF FOXTON PARISH COUNCIL

HELD ON MONDAY, 8th JANUARY 2007, AT 7.45 p.m.

PRESENT

Mr Pusey, Mr Hockley, Mr Barnes, Dr Brooksbank,
Mr Chilton, Dr Grindley, Mr Kennedy, Miss Thake

County Councillor David McCraith

District Councillor Mrs Roberts

IN ATTENDANCE

6 members of the public

APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Dr McKeown

Mr Pusey wished everyone a Happy New Year and welcomed all to the meeting.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Dr Brooksbank and Mr Kennedy registered a non-prejudicial interest in the Shepreth Road planning application to be discussed later in the evening and Mr Chilton registered anon-prejudicial interest in the item on ownership of the cluch pit land.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Dr Brooksbank proposed that the Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday, 4th December 2006, be signed as a true record. Mr Hockley seconded the proposal and all were agreed.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Trees in Station Road

Mrs Roberts confirmed that the dead trees had been removed.

Cambridge and Peterborough Minerals and Waste preferred Options Consultation

Mr Pusey said that as councillors' opinions were balanced between those who supported the proposal to site a recycling facility at Hauxton, and those who were against the proposal, the council had not submitted a response.

Dovecote/Meadow Project

Mr Pusey said that he had agreed with the architect that £250 (before VAT) should be retained from the payment due to Carlton E West Builders Ltd to cover the costs of repairing the plaque.

REPORTS FROM THE COMMITTEES

RECREATION AND AMENITIES

Mr Chilton said that it was a quiet time of the year. He would organise a meeting of the Committee to discuss replacements trees for those cleared from the Station Road site and to discuss the siting of the trees offered by the Foxton Gardens Association.

Mr Pusey reported that the council would be extending the grass-cutting contract with Cleanaway (now Veolia) due to the increase in the areas the council was obliged to cut that had come to light. There would be a site meeting to discuss the extension of the contract in the near future. Mr Pusey said that maps issued by the County Council showed an increase in the areas to be cut that had not been reflected in the County Council's contribution to grass-cutting costs. Mr Cooper of CCC South Highways Division disputed this view and Mr Pusey asked for the council's authority to take this matter further. All were agreed that the clerk should liaise with the chairman in writing to Mr Cooper.

FINANCE

Mr Hockley said that a meeting of the Finance Committee would be needed to discuss the precept needed for 2007/08. It was agreed that this should be held on 25th January at 8pm.

Mr Hockley gave details of the bank accounts as follows:

Deposit Account	£22,578.07
(This included interest for the period 4/9/06-3/12/06 of £52.81)	
Current Account	£50.43
Cambridge Building Society	£13,775.16
(This included interest for the six months to December 2006 of £170.48)	

Mr Hockley proposed that the following cheques be approved:

D Salmons Fencing Services (cutting back at Vicarage Corner and work for the Dovecote/Meadow project)	£610.00
Rickwood Displays (information panel & posts)	£419.48
Catherine Cairns (reimbursement for invitations to Dovecote/meadow opening ceremony and educational pack)	£178.69
BTCV (membership renewal)	£35.00
R M Macintyre (reimbursement for compost & refreshments for Dovecote/Meadow opening ceremony)	£54.57
Foxton Village Hall Trust (Hire of Meeting room on 1 & 6 November 2006)	£25.00
Simon Ward Architectural Design (supervisory services re Dovecote)	£634.50
Cambridgeshire ACRE (membership renewal)	£25.00
Lawrence Printers (1000 Dovecote/Meadow booklets)	£1059.00
Allianz Cornhill Insurance plc (additional premium re Dovecote)	£26.75
D Pusey (reimbursement for photograph album re Dovecote/Meadow project)	£15.99

J E Burns (salary December 2006/January 2007)	£567.94
J E Burns (expenses November/December 2006)	£42.99
V W Mead (refuse collection & maintenance, inspection and repairs, December 2006)	£53.62
H M Revenue and customs (tax on JEB/VWM earnings for 3 months to 5/1/07)	£218.86
Digital Copier Systems (toner cartridge for printer/copier)	£75.00

(due to some confusion with the paperwork, the invoice had not yet been sent, but, as the cartridge was supplied in November 2006, approval was sought for the payment so that it could be made before the next FPC meeting)

Carlton E West Building Services Ltd (building costs re Dovecote)	£16,591
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(The invoice was for £16,884.75, but £250 plus VAT was retained to cover repairs to the plaque)

Mr Kennedy seconded the proposal and all were agreed that these payments, totalling £20633.39, should be made and that £20,633 should be transferred from the Deposit Account to the Current Account.

PLANNING

Mr Barnes reported as follows:

Planning Permission granted:

L R Pesci	Application No. S/1915/06/F for an extension at 69 Station Road Usual conditions
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Mr and Mrs G Wilson	Application No. S/1953/06/F for an extension at 24 Barrington Road Usual conditions
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Planning applications considered:

Mr and Mrs Evans	Application No. S/2251/06/F for an extension at 35 West Hill Road No recommendation
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Application considered at the meeting:

Mr and Mrs Broadbent	Application No. S/2345/06/F for a revised scheme for replacement bungalow following demolition of existing dwelling No recommendation
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Tree application;

A C Studd	Application reference C/11/17/030/04 to fell a mature sycamore that has become rotten Recommendation that a suitable replacement tree is planted
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Appeal decisions:

Mr and Mrs J Gray	Application No. S/0239/06/F to change the use of barn to residential use, construction of link, erection of car shed and erection of fences Appeal allowed
Mr and Mrs Gray	Application No. S/0238/06/LB for internal alterations to cottage, conversion of adjacent barn, link to barn, demolition of outbuildings and construction of car shed Appeal allowed

POLICE LIAISON REPORT

Miss Thake had nothing to report.

Mr McCraith said he visited the contact centre, used by the police 0845 number, where a lot of improvements had been made.

RECREATION GROUND TRUST/COMMUNITY BUILDING REPORT**COMMUNITY PROJECT**

Mr Pusey said that there had been a meeting about outstanding issues relating to the Community Building. RGT had replied to (CCC) Martyn Smith's letter and received further correspondence from him. Mr Smith was taking a rather hard line over what CCC would do and was not accepting most claims. Mr Pusey said that Martyn Smith had been informed that, if on inspection of the Velux window and fluorescent tube in the main hall, the problems are due to latent defects, RGT would look to CCC to pay for any work necessary. RGT would reluctantly accept responsibility for some minor problems.

External lighting to the Community Building

Mr Pusey said that Russell Watling had been out to assess whether the external lights were responsible for light pollution in Edis Way and Barons Lane. He had reported back that he was not in a position to say that the lights constituted a statutory nuisance, but that the lighting was out of character. CCC had not taken this on board and had suggested the village pay for trellising and trees to screen the housing from the lights. Martyn Smith's concern was with insurance issues. Mr Pusey said he had invited a CCC Insurance Officer, Mark Greenhall, to inspect the external lighting and carry out a risk assessment on Wednesday. He said it was still the Trust's objective to reduce light pollution and running costs and improve safety.

Mrs Howell (in the visitors' seats) said there was an inaccuracy in Mr Smith's report of 19th December 2006, and asked whether FPC would agree to her addressing this point personally. It was confirmed that Mrs Howell could go ahead, but she was asked to copy the council in when writing to Mr Smith.

Mr Pusey said he hoped to call an RGT meeting later in the month.

Pavilion locks

Dr Grindley was asked to get quotations for replacement locks for the pavilion and for dealing with the water supply to the pavilion. In order to establish whether the locks had failed due to an inherent fault, Dr Brooksbank recommended that Dr McKeown be asked to look at the metal in one of the locks that had been removed. Dr Grindley agreed to contact Dr McKeown.

Dr Grindley said that the ceiling tiles in the pavilion were not clipped in place. In the event of a fire in the pavilion, there was a risk of the fire spreading via the ceiling to other parts of the building. He said it would be helpful if the SCDC Building Regulations Inspector looked at the ceiling to see whether it meets building regulations.

Mr Barnes suggested the inspector looked at the boiler house at the same time, as he thought this should have been fitted with a ceiling. However, it was thought that the pavilion ceiling presented the greater possible risk and to include the boiler house would complicate matters unduly at the present time.

Dr Grindley pointed out that CCC technical officers are not experts in building regulations.

Mrs Roberts said she would speak to the SCDC Building Regulations Officer. Mr Pusey asked her to get back to him before 5pm on Wednesday if at all possible.

RECREATION GROUND TRUST

Mr Pusey said he now had the plans of FPC and Trust land from the County Council and these had been passed to FPC's solicitors to be registered on behalf of FPC and RGT. Now that the RGT had the acreages of land held, the Trust could complete the schedule for the revised Trust Deed. It was hoped to move this forward at the next RGT meeting. *It was agreed that this should be held on Wednesday, 25th January.*

Recreation Ground Extension Committee

Dr Brooksbank reported as follows:

Grant applications

The "Reaching Communities" application was rejected, as Foxton is not a deprived area. The "Awards for All" application was incorrectly returned due to only one bank statement, rather than three statements, having been attached, although the statement sent actually covered the three-month's period required. The application would be re-submitted.

Planning application and Ground works

The land had been cleared by Richard Barnes and it was now the responsibility of the sub-groups to keep their areas clear. He, Dr McKeown and Dr Grindley had taken accurate measurements for the planning application, which were in close agreement with the originals. Dr Brooksbank said that yesterday he and Dr Grindley had also taken ground level measurements at a grid of points covering the banked area. Design statements had been obtained from the Preschool and the Foxton Gardens Association to accompany the planning application.

Jon Cairns was organising a team to peg out the individual allotments on 25th January. Allotment holders would then be able to commence digging over the plots and other non-structural work on the allotments: sheds, fencing etc would have to wait for planning consent.

Allotments

The Foxton Gardens Association had returned the draft Tenancy Agreement following comments from RGT, which had all now been included. The draft Management Agreement could now be sent to the FGA.

Preschool

Dr Brooksbank said he had had verbal confirmation that the Preschool had considered the draft lease, but had yet to receive the group's feedback: he had asked that this be sent to Mr Pusey as Chair of RGT.

Nets

The committee awaited a response from the Cricket Club with its feedback on the draft lease.

Finance

Dr Brooksbank said he was putting together an updated budget to identify any potential shortfall in funds, to which he thought FPC might consider making a contribution.

Committee

Jane Kohler had replaced Richard Lione for the Preschool (*although Dr Brooksbank understood that the position of Preschool representative would be rotated*).

Jon Cairns and Douglas Lorraine were taking over from Jeremy Piper as the representatives for the FGA/Allotment Management Group.

Dr Brooksbank thanked Richard and Jeremy for all their work for the Committee.

DOVECOTE/MEADOW PROJECT

Mr Pusey said that amongst the ideas that had been put forward as a use for the Dovecote, the best was to create a repository for artefacts relating to the village: he recommended that FPC include this proposition in its claim to Local Heritage Initiative.

Mr Pusey also said that the path to the school had become very muddy and that more shingle might need to be laid. Mr Kennedy suggested bark chippings be obtained.

AUTHORITY TO ESTABLISH OWNERSHIP OF THE FORMER CLUNCH PIT OFF FOWLMERE ROAD

Mr Pusey said that there had been a request some time ago to increase the number of village footpaths and that a village footpath development plan was needed. One possibility was a footpath between Foxton Wood and Fowlmere Road. Before a footpath on this route could be developed, it would be necessary to establish ownership of the land concerned.

Mr Barnes said that FPC owned the land. The County Council was responsible for the rubbish pit and there was an agreement with Mr Salmons to maintain the land.

Mr Challis (in the visitors' seats said he remembered an arrangement between FPC and Mr Salmons whereby Mr Salmons could close his gate. It was thought the agreement was made in the late 80's or early 90's and the clerk was asked to check the Minutes.

CORRESPONDENCE

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

- 1) Letter dated 4th December from CCC Head of Network Management re temporary signs for community or charity events. *(The clerk was asked to copy this several times for Mrs Howell to distribute to relevant groups)*
- 2) Letter dated 4th December from Cambridgeshire ACRE outlining the support available from the organisation for village groups, projects and Parish Plans: enclosing leaflet.
- 3) Letter dated 12th December from Jim Fitzpatrick MP, Minister for Employment Relations and Postal Services, responding to the council's letter re the preservation of rural post offices.
- 4) Letter dated 12th December from CCC Head of Strategic Planning re CCC's Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) - in the preparation and development of the Minerals and Waste Development Plan - and giving notice of the publication of the Inspector's Report and the adopted SCI: enclosing a copy of the Adoption Statement.
- 5) Letter dated 13th December from Mike Cooper (CCC South Highways Division) responding to the council's letter re grass verge cutting in Foxton for the 2007 season and the County Council's financial contribution.
- 6) Letter dated 14th December from CCC Chief Financial Officer re the 2007 parish precept.
- 7) Letter dated 14th December from SCDC Head of Planning acknowledging the council's response to the Gypsy and Traveller Development Plan document.
- 8) Letter dated 21st December from the CCC chief Executive enclosing leaflets on the County Council's budget for 2007/08 and listing venues at libraries where the options can be discussed with leading councillors (nearest Cambridge, Milton Road library 10am - 2 noon).
- 9) Letter received late December from GO-East re proposed changes to the East of England Plan: enclosing response form and a CD Rom.
- 10) Letter dated 1st January 2007 from CPRE re Planning Applications Workshop to be held on 17th March in Holme.
- 11) Copy letter dated 3rd January 2007 from Andrew Lansley MP to Yvette Cooper MP, Minister for Housing and Planning re the shortage of affordable housing

in South Cambridgeshire and the fact that the area is losing some £10 million from their Housing Revenue Account and Housing Capital Receipts.

- 12) Letter dated 3rd January re proposed changes to the East of England Plan.
- 13) Request for a donation from Victim Support.
- 14) Information sheet from “Living Sport” (a new organisation) including questionnaire.
- 15) COPE newsletter, January 2007.
- 16) CCC publication “Inside Trade” (Cambridgeshire Trading Standards Service Newsletter).
- 17) Local Council Review, January 2007 (including booking form for NALC conference on Tuesday 13th February 2007.
- 18) Letter (dated December 2006) from CCC enclosing leaflet on winter gritting and snow clearing
- 19) “Community Action”, Winter 2006, the magazine of Cambridgeshire ACRE.
- 20) “Clerks and Councils Direct” magazine, January 2007 with suppliers yearbook.
- 21) Publicity material from Anglian Playground Services, SMP Playgrounds and Glasdon.

The clerk also reported having received from Mr Nutcombe a copy letter to the Bowls Club from SCDC re amendments to the legislation for the Small Business Rate Relief Scheme coming into effect from 1st April 2007. Council advice to Mr Nutcombe (in the visitors’ seats) was that all he needed to do was to fill in the application form for relief and it was all but certain the club would be granted relief from business charges.

Mrs Roberts referred to the letter received last month from SCDC on mutual exchanges and S106 restrictions. She said that it was non-applicable to the majority of housing stock, but that in the case of the Caxton Lane houses there was a proviso in place that tenants should either live in the village or have a connection with it. Mrs Roberts had told SCDC officers that the possibility of not adhering to such provisos would cause consternation. She said she would encourage FPC to write to the District Council to object to the proviso not being honoured - several other councils had written in the same vein. Mrs Roberts said the point should be made that the occupants of the cottages receive a special benefit in being able to live in a village that was either where they lived before taking up the tenancy, or with which they had a connection, and it thus behoved them to pass on this benefit when they wished to move. It was agreed that the clerk would liaise with the chairman in writing to SCDC.

VISITORS’ QUESTIONS

Mr Challis asked whether there was anything to report about the provision of car parking at the station.

Mr McCraith said he had nothing further to report.

Mr Challis then asked what rental would be charged to allotment holders.

Dr Brooksbank said this was a matter for the allotment committee.

Finally, Mr Challis commented that last May or June, the County Council had had a purge on businesses putting up advertising notices. This had adversely affected a Harston man selling asparagus, but now there was a plethora of signs near the level crossing advertising a car-wash facility.

Mrs Roberts said that the planning officers were aware of the situation at the level crossing and enforcement officers had visited the site. The matter was also being reported to the County Council Highways Department. In her view, a planning application would be needed to operate the car wash and the CCC Highways Department might have concerns about traffic issues due to the proximity of the site to the level crossing. If the council received a serious complaint, it might have to issue a stop notice.

Mr Barnes expressed concern that there might be contamination of the water table. Mrs Roberts said she would see the SCDC Environmental Health Officer about this concern.

Mr Bernard Miller of 16 Cambridge Road said that the lay-by on the opposite side of the A10 was becoming a night-stop for trucks with refrigerator or heating units running continuously, and asked whether anything could be done. The trucks appeared to be en route for Barrington cement works

Mr McCraith was asked to follow this up. Dr Brooksbank said he would be attending a liaison meeting at the cement works and would mention the matter. Miss Thake said that the trucks would be carrying clinker, which was no longer transported by rail to the works.

Mr Miller said that Mrs Roberts had been asked at the December meeting whether the garage on the A10 at Foxton should be selling cars and that the view had been that as not many cars were for sale it wasn't worth making it an issue. He asked how many cars for sale would be too many and pointed out that the number for sale was increasing.

Mrs Roberts said that she would see the planning officer involved with this site again.

Mrs Howell said she was delighted to be able to use the short-cut through the dovecote meadow to the school. Unfortunately she was beginning to see dog excreta and litter in the field and suggested the provision of a dog-litter bin and also possibly a litterbin.

It was agreed that a sign should be erected asking dog-owners to keep their dogs on the lead when walking through the field.

Mr Salmons said that a dog owned by a West Hill Road resident had attacked a muntjac.

Mrs Roberts said that although SCDC no longer had a Dog Warden, she would make enquiries at the district council.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mr Barnes observed that Vic Spice was grazing sheep on his field, but it was confirmed that the sheep had been removed.

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

It was confirmed that the next meeting would be held on **Monday, 5th February 2007** at **7.45pm** in the **Meeting Room** of the **Village Hall**.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 10.10pm.