

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

**HELD ON MONDAY, 3<sup>rd</sup> NOVEMBER 2008, AT 7.45 p.m.**

### **PRESENT**

Dr Oakley, Mr Allars, Mr Barnes, Mr Bentinck, Mrs Macintyre, Dr McKeown,

County Councillor David McCraith

### **IN ATTENDANCE**

7 members of the public

### **APOLOGIES**

Dr Grindley

Dr Oakley welcomed all to the meeting, in particular Mr Sutton (in the visitors' seats), who would hopefully be joining the council at the next meeting, once the period before co-option could take place had expired.

### **DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations.

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

As no amendments were necessary, Dr Oakley proposed that the Minutes of the previous meeting, held on 6<sup>th</sup> October 2008, be signed as a true record. Dr McKeown seconded the proposal and all were agreed.

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

#### *Recreation and Amenities Working Party Report*

#### *Item 5 re request to Football Club to provide a stop net during matches*

The Football Club had been asked to erect a stop net during matches in order to prevent balls being kicked into the gardens of properties backing onto the Recreation Ground. Dr Oakley read out a letter that the Football Club had written in response to this request, which pointed out some of the difficulties about the proposal including safety aspects. It was agreed that the matter would need to be considered further.

#### *Dovecote/Meadow Report*

The clerk had been asked to write to the residents of one of the properties adjoining the meadow where the occupants had been depositing rubbish in the field. However, the number of the property she had been given did not exist. Mrs Macintyre agreed to investigate this matter.

## **PARISH PLAN**

Mr Allars reported that the steering group would hold a meeting on Thursday, 6<sup>th</sup> November. A competition had been held at the school to provide illustrations for the front and back covers of the Parish Plan and the winners would be decided at the meeting on Thursday.

## **YOUTH SHELTER**

Mr Bentinck reported that he had received several quotations for the shelter for amounts between two and seven thousand pounds. Unfortunately one quotation was still awaited so a decision could not be taken at the present meeting: one of the quotations, although expensive, was to an impressively high specification.

## **REPORTS FROM THE WORKING PARTIES**

### **RECREATION AND AMENITIES**

Mr Bentinck said the group had met on Monday, 3<sup>rd</sup> November when the following matters had been considered:

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

Mr Bentinck had telephoned Mr Hood at Veolia. The firm had now finished the 2008 season of grass cutting and the contract was therefore at an end. Mr Hood claimed that the firm had added a 9<sup>th</sup> cut in the village free of charge. Veolia's invoice should be with the clerk in mid November. The working party completed the maps showing revised areas for cutting and at frequency of cuts. Invitations to tender would be sent out in November to Herald Contracts, MD Landscapes and Buchans. David Salmons and Matt Grey might also be invited to quote, provided adequate Liability Insurance could be demonstrated.

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

The wooden slats on the bench near the hard court had been replaced. The bench by the fence at the corner of Edis Way and the Recreation Ground had been vandalised once more and Mr Salmons would be repairing this. The groundwork for the Bike Track had not been done in October as had been hoped, but Mr Bentinck had been assured by Mr Salmons that it would be done in November. Another bin next to the aforementioned bench would cost £227.06 plus VAT, plus £50 installation. A larger (60 litre) green dog bin at the entrance from Illingworth Way to the Recreation Ground would cost £236.35 plus VAT. Another dog bin at the Shepreth end of the village would cost £119.47 plus VAT, with a labour cost of £50 including moving the smaller existing dog bin to the Dovecote field. *Mr Bentinck proposed approval for the foregoing expenditure. Dr Oakley seconded the proposal and all were agreed.*

#### **3. Trees**

Mr Bentinck had been told that the new owners of the Corley's house would come to the council meeting to discuss the Oak Tree at the entrance to Hall Close.

#### 4. **RoSPA report / Play area**

The group planned to get a costing for a new piece of equipment for the Play Area.

#### 5. **Access to Recreation Ground letter**

There was nothing further to report about the one outstanding failure to respond to the council's letter about seeking permission for access to the Recreation Ground.

#### 6. **Youth Shelter**

Quotations received so far were:

- Melbourn Building and Fencing Supplies: 3 x 3m hexagonal Gazebo, supplied and installed in pressure treated tannelised wood with 4in x 5in posts, bench 2ft 6in from the ground and slatted wood roof, £1,922 plus £600 for concrete base (including VAT)
- Chart Stables: Kent 3m x 3m square gazebo with 900mm bench, £2,435 (plus VAT) delivered and erected
- Schoolscapes: 3 x 3m hexagonal, comprehensive quotation supplied and circulated by e-mail
- Rekk: steel Youth Shelter, covered tunnel to seat 12, £5,499 (plus VAT) plus delivery £399

### **FINANCE**

Dr Oakley gave details of the Bank Accounts as follows:

Deposit Account	£23,732.54
Current Account	£54.70
Cambridge Building Society (this included interest for the six months to 30 <sup>th</sup> June 2008 of £210.50)	£14,606.19

Dr Oakley proposed the following cheques for payment:

Foxton Colts (contribution from FPC)	£200.00
The Wildlife Trust (contribution to 1-day habitat management at Foxton Meadow 14/5 and 24/9)	£200.00
Shelford Turf Farm Ltd (2 bags of grass seed)	£81.40
Foxton VHT (hire of Meeting Room on 7/9/08)	£13.50
Telopea Garden Design (scything Dovecote Field)	£100.00
D Salmons Fencing Services (Village Warden duties, October and repair)	£348.00
J E Burns (salary October and November)	£594.84
J E Burns (expenses September and October)	£61.08
HMRC (tax on J E B' salary for 3 months to 5/10)	£141.20
Digital Copier Systems (Eastern) Ltd	£99.88

Mr Allars seconded the proposal and all were agreed that these payments, totalling £1,839.90, should be made and that £1,840 should be transferred from the Deposit Account to the Current Account.

### **REPORT OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE**

Mr Barnes reported as follows:

#### **Planning permission granted:**

Mr P Lloyd	Application No. S/1393/08/LB to install flexible stainless steel flue liner in sitting room hearth at Home Farm, 2, The Green Various conditions
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#### **Approval of Reserved matters:**

Mr and Mrs Shelford	Application No. S/1452/08/RM for the approval of siting, design, external appearance, access and landscaping of replacement dwelling approved under planning permission S/1668/05/O Four conditions
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A letter had been received from SCDC Planning Services re its public consultation on the South Cambridgeshire Local Development Framework site-specific policies development plan document responding to a housing shortfall. The council agreed that this matter should be referred to the Planning Committee to consider at its next meeting.

Dr Oakley reported having received an e-mail from Mrs Roberts indicating that the district council would be instituting enforcement action in the matter of the former Q8 garage.

### **POLICE LIAISON REPORT**

Mr Barnes said that he had attended a meeting of the local police liaison panel at which it was reported there had been a total of only 10 offences in the previous quarter in Foxton and Fowlmere compared with 23 in the same period the previous year. Anti-social incidents were reported to be low. Of the villages where speed checks were to be carried out, Foxton, Shepreth and Fowlmere had not yet been visited.

Mr Barnes said there had been an attempted break-in at Cromwell Cottages in Fowlmere Road.

Finally, Mr Barnes said that the police had warned that the offers of free insulation were leading to some people using this as an excuse to examine people's property with a view to later break-ins. It was important that callers about free insulation should have proper identification and uniforms.

Mr McCraith said that he was glad to hear of the low crime level in Foxton and said the police had given an excellent warning about people purporting to provide free insulation and said there were quite a lot of these sorts of confidence tricks.

Mr Bentinck said that one Foxton resident had had both the front and back of his house badly egged at Halloween.

### **RECREATION GROUND TRUST (RGT) REPORT**

The Recreation Ground Trustees met on 15<sup>th</sup> October with five Trustees present.

The Meeting noted with satisfaction the completion of the lease to the Foxton Pre-school and the receipt of cash for the first year's rent.

It was, however, saddened that the Foxton Cricket Club (FCC) had failed to sign the lease sent to them in May, and on seeking a status report from the Club found that it was not happy about an easing of the condition regarding the requirement to attach the specification of works to the lease. The Meeting asked the Trust Correspondent (*Dr McKeown*) to write to FCC in an attempt to clear up any misunderstanding on the intent of the clause, and to offer a period until December 31 for discussion and completion of the signing. A letter was sent but to date nothing had been heard from the club.

The Meeting also considered that the application for planning permission for the Groundsman's Compound and the Football Club training lights should go ahead based on Colin Grindley's earlier drawings of positioning. After the Meeting Dr Grindley, who had been unable to attend the Meeting, confirmed that he had received input from both the Football and Cricket Clubs and that his plan reflected an agreed position.

Mr Bentinck reported that a meeting of the Recreation and Amenities Group was planned for 22<sup>nd</sup> October when the positioning and supply of a Youth Shelter would be discussed.

Dr McKeown commented that, although Dr Grindley had reported the conclusion of valuation of Council and Trust held land, he had yet to receive any communication from Hewitsons on the completion of Land Registration.

The Village Hall Trust (VHT) had submitted a written report, which was discussed by the Trustees. A quotation for the repair of the Hall gable-end windows was accepted provided the contractor could complete the work within the half-term period. Agreement was reached with the school on this approach and with the RGT, and not the school, bearing responsibility for the contractor. It transpired that the windows were in a worse state than had been believed and the RGT agreed with the contractor that they should be boarded over. This would be completed by weekend working to avoid workmen being on the school premises when children were present.

The VHT also raised its concern over the management of the pavilion and the future of the Foxton Sports Clubs Association. An informal meeting was arranged to discuss possibilities.

Nigel Oakley reported that the Trust's funds had been withdrawn from Guernsey prior to the banking crisis and were now held in UK Building Societies and a major UK Clearing Bank. A declaration for renewal of insurance was discussed and the Trust Correspondent was asked to complete it and renew with the existing insurer - This had been completed.

## **DOVECOTE/MEADOW PROJECT**

It was confirmed that Mr Cairns had completed the mowing and raking of the Dovecote Meadow.

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

- 1) Letter dated 28<sup>th</sup> September from the Chair of South Cambridgeshire Local Strategic Partnership inviting an FPC representative to attend an early evening event that will be exploring the role of parish councils in shaping and delivering the Cambridgeshire Local Area Agreement and Local Strategic Partnership's Sustainable Community Strategy. This event will be held at the SCDC offices between 5pm and 7pm on 19<sup>th</sup> November: agenda and reply slip enclosed. *Passed to GB*
- 2) Letter dated 9<sup>th</sup> October from the Government Department for Communities and Local Government enclosing a consultation document entitled "Communities in Control: Real people, real power, Codes for Conduct for Local Authority members and employees".
- 3) Information from CPALC including:
  - Agenda for AGM on 6<sup>th</sup> December plus booking form
  - Draft Accounts for year ending 31/3/08
- 4) Information from Cambridgeshire ACRE including:
  - Annual Review 2007/08
- 5) Invitation from The Rural Housing Trust to attend an open house presentation on an innovative scheme of affordable housing at Leaden Roding on 14<sup>th</sup> November
- 6) Local Council Review, November, together with booking form for NALC larger Councils' Conference.
- 7) CCC Trading Standards newsletter, Autumn 2008
- 8) COPE newsletter, October 2008.
- 9) Highways Agency (Area 8) "Stakeholder News", September 2008.
- 10) Copies of Business Link poster "Start your own Business".
- 11) Publicity material from Barcham Trees, BTCV (garden requisites) (*passed to RM*), Shaws (council stationery and books), Wicksteed (play equipment) and Property Week (property publication).

## **VISITORS' QUESTIONS**

Mr Challis said that he had noticed boys hanging round the Village Hall that evening and that a shelter where they could congregate would be a good thing. He asked what the difficulties with the sports pavilion were.

*Dr Oakley said there was a long list of problems, some of which should have been dealt with as snagging issues after the completion of the building but were now being undertaken by the Recreation Ground Trust. The Referee's Room had been unusable when Harston Surgery carried out its flu' jab operation in the pavilion due to the low standard of cleaning. As there had been arguments about who was responsible for cleaning, it had been decided that someone would be employed to look after the facilities.*

Mr Boreham said that he was pleased to see that work had been carried out on the footway in the High Street. However, a bad puddle of water developed on the pavement outside the shop during heavy rainfall.

*The clerk was asked to contact CCC Highways Department about this and about the poor drainage in the road outside the Village Shop.*

Mr Warren said that the Oak tree at the entrance to Hall Close, although a beautiful tree, presented a hazard due to the possibility of rotten branches falling.

*Mr Barnes said that the council was trying to arrange for pruning to be carried out and had been hoping to obtain a grant from the District Council towards the cost of the necessary work. Mr McCraith said that the safety aspects should be emphasised. Dr Oakley said this was a matter of urgency and Mr Barnes agreed to reinforce this view to the District Council.*

Mr Sutton said that the some objections had been raised about the possibility of a kicking panel for the proposed Youth Shelter. He also said that he was pleased that a dog litterbin would be placed in Shepreth Road.

*It was confirmed that this would be sited on The Green.*

Mr Sutton also agreed that discussions should continue about stop netting for Football matches with the aim of reaching an amicable solution.

### **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Mr Bentinck said that he had spent a great deal of time over the proposed Youth Shelter. Dr Oakley thanked Mr Bentinck for all his efforts, which were much appreciated.

Mr Barnes said thanks were due to Dr McKeown and the contractor for alerting both him and the school to the delay in the work on the Village Hall gable repairs.

Mr Allars said that apropos the mini questionnaire about desired facilities in the village, he suggested that people interested in the same activity could be put in touch with each other and invited to get together to try to organise something. He suggested that the council might pay the cost of the inaugural meetings of such groups. All were agreed.

Dr McKeown said that Jon Cairns, acting on behalf of the allotment holders was aiming to clear the edges of the site and plant hedging as required under the terms of the planning consent.

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

It was confirmed that this would be held on **Monday, 1<sup>st</sup> December 2008 at 7.45pm** in the **Village Hall Meeting Room**.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.55pm.