

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF FOXTON PARISH COUNCIL

HELD ON MONDAY, 7th NOVEMBER 2011 AT 7.45 p.m.

PRESENT

Dr Oakley, Dr Grindley, Mr Bore, Mr Barnes, Mr Elliott, Mrs Macintyre, Mrs McFadzean and Mr Sutton

County Councillor Susan van de Ven

IN ATTENDANCE

5 members of the public

APOLOGIES

District Councillor Deborah Roberts, Mr Mc Creery

Dr Oakley opened the meeting by saying it was his sad duty to report the news of the death of John Callin. He said that John had served with distinction for many years on the parish council and had played a major part in the complex negotiations associated with the development of the Community Building.

Mr Bore also paid tribute to John Callin and said that he recalled the meeting with the County Council when John suggested that Foxton might be in line for some "overage" funds resulting from the completion of the Community Project. This had resulted in a £400,000 pot for the Recreation Ground Trust, which provided funds for running the Village Hall.

Mr Sutton remarked that Mr Callin had done all the detailed calculations necessary for the running of this sinking fund.

Mr Barnes said that Mr Callin had also served on the old Village Hall Committee and Dr Grindley mentioned the dealings he had had with him on behalf of the parish council.

Sympathies were extended to Barbara Callin and family. Dr Oakley said that a memorial service would be held at St Laurence Church on Thursday, 10th November at 3pm.

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.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

One amendment was needed:

On page 49 under “Any Other Business”, the following sentence needed to be added at the end of this section - “He had agreed to submit monthly invoices to the sports clubs.”

Dr Oakley proposed that with this amendment the Minutes of the previous Meeting, held on Monday, 3rd October be signed as a true record. Mrs Macintyre seconded the proposal and all were agreed.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Any Other Business – Training Lights

Dr Grindley said his estimate of the electricity that would be used by the sports clubs and a sum for maintenance would result in charges for the clubs as follows:

Adult clubs	£30 per month for seven months
Junior club	£60 per month for seven months

The clerk was asked to liaise with Dr Grindley in writing to the sports clubs to notify them of these charges.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR’S REPORT

1. Drainage in Fowlmere Road and the High Street

Dr van de Ven had arranged to do a drainage check with Mike Cooper (CCC) the next day. Mr Cooper had confirmed that general maintenance work to ensure drains are clear would be on his team’s current list. She and Mr Cooper would look specifically at the junction of Fowlmere Road and High Street where pooling/flooding had been a problem following heavy rainfall.

2. Melbourn Parish Council Community Hub

Melbourn Parish Council had voted unanimously to support the creation of a Community Hub in a High Street location, as part of a redevelopment of the Old Police site for social housing. The hub would house the current Library Access Point, which she said was excellent news, since the library’s current premises must be vacated in the near future. The possibility of a Citizens’ Advice Bureau presence was also being explored. Dr van de Ven said that both of these amenities should be useful to Foxton residents.

3. Highways Parish Warden Open Day

Dr van de Ven said she would be attending the training day on November 16 and asked for people to let her know if they would like to come along. She said she was concerned that some parish councils hadn’t had any communication from CCC about this.

4. Area Joint Transport Management Committee

Dr Van de Ven said that a new decision-making process would be coming into force to replace the above committee. Up to £50K would be available district-wide; parish bids for small projects costing no more that £10K (of which the parish council would

be asked to pay 10%) could be made annually. She said the first round of bids must be received by the end of November 2011. Consideration of bids would be made by a small group of county councillors supported by officer advice. Dr van de Ven said she would forward the details to the clerk under separate cover. She expected that bids received in early December would, in fact, be acceptable and asked to keep her posted so that she could support the parish council if it made a bid.

5. “Cambridgeshire Future Transport” Project

Those involved in this project were proposing to run three pilot schemes, including two in South Cambridgeshire, offering franchises for small scale local transport which would include a minibus provided by the county, to be underwritten by the taxpayer, with no research base at all on transport needs. Dr van de Ven said that the bottom line was that Community Transport schemes, which were already well established, were being starved of financial support, while a new transport scheme lacking a business case was being promoted and underwritten at taxpayers’ expense.

6. Foxton Level Crossing

Dr van de Ven said she would be meeting Network Rail and CCC representatives on site next week to look at the mechanics of the pedestrian gates. The gates were now working and Network Rail was keeping an extra set of spare parts on site, which she said was fine, but not really a long-term solution, particularly in view of the anecdotal evidence of serious safety issues even when the gates are in proper working order. Dr van de Ven said she thought it was time formally to promote a pedestrian bridge.

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR’S REPORT

Although Mrs Roberts was not present to give a report, she had notified the council that she was “on the case” regarding the former Q8 garage.

PARISH PLAN UPDATE

Mr Hockley (in the visitors’ seats) asked whether there were any items outstanding for inclusion in the Parish Plan. The next moves would be to finalise the draft Plan followed by publication and the arrangement of a public meeting to publicise the Plan.

Dr Allars said that a rough estimate of printing costs would be £600.

It was suggested that the clerk might be involved in proof-reading the Plan before printing.

REPORTS FROM THE WORKING PARTIES

RECREATION AND AMENITIES

Mrs Macintyre reported as follows:

1. Recreation Ground

The picnic table in the play area had been vandalised. It had now been repaired although, in due course, it would need to be replaced.

Following on from comments made at the last FPC meeting, an on-site discussion took place with the concerned residents of Illingworth Way. The trees cleared from

the back boundary were either dead, dangerous or suckers. *Some further planting might be carried out.*

2. Grass

Details of the village grass cutting requirements had been sent to five contractors for quotations. The clerk had already received a quotation from CGM, which she would pass to Mr McCreery.

3. Sports Clubs

The Football Club had been successful with their grant application for moveable goalposts and the new posts should arrive in about a month.

4. Seating for the Bus Shelter

Delivery of the seat was still awaited. Mr Sutton gave brief details of the problem being encountered with the supplier, Shelterstore. *The decision was made to stay with Shelterstore rather than switching to an alternative, more expensive supplier.*

5. Play Area Improvement Group

The Grant Application to the AmeyCespa Community Fund had passed the first hurdle and further information would be supplied to them for the next stage in the Grant Application.

6. Dovecote Meadow

The new refuse bin had been installed and David Salmons had also replaced a gatepost and laid the non-slip matting at the entrance to the meadow.

7. Foxton Woods

There had been a further instance of rubbish being dumped in the woods, which had now been removed.

County Farms (Cambridge County Council) had been requested to repair the badly damaged fencing on two sides of the South East plantation. The fencing of the South West plantation was in reasonable condition and only minor repairs would be required.

There was some discussion about the last item including the question of the money available for the upkeep of Foxton Woods and it was thought a meeting with county Farms would be helpful. Dr van de Ven said she would investigate the situation and then set up a meeting with Mrs Macintyre, Dr Grindley and Mr McCreery all involved.

Mr Barnes reported that he had been advised by the Head Teacher at Foxton School that graffiti had appeared on the youth shelter and in other areas of the Recreation Ground. As a result of her investigation, it was determined that it was done by two children not at Foxton School.

FINANCE

Mr Sutton gave details of the bank accounts as follows:

Deposit Account	£18,931.96
(This included interest for the period 6/4-4/9 of £1.24)	

Correspondence:

A letter had been received from Gary Duthie, SCDC Senior Lawyer regarding the new access at the Burlington Press site onto the High Street. Mr Duthie considered the Oxford Dictionary definition cited by the Parish Council to be selective, and claimed instead that a Penguin Thesaurus definition of “required” (including alternatives of “want” or “desire”) was justification for their granting of permission for the new Burlington Press access. The SCDC response once more completely ignored the question of why permission was granted when there had not been an application for this development, and refused to seek counsel’s opinion on the points raised by the parish council and suggested that the parish council should do this and share the outcome with SCDC or seek a judicial review.

The committee felt that the response received was unacceptable, but as the correspondence had gone on long enough, other avenues should now be pursued. The clerk had spoken to CPALC for advice, and would obtain a copy of the SCDC complaints procedure and a summary report would be prepared for further advice from CPALC.

Applications considered at the present meeting:

Mr Pepper	Application No. S/2020/11 for an extension at the rear of 56 Station Road
Mr Willis	Application No. S/2021/11 for an extension at the rear of 58 Station Road

These applications showed a single extension to the rear of two semi-detached dwellings, providing separate extended living space for both houses.

The two householders had worked together and used the same agent to design these extensions, which the committee recommended for approval, subject to the new side elevation first floor windows/roof lights overlooking the neighbouring properties being glazed in obscured glass. The plans were displayed for councillors to examine and the committee’s recommendation for the response accepted.

Consultations:

Two planning consultation documents had been issued by Government, which required a Parish Council response. These were:

- Neighbourhood planning regulations (consultation period 13/10/11-5 /1/12)
- Community Infrastructure Levy (consultation period 10/10/11-30/12/11)

The Planning Committee proposed that it should prepare responses for consideration at the next meeting of the Parish Council. *All were agreed.*

Former application:

An application had been submitted to SCDC for an extension of the time limit for the start of the development at Moores Farm. The Parish Council had not been advised of the outcome. *The clerk was asked to request a copy of the SCDC decision notice.*

POLICE LIAISON REPORT

Mr Barnes reported that, since his last report, there had been a burglary in Caxton Lane and an incident of violent crime in Station Road. Three parking tickets had been issued in respect of vehicles parked in Hall Close and the British Transport Police had given several warnings to drivers jumping the lights at the level crossing. An accident in the vicinity of the station, when two people had needed hospital treatment was still being investigated.

A bus had mounted the supporting plinth beneath the War Memorial (due to a badly parked vehicle) causing damage to the brickwork. The clerk was asked to follow this up with the bus company's insurer.

RECREATION GROUND TRUST REPORT

There was no formal report but Mr Sutton said that he would now be able to finalise the RGT accounts following the completion by January's of a valuation of the Village Hall and Pavilion.

Mr Bore reported the work on the showers in the pavilion was complete and that he and Tony Garrick would be installing racks on Friday.

DOVECOTE/MEADOW REPORT

There was nothing to report at the present meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE

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

- 1) Letter dated 13th October from BT Payphones enclosing the council's copy of the contract for adoption of the telephone kiosk in Fowlmere Road. A completion notice will be sent via e-mail once the payphone equipment has been removed.
- 2) Letter dated 18th October from the CCC County Lighting Engineer, Chris Sproston, re street lighting maintenance and energy charges for 2010/2011. (Invoice for £722.42 to be sent out in November.)
- 3) E-mail from BT Payphones with notice of completion for public display and maintenance guide attached.
- 4) Letter from the Pageantmaster, Queen's Diamond Jubilee Beacons, with guide to taking part.
- 5) Letter received 4th November from Mr Phillips re his leaving the village.
- 6) Information from CPALC including:
 - Agenda for AGM to be held on Saturday, 3rd December 2011 plus resolution proposal form and accounts for year ending 31st March 2011.

- 7) Letter dated 20th October from Jigsaw, Cambridgeshire, about its new venture supporting local history and archaeology groups by providing free training and equipment to aid them in carrying out research into their local heritage: enclosing leaflet.
- 8) Letter dated 24th October from Cambridge News Press Relief Community Fund requesting publicity for the aims of the charity and enclosing leaflets.
- 9) “Clerks and Councils Direct” magazine, November 2011.
- 10) Letters from MD Landscapes and Buchans offering their grounds maintenance services.
- 11) Cane & Company (parish council insurance) Autumn newsletter.
- 12) Publicity material from Littlethorpe (hardwood bus shelters) and Wicksteed Playscapes.

VISITORS' QUESTIONS

Mr Howard had comments about the Play Area. He praised the speed with which the table had been repaired and thought some further clearance of the wooded area bordering the Play Area was needed. Mr Howard said that the double gates were often left open and that the single gate stuck sometimes.

Mrs McFadzean suggested a sign on the double gates might be helpful.

Mr and Mrs Cooke asked for clarification about the provision of an extension of double yellow lines in Station Road. They were concerned that the proposed extension did not go far enough.

Dr Oakley said that the parish council had endorsed the published scheme and had done all it could in the matter, which Dr Van de Ven confirmed. She also summarised the consultation process.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mr Sutton said that various modifications had been made to the design of the new village sign chosen at the last council meeting and a second proof would be produced.

Mr Barnes complained that the 50mph sign on the A10, coming from the Melbourn direction, did not show up well due to its proximity to the large white direction board. He recommended that it should have a yellow backing board. Mr Barnes also commented on the length of time traffic had been held up while the level crossing gates were down to allow two freight trains to pass through.

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

It was confirmed that the next meeting would be held on **Monday, 5th December 2011 at 7.45pm** in the **Meeting Room** of the **Village Hall**.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.30pm.