

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF FOXTON PARISH COUNCIL

HELD ON MONDAY, 4th NOVEMBER 2013 AT 7.45 p.m.

PRESENT

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

County Councillor Susan van de Ven

IN ATTENDANCE

3 members of the public

APOLOGIES

Dr Grindley

Dr Oakley welcomed all to the meeting.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

As no amendments were needed, Dr Oakley proposed that the Minutes of the previous meeting, held on 7th October 2013 be signed as a true record. Mr McCreery seconded the proposal and all were agreed.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Parish Council website

Mr Elliott said that only one councillor had so far provided a photograph for the website. He had finished the Development Brief for the website and had submitted it to ParishCouncil.net on 17th October. Work on the site was started on 22nd October although he had been informed that staff were very busy at the moment due to the large number of requests that had been received. Mr Elliott said he was awaiting their request for more information to add to the website as they developed the draft version.

Mr Elliott said that the school currently has a phone line through Virgin Media and broadband through BT. The Head, Jenny Jones, was quite happy to share the connection if possible, and she would speak to her IT technician when he next visited the school (*this might be a few weeks*).

Mr Elliott had contacted Virgin Media about the possibility of setting up an extension line on the school's connection, and was waiting to hear back. He was not very hopeful that this would be an option, since the school's Internet connection did not appear to be with Virgin Media.

Mr Elliott had also contacted BT and received a very helpful suggestion about using power line adapters on the school's existing Internet connection. This would involve a one-off set-up cost of £100-£150, plus whatever the council gave to the school for

sharing the connection. This would, however, have the disadvantage that should the school's router need resetting, the council would not have access when there was no one in the school.

Mr Elliott indicated the relative costs involved in setting up the council's own connection with either BT or Virgin Media. *It was agreed to hold fire on a decision about the connection for the time being.*

VILLAGE INFRASTRUCTURE

Dr Oakley reported as follows:

Railways

Dr Oakley said that the Feasibility Study on the removal of the level crossing on the A10 at Foxton could now be accessed via the County Council's website and a copy on CD was being circulated. Dr van de Ven had suggested to Network Rail that they set up a board comprising interested parties, including a representative from Foxton Parish Council, to help manage the expectations and concerns of communities whilst the preferred option was decided.

Roads

Speed Limits

An application had been made via the County Council's Local Highways Initiative scheme to reduce the speed limit on the stretch of road between Foxton Bottom and the start of the 30mph zone in Shepreth Road from 60mph to 40mph. The cost, including advertising, would be in the region of £1,500 of which the council would be expected to pay 10%. Dr Oakley sought the council's approval for this change to the speed limit along this stretch of road and proposed the council proceed with the application on that basis. *All were agreed to the proposal. It was also suggested that the 40mph limit could be reduced to 30mph to reduce the number of speed changes over a short stretch of road. Dr Oakley agreed to look into the matter and further the project generally.*

Dr Oakley then asked if the council would confirm that residents' opinion be sought on whether or not the 20mph zone should be instituted in Foxton from the Church to the Press entrance in the High Street and encompassing the bottom 100m or so of Station Road. The consultation could be carried out via an insert in December's "Laurentian". *All except one councillor agreed. Mr Elliott suggested that the 20mph zone be extended as far as the entrance to the Dovecote Meadow.*

Parking

Dr Oakley said that complaints had been received about the dangers of parked cars along the High Street and opposite the T-junction with Station Road. He said no easy solutions were apparent: the council had tried polite ticketing and encouraging people to use the car park in Hardman Road, and that maybe the time had come for the council to ask the Police to issue tickets to persistent offenders. *Mr Barnes was asked to request the police to look at the problem again.*

Buses

Dr Oakley said that, under another County Council scheme, he had asked that an electronic information board be placed next to the bus stop at the War Memorial end of Station Road. If approved, the cost would be met entirely by the County Council.

Water pump

The listed pump on the junction of Fowlmere Road and Mortimer's Lane had been leaking for some time. Dr Oakley said that Hydro Solutions in Shepreth had been helping the Council in getting a contractor to come and cap the pump. The council had tried unsuccessfully over the past few months to find an appropriate contractor (who are few and far between). The council had, however, now located one, GPD Waterwells Ltd of Welham Green, Hertfordshire who would be willing to carry out this work, which would take 2 days and cost £1850 plus VAT. Dr Oakley strongly advised the council to accept this quotation, as it was the only one obtained during four months of trying. The quotation fell within the range (£1500 - £2000) of the initial cost suggested by Hydro Solutions and a verbal quotation given by another contractor who was unable to carry out the work. *Dr Oakley proposed that the council accept the quotation from GPD Waterwells. Mrs McFadzean seconded the proposal and all were agreed. The clerk was asked to write accepting the quotation.*

Cycleway

Dr Oakley said that work had started today (4th November) on the new cycleway from Frog End to Shepreth Lakes.

REPORTS FROM THE WORKING PARTIES

RECREATION AND AMENITIES

Mr McCreery reported as follows:

QEII Registration

The plinth for the plaque had now been built.

Skate-park Project

Amey Cespa had indicated a willingness to support the council's application and a full grant application would be lodged with them later in the week, with a response from Amey Cespa expected in early December.

Trees

Kask had now carried out the tree health survey, which indicated that significant work would be required to remove dead or dangerous trees. Four trees required urgent action, and about ten further trees would require action in the next twelve months. In most cases this would mean removal of the tree.

Kask's recommendations proposed a further inspection in 2014 with bi-annual inspections thereafter.

It would appear that, with the mature trees covered by the survey, and younger trees maturing, the council would need to budget for tree work on a regular basis.

Defibrillator

Mr McCreery was still waiting for a report back from Marcus Kohler, who has been trying to get input from the Ambulance Service.

Recreation Ground

The new seats for the picnic bank continued to be moved around. Mr Salmons had held off from concreting them in (as agreed at the last meeting) due to the soft ground resulting from the wet October, and a wish not to damage the Recreation Ground with heavy equipment. The job was now scheduled for the end of this week provided there was no further heavy rain.

The Women's Institute had agreed to the replacement bench, for the one damaged in Station Road, being sited on the Recreation Ground.

Replacement dog anti-fouling signs had been ordered.

Recreation Ground Car Park

The Recreation Ground Trust had agreed to finance improvements to the gravel car park. Malcolm Bore had produced a specification and three companies had been requested to tender. David Salmons' quotation would need to be revised as the company he expected to supply him with equipment had gone into receivership and the equipment had been repossessed.

FINANCE

Mr Sutton gave details of the Barclays Bank Accounts as follows:

Deposit Account	£22,930.19
Current Account (This included a VAT refund of £451.06)	£504.53
10-day Notice Account (This included interest applied 1 st November of £21.11)	£22,823.27

Mr Sutton proposed the following cheques for approval:

R Barnes (2 nd cut Dovecote meadow)	£60.00
Melbourn Area Youth Development (2013/14 contribution)	£300.00
J Wright (clerking assistance September/October)	£206.86
Kask Arb UK (tree health survey plus recommendations)	£606.00
D Salmons (Village Warden duties October plus extra work)	£180.00
CGM (Cambridge) Ltd (grass cutting, October)	£144.00
J E Burns (salary November including back pay)	£332.99
J E Burns (expenses September/October)	£88.99

Mrs Macintyre seconded the proposal and all were agreed that these payments, totalling £1,918.84, should be made and that £1,455 be transferred from the Deposit Account to the Current Account

PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr Bore reported that the committee had met on 15th October with all members present and two members of the public who were the applicants for the planning application below to be considered.

Ms P Chamberlain

Application No. S/1917/13/FL for erection of bungalow at land adjacent to 24 Fowlmere Road

The committee, on behalf of Foxton Parish Council, made the following response:

“The Parish Council recommend refusal of the application in its present form. It would like to support development of this type on this site – which is within the Village Development Framework and outside the conservation area, and the site is large enough for a 3-bedroom family dwelling. Such sites are scarce, and so it is a site on which the parish council would like to see development of a much-needed family dwelling of a good size.

However, the Parish Council is disappointed with the plans as they stand. The council feels that the restrictions in height imposed by planning officers (during the pre-application process) are not reasonable, since the resultant insufficient headroom would make the upstairs rooms uninhabitable. A dwelling on a site like this needs to realise its full potential as a good-sized family home, and so the council would like the plans to be re-submitted with a design that solves this problem. It feels that if the roof height is increased to allow the provision of habitable rooms in the roof, it would not have a detrimental affect on the adjacent listed building or the street scene.”

A letter had subsequently been received from SCDC saying that the application would be considered under delegated powers in its existing form.

Mr Bore had attended a meeting at the Barrington Cemex site when a presentation was made by Cemex about a proposal to build 300 houses on the site. There was considerable scepticism about the presentation from those present and a referendum in Barrington village was under consideration.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR’S REPORT

Dr van de Ven reported as follows:

The County’s chief finance officer had said he would be happy to visit any parish council that would like a brief presentation on the county’s budget situation, or a chance to ask questions. Dr van de Ven said she had provided (via e-mail) a briefing note he had written for councillors.

The Melbourn Hub and the area library access point were due to open sometime very early in the New Year. The entire transfer of books to the new premises would be done by volunteer staff and any help on this front would be gratefully received.

Rail User Group

Dr van de Ven said that the Community Rail Partnership (CRP) had been signed the previous week and thanked the chairman, Nigel Oakley, for attending. Projects would now receive extra support both from the County Council and from First Capital Connect. As she had mentioned at a parish council meeting some months ago, bringing station buildings back into use was one of the projects supported by the

Association of Community Rail Partnerships (to which the local Rail User group now belonged) and which was formally supported by the Department for Transport. (The DfT funds the national CRP coordinator, who attended the launch.) Interestingly, franchise bidders had noticed with some alacrity that the local Rail User group had got a CRP as this gave it some clout. Dr van de Ven said that, indeed, four of the five bidders for the new Thameslink rail franchise had been in direct contact with the Meldreth, Shepreth and Foxton Rail User Group to better understand aspirations going forward; three had visited the group and another was planning to. This franchise would be the biggest in the country so Dr van de Ven said it was good that, with very small stations in the locality, the group was being noticed. She said that, through preparing for these visits and reading the fine print in the franchise invitation to tender, it seemed that the Department for Transport minimum standard specification document did not include half-hourly peak time trains at the three local stations. The Rail User Group had flagged this up with DfT and lobbied bidders to keep this standard in place and, indeed, to build on it. The group had been supported by the County Council in this effort.

Level Crossing Feasibility Study document

Dr van de Ven had discussed with the Foxton webmaster how, between the Foxton and Rail User Group websites, a public comment archive might be hosted in order to receive and hold comments and concerns from the public. The Foxton village webmaster felt that he would prefer the Rail User Group to do this as it was well set up to do so, but the group wanted to run this past the parish council. Alternatively, this might be something that the new parish council website would like to host.

A10 Corridor Cycling Campaign

Dr van de Ven said that she had recently met with the Trumpington Meadows developer and county council officers to discuss expediting the opening of the Hauxton-Trumpington Park and Ride site. Work would be starting in December and would finish in the spring and this would enable people to avoid the M11 roundabout (diverting across a farm track and bridge).

Trumpington Park and Ride site

The Park and Ride charging proposal had been delayed for reconsideration, in part to examine a proposal by Stagecoach that they could run the sites more cheaply than the council currently does. This however begged the question as to why whole contract was not put out to tender by the council.

Mr Sutton reported the chaos that had occurred on Friday, 1st November, when road works in Trumpington had caused chaos. It had not been possible to return to the Trumpington Park and Ride site by bus – walking or taxi rides (at over £20) both took over an hour for the journey. Dr van de Ven said she would look into the matter.

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

In the absence of Mrs Roberts, there was no report.

POLICE LIAISON REPORT

Mr Barnes reported that there had been a Bassingbourn and Melbourn panel meeting in October. There had been some changes at the Cambourne office. These were:

- The appointment of James Sutherland as Inspector
- The formation of Impact Teams including CID Detectives to concentrate on criminals
- The formation of Complex Case Teams from mainly uniformed officers to deal with antisocial behaviour problems, poaching, hare coursing etc.

During the meeting, the group was asked to shift its emphasis from speeding problems to more criminal offences such as burglaries. Parking and speeding problems would, however, continue to receive police attention.

Crimes recorded in the past month were:

<u>Barrington Road</u>	1 burglary – digger attachment stolen
<u>Edis Way</u>	Theft of bicycle
<u>Foxton Station</u>	Assault/violence – being dealt with by British Transport Police
<u>Hardman Road</u>	Assault – no further action
<u>Illingworth Way</u>	Antisocial behaviour Vehicle crime with ongoing investigation
<u>High Street</u>	Burglary followed by arrest by officers with Police Dog

RECREATION GROUND TRUST REPORT

Mrs McFadzean reported that Trustees had met on 17th October.

CORRESPONDENCE

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

- 1) Letter dated 15th October from Aon UK Limited with advice re firework displays, bonfires and beacons.
- 2) Letter dated 23rd October from CCC Children, Families and Adults Services with information for parish councils re housing support tender.
- 3) Letter dated 1st November from Aon UK Limited with advice snow clearance, salting and gritting.
- 4) Letter dated October 2013 from the War Memorials Trust re maintenance of War Memorials and inviting the council to become a member of the Trust
- 5) “Clerks and Councils Direct” magazine, November 2013
- 6) Various e-mail from CPALC.
- 7) Publicity material from Norse (playground equipment) Braham’s Nursery and K & M Lighting Services.

VISITORS' QUESTIONS

Mr Challis asked about the proposed illuminated sign at the bus stop in Station Road.

Dr Oakley said this had been made possible by the County Council, which was offering money for such projects.

Mr Challis said that he was in favour of lowering the speed limit in the village.

Dr Oakley said that there would be up to four different places in the village where residents could drop their responses to the consultation that would be provided via an insert in the December "The Laurentian".

Mr Howard reported that the training lights on the Recreation Ground were not going off when they should.

There was some discussion about this but it was thought that the lights were operating as they should.

Mr Andrew Sanderson asked for clarification about the procedure for submitting a planning application with particular reference to obtaining advice.

Mr Bore said that the parish council acted only as a consultee in the process, and could not offer any pre-submission advice. Such advice could be requested from the District Council's Planning Department.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mr Bore questioned at what time the council should talk with Foxton residents about the potential flyover to replace the Foxton level crossing. There was some discussion about this and, although it was agreed that such a consultation should take place, there were a number of factors to take into consideration and no definite time could be decided at present. Dr Oakley said he would like all councillors to look at the CD on the matter that was presently circulating before discussing the question of a village consultation further.

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

It was confirmed that this would be held on **Monday, 2nd December 2013 at 7.45pm** in the **Village Hall Meeting Room**.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.05pm.