

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF FOXTON PARISH COUNCIL

HELD ON MONDAY, 5th DECEMBER 2005, AT 7.45 p.m.

PRESENT

Mr Pusey, Mr Hockley, Mr Barnes, Mr Brooksbank,
Mr Chilton, Dr Grindley (*not present at the beginning
of the meeting*), Mr Kennedy, Dr McKeown,

County Councillor David McCraith

District Councillor Deborah Roberts

IN ATTENDANCE

8 members of the public

APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Miss Thake

Mr Pusey welcomed all to the meeting with a particular welcome for Mr Challis, who had been persuaded after all to continue with his monthly report on the Parish Council Meeting to the delight of all.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Mr Brooksbank had been carded about a planning application from P Ridgeon for the Burlington Press site. However, as it was not intended to debate this application at the present meeting, this was not a matter that would require Mr Brooksbank to leave the room.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

As no amendments were necessary, Dr McKeown proposed that the Minutes of the previous meeting, held on Monday, 7th November 2005, be signed as a true record. Mr Brooksbank seconded the proposal, and all were agreed.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

The Old School Site

Mrs Roberts was asked for an update on this matter. Mrs Roberts said that Mike Sugden, the SCDC officer who had been dealing with this matter, had left so that, at present, there was no officer available who was conversant with this. She said that there was nothing new on the file and that Hereward Housing had pulled out of any possible development on the site. Although Mrs Roberts said that it was not possible to go forward at the moment, the council felt that it would be undesirable to wait until the County Council had decided what to do with the site, thereby losing time and momentum. It was suggested that a letter be written to the SCDC Director of Housing.

The clerk said she had received a holding reply to the council's letter to Andrew Baxter (CCC Education Department).

Puddles in the Village

Mr Hockley reported that he had met Mr Cooper (CCC Highways Department) and they had looked at the problem areas including the area outside the village shop. Mr Cooper would be responding in due course.

Trading status of Garage on the A10

The clerk had received a holding reply to her letter to the SCDC Development Services Department asking that the situation at the garage on the A10 near the level crossing be investigated. Mrs Roberts said she would investigate the safety aspects with the SCDC Environmental Health Department.

Defective lights at the Community Building

Mr Pusey reported that these had now been repaired. He said that all the street lamps associated with the Community Building/School were now included in the County Council's maintenance contract and that he had informed the school of this. CCC would be billing the council for annual maintenance in due course.

Planning Report – Application from M & J Kohler for an outbuilding at “Bartholomews” Shepreth Road

Although the council had not yet received formal notification of this, Mrs Roberts reported that despite the planning officer's recommendation that the application be accepted, when the matter had been dealt with at a Chairman's Delegation Meeting, she had endorsed FPC's views. Foxton Parish Council had objected on the grounds that the development would be in a conservation area, and in front of the building line giving an adverse impact on the neighbouring property. The application had been refused because it did not comply with SCDC policy.

Mr Pusey thanked Mrs Roberts.

Community Building Project

Mr McCraith said he had not yet received the details about outstanding works and defects in relation to the pavilion.

Correspondence – Cambridgeshire Horizons Meeting on 29th November

Mr Pusey had attended this meeting. He said that Cambridgeshire Horizons was an important body, which was the vehicle for the delivery of development in Cambridgeshire. Mr Pusey had pointed out that developments in Hertfordshire would have an impact on residents in South Cambridgeshire. A leaflet he had been given at the meeting was added to the circulating correspondence.

Visitors' Questions

i) Mr Abbotts' comments re Mortimers Lane

Mr McCraith said he had had a long conversation with Mr Abbotts. He had said that whilst he agreed with Mr Abbotts that technically the road was not now as wide as it should be, it would be unrealistic to take any action to try to get the road widened again.

ii) Foxton Help Group Survey

A draft survey of care needs for the over-60's in Foxton had been e-mailed to councillors. If there were no amendments, the survey would be distributed.

Any Other Business

i) Land comprised in "The Green"

Mr Pusey said that the clerk had succeeded in recovering the file on "The Green", but that the map showing the Registration of Land was on a very small scale.

ii) Speed Bumps at Thriplow

Mr McCraith reported that these had now been repaired. However, recent users of the route through Thriplow expressed some doubt that this really was the case and again criticised the poor signing, lighting and severity of the ramps.

REPORTS FROM THE COMMITTEES

RECREATION AND AMENITIES

Mr Chilton said it had been a quiet month and reported as follows:

1. The Bowls Club fence had still not been repaired as the materials had not yet been delivered.
2. Mr Dash had undertaken the following works:
 - The new seat had now been installed at the same location where the Hardman seat had been. Mr Phillips had withdrawn his offer to repair the damaged seat
 - The slatted seat by the football pitch had been repaired
 - An additional safety rail had been fixed to the ramp up into the playhouse
 - New five-a-side goal post sockets had been installed outside the Village Hall
 - Repairs to the village sign had been effected
3. The swing seats would be repainted when the weather was better.
4. Tree Work:

Eastern Landscape Service Ltd had inspected the Ash tree at the end of the path from Illingworth Way onto the Recreation Ground and taken core samples from the tree. Their report stated that in the firm's view the tree need not be felled but that the crown should be reduced by 30%. *It was agreed that the clerk should ask Eastern Landscape Service for a quotation for carrying out the reduction. The clerk was also asked to accept the quotation from Cleanaway for the rest of the tree work for which the firm had quoted.*
5. Mr Chilton said that Herald Contract Services had hitherto sprayed the Recreation Ground against plantains for a much lower price than that quoted by Cleanaway. *It was agreed that Herald should be asked to quote for this work in the spring.*
6. Mrs Mees-Grove had started some planting on the Recreation Ground at the rear of the Illingworth Way houses and would like a donation. *This was agreed in principle, with the amount to be determined at a later date.*
7. Mr Chilton reported that he had not heard of any vandalism in the past month.

8. There had been a request for new basketball nets. *It was agreed to buy new ones and Mrs Roberts suggested that some funding might be available for the District Council and recommended contacting Jane Llampshire.*

Skateboard/BMX Project

Dr McKeown said he had put an open letter about the project in the “Laurentian” but had received no response so far. *Dr McKeown exchanged contact details with two young people who in the visitor’s seats (who had an interest in the basketball nets) in the hope that they might be able to find out what interest there was among the young people of the village in the Skateboard/BMX Project.*

FINANCE

Mr Hockley gave details of the bank accounts as follows:

Deposit Account	£16,507.64
Current account	£54.15
(This included a payment for photocopying pages from past Minutes for Mr and Mrs Abbotts of £3.43)	
Cambridge Building Society	£8,300.05

Mr Hockley proposed that the following cheques be approved:

Eyre Electrical Ltd trading as John Kay (checking external lights)	£67.33
Eastern Landscape Service Ltd (tree report)	£188.00
BTCV (application for membership of BTCV Associated Group re Dovecote/Meadow project)	£30.00
D Pusey (1 st and 2 nd half Chairman’s Honorarium)	£140.00
V W Mead (refuse collection and maintenance at Vicarage and Memorial Corners, November)	£57.72

Dr Grindley seconded the proposal and all were agreed that these payments, totalling £483.05 be made, and that £482 be transferred from the Deposit Account to the Current Account.

It was confirmed that the clerk had received an offer in writing concerning holiday pay and had accepted it with thanks.

PLANNING

Mr Barnes reported as follows:

Planning application considered:

Foxton Parish Council Application No.
S/2137/05/F for the renovation and re-roofing of
existing Dovecote at High Street.
No recommendation

Planning application considered at the meeting:

Mr and Mrs Stanford Application No. S/2126/05/F for an extension at
39 Station Road
Approved

Planning application amendment:

C J Harris Application No. S/0717/00/F for a garden shed
at "The Walnuts", Stocks Farm, The Green
Information only

Notification of planning application:

P Ridgeon Application No. S/2263/05/F for part demolition
and conversion of Press building into 4 terraced
houses, 1 detached house and the erection of 3
houses and 4 affordable flats.

Mr Barnes said that the District Council would decide the next day when this application would go forward. He said he would contact SCDC to find out when this would be and that it would be likely that it would be possible to hold discussion of the application over until the next meeting of FPC in January 2006. The application was undergoing wide consultation. Mr Pusey said that apparently Mr Ridgeon had again not notified the tenants at the Press.

CEMEX

Mr Pusey said that during the past month he had learned more of the proposals for the development of the Cemex cement works site at Barrington. He had seen imaging of the proposed development and it appeared that it would lead to a scale of production 5½ times the present level. As a result he was less sanguine that Foxton would not be significantly affected.

Mr Brooksbank (FPC's representative on matters relating to Cemex) then gave an update of the present situation. He had attended a meeting of parish councils on 9th November: about fifteen parish councils were represented with Foxton alone in adopting a neutral stance – the rest of the PC's were in vociferous opposition. Mr Brooksbank said he would continue to monitor issues relating to the development and publicise them in the village. He had already received a letter in response to the previous publicity given to these proposals. Mr Brooksbank said that, given the size of the proposed development, there should be a public meeting to debate the matter. However, at present, the design was still undergoing changes such as an alteration of the chimney height. He therefore recommended delaying holding a public meeting until the application had been submitted. Opposition to the proposals would be costly and this aspect would need to be considered if Foxton were to join with the other parishes in fighting the application.

A short discussion followed with the Chairman recommending that a contingency sum for fighting the proposals be included in the next year's financial estimates. Mr Hockley said he would not be in favour of putting much down for this purpose. He said that those decisions would be taken early next year. Dr Grindley said it would take time for the detailed plans to become available and supported the inclusion of a provisional sum.

Mr Brooksbank said that Cemex had taken on board the concerns of Cambridge, Granchester and Trumpington about the proposals, and added that he had contacted other parish councils including Fowlmere, Duxford, Whittlesford and Thriplow.

POLICE LIAISON REPORT

In Miss Thake's absence there was no Police Liaison report.

RECREATION GROUND TRUST REPORT

Mr Pusey said that the Trustees would meet on 12th December to agree funding for long-term maintenance (the sinking fund). It would also consider expenditure on additional seats, security cameras and infrastructure works on the extension to the Recreation Ground. He also reported that he had still not heard from the County Council's solicitors regarding the extension to the Recreation Ground.

COMMUNITY PROJECT

It was confirmed that there had been no progress in resolving outstanding issues. Mrs Howell (from the visitors' seats) said that the defective fire doors were a security hazard. She said the Village Hall Management Committee was considering dealing with them itself. Mr McCraith was urged to press County Council officers to take action. Dr Grindley passed a list of outstanding defects in the Sports Pavilion to Mr McCraith.

DOVECOTE/MEADOW PROJECT

Mr Pusey said that the planning application for the renovation and re-roofing of the dovecote had been submitted. Due to bad weather conditions, the planting of the whips had been deferred. In the meantime information on builders and thatchers was being gathered.

CORRESPONDENCE

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

- 1) Letter dated November from CCC County Asset Manager enclosing winter Maintenance leaflets.
- 2) Letter dated 1st November from South Cambridgeshire Strategic Partnership re roadside management: enclosing questionnaire for return by 31/1/06. *(It was suggested that Rob Mungoven would be best able to complete the questionnaire)*

- 3) Letter dated 10th November from Cemex re Barrington Liaison Group Extraordinary Meeting re the proposed development at the cement works on 17th November: enclosing agenda.
- 4) Letter dated 10th November from Jeff Ryan (Foxton resident) expressing his concerns about the Cemex proposals and suggesting a public meeting.
- 5) Letter dated 10th November from Michelle Rowe, CCC Senior Democratic Services Officer, re the next meeting of the South Cambridgeshire Traffic Management Area Joint committee to be held on 6th December, with agenda.
- 6) Letter dated 18th November from the CCC Head of Strategic Planning enclosing the draft Statement of Community Involvement.
- 7) Letter dated 23rd November from Cemex informing that work would shortly begin to clear the Balk Plantation.
- 8) Letter dated 24th November from CCC Education Department acknowledging the council's letter to Andrew Baxter re the Old School site.
- 9) Letter dated 22nd November from Macmillan Cancer Relief requesting a donation.
- 10) Letter dated 28th November acknowledging the council's letter re the Q8 Garage.
- 11) Letter dated 1st December from Cemex re the Barrington Cement Works Development – communication and exhibition update.
- 12) Information from CALC including:
 - New training schedule for certificate in Local Council Administration
 - Information from BENSCH (East of England Associations of Parish and Town Councils on grants available to produce a professional newsletter (applications by 31st January 2006).

VISITORS' QUESTIONS

Two visitors, Mr Brew and Mr Bryan, said they would like to see the plans accompanying Mr Ridgeon's application for the Burlington Press site. Mrs Brooksbank said she would be greatly in favour of a public meeting on this application.

The plans were made available for inspection.

Mr Bryan also complained of sewage smells at Vicarage Corner and thought they might constitute a health hazard.

Mrs Roberts said she would ask for a check to be made.

Mrs Howell asked whether pavements had been included in the survey made by Mr Hockley and Mr Cooper when establishing the problem areas.

Mr Hockley said they had been included.

Mr Challis said that when “The Laurentian” had announced that he would no longer be contributing his account of the Parish Council’s meetings, many people had expressed their regret, and as transport had kindly been arranged to take him to and from meetings, that he had been prevailed on to continue.

Mr Challis also said that the Townlands Charity, of which he is a Trustee, had purchased a microwave oven for the Hall.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mr Barnes reported that the wooden seat near Foxton Bottom was in need of repair.

Mr Brooksbank said that Cemex was organising two more road shows at Barton and Wimpole.

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

It was confirmed that this would be held on **Monday, 9th January 2006 in the Meeting Room of the Village Hall at 7.45pm.**

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.20pm.