

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF FOXTON PARISH COUNCIL

HELD ON MONDAY, 2nd DECEMBER 2013 AT 7.45 p.m.

PRESENT

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

County Councillor Susan van de Ven

IN ATTENDANCE

No members of the public were present

APOLOGIES

District Councillor Deborah Roberts

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 4th November 2013, be signed as a true record. Mrs McFadzean seconded the proposal and all were agreed.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There were no matters arising.

VILLAGE INFRASTRUCTURE

Railways

Following representations from Dr van de Ven, Network Rail had agreed to set up a Board for interested parties, including a representative from Foxton Parish Council, and to hold an open forum for the village, in order to help develop residents' preferred option with regard to the closure of the level crossing. Both the formation of the Board and the open forum would take place early next year.

Roads

Speed Limits

The 20 mph speed limit survey slips had now been distributed in "The Laurentian" and responses were already being received. The full results of the survey would be discussed at the January council meeting.

Parking

Dr Oakley said that he had met with PC Richard Moore to discuss the problems of parking along the High Street especially at the junction with Station Road. Without recourse to double yellow lines there was no easy solution. However, PC Moore did suggest applying for the T-junction to become a “No Waiting” zone. This would be considered, along with the possible reduced speed limit, in the New Year. He also suggested that the shop and the pub could display boards encouraging people to use the council’s car park in Hardman Road.

Water Pump

The pump at the junction of Fowlmere Road and Mortimer’s Lane had now been fixed. As suggested by the contractor, Mr Salmons had put some concrete around the base to help secure it. He had also cleared the path and overlying grass to expose the original setting and the whole area now looked very neat and tidy.

Buses

Dr Oakley said that, having been asked to apply for a bus services improvement grant, he had just been informed that Foxton had not been successful!

COUNTY COUNCILLOR’S REPORT

Dr van de Ven reported as follows:

- 1. County council services were being rationalised, including some trends towards a de facto unitary model for City, South Cambridgeshire and County. These included:**

Children’s Services

Dr van de Ven said that, as previously reported, all services were becoming far more targeted and amalgamated and this trend would continue. For children’s centres the council was now looking at a “hub and spoke” model. Transport to rural children’s centres had long been an issue so the new provision would involve an outreach approach. For this area Cambourne would be the lead centre due to its highest concentration of need.

Housing Support for Older People

Changes were to be made to the support offered to elderly people living in their own, or sheltered, housing. The services for most of Cambridgeshire were going out to tender, but South Cambridgeshire and the City were being consulted to see if they could deliver this support themselves. The rationale behind the reorganisation was that traditionally support was only offered to elderly people living in local authority sheltered housing but as this group amounted to only 5% of the elderly population in the county, many people who might benefit from support were not getting it. The new service would aim to provide support to all elderly people assessed as needing it regardless of where they lived, and to target those who needed it most. Much of this support had been assessed as being short-term or one-off so the fundamental ethos was that a preventative service would be designed that would keep people in their own homes, avoiding hospital and care service admissions. Dr van de Ven said this was all good in theory but it remained to be seen how it went in practice.

Sources of transport infrastructure funding for the A10 corridor:

Looking to the future, Dr van de Ven said that the LEP (Local Enterprise Partnership), which is administered by business and council leaders, would play a decision-making role on funding allocations. There were questions on democratic accountability but councillors would have to work with what was there. She said that the LEP reached across county borders and so a more coordinated approach would become more feasible, for example in addressing the Cambridgeshire/Hertfordshire border near Royston.

The other prospect on the horizon was the City Deal, about which more should be known, one way or the other, very soon. Without the City Deal, the Local Plan would become largely unviable, not only putting large-scale planned growth into question but also removing protections offered by the Local Plan. Dr van de Ven said that, with the City Deal, came what was referred to as “unlocking of transport infrastructure funding” and in many ways a de facto unitary authority comprising South Cambridgeshire, Cambridge City and Cambridgeshire County Council.

2. Rail service changes

The Thameslink management contract consultation closed on Dec 24. Dr van de Ven said that, as reported, the Department for Transport had not included a half-hourly service in its minimum service specifications. The Rail User Group had lobbied all five bidders for the franchise on this matter but she said it would help if parish councils could do the same ie write to Thameslink Franchise approved bidders on peak-time service specifications: and she would provide details.

3. Localization of some public services

South Cambridgeshire Services at Melbourn Hub

Dr van de Ven said that the Hub would be opening soon, and would be in a position to offer a local access point for a number of public and social services not just for Melbourn residents but also for residents from surrounding villages, hopefully enhancing accessibility. The Hub itself was funded by Melbourn Parish Council.

South Cambridgeshire Housing and Planning services would have a presence at the Hub as would the Citizen’s Advice Bureau (CAB). (The Library Access Point would of course be incorporated.) A further possibility was that Relate, which provides counselling on relationship issues, might have a presence there. CAB queries were primarily around debt. However, relationship breakdown often ran directly alongside debt and could have a very significant impact on children, including performance in school.

Last year Relate saw over 100 people from villages in the Melbourn area at their Brooklands Avenue office and all of these came on Relate’s open-door policy whereby clients were asked to make a contribution, with the balance being made up by Relate. Whilst SCDC had kept its funding going to CAB, it had cut all funding to Relate and now Relate was making an application for grant funding from Melbourn Parish Council to allow a three-hour per week presence at the Hub, on the same basis as at Brooklands Avenue – an open-door service but with the client offering a contribution.

Dr van de Ven said that Relate contributes to Allyance, the children’s counselling service, spearheaded by Foxtton primary school, for the cluster of schools feeding in to Melbourn Village College; the college actively supported the programme because of

its preventive work in supporting children who then arrived at secondary school in stronger form than they might otherwise have done. She said that, at the Hub, Relate would be aiming to meet a broader profile.

4 Statement of Community Involvement – consultation

Dr van de Ven said that the parish council would have received this exhaustive document outlining all the ways in which the county council currently engages with the public, mainly around all aspects of planning. This was a required exercise on the County Council’s part and she was working with other parish councils in responding to this.

The clerk said she had not received this document and Dr van de Ven said she would e-mail it to her.

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR’S REPORT

There was no report from Mrs Roberts.

REPORTS FROM THE WORKING PARTIES

RECREATION AND AMENITIES

Mr McCreery reported as follows:

1. QEII Registration

The plaque was now finally in place on the Recreation Ground.

2. Skatepark Project

The full grant application was lodged in early November and subsequently additional information as requested. The latest request is that the Parish Council formerly adopts its own Child Protection Policy. A draft policy document was circulated to councillors prior to the present meeting, and Mr McCreery proposed that this interim Child Protection Policy be approved. *Dr Oakley seconded the proposal and all were agreed.*

3. Trees

Three quotations for the tree work required had been received. Town and Country had quoted £1,660 for the urgent work on 4 trees and £1,100 for the follow on work on 10 trees for next year. The second quotation from Acacia Tree surgery was for £2,775 for the 4 trees, although this covered felling the Ash on the Recreation Ground., £2,060 for the follow on 10 trees and a further £805 for other trees to be replaced in due course. A third quotation from Eastern Tree Surgery was for £1,360 for the 4 trees and £1,350 for the 10 trees. One quotation of £395 for the “picus” test on the Ash had been received. All quotations mentioned were net of VAT. Mr McCreery proposed that the council proceed with Eastern Tree Surgery provided the firm was able to carry out the “picus” test for £395 or less. *Dr Oakley seconded the proposal and all were agreed.*

4. Defibrillator

Mr McCreery said he was still waiting for a report back from Marcus Kohler.

5. Recreation Ground

The new seats for the picnic bank had been moved into the compound. The ground has been too wet to allow Mr Salmons access to concrete in the seating without damaging the surface.

Replacement dog anti-fouling signs had been delivered and would be erected shortly.

A replacement post had been concreted in at the pedestrian access from the car park.

6. Recreation Ground Car Park

Only one quotation for (£1,866) had been received. Mr McCreery had chased up Mr Salmons to provide his revised quotation. Although Mr McCreery had been advised that the quotation of £1,866 was unlikely to be bettered, additional quotations were still being sought.

7. Mortimer's Lane Pump

The pump had been capped and Mr Salmons had laid concrete at the base as requested.

FINANCE

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

Deposit Account	£21,475.19
Current Account	£40.69
10-day Notice Account	£22,844.40

Mr Sutton proposed the following cheques for payment:

N Oakley (2 nd ½ Chairman's Honorarium)	£80.00
PKF Littlejohn LLP (external audit fee y/e31/3/13)	£360.00
Foxton Village Hall (hire of Meeting Room 7/10/13)	£15.50
GPD Waterwells Ltd (pump abstraction at Mortimers Lane)	£2,220.00
T J Austin (hedge cutting at Dovecote field)	£73.50
B A Ambrose ((plinth for QE11 plaque)	£395.00
Unlimited Logos (3 dog fouling signs)	£72.00
Cambridgeshire County Council (annual rent for Dovecote Field)	£50.00
D Salmons (Village Warden duties November plus extra work)	£205.00
CGM (Cambridge) Ltd (grass cutting, November)	£72.00
J E Burns (salary December)	£312.84

Dr Oakley seconded the proposal and all were agreed that these payments, totalling £3,855.84, should be made and that £3,866 be transferred from the Deposit Account to the Current Account.

PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr Bore reported as follows:

In Dr Grindley's absence, Mr Bore had chaired a meeting of the committee on 26th November when the following applications had been considered:

Mr Howell	Tree application No. C/11/40/030 52/13 for reduction in height of two Ash trees and two Maple trees at 18 High Street Approved
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Although approval was recommended, it was pointed out that there were errors in the application.

Mr Robert Hays	Application No. S/2294/13/FL for conversion of building to live work unit at barn adjacent to the railway, Royston Road Refusal recommended
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Refusal was recommended on the grounds of inappropriate access. The proposed access would join the A10, which carries a high volume of traffic, and would extend across a field that suffers from regular flooding. In addition it was felt that the internal dimensions were not appropriate for a living space, and the workspace allowed was too limited. The application site could possibly be affected adversely by future changes at the level crossing.

Approval had been received for the following application:

Ms P Chamberlain	Application No. S/1917/13/FL for erection of bungalow at land adjacent to 24 Fowlmere Road
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Dr Grindley said that the History Society had been asked to prepare a report on buildings of interest in Foxton to assist with the council's wish to have Foxton's Conservation Area extended. The Society had produced a very detailed assessment of buildings in the village that would form the basis of a briefing document for consideration by a consultant. Dr Grindley said that the committee would need to meet on this matter and to liaise with Mr David Benham, the SCDC Conservation Manager.

A new planning application had been received, and it was agreed that the committee would meet on Tuesday, 10th December at 6pm in the council office to consider it. The clerk would advertise the meeting on the council's notice board.

PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE

Mr Elliott said that the school's information technology technician had vetoed the suggestion that the council might share the school's Broadband connection.

POLICE LIAISON REPORT

Mr Barnes said there appeared to have been a small crime wave in the village since the last meeting and reported the following offences:

Cambridge Road	Theft under investigation
Hardman Road	Anti-social behaviour Burglary - under investigation

High Street	Anti-social behaviour Attempted burglary
Malting Lane	Drugs possession - cautioned
Royston Road	Theft – under investigation
Station Road	Arson – under investigation

In the last listed offence, a vehicle was set on fire and destroyed, and, at the same time, caused damage to two houses.

Dr Oakley reported that a number of “Neighbourhood Watch” signs had been installed at various sites in the village. There were a few surplus signs and suggestions for their placement were invited. The clerk agreed to display information relating to the Neighbourhood Watch scheme on the council’s notice board.

RECREATION GROUND TRUST REPORT

Mrs McFadzean reported that the annual accounts had been circulated to all trustees and submitted to the independent examiner.

CORRESPONDENCE

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

- 1) Letter dated 12th November from SCDC Environmental Services re Christmas waste and recycling collections: enclosing leaflet and poster (displayed).
- 2) Letter dated 15th November from Chief Inspector Darren Alderson (Area Commander for South Cambridgeshire Police Constabulary) re changes to the panel process in the area.
- 3) Various e-mails from CAPALC.
- 4) Publicity material from SLCC (local council administration) and Wicksteed (outdoor fitness equipment for users over the age of 14).

VISITORS’ QUESTIONS

None.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mr Bore said he thought that there should in future be an agenda item for the proposed removal of the Foxton level crossing and felt that the consultation with the village should be expedited. Dr Oakley said that the matter had been covered at the present meeting in his infrastructure report and that before taking further steps all councillors needed to have looked at the proposals. It was agreed that there would be an ex officio meeting of councillors before the end of the month to take a collective view of Network Rail’s proposals and that the proposals for the level crossing would form a separate agenda item from January 2014.

The clerk said that Simon Hoare of Community Connect Ltd wished to talk to the council about the proposed development of houses at the Cemex site and that he had been asked to wait for a date until the council had discussed the matter. Mr Bore said

that, as Foxton parish council was represented on the Barrington council Steering Group, it would not be a good idea to have a separate meeting with Mr Hoare and that FPC's views could be channelled through the Steering Group. It was agreed that the clerk would draft an e-mail to Mr Hoare along these lines and forward it to Dr Oakley and Mr Bore for approval before sending it.

Mr McCreery said the Woodland Trust had offered to provide the council with young trees, which could replace some of the trees removed from the Recreation Ground. The council approved acceptance of the offer.

Mrs McFadzean said that the Council might recall that Melbourn Area Youth Development group (MAYD) had received funding in the past year to enable it to employ an experienced administrator. This had been very successful with the administrator helping to run the club; gain access and funding for outside activities such as horse riding courses and the bike bank; and coordinate support in the community from outreach workers. Unfortunately the administrator was leaving the post and another administrator would have to be found to start in January 2014.

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

It was confirmed that this would be held on **Monday, 6th January 2014 at 7.45pm** in the **Village Hall Meeting Room**.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9pm.