

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF FOXTON PARISH COUNCIL

HELD ON MONDAY, 4th FEBRUARY 2008, AT 7.45 p.m.

PRESENT

Dr Oakley, Dr Grindley, Mr Barnes, Mr Bentinck, Mr Kennedy, Mrs MacIntyre, Dr McKeown,

County Councillor David McCraith

IN ATTENDANCE

5 members of the public

APOLOGIES

Mr Allars

Dr Oakley welcomed all to the meeting with a special welcome for Mrs Rachel MacIntyre who had been co-opted onto the council. *(The clerk passed the documents for Acceptance of Office and for Register of Member's Interests to Mrs MacIntyre for completion)*

DECLARATION OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Three amendments were needed:

- i) On page 74 under the Finance Report, the building society interest was for the 6 months to 31st December 2007 *(not the 6 months to June 2007)*.
- ii) On page 75 under the Planning Report (1st paragraph after the planning consents), the penultimate sentence should be amended to read, "Dr McKeown asked whether it was in order for the Planning Working Party to formulate a response on behalf of FPC".
- iii) On page 77 under the Recreation Ground Trust and Community Building Report, the two following additional sentences should be inserted at the end of the paragraph headed "Finance":

"It was noted that the expiry of the grant from SCDC was March 2008. Dr McKeown approached Jane Lampshire at SCDC to ask for an extension and this was granted for a further 12 months."

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Planning Working Party Report

- i) *FPC's planning application*

Dr Grindley said he had endeavoured to set up a meeting with Gareth Jones at the SCDC offices to discuss this matter. After some failures in communication, Mr Jones

had arranged a meeting for 13th February. It was agreed that both he and Mr Barnes would attend.

ii) Objection sites, Station Road/Royston Road

Dr Grindley had attended a meeting at the SCDC offices (as an observer) about two sites at 76 Station Road and 1 Royston Road that the owners wished to be removed from the Green Belt. Both he and the owners had accompanied the Inspector on a visit to the site and the Inspector would give the decision in April or May.

iii) Car wash facility by the level crossing

Mr McCraith said that the CCC Highways Department had been shocked that the appeal against the refusal of the application had been allowed, despite the department's advice that there were traffic hazards at this location. However there were no plans to make road changes at this location at present.

Correspondence – CCC meeting “Tackling Congestion in Cambridgeshire (item4)

Dr McKeown had attended this meeting at Shire Hall on 30th January and reported as follows:

Brian Smith, CCC Deputy Chief Executive – Environment and Community Services – said that it was estimated that the population in the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough region would expand by 85,000 between 2001 and 2021. Even allowing for the rebuilding of the A14 a large number of road sections would be operating at above their notional capacity. The Highways Agency maintained only four of the region's main roads and CCC had to maintain the rest. Park and Ride was a success and the Guided Bus should also relieve congestion.

CCC was making a big effort to secure Government funding of £517 million: if the bid were successful, the council would be obliged to take a serious look at applying congestion charging in Cambridge unless a satisfactory co-ordinated plan were in place.

Dr McKeown had asked what was the basis for the estimated increase of traffic into Cambridge. The reply was that the main cause would be the 16,000 new jobs anticipated at Addenbrookes Hospital.

Mr McCraith said he was urging investment in rural bus services.

Any Other Business

Mr Barnes said he had now received the Minutes of the SCDC Scrutiny and Overview committee

REPORTS FROM THE WORKING PARTIES

RECREATION AND AMENITIES

1. Graffiti

Mr Bentinck reported that Mr Salmons had telephoned him to apologise for the size of his bill for January. He had spent a lot of time removing graffiti and he thought that he had cleared it all apart from that at the Cricket and Bowls Clubs. Mr Bentinck had also spoken to an SCDC officer about the

district council's Community Service arrangement and the school head had spoken to some of the possible perpetrators.

2. Signs

The clerk had obtained three quotations and Mr Bentinck said that, after studying them he recommended the one from Algar. *After a short discussion, Dr Oakley proposed that the council accept Algar's quotation. Dr Grindley seconded the proposal and all were agreed.*

3. Cricket Club

The Cricket Club's manager, Matt Gray, had asked whether the club could display advertising on sponsored match days. As the advertising material would only be displayed for the duration of the match, there was no objection from the council.

FINANCE

Dr Oakley reported that the Finance Working Party had met two weeks ago, mainly to consider the precept it would recommend for 2008/09. Dr Oakley proposed that a precept of £14,800 should be requested for 2008/09 (an increase of £700 above the precept for 2007/08 of £14,100) that took into account inflation, the increase in the cost of Village Warden duties and extras such as street lighting maintenance. Dr Grindley seconded the proposal and all were agreed. Dr Oakley said he would e-mail the district council that night and the clerk would confirm the request in writing.

Dr Oakley gave details of the Bank Accounts as follows:

Deposit Account	£20,336.86
Current Account	£279.95
(This included a VAT rebate of £225.44. A cheque for £5 had been received from the Tennis Club - being the rent for 2007 – but had not yet been paid in.)	
Cambridge Building Society	£14,287.71
(This included interest for the 6 months to 31 st December of £232.76)	
Dr Oakley proposed that the following cheques be approved:	
Moore Stephens	£517.00
(This included a £40 penalty for delay in providing information)	
Cambridgeshire County Council (street lighting maintenance 2007/08)	£838.13
South Cambridgeshire District Council (emptying dog bins 1/1/08-31/3/08)	£99.17
D Salmons Fencing Services (Village Warden duties and expenses, January)	£158.98
N Oakley (2 nd half Chairman's Honorarium 2007/08)	£80.00

Mr Barnes seconded the proposal and all were agreed that these payments, totalling £1,693.28, should be made and that £1,466 should be transferred from the Deposit Account to the Current Account.

Dr Oakley noted that the County Council's contribution towards grass cutting for 2007/08 of £877.10 had been requested.

The Audit Commission had written to say that it proposed to appoint Moore Stephens as external auditor to Foxton Parish Council for a five-year period commencing with the 2007/08 accounts. The Commission also proposed to appoint a panel of its own officers in the event that Moore Stephens were unable to continue. No response was required if the council was content with these proposals. All were content.

PLANNING

Mr Barnes reported as follows:

Planning applications considered at a meeting of the Planning Working Party on 24th January:

Mr and Mrs Bamborough	Application No. S/0015/08/F for extensions at 25 West Hill Road Approval recommended as several neighbouring properties had been granted permission for similar extensions
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Tree Application

Villiers Park Educational Trust	Application No. C/11/17/30/01 to fell diseased trees at Villiers Park The council hoped that the policy of replacing trees would continue.
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Dr McKeown had attended the meeting on 24th January and had been asked to look at a questionnaire from planning consultants Andrew Martin Associates seeking FPC's opinion on questions relating to the potential expansion of Cambourne onto the Bourn Airfield site. Dr McKeown agreed with the view that this expansion would be advantageous as it would allow increased employment and the provision of a secondary school and would be better than piecemeal development in rural areas. The only comment he would make would be in reply to the first question "regarding the mixed-use development proposals", which he read out as follows:

"The community of Cambourne is still growing so adding up to 2000 additional homes merely extends that process. The mixed-use development has the added benefit of providing more employment opportunities and a new secondary school. Transportation and travel from the Cambourne area appear to be well catered for. The alternative of adding smaller numbers of houses to existing rural villages will pressurise local sustainability without the mitigation possible from mixed use development."

All were agreed that Dr McKeown should respond to the consultation in this way.

Dr Grindley was asked for an update on the two main Foxton objection Sites. Dr Grindley said that nothing had so far appeared on the relevant web-site but that he would look again.

PARISH PLAN

In the absence of Mr Allars, Mr Hockley (in the visitors' seats) reported on behalf of the Steering Group as follows:

The Steering Group had met on 23rd January when the first draft questionnaire had been removed. The second draft was in preparation and would be reviewed when the Group next met on 20th February and publicity for the project would be a significant topic at this meeting.

Funding so far received for the project was:

Parish Council Grant	£100 (approved July 2007)
DEFRA Grant	£1,500 (applied for 1/10/07 & received 18/10/07)

Expenditure so far had been £75 for Village Appraisal software and the hire of the Meeting Room on two occasions.

POLICE LIAISON REPORT

Mr Bentinck reported that the village had hosted a Police Panel meeting. County Councillors Shona Johnstone (for Cambridgeshire Police Authority) and David McCraith had been present, and representatives from other villages in this policing area. Priorities were set again and dealing with anti-social behaviour headed the list. Since the last such meeting, only nine hours of police time had been spent on speed checks in the area, so that although Foxton had been promised checks, they might be a long time coming.

Mr Bentinck said that the police wished to inform the public that distraction burglaries were rife in the area at present. The budget for policing was presented and it was noted that Cambridgeshire suffered the third worst funding in the country. Funding pensions accounted for 11% of the budget.

Turning to problems in Foxton, Mr Bentinck said that on 24th January some youths had pulled up paving slabs in the Community Building car park and thrown them up onto the roof: some of the roof tiles had been cracked. Unfortunately, the CCTV cameras had not recorded anything useful. The clerk read out a letter from Mr Ian Laird (19 Edis Way) complaining about older teenagers using the paved area outside the Village Hall entrance as a football pitch with consequent noise nuisance and a poor impression for visitors to the hall. In addition there was the real possibility of damage to property. Mr Laird thought the parish council would know what to do. Unfortunately, as in the past, when similar problems have arisen, it was recognised that there were no easy answers. A discussion ensued with the possibility mooted of providing a “graffiti wall”, which could also be used for kicking a football against. It was agreed that, in the first instance, the best course of action would be to talk to the youths involved and attempt to get them “on side”. Mr McCraith suggested contacting the SCDC Community Services Department and Mr Bentinck agreed to do this.

RECREATION GROUND TRUST AND COMMUNITY BUILDING

A five-minute meeting had been held to approve the accounts, which had been audited and passed to the Charity Commission and a further meeting would be arranged.

Recreation Ground Extension Committee

Dr McKeown said that the committee had met in January. Since then he had sought quotations for the fencing and earth-moving. He had received one reasonable

quotation for fencing and would present this, and two other quotations previously received, at the next meeting. He was finding it difficult to find anyone prepared to do the earth-moving required. It was suggested that he might try contacting SEEARO who had cleared the ground as a favour to FPC at the site of the old cricket pavilion.

Dr McKeown said that the insurance policy was in place. He had also written to the co-funders (the school) for the extra CCTV camera and a meeting had been suggested. Mr Barnes (speaking as a school governor) said the meeting was wanted, as there might be changes to the design type.

DOVECOTE/MEADOW PROJECT

Members of South Cambridgeshire District Council had visited the site on Tuesday, 22nd January and Mr Pusey and Mrs Hockley had been in attendance. The reason for the visit was the short-listing of the Dovecote for an SCDC Built Heritage Award. The SCDC representatives went away impressed with what they saw.

CORRESPONDENCE

Dr Oakley had received two letters and an e-mail. One letter was from Vic Phillips and was included in the circulating correspondence. The second letter was from Ross Pow, writing on behalf of the Foxton Gardens Association, informing the council that the FGA would no longer be able to undertake the weeding of the flowerbeds around the school as in the past. Mrs Macintyre said that the beds took about three hours each to weed. It was agreed that the matter would be considered by the Recreation and Amenities Working Party.

Dr Sanderson had sent an e-mail saying that he had removed the e-mail addresses (*of councillors and clerk*) from the document supplied by the parish council as requested and that all other addresses in the document had been modified to prevent automated collection. He also wished to make it clear that he does not distribute e-mail addresses without permission.

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

- 1) Letter dated 3rd January from the Department for Communities and Local Government enclosing consultation document on Orders and Regulations relating to the conduct of Local Authority Members in England (deadline for response 15th February).
- 2) Letter dated 7th January from CPRE with details of a planning workshop to be held on Saturday, 1st March: enclosing leaflet.
- 3) Letter dated 10th January from the SCDC Chief Executive advising of a re-inspection to take place in the week commencing 21st January.
- 4) Communication from CEMEX dated 15th January giving agenda for the Barrington Cement Plant Liaison meeting on 24th January.
- 5) Letter dated 31st January from the SCDC Returning Officer stating that as no request was received for an election in respect of the Parish Council vacancy

(*caused by the resignation of Mark Kennedy*), the Parish Council should proceed to fill the vacancy by means of co-option.

- 6) Information from CALC including:
 - Bulletin, January 2008
 - Details of various workshops
 - Church of England Table of Parochial fees from January 2008
- 7) Letter dated January 2008 from CCC enclosing a copy of the latest Cambridgeshire Trading magazine and various memos on rogue trading, switching to digital television and registered trader scheme.
- 8) Issue 2 of SCDC publication on the future of Council Housing in South Cambridgeshire.
- 9) January 2008 issue of Cemex publication “Barrington Cement Plant Community Matters”.
- 10) Information from COPE including
 - COPE newsletter, February 2008
 - Mission Statement
 - Response to tackling congestion in Cambridgeshire
 - Press release entitled “The Growth Agenda must not neglect the elderly”
 - COPE response to Cambridgeshire PCT consultation on the treatment of the elderly.
- 11) CCC memo re household waste recycling centres.
- 12) Publicity material from Wicksteed (play equipment).

VISITORS’ QUESTIONS

Mr Challis asked about the two main objection sites in Foxton and said it as important that the council remained informed.

Dr Grindley said that consideration of the objection sites should be coming before the Inspector this month. He would continue to check the web-site, but stressed that the council could do nothing further to influence the process at this stage. Furthermore, the Inspector would not make his decisions known until sometime in April or May when the inspection period for all objection sites had been completed.

Mr Challis also asked whether the wreaths at the War Memorial should now be removed.

Dr Oakley said he would contact Mr Boreham to ask about this.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mr Bentinck mentioned the number of streetlamps out of order in the village – five in High Street/Fowlmere Road and another three in Illingworth Way. The clerk said she had already been in touch with Chris Sproston (County Lighting Engineer) who had said there was a problem with EDF, the electricity supplier. The clerk agreed to speak to Mr Sproston again.

Mrs MacIntyre said that a large branch had fallen from a tree onto Station Road. Mr Barnes said he would contact the SCDC Trees Officer about the tree. Mrs MacIntyre also commented that the fences at the Foxton Wood Conservation Area were in a poor state and that the gate had rotted. It was agreed that County Farms should be contacted about this matter.

Mr McCraith said that the County Council was preparing its 2008/09 budget and that council tax would be rising by the maximum of 5%. He also said that the district council would be introducing "Choice-based" lettings starting on 22nd February – a form of market for people wanting council property.

It was reported that there were deep potholes in Barrington Road - up to 6 inches deep in places. The clerk was asked to contact Mr Cooper of the CCC Highways Department.

The clerk said that Mrs Eyre (Shepreth Road) had telephoned to say that a small tree on the verge at the entrance to West Hill Road appeared to be dying. If the council felled the tree, she hoped it would be replaced. It was agreed that Mr Salmons should be asked to fell the tree if necessary.

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

It was confirmed that the next meeting would be held on **Monday, 3rd March 2008 at 7.45pm** in the **Meeting Room** of the **Village Hall**.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.25pm.