

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF FOXTON PARISH COUNCIL

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

PRESENT

Dr Oakley, Dr Grindley, Mr Allars, Mr Barnes, M\r
Bentinck, Mrs Macintyre, Dr McKeown, Mr Sutton
County Councillor Susan van de Ven
District Councillor Deborah Roberts

IN ATTENDANCE

3 members of the public

APOLOGIES

None

Dr Oakley welcomed all to the meeting.

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

As no amendments were needed, Dr Oakley proposed that the Minutes of the previous Meeting held on Monday, 10th January 2011 be signed as a true record. Mrs Macintyre seconded the proposal and all were agreed.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Correspondence – Letter from Foxton Cricket Club (item 4)

The letter was still circulating and it was agreed to delay a response until all councillors had read it.

Any Other Business – Overgrown Portuguese Laurel at Vicarage Corner

It was confirmed that this matter had been dealt with.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR’S REPORT

Dr van de Ven reported as follows:

1. County Council Budget

Dr van de Ven said the vote on this would be taken on 15th February and that the County Council was looking for £160 million “savings” over five years, with £50 million in year one. There would be no council tax rise in year 1 due to “Pickle’s

Promise” (percentage increase to government grants to councils that do not impose a rise in Council Tax).

These savings included a very crude 100% cut to all of the county’s 57 subsidized buses, saving £2.7 million, which for Foxton will mean cutting the Stagecoach No. 139 (Wednesdays, Shelford-Sawston-Foxton-Royston). Dr van de Ven said that Foxton was comparatively lucky with the No. 26 bus running hourly, plus its rail link. Other villages would end up with no public transport at all, and would be losing what is essentially their school bus for young people over the age of 16. She said the Council’s ruling group had described buses as “a luxury we can’t afford”.

Dr van de Ven said that there was an interesting connection between the shortfall on funds to run the Concessionary Bus Pass scheme “that comes under County Council responsibility from April) and the decision to stop subsidizing buses, many of which served the elderly around midday for shopping and errands - where there was no bus there was no concessionary bus pass cost.

A small investment of £200K per year was being made in community transport and the suggestion was that this could make up for the loss of subsidized buses. There was complete resistance to investing anything at all in the area of rail development, which Dr van de Ven thought was needed if full advantage of the opportunities that did exist were to be taken, and problems tackled in a meaningful way.

Dr van de Ven said that part of her role had been to participate in the formulation of an alternative budget: this had been a worthwhile exercise since, whilst it was easy to criticise, it was not always easy to come up with other ways of doing things. She said that if anyone would like to see this budget to let her know.

2. Inevitable rail issues - Network Rail (NWR) and level crossing

Dr van de Ven thanked Foxton residents who had written to her or called her about particular experiences they had had regarding safety at the level crossing. It was very helpful in view of the special NWR contact assigned to deal with local issues, who could answer detailed queries. As a result of these concerns being put forward, NWR had offered to meet and discuss small, but helpful, extra safety measures, and she would be taking this forward. Meanwhile, Dr van de Ven said she hoped that people would continue to get in touch.

A date for a Foxton Station Rail Birthday and meeting were to be published in “The Laurentian”. The Rail User Group would meet on 8th March at Melbourn Village College.

3. Youth Club Meeting

Dr van de Ven thanked mr Barnes for attending this meeting, which she thought had gone very well, with a lot of enthusiasm from all sides to expand on the present format of the youth club, including special projects to take place in the participating villages. It had been agreed to meet again as a sort of steering group. The County Youth Work officers liaising on this project would be writing to the clerk with details.

4. Club for bulk-buying of oil

Dr van de Ven said that other villages had bulk oil-buying clubs, and that while this has nothing to do with councillors, it seemed a good idea to promote. She had put

together some information about a club for this cluster of villages and would put a notice in “The Laurentian”.

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR’S REPORT

Mrs Roberts said that the council was battling with budget problems. The new Chief Executive, Jean Hunt, would be visiting Foxton on 10th February and Mrs Roberts asked whether a council member would be able to meet her at the Village Hall at 11 am. *Dr Oakley volunteered to attend.*

Mrs Roberts said that development of the exception site at Fowlmere, although welcomed by many residents, was meeting with some opposition. She thought that an application for the proposed development off Station Road had now been submitted.

Dr Grindley expressed surprise as the Planning Committee would have liked to discuss the application with Circle Anglia before submission – the organisation had been invited to attend a meeting but had not responded.

Mrs Roberts then spent some time expressing her views about the development (Amber Homes) between 3-11 Mortimers Lane.

SIGNING OF INDEMNITIES FOR S106 PAYMENT

Dr Oakley proposed that the council agree to sign the Indemnity Agreements that would enable the S106 payment arising as a result of the Mortimers Lane development to be credited to the council. Dr McKeown seconded the proposal and all were agreed that Dr Oakley and Dr Grindley should sign the agreements, to be witnessed by the clerk, at the end of the meeting.

PARISH PLAN UPDATE

Mr Allars said there was nothing to report this month.

REPORTS FROM THE WORKING PARTIES

RECREATION AND AMENITIES

Mr Bentinck reported as follows:

1. Mr Salmons had moved the concrete from the Recreation Ground and this would be followed by a site visit to consider the landscaping of the area and the planting of Mrs Richardson’s memorial tree.
2. Dog fouling on the Recreation Ground was a serious problem and it was proposed to submit an article in “The Laurentian” about this, which would pose the possibility of barring dogs from the Recreation Ground. *All were agreed.*
3. The youth shelter had been inspected and was in good shape.
4. It was intended to remould the mounds in the Bike Park and Mr Salmons would dispose of the diseased tree near the entrance to the Recreation Ground from Illingworth Way.
5. Mrs Macintyre had obtained a Hawthorn tree to be planted on The Green together with the necessary compost.

A short discussion followed about the orientation of the solar lamp at the end of the Illingworth Way footpath onto the Recreation Ground.

FINANCE

Mr Sutton gave details of the Bank Accounts as follows:

Deposit Account	£4,108.24
Current Account (This included a contribution of £1,001 from Foxton Sports Clubs Association towards the cost of training lights on the Recreation Ground.)	£1,055.85
Standard Life Bank Premium 10-day Notice Account	£30,000.00

Mr Sutton proposed the following cheques for payment:

Cambridgeshire County Council (annual maintenance and energy charge for street lighting)	£1,077.42
Foxton VHT (hire of meeting room 10/1/11)	£15.00
D Salmons Fencing Services (Village Warden duties Nov/Dec 2010 and Jan 2011)	£264.00

Dr Oakley seconded the proposal and all were agreed that these payments, totalling £1,356.42, be made and that £357 be transferred from the Deposit Account to the Current Account.

Mr Sutton said that the end of the financial year 2010/11 was approaching and that so far the Recreation Ground Trust had not made a financial contribution to the FPC account. He recommended that any RGT contribution should be for non-recurring items.

Mr Sutton closed by saying that the council had received conflicting advice from HMRC about the late online annual tax return. The council had been advised that the penalties incurred had been reduced to zero and then at a later date that the matter would be adjudicated by inspectors. The clerk had written seeking clarification.

PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT

Dr Grindley said that a site visit had been made at the development in Mortimers Lane to check the present situation and the latest amendments.

The committee had met on 24th January, with all members present when the following matters had been considered:

Various drafts of a letter to Gareth Jones, SCDC Head of Planning had been made and these were discussed.

It was decided to ask the Parish Clerk to send a letter to Gareth Jones, detailing issues about permitted development, highway safety, listed buildings and other details of the planning process and approval notices (copy to Jean Hunter, SCDC Chief Executive and to Councillor Deborah Roberts). It was also agreed to send a letter to Dr Jon Finney at Cambridge Highways (copy to Councillor Susan van de Ven) about record-keeping and the reason for their change in decision about the access, and, finally, a letter to Jean Hunter, SCDC Chief Executive, asking her to look into the council's concerns with this planning application.

It was confirmed that SCDC councillors had made a site visit to Mortimers Lane on 2nd February.

Mr and Mrs Mahoney

Application No. S2224/10 for a first floor rear extension at 10 West Hill Road

Mr Sutton expressed an interest in this application and was advised that he could remain in the room, but not participate in the discussion or decision except to answer specific questions if asked.

The clerk was asked to include the following comments in the council's response to this application:

“The parish council is concerned that the two windows shown on the East side on the 1st floor are recent additions without a planning application having been made. These windows overlook the entire rear garden of the neighbours' property at No. 2 West Hill Road.

The proposed new upstanding roof lights will be visible from both the front and rear of the property and are considered unattractive.

The proposed window in the first floor extension to the master bedroom overlooks the rear garden and property at No. 9 Shepreth Road, and, to a lesser extent No. 11 Shepreth Road, causing loss of privacy.

The council would prefer the window to the new en suite bathroom to be in keeping with the existing Georgian-style windows, and the window on the east side of the master bedroom to be either bricked-up or opaque Georgian style.

A retrospective planning application is needed for the two windows on the East elevation.

The location plan is incorrect, as it does not take into account the previous extension.

RECOMMENDATION: That an amended design be submitted to include works required to the existing first floor windows on the East side elevation.”

Mr Barnes sought clarification about the S106 Agreement regarding the Mortimers Lane development and Mrs Roberts said she would make enquiries.

POLICE LIAISON REPORT

Mr Barnes reported as follows:

At the Police panel meeting on 18th January a request was made to clarify what could be done about dealing with dangerous dogs. Crime for Foxton and Fowlmere remained very low: there had been twelve offences in the last three-month period with a major incident involving rowdy youths in the Foxton Community Building car park. Mr Barnes said that a reduction in the level of policing was not expected this year. The Melbourne office had been completed and could be opening soon.

Mr Barnes wondered when the extension to yellow lines in Station Road would be effected, and Dr van de Ven was asked to look into this.

RECREATION GROUND TRUST REPORT

Dr McKeown said there had been no formal meeting of the RGT in the past month and reported as follows:

The Trustees had received a quotation for improvements to the showers, and alterations to the changing rooms, in the pavilion. This was considerably in excess of the expectations of the Trustees who resolved to ask for quotations against a simpler fault rectification specification rather than the enlargement of the changing rooms as previously intended.

The Trustees were also pleased to see the commencement of work on the training lights and noted that they would be required to transfer money that they were holding for payment towards the project to the parish council in the near future.

Dr Grindley said that all the underground ducts (re the installation of training lights) were ready for connection and the council would now have to place an order with an electrical supplier for metering. It was suggested that a broker be approached and that this matter be delegated to the Finance Group.

Mr Sutton said the RGT was awaiting the School's yearly contribution to the maintenance fund for the Village Hall complex.

DOVECOTE/MEADOW REPORT

Mrs Macintyre said that she had spread the bark left by Eastern Tree Surgery.

CORRESPONDENCE

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

- 1) Letter dated 20th December 2010 from SCDC Planning Services re payment of public open space contributions in connection with the development at Mortimers Lane: enclosing a copy of the original letter sent to parish councils re indemnity agreements for the transfer of these contributions plus two copies of indemnity agreements for signature by two designated FPC councillors. Also enclosed, details of websites relevant to the process.
- 2) Letter dated 21st January from UK Power Networks with information on the steps to be taken re the provision of the electrical connection for the light standards to be installed on the Recreation Ground: enclosing sketch map.
- 3) Letter dated 3rd February from CCC re meeting with parish councils to discuss the issues associated with the management of heavy commercial vehicle (HCV) traffic to be held on 2nd March at Swavesy Village College between 7 and 9 pm.
- 4) Letter dated 3rd February from the CCC Head of Environment Services enclosing additional information on the proposal to import material by rail to partially infill a quarry void at Barrington Quarry and to carry out restoration work (comments to be received by 28th February).
- 5) Information from CPALC including:
 - Memo requesting support for a community-based Diabetes research project: enclosing posters
 - CPALC Bulletin, Winter 2010-11

- 6) Memo dated December 2010 from Cambridgeshire Community Services NHS re providing a lifetime of care: consultation on becoming an NHS Foundation Trust: enclosing a consultation document (responses by 30th March 2011).
- 7) “Clerks and Councils Direct” magazine, January 2011 and councils’ suppliers guide and yearbook.
- 8) Memo re “The Connections Bus Project”, a charity that provides an evening youth facility for villages around Cambridge without youth clubs. The buses are also available for hire for village events.
- 9) Posters from SIA (the Spinal Injuries Association) to publicise their fund-raising event “The Great British Fish & Chips Supper” to be held on 20th May 2011.
- 10) RosPA leaflet re playground inspections.
- 11) Publicity material from Came and company (parish council insurance) and Monster Play (playground equipment).

Dr Oakley said that the discussion document received from Dynamo Foxton Football Club, would be referred to the next Recreation and Amenities Group meeting, which would also be attended by Marcus Kohler (Manager of Foxton Dynamos) and by Dr Grindley.

VISITORS’ QUESTIONS

Mr Challis said that planning issues at the Mortimers Lane development site stretched back for 25 years.

Mrs Howell pointed out that the ground at the entrance to the dovecote field had become hollowed out and consequently muddy – some infill was needed.

Mr Bentinck said he could offer some paving slabs.

Karen Butler-Clark said that she was organising a street party for the Royal Wedding to take place in the Hardman Road/Community Building car park area and this would necessitate closing off Hardman Road above the tabletop.

The clerk was asked to write to the appropriate authorities to say that Foxton Parish Council had been consulted and approved this event.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mr Bentinck said that work on the cycle path to Harston was underway.

Mr Sutton said that a Caxton Lane resident’s white van had been parked on The Green reducing visibility for road-users. He offered to have a word with the owner of the vehicle.

Dr McKeown said that an open meeting was to be held about the Heydon Grange wind-farm at the Golf Club.

Dr Grindley said that the end-date for the lighting project on the Recreation Ground would be in four to five weeks’ time.

Dr van de Ven said there would be a County Council meeting on 2nd March in Swavesey about the effect of Heavy Goods Vehicles on villages.

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

It was confirmed that the next meeting would be held on **Monday, 7th March 2011** at **7.45pm** in the **Meeting Room** of the **Village Hall**.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.45pm.