

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF FOXTON PARISH COUNCIL

HELD ON MONDAY, 6th MARCH 2006, AT 7.45 p.m.

PRESENT

Mr Pusey, Mr Hockley, Dr Grindley, Mr Kennedy, Dr McKeown, Miss Thake

County Councillor David McCraith

District Councillor Deborah Roberts

IN ATTENDANCE

2 members of the public

APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Mr Barnes, Mr Brooksbank and Mr Chilton

Mr Pusey welcomed all to the meeting.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Two amendments were necessary:

- (i) On page 99, under "Dovecote/Meadow Project", 1st paragraph, the initials CIAT should be substituted for "(architect for the project)".
- (ii) On page 100 under "Correspondence, item 3", the following words should be added: "The council agreed that Mr Pusey should investigate whether Bedfordshire Pilgrims' Housing Association would be prepared to act as partner in the development of the old school site."

Mr Kennedy proposed that, with these amendments, the Minutes of the previous meeting, held on 6th February 2006, should be signed as a true record. Mr Hockley seconded the proposal and all were agreed.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Defective lights etc at the Community Building

Mr McCraith said he had spoken to Bill Tarling who was chasing people up. A quotation for the faulty gas-meter should be received this week and the matter had been passed to Mr Houghton. A quotation had been obtained for repairing the cracks in the doorways of the Sports Pavilion and repainting. It was anticipated that the work would be carried out this Friday/next Monday. The work of dealing with faults in the car park was awaiting better weather. The new exterior lamps should be installed next

week. Mr McCraith said he would continue to chase these matters up with Bill Tarling. Mr Pusey expressed the council's thanks for his efforts.

Survey of Care Needs

Mr Hockley and Mr Pusey had met with Ann Sanderson who would be contacting the Harston organiser.

Letter to Andrew Lansley about a Car Park at Foxton Station

The clerk confirmed that she had written to Mr Lansley confirming that the council was interested in County Council-owned land being used as a car park at the station.

Correspondence

(i) Item 3 re old school site

Mr Pusey said that although he had contacted Bedfordshire Pilgrims' Housing Association, he had not yet been able to speak to the appropriate person.

(ii) Item 8 re letter from Mr Reeve about a possible road bridge at the level crossing

Mr Hockley had made some suggestions about the reply, but as the clerk had received these only a few days ago, the letter had not yet been sent.

Visitors' Questions – snack bar van opposite the garage on the A10

Mrs Roberts said that the van did not have permission to operate on this site and that an officer from the SCDC Environmental Health Department would visit the owner/operator.

Any Other Business

(i) Mr Mead's application for outline planning consent for a housing development in Fowlmere Road

Mrs Roberts said she would talk to the SCDC Legal Department about this.

(ii) 30mph speed restriction sign in Barrington Road

The clerk said she had written to Mr Cooper at CCC South Highways Department who had replied saying he would send someone to look at its siting.

(iii) Adoption of Hardman Road

Mr Kennedy said that (as a resident) he had had a series of e-mails with the County Council. Mr Barnes (CCC) said the road was not adopted because work still remained to be done. Mr Kennedy said he had also written to the developers, Meldire. Mr McCraith was advised of the problems and of the planting of the vision splay at no. 1, Edis Wa, on an area of ground that did not belong to the property. Mr McCraith said the developers had a reputation with the County Council of not being co-operative and he would keep reminding officers of the outstanding issues.

(iv) Footpath gap

Mr Brooksbank had undertaken to follow this up.

REPORTS FOR THE COMMITTEES

RECREATION AND COMMUNITIES

In the absence of Mr Chilton, the clerk reported from the e-mail he had sent in advance of the meeting.

The seats and the basketball nets had not yet arrived: Mr Chilton had chased up the suppliers the previous week and had been told that delivery should be any time now.

Mr Chilton said he had not had time yet to speak to Mr Phillips.

Mr Pusey reported having received a letter from Mr Phillips suggesting siting the David Mead Memorial seat on the Recreation Ground near to the entrance to the footpath to Illingworth Way. After some discussion, it was agreed that a decision about the location should be deferred until after consultation with the groundsman. The clerk was asked to contact Mr Chilton about arranging a meeting with the groundsman and agreeing locations for all three new seats.

FINANCE

Mr Hockley gave details of the bank accounts as follows:

Deposit Account	£30,202.03
(This included the CCC contribution to grass cutting for 2005 of £1079.12 and the Tennis club's rental for 2005 of £5)	
Current Account	£50.83
Cambridge Building Society	£13,401.13

Mr Hockley proposed that the following cheques be approved:

Hewitsons (legal charges re dovecote/meadow leases and disbursements)	£1376.50
Serviceteam (grass cutting July/August 2005)	£1451.63
J E Burns (salary February/March)	£550.57
J E Burns (expenses January/February)	£25.33
V W Mead (refuse collection, February)	£23.00
B Hockley (reimbursement for gift to the internal auditor, Mr Sutton)	£75.89

Mr Hockley said that the cost of the gift to Mr Sutton would be divided between FPC and the Recreation Ground Trust.

Dr Grindley seconded the proposal and all were agreed.

Mr Hockley proposed that the clerk's salary and Mr Mead's earnings should go up in accordance with CALC guidelines. Dr Grindley seconded the proposal and all were agreed.

PLANNING

In Mr Barnes' absence, Mr Hockley reported as follows:

Planning permission granted:

Mr and Mrs Kendall	Application No. S/2375/05/F for an extension at 22 Barrington Road Usual conditions
Mr P Ridgeon	Application No. S/2263/05/F for part demolition and conversion of Press building into 4 terraced houses and 1 detached house and erection of 3 houses and 4 affordable flats 20 conditions and numerous informatives

All residents who had written to the district council about this application received a copy of the decision.

Planning applications considered at a meeting of the Planning Committee on 2nd March 2006:

Mr and Mrs Gray	Application No.S/0238/06/LB for demolition of outbuildings. Internal and external alterations and new attached fences and gates at 1, High Street
Mr and Mrs Gray	Application No.S/0239/06/F for alterations to barn to form living accommodation including construction of link dwelling, erection of carport, fences and gates at 1, High Street

Both these applications had been discussed at the meeting on 2nd March, attended by Mr Barnes, Mr Brooksbank, Mr Hockley and two residents with properties adjoining 1, High Street, Mr Reeves, and Mr Perrin, both of whom had written to the district council. The committee had in general supported their comments. Copies of the Minutes of the meeting were circulated to councillors and it was agreed that the clerk, although entering “no recommendation” in the appropriate box of the consultation form, should raise the concerns included in the Minutes, albeit more concisely and in a less prescriptive way. These concerns and recommendations included:

S/0238/06/LB

It was thought the car shed should be included in this application as it is within the curtilage of the listed building.

It was considered important to retain the existing beams and floors internally.

The opening of the gable end on the north wall was felt to be out of keeping with the rest of the building.

A picket fence or hedge would be more appropriate than a post and rail fence, and it was hoped that the mature trees and shrubs within the curtilage of the property should be retained.

S/0239/06/F

The council felt that to effectively glaze the whole of the north end of the barn would be out of character.

SALE OF SMALL PARCEL OF LAND BY FOXTON PARISH COUNCIL TO THE RECREATION GROUND TRUST

Mr Pusey said the Trustees had agreed at their recent meeting to purchase a small parcel of land from the parish council for £400 with the parish council's approval. Dr McKeown proposed that the parish council agree to sell the parcel of land in question to the Recreation Ground Trust for the sum of £400. Dr Grindley seconded the proposal and all were agreed.

RECREATION GROUND TRUST

Mr Pusey said that the sale of land for an extension to the Recreation Ground had not yet been finalised. He had received an e-mail from the council's solicitors informing him that the completion monies had been passed to David Rosmarin (CCC). He reported that he was having discussions with the council's solicitor about the wording of a letter providing assurances about the tenure of the sub-groups who would occupy the land. The solicitor had asked him to obtain copies of each sub-group's constitution and details of tenure required by potential funders.

Recreation Ground Extension Committee

There had been a meeting of the committee on 21st February, the Minutes of which had been circulated. A "fifth project" in addition to the others being considered by the committee had been identified. This concerned the infrastructure for the area— ground clearance, earth levelling, fencing, hedging, water and environment. This would be referred back to Mr Brooksbank. In the meantime, Mr Pusey said he had been attempting to obtain some costs. One snag that had been encountered was that the pick-up point for the water supply was not known and could be difficult to find.

Mr Pusey said that the revised plan for the allotments was ready, but had not yet been seen by RGEC or the Trustees. He advised that if each of the groups who would use the area would need to identify its detailed requirements for access, water and groundworks.

Dr McKeown warned that grants to the project would be dependant on work not having commenced before the grant was made.

FOXTON COMMUNITY BUILDING

There was a problem with the County Council's share of the long-term maintenance charge for the Community Building. Mrs Howell (in the visitors' seats) said that the matter would be discussed at the meeting of the Village Hall Joint Management Group on 20th March.

DOVECOTE/MEADOW PROJECT

Mr Pusey reported that he had received the plans for the dovecote from Simon Ward and that these had also been submitted to the district council for approval. Potential contractors for the construction work that had been identified included Offord and Camp, The Organic Building Company, Edward Thackray and W Wadman: the work could go out to tender next week. Mr Pusey said he had negotiated a discounted price for the green oak from Mr Smart.

Unfortunately there was a problem with the restoration of the plaque in that Vicky Roulinson of Mowlem (Rattee and Kett), who had originally agreed to write the method statement without charge, was now saying that the report would cost £636 but that this would be refunded if the firm were awarded the contract. Mr Pusey said he had contacted the district council, but the council was not prepared to waive the requirement for a method statement. Other contractors contacted for this specialist work had not responded.

The clerk was asked to look up Standing Orders to see whether, for specialist work, the normal requirement for several quotations might not apply. Mr Pusey suggested that, subject to this being the case, the council accept Rattee and Kett's report and, at the same time, ask the firm for a "ball-park" figure for the necessary construction work.

Mr Pusey also reported that Allianz Cornhill had responded to FPC's request for cover for the building. The insurers were offering only limited cover for the period of restoration, but, when the work was complete, estimated the building would attract a premium of £386 per annum.

CORRESPONDENCE

The clerk summarised the correspondence received in the past month, which is given in full below:

- 1) Letter dated 8th February from SCDC head of Policy Communication re its updated Race Equality Scheme (website for consultation draft given).
- 2) Letter dated 9th February from the Land Registry Peterborough Office re voluntary first registration of title. (*Copy passed to DP*)
- 3) Letter dated 17th February from CCC Cambridge Projects Communications Manager re streetscape consultation 20th February –24th March (Cambridge Core Traffic Scheme): enclosing consultation leaflet with questionnaire.
- 4) Letter dated 22nd February from CCC South Highways Division seeking approval for its proposal to install kerbing and carry out roadway repairs at the bend in Shepreth Road. *The clerk was asked to write to Mr Cooper to confirm the council's approval for the work.*
- 5) Letter dated 22nd February from CCC Environment and Community Services Department enclosing a copy of its Rights of Way Improvement Plan for Cambridgeshire and enclosing questionnaire.
- 6) Letter dated 22nd February from Cemex with invitation to attend an extraordinary meeting of the Barrington Liaison Group on 30th March.
- 7) Letter dated 23rd February from SCDC head of Legal Services re SCDC's decision to cease providing legal advice except for advice and support in relation to the Code of Conduct.
- 8) Letter dated 24th February from SCDC Finance and Resources Department re the appointment of parish council members to the Standards Committee (deadline for receipt of nominations 24th May 2006).

- 9) Letter dated 27th February from the SCDC Environmental Health Portfolio Holder, re a possible partnership arrangement with parish councils for priority-based renewals and replacements for footway lighting.
- 10) Letter dated 1st March from CCC South Highways Division responding to the council's letter concerning a parishioner's request to have the 30mph sign at the junction of Barrington Road with the A10 relocated.
- 11) Letter dated 1st March from Cemex informing of the decision to postpone the submission date for its planning application, due to its complexities, until late February/early March.
- 12) Letter dated 3rd March from Cambridgeshire County Council/Peterborough City Council re the extension of the consultation period to 13th April on the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste Development Plan.
- 13) Letter dated 3rd March from the SCDC Chief Executive re public consultation on proposals to change the local elections system. Details of website are given with responses to be in by 28th April.
- 14) Information from CALC including:
 - Memo re street/footway lights; legal advice; Clean Neighbourhoods Act and working relationships between CALC, SCDC and parishes
 - Details of various workshops
 - Bulletin, February 2006
- 15) Information leaflet and booking form for the NALC Conference and Exhibition at Liverpool 22-24 September.
- 16) Standards Board for England publication on Town and Parish Standards.
- 17) Information from Cambridgeshire ACRE including:
 - Invitation to Parish Plans Open Evening to be held at the Community Centre, Over, on Tuesday 21st March 2006 from 7.30pm-9.00pm
 - "Travel Topics" (an occasional publication)
- 18) "The Tree Guardian" magazine, Spring issue.
- 19) Local Council Review, March 2006.
- 20) South Cambs magazine, Spring 2006.

Referring to item 2, Mr Pusey said that he was already aware of the Land Registry's offer of a 25% discount for first registrations of title and would claim this discount for first time registration of both parish and Trust land.

Mrs Roberts, referring to the proposed new arrangements for election of councillors said that these should make local elections much easier for the public to understand.

VISITORS' QUESTIONS

Mr Challis asked whether Edis Way, as well as Hardman Road, had not been adopted.

It was confirmed that this was the case.

Mr Challis asked whether the procedure for reporting faulty streetlamps remained the same now that the parish council would be paying for their maintenance.

It was confirmed that the procedure would remain the same. A discussion followed about who now owned the lamps and who should insure them - a matter that was felt to need clarification. Mrs Roberts agreed to look into this.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mr Pusey said that there would be a planting day for the meadow on Saturday, 11th March at 10am.

Mr Pusey also said that he had received a note from Mr Phillips asking whether there was any substance in a rumour he had heard that a development firm was seeking to erect houses on the Methodist Chapel site. The clerk was asked to reply saying that the parish council had no knowledge of this.

The clerk mentioned that the tax due on her petrol expenses for 2005/06 had been deducted from her March salary. She also said that she would be completing the income and expenditure ledger for the 2005/06 financial year ready to be signed at the next meeting, and would also be making the final 2005/06 VAT rebate claim.

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

It was confirmed that this would be held on **Monday, 3rd April 2006 at 7.45pm** in the **Meeting Room** of the Village Hall.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 10.50pm.