

## **MINUTES OF A MEETING OF FOXTON PARISH COUNCIL**

**HELD ON MONDAY, 12<sup>th</sup> APRIL, AT 7.45 p.m.**

### **PRESENT**

Dr Oakley, Dr Grindley, Mr Allars, Mr Barnes, Mrs Macintyre, Dr McKeown, Mr Sutton  
District Councillor Deborah Roberts

### **IN ATTENDANCE**

6 members of the public

### **APOLOGIES**

County Councillor Susan van de Ven

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, 1<sup>st</sup> March 2010, be signed as a true record. Mrs Macintyre seconded the proposal and all were agreed.

### **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

There were no matters arising.

### **COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

Dr van de Ven had sent a report (read to the meeting in her absence by Dr Oakley), which is given in full below:

1. Parking in Station Road: There are no easy answers but the problem is now at least being recognized by the County and FCC (*First Capital Connect*).

I'm continuing to press FCC for action on reducing parking charges and Meldreth and Shepreth but FCC don't appear eager to take action.

I've met Richard Preston to discuss. The County Council is in the process of exploring a Civil Parking Enforcement arrangement for the County, though I'm told that South Cambs has not yet been identified as a suitable prospect for such an arrangement on the basis that (*it*) has no towns. However, parking around rail stations is a problem in Meldreth, Shepreth, Foxton, Whittlesford, Shelford and Waterbeach – so it seems to me that the concept is worth exploring. It involves transferring the

power to enforce parking restrictions to County Council. It may not be the answer for Foxton but it should at least be considered.

I forwarded my report of the meeting to the police in advance of this month's Neighbourhood Panel meeting, and will raise it with the Area Joint Traffic Management Committee for discussion there. Copy of the report (*is*) attached for the parish council. As you can see, your reaction and views as a parish council would be welcomed.

2. The next Rail User Group meeting will take place at Foxton Village Hall, June 16<sup>th</sup>, 8pm. Among other things we will have Railfutures new figures on footfall at Foxton and other stations.

3. The Liberal Democrat Group at the County Council have asked for an exhaustive review of investment in pavements and roads but have been turned down on the basis that the pot hole filling exercise is going well and that Cambridgeshire is no worse off than other parts of the country. We understand that the £3 million advertised on pot hole fixing is £3 million over the next three years, and that this year's pothole filling has already started encroaching on next year's budget.

To claim for accidents on roads with defects, residents need to write to: Mr M Oakman, Area Maintenance Manager, Box No: ET1030, Station Rd, Whittlesford. Further information can be found at:

<http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/transport/roads/highways/if+you+decide+to+claim.htm>.

4. County Council budget papers from March budget meeting include the following passage concerning borrowing to fund the Guided Bus overspend:

*“Capital Funding and Spending: It should be noted that prudential borrowing includes £41 million to March 31 2010, £10.2 million in 2010/11, and £1.9 million in future years to meet contract payments on the Guided Busway. This is required to meet both the delayed receipt of S106 developer contributions and contract payments in excess of the target price. It is anticipated that £24.7 million from future developer contributions will be available to partly repay this debt, and the balance repaid by the contractor with interest on completion of the risk share process.”*

There are no guarantees that the Council will get this money back.

Northstowe Section 106 money and Guided Bus contributions: By the time Northstowe starts there will be a new government with new policies about funding infrastructure. We now know that Northstowe is to be an Eco Town and that it will be more expensive to build than originally anticipated. A Guided Busway legal dispute between CCC and Bam Nutall will involve legal fees to CCC. Therefore there are many uncertainties and a real risk of significant impact on public services.

5. There was a question previously about how much chief executives of our local authorities are paid. The County Council Chief Executive is paid £201K per year.

Dr van de Ven had also sent in a report about dangerous and nuisance parking that Dr Oakley again read to the meeting. The report summarised the problems resulting from the introduction of parking charges at Meldreth and Shepreth Stations the lack of parking facilities at Foxton station and the efforts that had been made to improve the situation.

The report also included sections on possible remedies and future actions.

## **DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

Mrs Roberts said that the matter of the tree with a Tree Preservation Order that had been felled without permission at the Press site was being dealt with by SCDC on a legal basis. The owner of the firm that had felled the tree had been invited for interview under caution.

## **PARISH PLAN UPDATE**

Mr Allars said the Plan was nearly ready and that a few more details were needed.

## **REPORTS FROM THE WORKING PARTIES**

### **RECREATION AND AMENITIES**

Mr Bentinck reported that the group had met on 23<sup>rd</sup> March when the following matters had been considered:

#### **1. Grass cutting**

CGM would be carrying out the first cut of the season this week and the Cricket Club had been informed.

CGM would be asked to make sure the village was tidy with regard to grass cutting in time for Foxton Fun Day.

The Cricket Club had called for stage payments of the council's contribution to the grass cutting the club did on the Recreation Ground. *It was agreed that stage payments of £150 in May, £150 in June and £250 in September should be made.*

*Dr McKeown suggested that, as a quid pro quo for accommodating the Cricket Club in this way, the club be asked to make sure that the club's roller be returned after use to the area next to the hard court backing onto St Laurence Road. The clerk agreed to liase with Mr Bentinck in writing to the club along these lines.*

#### **2. Village Warden**

Mr Salmons had removed the hedge cuttings from the hedge at 1, St Laurence Road, which the council had agreed to maintain. The council was not happy that the hedge had been cut without its permission and the clerk was asked to write to the occupants of the property to request that in future they leave the hedge cutting to the council.

#### **3. Play Area**

SCDC funding information had been passed to the group running the project to improve the Play Area. *Dr McKeown said that the group had met and would send in a report.*

#### **4. Encroachment onto the Recreation Ground**

The area of encroachment adjacent to 12 St Laurence Road had been cleared and this had taken up 7 hours of Mr Salmon's time. Mr Phillips had paid for the disposal of the materials and for the fuel needed by Mr Salmons to facilitate this.

*Although the letter sent to request that Mr Phillips clear all the materials from the area of encroachment had said that he would be charged for the clearance if he failed to comply with the request, Mr Bentinck proposed that, as he had co-operated in the clearance and contributed to costs, and, in order to avoid the difficulties that might ensue from trying to recover a relatively minor sum, no action be taken to recover the labour costs incurred in the clearance. Mr Allars seconded the motion, which was carried with two abstentions.*

Mr Bentinck reported that Mrs Macintyre had visited Mrs Meese (38 Illingworth Way, where there had also been an encroachment problem. It had been agreed that Mrs Meese would remove the string, but that she would be allowed to put up plastic netting to protect young trees for one growing season.

#### **5. Water Pump at the top of Mortimers Lane**

Cambridge Water had looked at the pump and concluded that the leak was due to the change in the water table since the closure of the cement works at Barrington. The Recreations and Amenities group would continue to monitor the situation.

#### **6. Other matters**

- The graffiti on the youth shelter was getting worse
- The red dog bin on The Green had been replaced with a green one
- Trailing telegraph wires in Station Road had been cleared
- The picnic tables that had been stored over winter would be replaced in the picnic area of the Recreation Ground

#### **Tree report**

Mrs Macintyre had received permission to have the dead Hawthorn removed from The Green and replaced with a similar tree.

Mr Allars had spoken to Mrs Richardson who suggested that a Hornbeam be planted on the Recreation Ground as a memorial to her late husband. The preferred location was where the Cricket Club's container is currently situated.

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Mr Bentick expressed his thanks to Mr Shelford and to Mr and Mrs Macintyre for the work they had done in planting daffodils on the verge in Shepreth Road.

Dr Oakley said that Mrs Boreham was willing to be involved in the village litter-pick.

#### **FINANCE**

Mr Sutton had circulated copies of the council's accounts for the past financial year and said that it was now time for the receipts and payments ledger to be signed off for

the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2010. Dr Oakley proposed the ledger be signed, Dr McKeown seconded the proposal and all were agreed.

The Annual Return for the external audit showing the required figures from the 2009/10 accounts also needed to be signed at the present meeting. Dr Oakley proposed the Annual Return be signed, Dr McKeown seconded the proposal and all were agreed.

The ledger was then duly signed by the Chairman and the clerk, and the Annual Return by Mr Sutton (as Responsible Financial Officer) and the Chairman.

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

Deposit Account	£18,912.68
(This included interest of £2.90 for the period 7/12/09-7/3/10)	
Current Account	£84.49
(This included one an ex gratia payment from Zippos Circus of £30 in respect of damage to the council's Notice Board)	
Standard Life Bank	
Premium 10-day Notice Account	£15,000.00

Mr Sutton proposed the following cheques for payment:

CPALC (2010/11 membership fee)	£378.85
Melbourn District Villages Association (donation to Melbourn Library)	£100.00
Foxton Village Hall Trust (hire of meeting room on 1/2 and 1/3, Foyer on 26/2 & Pavilion 29/3)	£46.25
D Salmons Fencing Services (Village Warden duties February/March & extra clearance work)	£297.00

Dr Oakley seconded the proposal and all were agreed that these payments, totalling £822.10, be made and that £790 be transferred from the Deposit Account to the Current Account.

Mr Sutton said that a request had been received from the Parochial Church Council for a contribution towards the upkeep of the churchyard and the clock. He had budgeted for an increase of £50 to the amount contributed in 2009 and proposed that a contribution of £600 be made. Dr Oakley seconded the proposal and all were agreed that this payment be made and that a further amount of £600 be transferred from the Deposit Account to the Current Account.

### **REPORT OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE**

Mr Barnes reported as follows:

#### **Planning permission granted:**

Mr and Mrs Barnes	Application No. S/1943/09/F for extensions and replacement garage at 25 High Street. Usual conditions
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#### **Planning application considered at the present meeting:**

Mr and Mrs Pusey

Application No. S/0375/10/F for an extension at  
45 St Laurence Road

The drawings were inspected and the application approved.

The Planning Committee had considered the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste Development Plan documents and submitted a response on the council's behalf. Mr Barnes summarised the responses to the various proposals including support for the maintenance of the rail link to Barrington Quarry and the Railhead facility there and for the protection of the waste management site at Thriplow. The response also included opposition to the proposal for the pet crematorium to be used as an alternative site to the Addenbrookes site to deal with Addenbookes' chemical waste and expressed concern about the lack of control over the importation of London waste (including human waste).

Mr Barnes asked for Mrs Roberts' comments on the following outstanding issues:

1. Former Q8 garage

Mrs Roberts said that she would request an update from the SCDC enforcement officer. Mr Barnes said that it was thought the garage owner intended to start selling petrol. Mrs Roberts said that the fuel tanks would almost certainly need to be checked before petrol could be sold there.

2. New entrance to the Burlington Press site

Mrs Roberts said that she understood that an application for one-way use of the entrance would be submitted.

3. Low-cost housing at Mortimers Lane

It was queried whether there would be any low-cost housing at the site in Mortimers lane with planning permission for housing development. Mrs Roberts said she would make enquiries.

### **POLICE LIAISON REPORT**

Mr Barnes said that there would be a meeting of the Police Liaison Panel at the Village Hall on Tuesday, 20<sup>th</sup> April at 7pm. He said that concern had been raised at the last meeting about the increase in burglaries since when there had been some improvement. Incidents in Foxton included a disturbed burglary in the High Street when two residents had apprehended one of the offenders, break-ins at Hardman Road and Cambridge Road and a bicycle theft from a St Laurence Road property. Police foot patrols had increased since these events.

Mr Barnes said that the e-cops web site gave details of local incidents and allowed incidents to be reported.

### **RECREATION GROUND TRUST REPORT**

Dr McKeown said the Trust had not met in the past month. He said that, arising from the imperfect metering of gas supplied to the pavilion, discussions were continuing with the chairman of the School Governors about payment due for the gas usage there.

### **DOVECOTE/MEADOW REPORT**

Mrs Macintyre said there was nothing to report this month.

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

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

- 1) Letter dated 2<sup>nd</sup> March from CPALC re the Government's Future Jobs Fund providing wages for young people between 18 and 24 years old: enclosing poster.
- 2) Letter dated 5<sup>th</sup> March from Cambridgeshire ACRE re the COMMA (Community Aggregates) Fund 2010 that provided grants for communities affected by the extraction or transportation of aggregates: enclosing leaflet.
- 3) Letter dated 6<sup>th</sup> March from CPRE re its "Stop the Drop" litter reduction campaign with information for parish councils wishing to pursue anti-litter measures. *Passed to SB*
- 4) Letter dated 8<sup>th</sup> March from CCC Passenger Transport re changes to Stagecoach and Norfolk Green services.
- 5) Letter dated 9<sup>th</sup> March from SCDC Local Strategic partnership enclosing an application form and guidance notes re the South Cambridgeshire Community Chest grant scheme. *Passed to Play Area Improvement Group*
- 6) Letter dated 12<sup>th</sup> March from Andrew Lansley MP enclosing a copy of the results of his mini-survey about youth facilities in South Cambridgeshire.
- 7) Letter received March 2010 from Andrew Lansley MP offering help in regard to problems being encountered with unrepaired potholes.
- 8) Letter dated 12<sup>th</sup> March from Zippos Circus enclosing £30 in cash as a goodwill gesture in respect of the damage to the council's Notice Board.
- 9) Letter from Harston Parish Council suggesting cooperation with FPC re councillors' training courses.
- 10) Letter from Vic Phillips received 24<sup>th</sup> March suggesting a letter of thanks be sent to those who recently apprehended a burglar in Foxton.
- 11) Letter dated 29<sup>th</sup> March from Cambridgeshire Cricket Board with an offer of training for council ground staff.
- 12) Letter dated 7<sup>th</sup> April from the CCC Head of Strategic Planning re the introduction of electronic planning consultation.
- 13) Information from CPALC including:
  - Membership news 2010-11
- 14) Local Council Review, Spring 2010.
- 15) "Community Action", Cambridgeshire ACRE magazine, Spring 2010
- 16) "Clerks and Councils Direct" magazine, March 2010.
- 17) "South Cambs" magazine, Spring 2010.
- 18) COPE newsletter, April 2010.

- 19) “The Ring”, Cambridge Past, Present and Future Bulletin.
- 20) Publicity material from Fitzpatrick Woolmer (signage), Barcham Trees, Sunsafe Play System Ltd (play equipment), pro-Teq and ASM (play surfaces) and Glasdon.

### **VISITORS’ QUESTIONS**

A member of the public complained about the condition of the footway in front of the bungalows above Hall Close.

*Dr Oakley said he would contact Dr van de Ven about this.*

Mr Pusey commented that road signs in the village were getting very dirty including two historic signs by the Oast House and Herod’s Cottage.

*Mr Bentinck said he would ask the Village Warden to clean these but villagers were quite welcome to do this themselves. It was also agreed that the historic signs should be “adopted” and cleaned up.*

Mrs Howell complained about the parking problems caused by building contractor’s vehicles parked near the Village Shop.

*Mrs Howell was advised that the Police should come in cases of obstructive parking.*

Mrs Cooke reported a number of matters:

- The bus shelter in Station Road was in a very bad state. *Dr Oakley said he would check this out.*
- The telephone kiosk in Station Road was filthy. *It was agreed that the clerk would write to BT.*
- Lay-bys in the village were not provided with litterbins. *Mrs Roberts said she would write to the relevant SCDC officer.*
- Foxton Station was dirty and the ticket machines were faulty. *The clerk would write to First Capital Connect*
- The triangle of grass between the former Q8 garage and the station needed tidying up
- The road in Hall Close was in a bad state
- The wall behind the War Memorial and the brickwork in front of it were both in need of repair. *Dr Oakley said he would investigate and a letter would be sent to Mr Ridgeon at the Burlington Press.*

### **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Mrs Roberts mentioned that a BBC programme had been made concerning polluted land at Corby and at the Harston agrochemical site.

Dr McKeown had attended a meeting where the possibility of eleven wind turbines being erected at the Heydon Golf Club was discussed. Heydon and Chishill would have an action group that they would like other interested parties to join.



Mrs Macintyre said the arrangements needed to be made for the Cricket Club container to be moved.

Mr Bentinck said he would ask Mr Salmons to clean the road signs. He said that last year the smell from Mr Sheldrick's land due to the London waste had been dreadful. Mrs Roberts said that Mr Sheldrick would be using a different firm this year and suggested a pre-emptive letter be sent to him requesting him to take more care to avoid offensive smells pervading the village next time he used such waste.

Dr Grindley suggested combining the forthcoming litter-pick with an inspection of village amenities footways etc. This was thought to be a very good idea.

Dr Oakley said he had been approached by the Foxton Gardens Association to replace the village sign. The clerk was asked to get details of the Fowlmere sign from the Fowlmere parish clerk.

### **DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

The **Annual Parish Meeting** would be held on **Monday, 26<sup>th</sup> April** in the **Meeting Room** of the **Village Hall**.

The **Annual General Meeting** of the council would be held on **Monday, 10<sup>th</sup> May** in the **Lounge** of the **Village Hall**.

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