

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF FOXTON PARISH COUNCIL

HELD ON MONDAY, 8th APRIL 2013 AT 7.45 p.m.

PRESENT

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

County Councillor Susan van de Ven

IN ATTENDANCE

4 members of the public

APOLOGIES

Mr McCreery

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.

Dr Oakley said he had tried to contact Ms McMillan at SCDC concerning renewal of this dispensation without success and would follow the matter up.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

No amendments were needed and all were agreed that the Minutes of the previous Meeting, held on Monday, 4th March 2013, be signed as a true record.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There were no matters arising.

VILLAGE INFRASTRUCTURE

Dr Oakley said that he had nothing to report this month that would not be later covered in Dr van de Ven's report.

REPORTS FROM THE WORKING PARTIES

RECREATION AND AMENITIES

Mrs Macintyre gave the report sent in by Mr McCreery as follows:

1. Recreation ground

Mr McCreery had reminded Kompan that they still needed to rectify five minor problems in the Play Area.

2. QEII Registration

Mr McCreery had now sent in the appropriate forms with the Deed of Dedication to the Land Registry. Mrs Macintyre was arranging for a plinth for the plaque to be built (probably in May).

3. Half Pipe/Skate Park Project

Funds raised for this project from the pantomime and from Waitrose were formally presented in the past month.

The Committee was now beginning to prepare grant applications. The WREN grant application would need to be in the name of the body that would look after the site in the future. The most effective way of applying for this grant would be with the parish council as applicant both for the purposes of the application and for VAT considerations. The parish council would not require planning consent for the Skate Park.

Mrs Macintyre, on behalf of the Working Party, proposed that the council agree to support the application to WREN being made in its name. Dr Oakley seconded the proposal and all were agreed.

The application would be reviewed before submission.

4. Sports Clubs Meeting

Mr McCreery and Mrs Macintyre had both attended the bi-annual meeting of the sports clubs on 20th March.

Owing to the difficult weather during the winter, both Dynamo Foxton and Foxton Football Club had arranged training at all-weather venues on a number of occasions. The area used for football training was considered to be in a similar state to last year.

After considerable discussion it was agreed that the cost of fertiliser for 2013 would be shared equally between the three clubs (Cricket, Football and Dynamo). The parish council had budgeted for providing grass seed and for two applications of herbicide during the year.

The possibility of raising the height of the floodlights and installing an additional one was again discussed. As both the Football Club and Dynamo Foxton were keen to explore the possibilities of a 3G all-weather facility, it was agreed that if fund raising did get underway then any improvements to floodlighting should be put on hold. It was pointed out that the village would need to be canvassed about their views and, in particular, residents who had houses near to the proposed facility would need to be consulted individually.

The Cricket Club reminded us that there had been an indication from the parish council that new picnic tables would be provided for the “picnic bank” on the Recreation Ground. An increase in the amount the parish council paid for grass cutting was again requested.

Mrs Macintyre, on behalf of the Working Party, proposed that the fee be increased by £50 to £650 per annum and that the picnic area be included in the area to be cut regularly. Dr Oakley seconded the proposal and all were agreed.

5. Tennis Club

The Tennis Club lease was due for renewal

Mrs Macintyre, on behalf of the Working Party, proposed that the lease be renewed on the existing conditions for a further 15 years as per the existing Lease Agreement. Mr Bore seconded the proposal and all were agreed.

6. Gravel Car Park

Mr McCreery had asked Mr Salmons to provide a quotation for filling in the holes in the gravel car park and providing new gravel.

FINANCE

Mr Sutton had circulated councillors, prior to the present meeting, with a summary of the entries in the Receipts and Payments ledger (the Red Book) for the year ending 31st March 2013. The book should be signed as the first step in the procedures necessary for having the council's records and accounts examined by both the internal and external auditors. Excluding the effect of purchasing the new Play Area equipment, the surplus for the year was £1,807, which compared very favourably with the draft accounts presented to councillors earlier in the financial year. All councillors were agreed that, on the basis of the figures given, the Red Book be signed. *The Chairman and the Clerk then signed the book.*

All councillors also agreed with the figures entered into the Annual Return for 2012-2013, which were then signed by Mr Sutton, as Responsible Finance Officer, and the Chairman.

Mr Sutton said that the Mr Matthews had again kindly agreed to complete the internal audit and that the external audit would be carried out by Littlejohn LLP who had taken over from Moore Stephens.

Mr Sutton gave details of the Bank Accounts as follows:

Deposit Account	£13,393.86
Current Account	£59.23
(This included a VAT refund of £331.30, the Tennis Club rent for 2012 of £5 and a post-meeting payment (<i>as previously agreed</i>) to Npower of £60.30 and transfers to and from the Deposit Account)	
10-Day Notice Account	
(This included interest applied 1/3/13 of £21.65)	£22,678.62

Mr Sutton proposed the following cheques for payment:

Foxton Village Hall (hire of Meeting Room 4/2/13)	£15.00
D Salmons (Village Warden duties, March)	£105.00
NALC (subscription renewal)	£16.00

? seconded the proposal and all were agreed that these payments, totalling £136, should be made, and that £136 be transferred from the Deposit Account to the Current Account.

PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT

Dr Grindley reported that the Committee had met on 12th March when the following two matters had been considered:

1. Cemex Submission – Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC) Consultation re Light Railway

The committee advised CCC that the level crossings were not, as reported, all within the Parish of Barrington and that the crossing referred to as the “Foxton Road crossing” was actually on Barrington Road in the parish of Foxton, and that all three crossings were in the district of South Cambridgeshire not in the district of Cambridge as stated.

The committee recommended that the Foxton and Haslingfield road crossings should be gated crossings, as well as the Glebe road crossing, as the open crossings proposed would encourage drivers to jump the lights, particularly as trains would be travelling at low speed. The Haslingfield crossing would be at particular risk, in this respect, due to the speeds at which drivers came down the hill.

2. Application S/2608/12/FL. by Mrs Joyce Ward for construction of two dwellings following demolition of existing at 14 Fowlmere Road

Councillors Peter Sutton and Rachael Macintyre attended the SCDC Planning Committee meeting in order to represent Foxton parish council’s views. Members of the SCDC committee, having previously visited the site as recommended by District Councillor Deborah Roberts, unanimously approved the application and the council had subsequently received notice of approval for Mrs Ward’s application.

Parish Plan proposal – Expansion of Foxton’s Conservation Area

Dr Grindley said that David Bevan, SCDC Conservation Manager, had attended the meeting of the Common Stream History Society on 13th March to explain what was involved in preparing a detailed appraisal. His presentation was well received and the History Society has agreed to prepare historical submissions for the detailed appraisal.

Mr Bevan offered to attend the next meeting of the Planning Committee to provide a more detailed briefing and advise on the support that SCDC could provide for this project.

Rob Brooksbank, a Foxton listed building owner, had volunteered to consult all the listed building owners in Foxton to ensure that they were well informed about this proposal and in order to obtain feedback and advice from them. Mr Brooksbank had now sent all listed building owners an explanatory letter.

Mr Sutton asked how many listed buildings there were in total in Foxton. Dr Grindley said this had yet to be established, but that the number of listed buildings outside the existing conservation area exceeded those within it. Landscape and historical connections would be explored and the project was estimated to take twelve to eighteen months study, with a further six months for decision taking about the proposals.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH SCHEME

It was confirmed that Noleen Waring now had enough volunteers to establish a Neighbourhood Watch scheme in Foxton. It was agreed to ask her to put the recent Webmaster report (on the recent spate of burglaries and the police response) in “The Laurentian”.

POLICE LIAISON REPORT

Mr Barnes reported that, in addition to various burglaries including a major burglary at the house next to the Village Shop, a number of other criminal incidents had been reported:

Hall Close	1 vehicle crime (theft or interference) still under investigation by the police.
Station Road	1 drugs incident (<i>includes possession/supply</i>). The offender was given a caution and warned about this behaviour and the possibility of being taken to court in the event of another such crime being committed.

Mr Barnes concluded by saying that he would be attending a Police panel meeting on Tuesday, 9th April, and hoped that a member of the Neighbourhood Watch team would also attend.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR’S REPORT

Dr van de Ven reported as follows:

1. The County Council had been asked for detail on the schedule for rolling out Superfast Broadband, following their signing of a contract with BT and it was hoped this would be available in the next few months. A specific question had been asked regarding households and businesses not able to access high quality broadband service otherwise available in their villages, and therefore not on the county’s target list for improvement - this would include Foxton and Melbourn. This anomaly was on the council’s radar and the council said these examples would be addressed, though it might be helpful if the parish council were to write to the council to ask for written assurance that these anomalies would be accounted for.
2. The County Council had now adopted its Flood Risk Strategy. Dr van de Ven had asked the Council to give special attention to the problem of staff shortages in the Highways department, which had a direct impact on flood and drainage issues – as had been seen - where standing water exacerbated pot holes, especially around blocked drains. Mr Mike Cooper (CCC) was now the main contact for the whole area.
3. Following on from the setting of priorities at its AGM on 13th March, the Meldreth, Shepreth and Foxton Rail User Group was undertaking a special campaign for improvements to disabled access. This was important where subsidised bus services had been withdrawn and rail was now the main form of public transport. The Rail User Group would next meet on 12th June at 7:30pm in Foxton Village Hall.
4. The pedestrian gate at Foxton Level Crossing on the Barrington side had been chained shut for a period the previous day, according to a report received today from a Foxton resident.

5. County Councillors were asked last week to vote on a motion endorsing the notion of “local contributions” to the £1.5 billion scheme to upgrade the A14 and there has been much discussion and debate on this matter. Dr van de Ven said that as the A14 was a European, as well as, a national trunk road, it did not seem appropriate to her that local councils should be contributing to the upgrade. The County Council was already undertaking massive prudential borrowing for important local public services, including road maintenance work (£90 million) and Superfast Broadband (£20 million). There was consensus that the A14 needed to be made safe, but she said she could not support the principle of local contributions that would ultimately add to the burdens already being shifted down to parish councils.

6. Dr van de Ven said that Jon Clarke was the District Infrastructure and Streets Manager for Highways restructuring and Mike Cooper was the local contact.

7. Foxton Level Crossing Feasibility Study

The study was still expected at the end of April, though Dr van de Ven said she had stressed the point to both County Council and Network Rail that these bodies needed to communicate first with Foxton Parish Council, prior to official publication. She had been told by County Council officers that the public consultation process would be detailed, thorough and lengthy, and probably along the lines of the Ely by-pass consultation. The Leader of the County Council had recently appeared in the local press talking about support for a bridge at the crossing, but it was vital that this whole process was taken one step at a time and that stakeholders first saw what the report recommended. The principle underpinning the study was to look at “all options” so no assumptions should be made at this point. Furthermore, Dr van de Ven said that there was nothing in the County Council’s budget for any type of project work, so it would be premature to make any announcements as to what the council would or would not support. Should Network Rail make a strong case for closing the level crossing then it would seem logical that, as much as possible, they should be expected to access the Department for Transport funding specifically allocated for level crossing closures. Dr van de Ven said that, as she had mentioned at last month’s parish council meeting, she had requested a meeting with County Council and Network Rail officers, Foxton Parish Council’s Chairman and herself, to become acquainted with the detail of the report before it was made public. She had since suggested to the County Council that Barrington Parish Council Chairman and County Councillor also be invited to attend this meeting since any proposed works would take place adjacent to Barrington parish.

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR’S REPORT

In District Councillor Roberts’ absence, there was no report.

RECREATION GROUND TRUST REPORT

Mrs McFadzean said there was nothing further to report since the last council meeting, but that the Trustees would need to meet before the end of the month.

Mr Sutton said he would be meeting with Mrs Howell and Martin Smith to draw up a schedule of works that would need to be carried out.

DOVECOTE/MEADOW PROJECT

Mrs Macintyre said that Mr Cairns had done some tidying up in the meadow at the weekend. The fence scheduled for removal had still not been taken down.

CORRESPONDENCE

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

- 1) Letter dated 7th March from Adams Harrison, Solicitors, in response to the council's letter to Mr and Mrs Chilton regarding the felling of trees in Barons Lane.
- 2) Letter dated 20th March from Cambridgeshire ACRE re changes to its service.
- 3) Letter dated 21st March from Cambridgeshire CC re the introduction of electronic consultation for planning related correspondence.
- 4) Local Council Review, Spring 2013.
- 5) Letter received March 2013 from Relate requesting a donation.
- 6) Publicity material from Signs of the Times (quality cast signs) and Barcham Trees (booklet and information re tree planting service for councils).
- 7) Various e-mails from CPALC.

VISITORS' QUESTIONS

Mrs Ward thanked the council for all its support with her planning application.

Mr Howard questioned the need for two gates onto the play area and thought this might create difficulties for parents overseeing their children. He also reported chunks of safety matting being cut off during grass cutting.

Mrs McFadzean said that it was thought that two gates were necessary so that a child who might be intimidated at one gate had another means of leaving the area. She said that the matter of damage to the safety matting would need to be addressed.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mr Elliott said he was unable to make much progress with the website at present, which needed to have the suffix .gov.uk. His contact at SCDC, Paul Grainger, said that the mapping tool, which FPC wished to include was "up in the air at the moment".

Mr Barnes drew attention to drainage problems in the village.

Mr Sutton asked whether there had been much take-up at Dr Oakley's last surgery. Dr Oakley said that he had met with representatives of the Bowls Club who were anxious about the funding for improvements to their facilities.

Mrs McFadzean said that changes were needed to the organisation of MAYD (Melbourn Area Youth Development), since the organisation became responsible for staffing, in respect of liabilities.

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

It was confirmed that this would be the **Annual Meeting** to be held on **Monday, 13th May 2013** at **7.45pm** in the **Village Hall Meeting Room**.

The **Annual Parish Meeting** would be held on **Monday, 29th April 2013** at **7.45pm** in the **Village Hall Meeting Room**.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.55pm.