

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF FOXTON PARISH COUNCIL

HELD ON MONDAY, 6th JUNE 2011, AT 7.45 p.m.

PRESENT

Dr Grindley, Mr Barnes, Mr Bore, Mr Elliott, Mr
McCreery, Mrs McFazdean, Mr Sutton
County Councillor Susan van de Ven
District Councillor Deborah Roberts

IN ATTENDANCE

4 members of the public

APOLOGIES

Dr Oakley, Mrs Macintyre

Dr Grindley 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 Grindley said that this dispensation was due for renewal and an application had been made. *Mrs Roberts said that there would be a delay in granting the renewed dispensation, as the relevant SCDC committee was not at present quorate.*

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

As no amendments were needed, Dr Grindley proposed that the Minutes of the previous meeting, held on Monday, 9th May 2011, be signed as a true record. Mr Sutton seconded the proposal and all were agreed.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Parish Plan

The clerk had received a report from Mr Hockley as follows:

Mr Allars, Dr Sanderson and Mr Hockley had gone as far as they could go with the Parish Plan project.

It was expected that on completion there would be three publications:

- 1) The appendices, containing the back-up information to the plan, comprising the questionnaire, the detailed responses, and other documents referred to in the plan.
- 2) The full plan, for distribution to the County and District councils, and other stakeholders.

3) The short form plan, for distribution throughout the village. This would comprise the Foreword provided by Dr Oakley, the Summary, and the Action Plans.

Plan distribution:

The group saw the full plan plus appendices as requiring only a small distribution to bodies such as the District and County Councils, and other stakeholders, and not all of these would need copies of the appendices. However, copies of the full plan and appendices should be available for download from the village web site, or for loan from the Parish Clerk. The short form plan, expected to be A5 format, and up to 8 pages long, was to be distributed to all households in Foxton and cross-refer to the sources from which the full plan could be downloaded or seen. It should have an eye-catching cover, probably in colour.

The document masters would be in .pdf format and prepared by Ian Sanderson. The total quantities required for each document were yet to be determined, and the printing would need to be organised. The Parish Council, or nominated Councillor(s), would need to be involved in these final decisions and activities, which have financial implications.

The Council nominated Mr Sutton and Dr Grindley to liase with Mr Allars, Dr Sanderson and Mr Hockley regarding publication of the Parish Plan. The Clerk would write to inform Mr Hockley.

Power garage on the A10

Mrs Roberts said she had spoken to SCDC planning officers Nigel Blazeby and Saffron Garner. The latter confirmed that the SCDC application in respect of this site would now be activated.

Correspondence (item 1) - Nuisance from cats in Fowlmere Road

Mrs Roberts reported that this matter was being dealt with. It had been established that there were nine cats at the premises in Fowlmere Road. Mr Barnes added that there were also a number of dogs and rats at the same address.

Documents for the SCDC Monitoring Officer

The clerk confirmed that copies of the Registration of Member's Interests forms and the Applications for a dispensation with regard to the Recreation Ground Trust had been forwarded to the appropriate department at SCDC.

Election

Mrs Roberts reminded councillors that, even if they incurred no election expenses, they still needed to make a nil return expenses claim to SCDC.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Dr van de Ven reported as follows:

Civil Parking Enforcement Policy

The consultation on this policy would end on 17th and comments would be welcome.

Double Yellow Lines in Station Road

Dr van de Ven reminded those present that the legal advertisement for this job had been put in a cluster with similar jobs in other villages. However, there had been a long delay at Meldreth, for various reasons, and a decision has not yet been made. Dr van de Ven had asked Highways if the Foxton job could be pushed forward.

Future Small Highways Matters

There was a clear indication from Highways Department that, under the County's Localism agenda, parish councils would have a greater steer on requests for local projects – but would also have to accept accountability.

Melbourn Youth Club

Community transport arrangements for children from outlying, participating villages wanting to attend the new Melbourn Youth Club were just about in place. Melbourn Village College had given permission for its mini-buses to be used without charge, except for petrol. The County Council, which manages insurance, had given the go-ahead, and Royston and District Community Transport could provide six volunteer drivers. There would be a small charge to cover the cost of petrol. Some parish councils would be looking to cover the costs to ensure that those children who want to attend can. Dr van de Ven asked whether this was something Foxton Parish Council would like to consider.

Pedestrian Gates for the Level Crossing

Dr van de Ven said that these were late and that she had been given the unsatisfactory date of “summer” for when they would be ready. She had complained about the length of the delay and said that this was unacceptable given the serious nature of safety issues that occurred when the gates were out of order.

Rail/Road Meeting between Network Rail (NWR) and County Highways

This meeting had been held on 17th May. The prospect of a bridge over the level crossing had been revisited and, indeed, figured prominently in the list of remedial works at level crossings across Cambridgeshire. The pressure that had been brought to bear on NWR over recent months had been a positive factor in getting this subject on the table. Dr van de Ven said that though one must remain sceptical given the economic situation and the massive size of such a project, it was equally important to continue to keep the pressure on NWR. Her own view was that NWR welcome the local input; they know the level crossing is very problematic and want something done – Department of Transport financing was key to this project.

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Mrs Roberts said that, following the election, she was now back on the Planning Committee and the Planning Enforcement Sub-Committee. Despite the cutbacks, the district council had funds of £100,000 for village facilities and £40,000 for arts projects.

There had been a case of fly-tipping on Foxton Hill, which she had reported to the district council. *Mr Barnes thought there could be a connection with a break-in and he had tried to contact the police about the matter.*

Dr Grindley said that the group working to improve the play area would welcome an SCDC grant, and that the council desperately needed storage space in the village hall

and an assessment of village hall users' storage needs had been requested. Mrs Roberts recommended that the council lose no time in making grant applications.

Dr van de Ven mentioned that the old booking office was empty at the railway station and might be suitable for storage.

REPORTS FROM THE WORKING PARTIES

RECREATION AND AMENITIES

Mr McCreery said the group had met twice since the last council meeting and reported as follows:

The first meeting was to update the new Group with actions required in the short term. Members of the group and David Salmons subsequently attended a site meeting on the Recreation Ground to look at any areas requiring attention.

Since the site meeting David Salmon had carried out a number of housekeeping tasks to improve the condition of the Recreation Ground with the following jobs among those completed:

- Tidying up the car park by removing a dead Wych Elm, an Elder bush and scrub.
- Rotovating and seeding the area next to the Bowls Club surrounding the Pat Richardson memorial tree.
- Removing branches from the Chestnut tree to allow the new training light to operate properly.
- Clearing Senecio shrub from the corner of the play area.
- Repairing play area ramp.
- Replacing the metal post to prevent unwanted vehicle access to the Recreation Ground from St. Lawrence Road.
- Making safe the access to water in the bike park area.

Mr McCreery said that one of the waste bins on the Recreation Ground needed to be replaced and asked the council to approve the purchase of a new bin at an estimated cost of £180 excluding VAT.

The council's grass cutting contractors had been contacted and the latest cut was carried out on 25th May, the day of his meeting. A request for a quotation for spraying the Recreation Ground, picnic area and BMX track for weeds had resulted in a quotation of £250 excluding VAT, the same price as two years ago. Mr McCreery sought the council's approval to proceed.

Mr Bore seconded both proposals and all were agreed to the above items of expenditure. It was agreed to ask Mrs Macintyre to arrange a date for the weed killing to be carried out.

The group had agreed with the Tennis Club to re-site the Tennis Club litterbin outside the courts and to anchor it to the ground and this had now been done. The lease between Foxton Parish Council and the Tennis Club had not been renewed for some time and it was also agreed to formalise matters by entering into a new 12-year lease on the same terms as the 1990 lease.

The group had contacted the Bowls Club about the danger of the broken fence beside the entry gate to the club. The fence had now been replaced and Mr McCreery said he would like the council's thanks to the Bowls Club for their prompt reaction to be recorded in the Minutes.

The proposed letter to the Sports Clubs, and the Agreement for them to sign, had been circulated to all councillors for approval. *After some discussion, it was agreed that the clerk should ask CPALC for legal advice on this document.*

It had also been arranged to meet with Cricket Club and Football Club representatives to discuss mutual matters of concern at the end of this week.

The ROSPA report on the play area was expected shortly and this would be reviewed with the Playground Improvement Committee as soon as it was received and decisions would be made regarding the remedial work required – including repairing the broken piece of equipment.

An incident of golf practice on the Recreation Ground has been reported. It was emphasised that golf is strictly not allowed on the Recreation Ground.

Dr Grindley said that testing of the new lights on the Recreation Ground the previous Wednesday had been constrained by a Cambridgeshire Cricket Association over-50's cricket match arranged without the council's knowledge.

FINANCE

Mr Sutton said he would be calling a meeting of the Finance Working Party once Dr Oakley was available to appoint a chairman and vice-chairman and to review the council's accounts for the past three months.

Mr Sutton gave details of the bank accounts as follows:

Deposit Account	£16,425.96
Current Account (This included a £10 refund from Utility Warehouse)	£62.01
Standard Life Bank	£30,344.92

Mr Sutton proposed the following cheques for payment:

P & D Specialist Services Ltd (completion of training lights installation)	£3972.65
Aon Limited (renewal of insurance policy)	£1780.29
CGM (Cambridge) Ltd (grass cutting, April)	£480.00
NALC (subscription to Local Council Review)	£15.50
Foxton Village Hall (hire of Meeting Room 4&26/4& 9/5, Lounge 4 & 13/4 and Pavilion 28/4)	£70.00
D Salmons Fencing Services (Village Warden duties, May plus extra work)	£463.50
N Oakley (1 st half Chairman's Honorarium)	£80.00

Dr Grindley seconded the proposal and all were agreed that these payments, totalling £6,861.94, be made and that £6,860 be transferred from the Deposit Account to the Current Account.

(It was agreed that a cheque that had been approved at an earlier meeting for an electrical meter for the training lights installation that had not, in the event been required, should be cancelled.)

Payment to P & D Specialists would be deferred until the certificate for the electrical work had been received. Once this payment had been made and the invoice for the weed killing had been received, the clerk was asked to claim a refund for the first months of this financial year

PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT

Dr Grindley reported that the committee had met earlier this evening when he had been elected as chairman of the committee and Mr Bore as vice chairman. It had been decided to call a site meeting at “The Barns”, Mortimers Lane, where the owners were looking to deal with the situation of the required link between the two residential buildings on the site. Mrs Roberts warned the council that an SCDC officer should be present at such meetings. Dr Grindley undertook to speak with Paul Sexton, SCDC Planning Department, about the visit.

POLICE LIAISON REPORT

Mr Barnes reported that, since the last FPC meeting, one anti-social behaviour order had been made and there had been a case of assault in Station Road. The police were not yet fully installed at the Melbourn station.

RECREATION GROUND TRUST REPORT

There was no report at the present meeting, but Mr Sutton said a Trustees’ meeting was needed as there were some matters needing attention including a response from Tony Garrick regarding proposed works to the village hall, restructuring of his duties and amendment of signatories following changes in the trustees.

DOVECOTE/MEADOW REPORT

There was no report.

CORRESPONDENCE

There was only one item of correspondence:

1. Press Release from Melbourn Village College (MVC) advising that the college had begun the process of moving towards becoming an Academy and a copy of the letter sent by MVC to parents and carers. The consultation process would run throughout May with a public meeting at the college on 19th May and the final decision would be made subsequently.

VISITORS’ QUESTIONS

Mrs Howell said that a representative from the council was needed on the Village Hall Committee.

Mr Bore volunteered to be the council’s representative.

Mr and Mrs Cambridge asked whether they had the council's permission to order a wreath for the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal. They also asked who was responsible for maintaining the area around the War Memorial.

Permission to order the wreath was confirmed. It was suggested that Mrs Boreham be asked about the maintenance of the area, as it was something she used to undertake.

Mr and Mrs Cambridge complained about cars parking on the footway and verges in Hall Close.

Mr Barnes said he would remind the police about the parking problems in Hall Close.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mrs Roberts reported that there was now an ambulance service in Melbourn.

Mr Barnes said that, at a meeting of the History Society last month, a geologist who was present was asked whether there would be any side effects resulting from the projected clay infill at the Cemex Barrington quarry. Mr Barnes reported that the geologist said there could be chemical infiltration to the water table and contamination of the watercourses. Mr Barnes asked Dr van de Ven to look into this matter.

However, Dr Grindley advised Mr Barnes that this item could not be raised in this way, without proper notice and a supporting report, as it was unclear what the issue is or concern was. Dr Grindley advised Mr Barnes to first obtain written confirmation from the geologist of the verbal opinion he had given.

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

It was confirmed that the next meeting would be held on **Monday, 4th July 2011** at **7.45pm** in the **Meeting Room** of the **Village Hall**.

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