

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF FOXTON PARISH COUNCIL

HELD ON MONDAY, 5th AUGUST 2013 AT 7.45 p.m.

PRESENT Dr Oakley, Mr Bore, Mr Barnes, Mr McCreery, Mrs Macintyre and Mrs McFadzean

IN ATTENDANCE 2 members of the public

APOLOGIES County Councillor Susan van de Ven, District Councillor Deborah Roberts, Mr Elliott and Mr Sutton

Dr Oakley welcomed all to the meeting.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

One amendment was needed:

On page 25 under “District Councillor’s Report”, the penultimate paragraph should read “-----the recent application for a live/work building on the A10 (*not at Station Road*) had been withdrawn (*not refused*)”.

Dr Oakley proposed that, with this amendment, the Minutes of the previous Meeting, held on Monday, 1st July 2013, be signed as a true record. Mrs McFadzean seconded the proposal and all were agreed.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Visitors’ Questions –

i) Shrubs to rear of Illingworth Way houses

Mr McCreery said that although there had been a complaint about the shrubs being overgrown, it was not proposed to do any cutting back until the Autumn.

ii) Large gate to Play Area

Although it had been reported that the gate was being left open, on the occasions when the gate had been checked it had been shut.

VILLAGE INFRASTRUCTURE

Dr Oakley reported as follows:

Foxton Level Crossing

Dr Oakley said that he and Dr van de Ven had had a further meeting with County Council officers to discuss Foxton level crossing. The feasibility study from Network Rail should have been published at the end of July, but, as usual, there seemed to be some delay. At the meeting, however, it was made clear that if the cost/benefit ratio of removing the level crossing and putting in a bypass were clearly positive then the project would be likely to go ahead and be paid for by Department of Transport funds set aside for such schemes. The County Council would like representatives to come to October's Parish Council Meeting to explain the processes involved and the impact of the proposed scheme on the village. They had also requested that, prior to the meeting, an article be placed in "The Laurentian" setting out the salient points of the feasibility study and keeping residents up to date on how things were progressing. Dr Oakley offered to write this article on behalf of the Parish Council and all were agreed.

Roads

Following a site visit, an officer from the Highways Department expressed support for the proposed 20 mph speed limit in the centre of the village encompassing the school in Station Road and the shop and pub up to the Church in the High Street. The cost to the council would be upwards of £1500 for signage and advertising and, if supported by the village, the parish council could apply for a grant to cover 90% of the cost.

Dr Oakley said that, although it was the middle of summer, the gritting road map had been published; Station Road, Shepreth Road, High Street and Fowlmere Road should be gritted again this winter if necessary.

Water/Drainage

The contractor who has been identified to look at the pump in Mortimer's Lane would be contacted again this week following his return from holiday.

REPORTS FROM THE WORKING PARTIES

RECREATION AND AMENITIES

Mr McCreery reported as follows:

1. Recreation ground

The first spray application took place in June and the intention was to make a second application in September.

Mr McCreery had received a copy of the Kompan report on the Play Area following inspection on 28th May. (*The original copy sent by them had not been traced.*) There were a few minor items that needed to be looked at but generally the Play Area was given a clean bill of health.

2. QEII Registration

There had been a delay in erecting the plaque due to a recall. Apparently the plaque received by the council had a problem with wear and a replacement was expected shortly.

3. Skatepark Project

The group had held a site meeting with the grant application people from WREN in June and various additional information to support the grant had been supplied.

A further £191 was made from a Tabletop sale in June. The main effort now was for the Fun Run on 8th September.

Mr McCreery said that Mrs Macintyre had now mapped the trees in the village that were believed to be the responsibility of the parish council. The group would obtain quotations for a professional survey in order to identify any problems that needed to be addressed.

4. Litter Pick

This would take place on Sunday 18th August. Notices had been exhibited in the last two copies of "The Laurentian" with requests for volunteers.

5. Paths & hedges.

Mr Salmons had strimmed and cleared the path from Illingworth Way to the Recreation Ground and the Dovecote path. He had also cut the hedge at the bottom of St. Laurence Road and around Vicarage Corner.

FINANCE

Dr Oakley gave details of the Bank Accounts as follows:

Deposit Account	£17,888.08
Current Account	£2,049.07
(This included the CCC grass cutting contribution for 2013 of £743.28)	
10-Day Notice Account	£22,760.68
(This included interest applied 1/7/13 of £21.05)	

Dr Oakley proposed the following cheques for payment:

Foxton Village Hall (hire of Meeting Room 13/6, 12/6 & 1/7 plus FPC office)	£143.16
Foxton Cricket Club (weed killing/spraying on the Recreation Ground)	£250.00
Foxton Cricket Club (1 st instalment for grass cutting services 2013)	£325.00
CGM (Cambridge) Ltd (grass cutting, June)	£588.00
J E Burns (salary August)	£310.28
D Salmons (Village Warden duties, July plus extra work)	£315.00

Mrs Macfadzean seconded the proposal and all were agreed that these payments, totalling £1,931.44, should be made.

PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr Bore reported as follows:

The Planning Committee had met on 8th July when the following matters had been considered:

Mr R Brooksbank	Application No.S/1253/13/FL for a three-bay garage at 22 Station Road Approved
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SCDC Local Plan Consultation

Mr Bore said that the draft Local Plan had now been published, and that an area of particular interest to Foxton Parish Council occurred in Chapter 8 - the designation of areas of green space to be protected as Protected Village Amenity Areas (PVAA) and Local Green Space (LGS). The parish council had requested that the green area alongside Station Road in front of the Press Cottages be designated as protected green space. The comments on the draft plan, however, were somewhat negative about this proposal. The plan noted that “as it (*the area*) is beside a road it would not have a recreational value or be tranquil”, and that it “does not consider that it meets the criteria for either a PVAA or LGS.”

It was agreed that the committee should respond to the draft plan on-line, and re-emphasise the council’s desire to protect this space:

Although the area is not a designated as a recreational area, it is used for playing by children who live in the 12 adjacent Press cottages. In addition, it is considered to be a visually important amenity for the village, particularly as it forms part of the outlook for two listed buildings on the opposite side of Station Road.

Foxton is currently undergoing an appraisal of the Village Conservation area, with a view to extending it, and this green space is contained within the proposed extension.

The clerk said she had received an e-mail from Mrs Roberts re affordable housing at Fowlmere Road informing that Schuyler Newstead (SCDC) said that “heads of terms” were now being prepared so that everything was moving along as planned.

Mrs Roberts said that the scheme was planned as an SCDC own scheme but all normal “exception site” policies would apply - such as the houses would be first and foremost for Foxton residents, their dependents, those who have had to leave the village as they could find no affordable accommodation there, or those who work in the village.

Although the clerk had asked Mrs Roberts about the sale of cars on the car wash site on the A10, she had not yet had a reply on this matter. Mr Barnes said that cars on the site had had their prices removed. He also said that the fuel tanks at the Power garage on the A10 had been cleaned.

POLICE LIAISON REPORT

Mr Barnes reported the following incidents:

Hillfield	1 burglary
Illingworth Way	1 vehicle crime
Royston Road	drugs seized – ongoing investigation
West Hill Road	1 anti-social behaviour

Mr Barnes said that, following the arrest of two suspects in the recent spate of burglaries, the police presence in the village had been reduced. *Dr Oakley reported that the two suspects would not be prosecuted.*

Problems with parking and speeding in the village continued to receive attention. The question of drugs in the Melbourn area was receiving extra attention

RECREATION GROUND TRUST

Mrs McFadzean said that the Trustees had met on 8th July and were looking into the costs of resurfacing the gravel car park. The Trustees were also looking to purchase further picnic benches.

CORRESPONDENCE

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

- 1) Letter dated 4th July from SCDC re public consultation on proposed submission of South Cambridgeshire Local Plan: enclosing posters (exhibition at Melbourn All Saints Community Hall, 9th September).
- 2) Further letter dated 17th July from SCDC re proposed submission of South Cambridgeshire Local Plan with enclosures:
 - Charging schedule
 - South Cambridgeshire Local Plan Proposed Submission July 2013
 - South Cambridgeshire Local Plan Policies map for proposed submission July 2013
- 3) Letter dated 15th July from Cambridgeshire ACRE re special members' area on the organisation's website.
- 4) Letter dated 1st August from Cambridgeshire Water Company re proposed water main renewal in Barrington Road: plans enclosed.
- 5) Various e-mails from CAPALC.
- 6) Letter dated 27th July from Ms Donnelly re the fence on the northern boundary of her property at 1, St Laurence Road. (*Dr van de Ven had said this was nothing to do with the parish council and it was agreed that the clerk would liaise with Dr Oakley in replying*)
- 7) Publicity material from Barcham Trees.

VISITORS' QUESTIONS

Mr Challis asked whether the speed limit for the village centre, mentioned during the meeting was a proposal or a fact.

Dr Oakley said that it was a proposal that the village would be consulted on.

Mr Challis also referred to the meeting with Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC) about a bypass at the level crossing.

Dr Oakley said that a CCC representative would be coming to the parish council meeting in October. He outlined the three possible routes put forward in the feasibility study.

Mr Challis asked at what point on the A10 the bypass would begin.

Dr Oakley said that the bypass would probably begin where Melbourn Flooring tile shop is sited.

Mr Challis said that where the bypass would start was an important question, as land could be released for development.

Mr Bialoskursky spoke about the speed of cars coming into the village from the Fowlmere direction.

Dr Oakley said that although traffic calming measures had been considered, many vehicles were being parked in Fowlmere Road and these were effective in reducing the speed of traffic in this part of the village.

Mr Bialoskursky said that he had a complaint about the state of the garden at 50 Hillfield and was speaking on behalf of other concerned residents.

Dr Oakley said that the council would write to South Cambridgeshire District Council about the problem.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mr McCreery said that bindweed in the triangle of land in the Dovecote meadow needed to be dealt with.

Dr Oakley said that the clerk would be unable to take the Minutes at the next meeting, as she would be in hospital for an operation until the day before.

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

It was confirmed that this would be held on **Monday, 2nd September 2013 at 7.45pm** in the **Village Hall Meeting Room**.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.45pm.