

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF FOXTON PARISH COUNCIL

HELD ON MONDAY, 5th SEPTEMBER 2005, AT 7.45 p.m.

PRESENT

Mr Pusey, Mr Hockley, Mr Barnes, Mr Brooksbank,
Mr Chilton, Mr Kennedy

County Councillor David McCraith

IN ATTENDANCE

4 members of the public

APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from District Councillor
Deborah Roberts, Dr Grindley and Miss Thake

Mr Pusey welcomed all to the meeting.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Both Mr Kennedy and Mr Brooksbank declared an interest in the Planning Application from B Wright and G Crawley. The council did not however think it would be necessary that they should leave the room when this application was discussed.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Two amendments were necessary, both under the Dovecote/Meadow project report on page 43.

- i) In the 3rd paragraph of the report, the first sentence should read, "Mr Pusey said that the leases for the dovecote and meadow would soon be ready to sign" (*not* "--were ready to sign").
- ii) In the last paragraph, the date of the management meeting was given as 2nd September whereas it should have been 21st September.

Mr Kennedy proposed that, with these amendments, the Minutes of the meeting held on Monday, 1st August 2005, should be signed as a true record. Mr Brooksbank seconded the proposal and all were agreed.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Resignation of Mr Broadley

Following Mr Broadley's resignation the Notice of the vacancy on the council had been advertised on FPC's notice board. As the period during which parishioners could request a by-election had expired without such a request having been made, the council was free to co-opt another councillor. Dr David McKeown had expressed his willingness to fill the vacancy and Mr Hockley proposed that Dr McKeown be invited

to join the council. Mr Barnes seconded the proposal and all were agreed. Mr Pusey welcomed Dr McKeown to the council and asked him to join the other councillors.

Article for “The Laurentian” re Parish Plans

Mr Pusey asked the clerk to draft an article on this subject for “The Laurentian”.

Correspondence (item 5 – letter from the Burlington Press)

Mr Pusey said that he had spoken to one of the Directors of the firm and apologised for the council’s failure to consult Burlington Press on Mr P Ridgeon’s recent planning application. In the course of the telephone call he had learned that Burlington Press leased the whole of the Press and that the front offices were sub-let. Mr Pusey said that clerk had also written to Burlington Press to thank the firm for undertaking to effect repairs to the wall behind the War Memorial and to apologise about not informing them of the planning application.

Visitors’ questions (par 5 – the Old School Site)

Mr Pusey said that an e-mail he received from the County Council in May indicated that the County Council might dispose of the site at less than full market value, although the decision would need to be approved by the full cabinet. Mr Pusey said that Andrew Hall (CCC) would be preparing a report and that it was in FPC’s interest to offer him guidance on this. He said that although he had greatly wished that the site could be used for sheltered housing, a lot more land than is encompassed in the site would be needed. Also, the arguments used against the Ridgeon application would also apply to a large scheme on this site and would weaken the case for it.

Mr Pusey said it would be more realistic to go for a scheme for the site within the Local Development Framework and to attempt to retain the old school building. He thought the site would allow for two bungalows for the elderly, two starter-homes and two dwellings for key workers.

Mr Brooksbank declared an interest as his house is close to the site.

Mr Kennedy said that it would be difficult to retain the old school building, given how far set back on the site it was.

Mr McCraith said the District Council would be reluctant to allow building outside the village envelope and that he would support FPC’s wishes for the site.

Mr Barnes thought that proposals for sheltered housing should not be given up altogether. Mr Pusey said they would be “kept on the table” but would be likely to be eliminated early in discussions with CCC.

It was agreed that Mr Pusey, Mr Hockley and Mr Barnes would attend a meeting with Andrew Hall at a date to be arranged.

Planning Report (p42 – CCC Jointly Funded Minor Improvements Scheme)

Mr Hockley said he had prepared a bid under the CCC Jointly Funded Minor Improvements Scheme requesting controlled access at the junction of station Road with the A10. The clerk said that receipt of the bid had been acknowledged.

Any Other Business – Inaugural meeting about the extension to the Recreation Ground

The clerk said she had received replies to her e-mail proposing a range of possible dates for the meeting from Mr Brooksbank and Mr Pow. She was asked to send a further e-mail giving Monday, 12th September as the deadline for response.

REPORTS FROM THE COMMITTEES

RECREATION AND AMENITIES

Mr Chilton said he had been away. However there were a number of things to report:

- A quotation for the repair of the Bowls Club Fence had been received from Mr Salmons for £800 and he would be starting the work as soon as possible.
- Mr Chilton had not heard any more from Dr Grindley about the electricity supplies for the training lights installation.
- The junction box had now been fitted with a cover and covered with earth and grass seed. *Mr Pusey said it was an excellent job.*
- There was nothing to report further on the Skateboard/BMX Park project.
- Mr Chilton said he had still to chase up Gary Dash about outstanding matters that needed his attention.
- Most of the vandalism had been dealt with, but not the graffiti on the sightscreen, which would be left for the Cricket Club to deal with. There had been some further vandalism. Adults had sat on the younger children's swings weakening the shackles with the result that a chain had snapped causing a child to suffer a twisted leg (*the clerk was asked to record this incident*). The Football Club's floodlight was being moved from place to place and was currently in the gravel car park (*the clerk was asked to write to the Football Club to ask them to remove it from the car park and put it in a safe place*). Mr Mead had found that about 100 IKEA catalogues had been dumped on the Recreation Ground. However, Mr Chilton said that it appeared that the vandalism had subsided somewhat. *Mr Kennedy reported that a deep hole had appeared in the goal mouth of one set of junior goal posts*
- Mr Chilton then read from a letter to the council from Vic Phillips complaining about the seats on the Recreation Ground. *Mr Pusey said he was inclined to agree that there were a rather rough lot of seats on the Recreation Ground and perhaps some new seats should be supplied. He thought the matter could be referred to the RGT Trustees, as there might be some money available from Recreation Ground Trust funds.*
- Finally, Mr Chilton referred to a letter the chairman had received from Mrs Pester detailing the problems that she and Mr Pester and other residents were suffering through inappropriate use of the Recreation Ground facilities.

A discussion followed about the issues raised. Although there had been consultation with residents about the siting of the Play area in its present location it was felt that some action was needed to alleviate the distress being suffered by residents whose properties were in the vicinity of the Play Area. Mr Pusey said that he had suggested that the council might close the Play Area at dusk and this idea had been well received both by Mr Pester and by PC Sutton. Mr Pusey said he was not suggesting locking the Play Area as it would be easy to climb over the fence; however, an official notice of closure at dusk would give the residents grounds for complaint if the area was used

at night and would give more power to the police in dealing with incidents. Accordingly, Mr Pusey proposed that the council resolve to close the Play Area at dusk and that a notice to this effect be provided. It was thought that the proposal should be amended to say closed at sunset rather than dusk, as this was more specific. With this amendment, all were agreed. The clerk was asked to write to Mr and Mrs Pester to say that a sign would be erected to say that the Play Area would be closed at sunset.

Mr Pusey said that there was some difficulty over the registration of land near the Fawcett's house as the boundaries there were not altogether correct. The situation was rather complicated, but as only a very small area was in question he thought the likely outcome would be to leave the boundaries as they are at present rather than changing them for the sake of a very few square metres.

FINANCE

Mr Hockley gave details of the bank accounts as follows:

Current Account (this included a donation from Foxton Gardens Association to the Dovecote/Meadow fund of £50)	£102.88
Deposit Account Cambridge Building Society (this included half-yearly interest applied June 2005)	£13328.76 £8300.05

Mr Hockley proposed that the following cheques be approved:

Foxton Village Hall Trust (hire of Meeting Room 4/7/05 & Lounge 18 & 25/05)	£31.50
Moore Stephens (audit for y/e 31/3/05)	£141.00
Giles Landscapes (supply & erection of 62m post & rail fence with chain mesh)	£1644.95
J E Burns (salary August and September)	£495.09
J E Burns (expenses July/August)	£22.91
V W Mead (refuse collection, ground maintenance repairs and expenses, August)	£93.15

Mr Chilton seconded the proposal and all were agreed.

Mr Hockley concluded by saying that a letter had been received from Ann Davidson advising that the British Legion Poppy Wreath for the Remembrance Service at the War Memorial on Sunday, 13th November would be £16.50.

PLANNING

Mr Barnes reported as follows:

Planning Permission granted:

Dr and Dr Baxter	Application No. S/1040/05/F for erection of outbuildings at 1 The Green Several conditions including provision for the parking of vehicles associated with the building works
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CORRESPONDENCE

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

- 1) Letter dated 2nd August from Ofcom re BT's proposals for payphones stating that Ofcom believes that local opinion should be taken into account by BT: enclosing consultation leaflet (deadline for response 28th September). (*Passed to GB.*)
- 2) Letter dated 2nd August from Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service enclosing an article on pressure sales of fire safety equipment for publication in the parish magazine/newsletter. (*Copy sent to G Smith, Editor, "The Laurentian".*)
- 3) Letter dated 3rd August from SCDC Returning Officer saying that the council may proceed to fill the present vacancy by the co-option of a further member.
- 4) Letter dated 5th August from the Panel Secretariat, East of England Public Examination re the deferment of the start date of the Examination in Public until Tuesday, 1st November 2005.
- 5) Letter dated 10th August from Barbara Wilcox of the CCC Environment Programme Team giving the web address for the Cambridgeshire Environmental Report 2005.
- 6) Letter dated 8th August from Rob Sanderson, CCC Senior Democratic Services Officer re grant aid to small community groups and voluntary organisations: enclosing application form and brochures for 2006/7.
- 7) Letter dated 8th August from Cemex re the deferment of the extraordinary meeting of the Barrington Liaison Group on the Barrington Plant Feasibility Study to 5th September 2005 and advising that the next meeting of the Liaison Group will be held on 6th September 2005 at 7pm.
- 8) Letter dated 15th August from BT saying that FPC's objection to the change of the payphone (012230870588) to a cashless kiosk has been noted.
- 9) Letter dated 18th August from CCC South Highways Division acknowledging receipt of FPC's application under the Jointly Funded Highways Improvement programme.
- 10) Letter dated 19th August from Andrew Lansley MP in response to FPC's letter about the need for parking provision at Foxton Station, saying he has written to Cambridgeshire County Council to ask if it owns any land alongside the A10 at Foxton that could be made available for parking. (*The clerk agreed to send copies of the correspondence to Mr McCraith.*)
- 11) Letter dated 25th August from Mr Sugden, SCDC Development Manager, noting the parish council's decision regarding the possible exception site off Station Road and confirming that the affordable housing requirement arising from the Burlington Press redevelopment will now be provided within that site.
- 12) Letter dated 25th August from Jane Taylor, CCC Link Social Worker, on the need for more carers in the Family Link Service: enclosing leaflets.

- 13) Letter received 26th August from Local Works (Campaign for the Sustainable Communities Bill) sent to parish council Chairmen and Clerks requesting support for the attached resolution and requesting that parish councils ask their MPs to sign the parliamentary resolution Early Day Motion 641 (also enclosed).
- 14) Letter dated 30th August from Charmain Hawkins, SCDC Historic Buildings Officer enclosing a complimentary copy of the South Cambridgeshire District Council War Memorial Gazetteer.
- 15) Memo (dated August) enclosing the first edition of the South Cambs Community Strategy Newsletter.
- 16) Information from CALC including:
 - Invitation to AGM to be held on 15th October 2005 plus agenda
 - Memo re the AGM and special AGM Bulletin
 - Minutes of the 29th AGM held on 6th November 2004
 - Memo re grant awarded to CALC to help with support and guidance in connection with Quality Status
 - Leaflets on training for clerks and in Risk Assessment
 - Bulletin, July 2005
- 17) Information from Cambridgeshire ACRE including:
 - Memo re the presentation of Village of the Year Awards 2005 and the AGM, both to be held on Thursday, 8th September 2005: including booking form and map
- 18) Local Council Review, September 2005.
- 19) Publicity from Sutcliffe and Adventure Playgrounds Ltd (play equipment), The Local Channel.
- 20) Information sheet from CCC re changes to cycling in the city centre and promotion of responsible cycling.

VISITORS' QUESTIONS

Mrs Howell said that her husband had had a go at removing graffiti from the seat by the Dovecote field. She asked whether Mr Hockley was still intending to take photographs of the worst puddles in the village in times of heavy rainfall. Mrs Howell also commented about branches overhanging the footway between her house and the shop.

Mr Hockley said he would get his camera out. It was agreed that the clerk should write notes to householders where overhanging branches were causing problems once it was established who these were.

Mr Challis asked for clarification about the Burlington Press site.

It was confirmed that the original application from Mr Ridgeon had been withdrawn - meaning that there would be no affordable houses on land outside the development framework. If Mr Ridgeon submitted a further application for the redevelopment of part of the Burlington Press site, this would have to include a proportion of affordable homes.

Mr Challis said that WAGN was not looking at the provision of parking at Foxton Station in the proper way and thought pressure should be put on the organisation. He said that he shared Mr Pusey's views about the old school site and said that the building itself could either be knocked down or utilised for the provision of flats.

Mr Barnes commented that the building was not quite tall enough for two storeys.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mr McCraith said he had met the acting Chief Constable and put forward the problems that Foxton was experiencing and had been assured that policing would improve. Mr McCraith asked whether any improvement had been noticed. Mr Pusey said he thought the police had attended several times. Mr Chilton said that Vic Phillips reports every single incident and said that there are now two trainee police officers living in the village.

Mr Pusey said that the roof of the Community Building was leaking. He also said that several instances of flooding had been brought to his attention and asked Mr McCraith to have a word at County Council about the regular flooding in the road by the village shop.

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

It was confirmed that the next meeting would be held in the Village Hall meeting Room on **Monday, 3rd October 2005 at 7.45pm.**

Mr Brooksbank gave notice that he might be late for this meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.50pm.