

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF FOXTON PARISH COUNCIL

HELD ON MONDAY, 4th SEPTEMBER, AT 7.45 p.m.

PRESENT

Mr Pusey, Mr Hockley, Mr Barnes, Mr Brooksbank,
Mr Chilton, Dr Grindley, Mr Kennedy, Dr McKeown,
Miss Thake

County Councillor David McCraith

District Councillor Mrs Roberts

IN ATTENDANCE

10 members of the public

APOLOGIES

None received

Mr Pusey welcomed all to the meeting

DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Both Mr Kennedy and Miss Thake expressed an interest in the Villiers Park licence application. Mr Brooksbank also expressed an interest in this application, though not a personal one.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Meeting held on 3rd July

Mr Kennedy proposed that the Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday, 3rd July should be signed as a true record. Mr Barnes seconded the proposal and all were agreed.

Meeting held on 10th July

Mr Hockley proposed that the Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday, 10th July should be signed as true record. Dr Mckeown seconded the proposal and all were agreed.

Meeting held on 24th July

One amendment was needed. Dr Mckeown's name needed to be added to the list of those who had given their apologies for this meeting. Mr Kennedy proposed that, with this amendment, the Minutes of the Meeting held on 24th July should be signed as a true record. Mr Barnes seconded the proposal and all were agreed.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

MEETING ON 3rd JULY

SCDC consultation meeting on Gypsy and Traveller Site provision

Mrs Roberts asked whether the council had received a letter from SCDC about a further district-wide meeting on Gypsy and Traveller Site provision, and urged the council to send a representative. The clerk confirmed the letter had been received.

Overgrown Hedges

The owners of 36 High Street had cut back the front hedge of their property but not sufficient to allow full use of the pavement. Mr Brooksbank proposed that the clerk send a letter thanking the occupants of No. 36, High Street for cutting back the hedge, but saying that next time the hedge should be cut further back to allow full use of the footway. Dr Grindley reported that the hedge and other growth needed to be cut back on the bend in Fowlmere Road. The clerk was asked to investigate this.

Any Other Business

(i) Loose chippings in West Hill Road

Mr McCraith said he would make enquiries about CCC's policy concerning loose chippings.

(ii) Planning permission at the former Q8 Garage

The clerk said that she had sent a letter to the District Council about this in November 2005. SCDC's response (dated 25th January 2006) had stated that the owner did not have planning permission for the sale of vehicles but that an application would be submitted in the next two months. However, nothing further had been heard. Mrs Roberts said she would look into this.

MEETING ON 24th JULY

Any Other Business

(i) Letter from Bowls Club

The clerk confirmed that she had written to Mr Nutcombe to say that the council had no objection to the club placing a metal sign on its fence to request players not to kick balls against it, but was not willing to arrange for such a sign itself.

(ii) Pump on The Green

It was agreed that, as the pump has been demonstrated to work, no further action should be taken at present.

At this point in the meeting, Mr Pusey suggested that, as many of the visitors present had, he assumed, attended the meeting to discuss the Application for a Public Entertainments licence at Villiers Park, "Visitors' Questions" be managed in two parts with a discussion of the Villiers Park application to be held before "Reports from the Committees". All were agreed and Mr Kennedy and Miss Thake left the room.

VISITORS' QUESTIONS – PART I

Summary of points made by residents:

- Villiers Park's application for an alcohol/entertainments licence concerns residents of Hall Close and other villagers about the possibility of noise and nuisance.
- When the new building was put in, nearby residents were invited to see the plans and premises, but they had not been contacted about the entertainments licence.
- Why should Villiers Park's licensing needs suddenly change?
- A licence along these lines could lead to parking problems.
- There is no obvious reason why a bar should be open till 1am, or that it needs to apply outside the buildings.
- When Villiers Park was opened, it was a fully educational establishment.
- The educational period for students has contracted from 40 weeks per year to a very few weeks per year with a corresponding increase in the holiday period when the premises may be used for other purposes, eg conferences and seminars.

Responses from councillors:

County Councillor David McCraith

Mr McCraith commented that although Miss Hall had said she was happy to meet residents, this message did not seem to be getting through to those affected. He suggested that FPC write to Miss Hall saying that, as she had not attended tonight's meeting, FPC would be writing to SCDC, and suggest that she improve communications with residents: lack of communication could affect getting the licence. He said it was a good idea to have some caveats attached to the licence and he pointed out that licenses were needed for theatre, music etc.

Dudley Pusey, Chairman FPC

Mr Pusey said he had gone through the details of the application with the SCDC Licensing Officer, Juli Stallabrass. He said the licence was not to do with traditional student activity during the week, but with conference facilities. When asked, Ms Stallabrass said the parish council could make the views of the village known on an official form and could suggest conditions.

Mr Pusey said that, in his opinion, it was acceptable for Villiers Park to regularise its licensing position – the crux of the matter lay in the conditions attached. The range of times proposed to be covered by the licence was very wide, and, whilst he had some sympathy with Villiers Park, he did feel the number of occasions for which a licence was needed should be restricted.

Colin Grindley, Councillor FPC

Dr Grindley said that educational establishments would normally expect to have conferences and seminars but not normally entertainment. He also thought it would be good to see some data from Villiers Park.

Rob Brooksbank, Councillor FPC

Mr Brooksbank suggested it might not be in FPC's interest to raise the question of change of use at present. He also said that it was usual, at corporate off-site events, for drink to be available until 1am. Mr Brooksbank thought that restricting the licence to when the children are not there would be a meaningless clause if Villiers Park ceased to be an educational establishment.

Geoff Barnes, Councillor FPC

Mr Barnes said the main trouble was the change in licensing law. He also commented that now students take their A-levels in modules, there was less need for the kind of course that Villiers Park used to offer.

Mrs Roberts recommended that attention be focussed on getting Villiers Park to say what things they do now and getting a licence to cover this level of activity. However, she warned that the site was suitable for a hotel. Mr McCraith suggested that variation of the licence was allowed for under section 34.

All were agreed that the clerk should complete the response form for the application expressing the concerns of the village and send to SCDC with a covering letter. It was also agreed that the clerk should write to Miss Hall.

(Mr Kennedy and Miss Thake returned to the room.)

REPORTS FROM THE COMMITTEES**RECREATION AND AMENITIES**

Mr Chilton said he had nothing to report since the last council meeting.

Dr Grindley reported some damage to one of the Cricket Club's sightscreens.

FINANCE

Mr Hockley gave details of the Bank Accounts as follows:

Deposit Account	£20,915.67
Current Account	£51.20
Cambridge Building Society	£13,604.68

Mr Hockley proposed that the following cheques be approved:

Neale Property Services Ltd (provision of planning consultancy services)	£1,058.44
South Cambridgeshire District Council (emptying dog bins 1/7/06-30/9/06)	£93.12
D Pusey (reimbursement for padlock and chain for Dovecote meadow gate)	£14.98
Foxton Village Hall Trust (hire of Meeting Room 3&10/7 and Lounge 13/7 and 15&16/8)	£53.50
J E Burns (salary August/September)	£568.13
J E Burns (expenses July/August)	£37.08
V W Mead (refuse collection, ground maintenance, repairs and expenses July and August)	£100.08

Mr Kennedy seconded the proposal and all were agreed that these payments, totalling £1,925.33 should be made, and that £1925 should be transferred from the Deposit Account to the Current Account.

PLANNING

Mr Barnes reported as follows:

Planning Permission granted:

Mr and Mrs T Williams	Application No. S/1100/06/F for an extension at 16 Hillfield Two conditions
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Tree application:

Villiers Park Educational Trust	Request (Ref: C/11/17/3/01) to fell two elms with Dutch elm disease and a Beech tree with decay in the base No comment
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Mr Cooper (in the visitors' seats) mentioned another tree at Villiers Park that appeared to be dead. Mr Barnes said this might have been covered by a previous application and the clerk agreed to investigate the matter and get back to Mr Cooper.

Planning application considered at the meeting:

Mr and Mrs A Rut	Application No. S/1550/06/F for extensions at The Granary, Stocks Farm No recommendation
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POLICE LIAISON REPORT

Miss Thake had nothing to report since the last meeting.

RECREATION GROUND TRUST REPORT

Mr Pusey reported that the lease for the Preschool group was at the second stage and with the solicitors: it was expected by 26th September.

The agreement with Foxton Gardens Association (FGA) was also at the second stage and with the solicitors and also expected by 26th September.

It was planned that the Trustees would go through these documents after the next meeting of the parish council on 2nd October.

Mr Pusey said that the FGA was asking for 6ft x 4ft wooden sheds for the allotments.

A planning application was required to cover all activities on the extension to the Recreation Ground and Dr Grindley had agreed to work up the details for submission to the District Council – the submission would only just come within the original 5-year approval period.

Mr Pusey said that the council still did not have confirmation from Gerald Browning (SCDC) that an order had been placed for the water supply to the allotments.

Mr Pusey also reported that nothing had been done since July to deal with the outstanding issues relating to the Community Building. He said he had raised the stakes by telephoning Andrew Rowson (CCC) with particular reference to the faulty pavilion window. Mr McCraith said he would persist in chasing these matters up.

Recreation Ground Extension Committee

Mr Brooksbank said that some of his report had already been covered by Mr Pusey. he said that Peter Mead would be clearing the land again and after that each individual sub-group using the site would be responsible for weeds in its area.

As far as the allotment sheds were concerned, FGA had confirmed that these should be 4ft x 6ft, of tongue and groove timber with a maximum roof height (apex or pitched) of 7ft and this had been agreed by the Recreation Ground Trust (RGT). There had been no mention of colour.

Grant applications were being submitted by RGT to “Reaching Communities” and “Awards for All” for the infrastructure. Dr McKeown had met Jane Lampshire (SCDC) to show her the site, and discuss the project in general and the bike park in particular. Miss Lampshire had been very encouraging, and was pleased to see that the youths who want to use the facility were having input in design, and that a questionnaire on the whole project had been carried out. Miss Lampshire felt that both the cricket nets and the bike park would fall within her remit. As the responsibility for these two projects lay with different groups, it was thought that applications to SCDC should be made separately but be submitted at the same time. Mr Brooksbank said that, with no large pieces of skateboarding equipment to be purchased, it had been decided that there would be sufficient funds available from those already held by FPC and from the SCDC grant to complete the project.

Funding would be sought from WREN for the picnic area and footpath modifications. A planning application to cover the whole site was being prepared by Dr Grindley and Jeremy Piper Had been asked for details of hedgerow and wilderness planting.

DOVECOTE/MEADOW PROJECT

Mr Pusey reported that Carlton West’s 12-week building contract started last Tuesday. He said the bricklayers had removed the defective outer bricks, as agreed by SCDC’s conservation officer, and replacement hand-made bricks were due for delivery next week.

The scaffolding had been erected earlier in the day and the architect, Simon Ward, was due back from holiday on Wednesday.

The plaque restorer would liaise with Carlton West as to when to colour lime-wash the plaque now the scaffolding was in place.

Simon Ward would supervise the contract, and Brian Hockley and Catherine Cairns would also keep an eye on the work this week and take some photographs of work-in-progress.

The possibility of replacing the concrete threshold step with timber, and laying a French drain had been raised and this had been passed to Simon for consideration. The French drain would require archaeological excavation and the Cambridge

Archaeological Field Group was prepared to help with this to the satisfaction of the CCC Archaeological Department.

Mr Pusey said that the hedge to the west of the field gate was to be cut hard back ahead of the spring season.

There would be a meadow management day on 26th September and the clerk had been asked to contact Cleanaway to arrange for a rough cut of the remaining area of grass and the pathway to follow. The clerk had also been asked to arrange for a similar twice-yearly rough cut to be added to Cleanaway's contract.

Mr Pusey said that the Friends Group was thinking about an Open Day, a booklet to be distributed throughout the village was coming on well and a start had been made on a detailed Education Pack, the latter being a Local Heritage Initiative requirement. There would also be an information board inside the gate.

Finally, Mr Pusey said the Skillington Workshop (the plaque restorer) was liaising to use the scaffolding organised by Carlton West.

CORRESPONDENCE

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

- 1) Letter dated 28th June from the chairman of the SCDC Standards Committee re advice to District and Parish members in respect of investigations in connection with the Code of Conduct.
- 2) Letter dated 30th June from SCDC re the reorganisation of the Top Management Team.
- 3) Letter dated 6th July from CCC enclosing a chart detailing changes to local bus services with effect from 24th July.
- 4) Letter dated 6th July from Royal Mail re changes to postcodes in the CB1-5 area.
- 5) Letter dated 10th July from CCC enclosing copies of the new Community Transport Guide 2006-07.
- 6) Letter dated 12th July from Peter Lloyd questioning the need for a major refurbishment of the pump on The Green.
- 7) Letter dated 17th July from the CCC Development Strategy Manager re proposed revisions to Regional Spatial Strategy for the East of England, Publication of Panel Report: enclosing notice announcing the publication of the Panel Report and a CCC briefing note.
- 8) Letter dated 17th July addressed to the Tree Warden from Roz Richardson (now the SCDC Trees and Landscape Officer following the retirement of John Hellingsworth) with a form for completion: enclosing two Tree Council publications, "The Hedge Tree Handbook" and "Trees in Your Ground" together with issue 7 of "The Tree Guardian".
- 9) Letter dated 19th July from the SCDC Corporate Projects Officer enclosing a letter from EERA explaining the details and process of its single-issue review

of the East of England Plan in relation to the provision of Gypsy and Traveller Caravan Sites.

- 10) Letter dated 20th July from the CCC Historic Environment Record Officer clarifying the status of the Burlington Press building as a building of local interest rather than a building listed on the National Register.
- 11) Letter dated 22nd July from Michelle Reeve alerting FPC to the presence of cat faeces beneath the slide in the Play Area.
- 12) Letter dated 24th July from Margaret and Philip Shaw about the lack of grass cutting in Barrington Road and complaining about the state of the road and pavement.
- 13) Letter from the SCDC head of Community Services inviting FPC to send a representative to a district-wide Traveller's Liaison Forum to be held at the SCDC office at Cambourne on Thursday 5th October at 7.30pm. (*Mr Brooksbank said he might be able to attend this meeting and would confirm by e-mail*)
- 14) Leaflets from CCC entitled "Cambridge Scrutiny: working to improve services for Cambridgeshire People" and "A-Z Council Services in Cambridgeshire".
- 15) Letter dated 17th August enclosing a summary of a report leading to a new constitution for CALC and inviting parish councils to send representatives to the AGM/EGM on Saturday, 14th October.
- 16) Letter dated 25th August from CCC re Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste Development Plan.
- 17) Cemex update for Barrington Liaison Group (received August) and August newsletter.
- 18) Information from CALC including:
 - Memo re grants available for training
 - Memo re Freedom of Information Act
 - NALC information sheet on Audit fees
 - Notice of meeting of South Cambridgeshire Association on 24th August with agenda and Minutes of the meeting held on 31st May
 - Notice of CALC AGM 14th October and agenda
 - Details of various training courses
 - Bulletin, July 2006
- 19) Information from Cambridgeshire ACRE including:
 - "Planning Ahead", July 2006 Annual Review 2003-2004
- 20) Letter from Encams (trading name of Environmental Campaigns, the charity that runs the Keep Britain Tidy campaign) enclosing guide entitled ""Local environmental quality – a town and parish council guide" and a booklet entitled "Litter and the Law".
- 21) Standards Board for England newsletter, July 2006
- 22) Local Council Review, July 2006 (*including article on skateboarding*).

- 23) CPRE response forms re East of England development.
- 24) South Cambridgeshire Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership newsletter April-June 2006.
- 25) CCC Trading Standards newsletter.
- 26) Requests to display posters from Royston Rotary Club, Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire Primary Care Trusts.
- 27) Various information and booklets from the Society of Local Council Clerks.
- 28) Publicity material from Kompani (community play areas) and Fieldguard (safe surfaces).

VISITORS' QUESTIONS PART II

Mr Challis, referring to the lack of progress in dealing with faults at the Community Building, asked whether this also applied to the external lights about which there had been complaints.

It was confirmed that this was the case.

Mr Cambridge complained that when it rained, a puddle developed at the bottom of Hall Close.

The clerk was asked to add this problem to the others she would be contacting Mike Cooper (CCC) about.

Mr Shaw complained about the state of the tarmac and pavement in Barrington Road and the uncut verges, and said that lorries entering the Network Rail depot were causing damage.

The clerk was asked to add these matters to the list for Mike Cooper

Mr Miller outlined his concerns about access to his property from the A10 and the difficulties resulting, when on foot, from not being allowed to cross the forecourt of the adjacent garage.

It was agreed that Mrs Roberts would chase up the planning officers about the situation at the garage and that the clerk would write to the district council again to remind them of her letter of 24th November 2005 and describe Mr Miller's problems after paying a site visit to Mr Miller to see them at first-hand.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Cemex Liaison Group

Mr Brooksbank gave an update on Cemex issues following the meeting of the Liaison Group he had attended on 19th July. He said that according to the January - May emissions report, most measurements were well within its limits of permit. The one significant exception was for hydrogen chloride emission, for which the monthly average was over limit. There had also been daily averages over limit in January and April.

A new firing pipe had been fitted in April, and whilst this had stopped the high hydrogen chloride emissions, it had resulted in multiple precipitator trips in May and June. However, this problem had apparently been addressed satisfactorily.

The Environment Agency had received six complaints since the previous meeting one of which was for noise. None of the other five complaints could be related to equipment failure or to high emissions. The Climafuel trial had been delayed slightly, and dosing with Climafuel should now commence in mid-September.

Cemex still did not know whether it would need to apply for permission to quarry outside the existing permitted area.

Mr Brooksbank then proposed a vote of thanks to the Cricket Club for organising an excellent event “Rock on the Rec” on the Recreation Ground.

Mr Barnes reported that the paper-recycling bin had still not been removed from the gravel car park. The clerk was asked to chase this up.

Mr Barnes also reported that work was being carried out at the main entrance to Foxton House and that all the yew trees and hedge had been taken out.

The clerk distributed response forms re East of England Developments supplied by the Council for the Protection of Rural England.

Mr McCraith reported on concessionary fares for pensioners. He said that after the County Council had stepped in, and following meetings with the various districts councils in Cambridgeshire, a scheme had been produced that would give pensioners free travel in Cambridgeshire and would come into being later in the year.

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

It was confirmed that this would be held on **Monday, 2nd October 2006 at 7.30pm** in the **Meeting Room of the Village Hall.**

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 10.05pm.