

## MINUTES OF A MEETING OF FOXTON PARISH COUNCIL

**HELD ON MONDAY, 7<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2009, AT 7.45 p.m.**

**PRESENT**

Dr Oakley, Dr Grindley, Mr Allars, Mr Barnes, Mr Bentinck, Mrs Macintyre, Dr McKeown, Mr Sutton

County Councillor Dr van der Ven

District Councillor Mrs Roberts

**IN ATTENDANCE**

6 members of the public

**APOLOGIES**

There were no apologies

Dr Oakley welcomed all to the meeting.

**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

**MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

As no amendments were needed, Dr Oakley proposed that the Minutes of the previous Meeting, held on Monday, 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2009, be signed as a true record. Dr Grindley seconded the proposal and all were agreed.

**MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

*County Councillor's Report – Cemex*

Dr van der Ven said that at the July FPC meeting she had reported (in “Any Other Business”) that Cemex would be using the rail track between Barrington and Foxton for the importation of clay for pit restoration. In fact, this was not definite as the activity was subject to a tendering process.

*Recreation and Amenities Report*

1. Solar light

Mr Bentinck said that the solar light for the Illingworth Way footpath had been installed.

2. Letter to Lily Mead

Mr Bentinck agreed to provide a draft letter to Mrs Mead about the planting of a tree in memory of her late husband, as the clerk had not been clear about the instructions in his e-mail

**3. Electricity Supply for Training Lights**

Dr Grindley said he had received an application form from EDF for a survey for the supply of electricity to the training lights to be installed on the Recreation Ground.

**Visitors' Questions – Darling and Wood van**

The clerk said she had noticed the Darling and Wood van in the Community Building car park that night. Mr Allars said he had telephoned the owner twice informing him that the car park was only provided for users of the Community Building facilities. Dr Oakley said that clamping would be justified and Mr Allars said he would telephone the owner again.

**COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

Dr van der Ven reported as follows:

**1. County Minerals and Waste Plan**

This was going to Cabinet at the end of September and then for consultation. For the local area, safeguarding of mineral sites as a long-term resource included only Barrington. Waste. A new site at Waterbeach would involve processing black-bin waste, reducing the need for landfill. Dr van der Ven said that Cambridgeshire had a continuing obligation to take some London waste thus putting added pressure on the need to find new solutions for waste disposal. There would be a new household recycling centre at an as yet unspecified location South of the Addenbrookes Access Road: this would be a state-of-the-art design including roofing and enclosure. All villages should be within easy reach of such a centre.

**2. Transport Innovation Fund (TIF)**

Cambridge Transport Commission reported back to the County Council on 22 July and recommended going forward with the TIF bid – an approximately £500 million government grant to implement measures to reduce congestion, mainly improvements to infrastructure and also an element of congestion charging. With an anticipated 30% population growth in Cambridge area, the Commission pointed out that current congestion levels would inevitably evolve into gridlock. There was no other pot of money of this kind and it would not be around for long. Dr van der Ven said that the County Council had to make the decision on whether or not to proceed at its meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> October: at this point many details were not yet clear.

**3. Rail service**

Dr van der Ven said she had organized a meeting between senior officers of the County Council and the First Capital Connect Managing Director, on 23<sup>rd</sup> September, to discuss in general terms how CCC and FCC could cooperate for the benefit of local rail commuters using the rail service at Meldreth/Shepreth/Foxton. She asked that people please get in touch with her about their concerns.

**4. Cambridge Central Library**

This would be re-opening at last. County Councillors had been invited to a preview of the new facility on 24<sup>th</sup> September and an official opening date was awaited.

**5. CCC Community Engagement Strategy consultation**

This was now underway. The consultation aimed to ensure that all residents have the skills and confidence to take part in local decision-making and to access the services they require. The consultation would last until 24<sup>th</sup> November and was on-line at [www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/communityengagementsconsultation](http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/communityengagementsconsultation).

## **DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

Mrs Roberts had nothing to report that would not come up in other agenda items.

## **PARISH PLAN UPDATE**

Mr Allars asked whether all the sub-groups had now met to produce their reports for the Parish Plan. The Planning Committee had not yet produced its report, and, as this would be such an important contribution to the plan, it was argued that the committee would need considerably more time than the steering group had envisaged in order to do a proper job. The report would need to cover general policy, the Green Belt and for expansion and how it should be controlled. Mrs Roberts added that the present Conservation Area was far too small and recommended that sacrosanct parts be identified.

Dr McKeown pointed out that some of the recommendations for the village that had emerged from the questionnaire could be implemented without waiting for publication of the Parish Plan. Some suggestions had already been implemented such as the light for the Illingworth Way footpath onto the Recreation Ground. A discussion followed about the provision of speed bumps and how funding for these might be met. It would be extremely expensive for the parish council to undertake this expense and the County Council was very short of money for such projects.

## **REPORTS FROM THE WORKING PARTIES**

### **RECREATION AND AMENITIES**

Mr Bentinck said the group had met in the past week when the following items were considered:

**1. Grass cutting**

Exceptional weather this year had caused the cutting plan to go astray, as had the questionable invoicing by CGM. It was agreed that Mr Bentinck would obtain copy invoices for 2009 from the clerk. CGM had agreed to call Mr Bentinck before each cut but had only done this once: despite several requests, cutting of the Bike Track was overdue.

**2. Village Warden**

Mr Salmons had strimmed the Vicarage Corner, the track leading to the school, bushes around the gravel car park and the path onto the Recreation Ground from Illingworth Way. The Dovecote hedge had been cut.

**3. Trees**

Mrs Macintyre reported that the condition of the Hawthorn on the Village Green had worsened. Mr Bentinck had informed Mr Salmons of this and he would provide a quotation for removing the root system so that a replacement could be planted. A letter would be sent to Mrs Lily Mead suggesting options in answer to her request to plant a tree in memory of her late husband.

**4. RoSPA Report / Play area**

This was not discussed.

**5. Access to Recreation Ground letter**

There has been a reply from CPALC, forwarded by Dr Oakley, which would be discussed at the next full FPC meeting.

**6. Youth Shelter/YOFF**

The group was awaiting delivery of a robust new net for the ball wall.

**7. Any Other Business**

Progress on the matter of cricket balls landing in the gardens of Edis Way properties would be covered by Peter Sutton at the next FPC meeting.

*Mr Sutton said that it appeared the cheapest and most aesthetic way to address this problem would be to plant some trees as a barrier and that a meeting with those residents affected would be arranged.*

A section of the fence to the rear of the Church had collapsed. The group would contact the Church Warden, David Boreham, about its repair.

The group had e-mailed Matt Grey to request that the Cricket Club take care with the refurbished benches and stake out an agreed area to the edge of the Pre-School garden for the “Rock On The Rec” event.

The group e-mailed SCDC to thank the council for the new dog bin on the Green but also to request ways of making it more appropriate for it's location.

Mr Bentinck requested a key from Dr Grindley for the padlock to the gate allowing access to the Recreation Ground from the gravel car park, as contractors have no access at present.

A solar light had now been installed on the edge of the allotments providing light onto the path from Illingworth Way onto the Recreation Ground.

The Village Plan was discussed at length and Mr Bentinck and Mrs Macintyre agreed to write a response.

Mr Bentinck said he had spoken to Matt Grey about the Sports compound, who had in turn spoken to Mr Shelford about re-rotovating and reseeding the area at the joint expense of the Cricket and Football Clubs.

**FINANCE**

Mr Sutton gave details of the Bank Accounts as follows:

Deposit Account	£16,238.51
Current Account	£52.51
Standard Life Bank	£15,000.00

Mr Sutton proposed the following cheques for payment:

David Allars (reimbursement for solar light)	£141.48
Foxton VHT (hire of Meeting Room 6/7, 13/7 and 8/9)	£40.50
D Salmons Fencing Services (Village Warden Duties August and additional work for FPC)	£236.50

Foxton Cricket Club (half FPC contribution for grass cutting on the Recreation Ground)	£250.00
Stationery Cupboard (1 box A4 copy paper)	£16.95
Moore Stephens (fee for external audit for year ending 31/3/09)	£339.25
J E Burns (salary August and September)	£611.61
J E Burns (expenses July and August)	£49.73

Dr Oakley seconded the proposal and all were agreed that these payments, totalling £1,686.02, be made and that transfer £1,686 be transferred from the Deposit Account to the Current Account.

It was agreed to wait for clarification from CGM before its invoice for the past month's grass cutting be paid.

### **PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT**

Mr Barnes reported as follows:

#### **Planning application considered by the committee at its meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> August:**

Mr and Mrs Barnes	Application No. S/1045/09/F for extension and replacement garage at 25 High Street Approved
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#### **Planning Permission granted:**

Mr and Mrs Price	Application No. S/0523/09/F for extensions at 62 Fowlmere Road Several conditions
Mr Kim Mills	Application No. S/0922/09/F for installation of 8 roof lights at 81A High Street Usual condition

The matter of the former Q8 garage was discussed. Mr Barnes reported that work was being carried out on the site. Mrs Roberts offered to take another look at the site. She said that concern had been expressed at the last meeting of the SCDC Scrutiny Committee that officers were not providing updates to parish councils on problematic planning matters.

Mr Barnes reported that two copy letters had been received from CCC South Highways Division. One related to the new vehicular access at the Burlington Press requesting completion of the works. The second letter referred to the vehicular access at 81 High Street stating that the access must be constructed and that existing damage to the footway constituted a tripping hazard.

The committee had spent considerable time considering the SCDC Gypsy and Traveller Development Plan Document (Issues and Options 2 – site Options and Policies Public Participation) and had produced a list of its recommendations regarding sites at Whaddon, Meldreth, Bassingbourn and Harston. The committee

recommended rejection of all the sites except that at Harston, where it was felt there was no valid planning justification for rejection. Dr Oakley thanked the committee for the huge task it had undertaken in scrutinising the documentation so carefully.

Mr Barnes concluded by saying that a letter had been received from the SCDC Chief Executive, Greg Harlock, responding to FPC's letter expressing concerns about planning procedures at the District Council. Mrs Roberts said that FPC's letter was excellent. Mr Harlock's letter (which would be included in the circulating correspondence) suggested that the District Council was looking for even less imput from parish councils and even more delegation. Mr Barnes said he would try to get the October Planning meeting at the District Council.

### **ENCROACHMENT ONTO THE RECREATION GROUND**

The council had received advice from CALC'S legal department that basically said that the parish council was entitled to demand that the resident who was encroaching on the Recreation Ground remove the materials he was storing there with the threat of legal action in the event of non-compliance. Dr Oakley proposed that the council's solicitor be asked to draft a letter to the resident who had encroached onto the Recreation Ground. Dr Grindley seconded the proposal and all were agreed.

### **POLICE LIAISON**

Mr Barnes reported that there had been more criminal activity this week, although the break-in on "The Green" was still not appearing on the police report. Items had been taken from houses in West Hill Road and Caxton Lane. There was also an incident of the fraudulent sale of a car owned by a High Street resident. The police were hoping to have a scheme for increased security for the elderly. Referring to this latter incident, Mrs Roberts had tried with little success to get more details from the police, but was still pursuing this.

### **RECREATION GROUND TRUST REPORT**

Dr McKeown reported that the RGT had not met since the last Parish Council Meeting but had received a request from the Pre-School Group for permission to erect a freestanding, roll-out awning to protect the children from sun and rain. He said that the request had been e-mailed to all Trustees and having received positive responses he had informed the Pre-School Group on 1<sup>st</sup> September that it had the RGT's permission.

### **DOVECOTE/MEADOW REPORT**

Mrs Macintyre reported that archaeologists had again visited the site and had found more floor cobbles and would make the area safe. The hedge had been cut and the path cleared. Volunteers would be welcomed to join a working party on 23<sup>rd</sup> September.

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

Dr Oakley reported having received various e-mailed invitations to meetings including a meeting at Robison College on 12<sup>th</sup> September on the East of England Plan to 2021, which Mr Barnes said he might be able to attend.

The clerk then summarised the correspondence received since the last meeting that is given in full below:

- 1) Letter dated 12<sup>th</sup> August from the SCDC Principal Solicitor re new arrangements for indemnity agreements for the transfer of open space contributions.
- 2) Letter dated 18<sup>th</sup> August from the SCDC Health and Enforcement Officer with details of a 3-day course for the CIEH Level 3 Award in Health and Safety in the Workplace to be run on 21<sup>st</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> October.
- 3) Letter dated 20<sup>th</sup> August from Active Systems offering an Office Equipment Time and Material Agreement at a reduced callout charge.
- 4) Letter dated 21<sup>st</sup> August from Andrew Lansley MP enclosing a copy of a letter from Microsoft who, in conjunction with the Charity Technology Trust, is working to offer eligible charities up to six titles including Microsoft Office.
- 5) Letter dated 24<sup>th</sup> August from SCDC acknowledging FPC's letter expressing its concerns about the council's planning procedures and further letter of 28<sup>th</sup> August addressing these concerns.
- 6) Letter dated 1<sup>st</sup> September from CPRE enclosing information about a course on hedgerows being jointly run by CPRE and the Cambridge Preservation Society on Saturday and Sunday the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> November.
- 7) Letter dated 4<sup>th</sup> September from the University of Cambridge re the North West Cambridge Project advising that the Inspectors have supported the broad range of uses proposed for the site jointly by Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council
- 8) Information from Cambridgeshire ACRE including:
  - Notice of Annual General Meeting 2009 to be held on 29<sup>th</sup> September: enclosing reply form
- 9) "Clerks and Councils Direct" magazine, September 2009.
- 10) Cope newsletter for September.
- 11) Publicity material from Canalbs Ltd (internal audit services), Saltex (outdoor show for play equipment etc), Barcham Trees, Roland Amey Services (Heating and Plumbing), Shaw's (books etc for local councils) and Glasden.

## **VISITORS' QUESTIONS**

A member of the public pointed out that the footpath by the Press cottages had no streetlight.

*Mrs Roberts said this was probably an SCDC footpath and said she would look into the matter.*

Mr Mitchell complained about the difficulty of gaining access to the A10 from Station Road.

*Mr Allars said that this matter would be raised in the Parish Plan, but that the possibility of a flyover at this junction was remote.*

Mrs Cook, a Station Road resident had various concerns. She thought the yellow lines at the bottom of Station Road should have been continued further up the road.

*The parish council agreed, and had originally asked for the lines to be extended further. However, in the present economic climate, it was unlikely that the CCC Highways Department would provide the funding for this.*

She also expressed concern about a Cherry tree in Station Road.

*Mrs Roberts said that an SCDC trees Officer should have visited the site to assess the tree, and said she would follow this up.*

Mrs Cook complained about the condition of the wall surrounding the War Memorial.

*Mr Barnes said that the upkeep of the wall was the responsibility of the Burlington Press and that a letter should be sent.*

She also complained about the condition of the litterbin at the Station Road bus stop.

*Mrs Roberts said the bin probably needed to be replaced and said she would follow this up.*

Mr Wilson, a Caxton Lane resident, complained vigorously about the dreadful smell that had been pervading the village recently and that was due to partially treated sewage from East London being used to fertilise fields adjacent to the village. An SCDC Environmental Officer had visited the offending farm and had been very helpful. Mr Wilson said he intended to take the matter up with MP, Andrew Lansley.

*Mrs Roberts said she would follow this up and suggested the parish council did likewise.*

### **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Mr Allars suggested that, in view of the amount of litter in the village that a “litter-pick” day be held. Mr Bentinck said that it was possible to get equipment for such voluntary efforts free-of-charge. He also said that he had telephoned the police last Wednesday about the fearful smell.

### **DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

It was confirmed that the next meeting would be held on **Monday, 5<sup>th</sup> October 2009** at **7.45pm** in the **Meeting Room** of the **Village Hall**.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 10.00pm.