

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF FOXTON PARISH COUNCIL

HELD ON MONDAY, 4th OCTOBER 2004, AT 7.45 p.m.

PRESENT

Mr Pusey, Mr Barnes, Mr Blakesley, Mr Chilton, Dr Grindley, Mr Hockley, Mr Kennedy

IN ATTENDANCE

12 members of the public

APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Professor Milton, Mr Broadley and Mrs Thake

Mr Pusey welcomed all to the meeting.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

One amendment was needed. On page 46 the second sentence should read, "The drainage ditch is at the back of the site not at the front as shown on the plan. With this amendment, all were agreed that the Minutes of the previous meeting, held on 6th September 2004, should be signed as a true record.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Threatened Large-scale Development

Mr Pusey said he would leave this topic till later in the meeting as when it was hoped Professor Milton might have arrived (*his apologies allowed for the possibility of his coming later in the meeting*).

Old School Site

Mr Pusey said that the vandalism at the site had still not been recorded as a crime statistic. Although he had reported the matter to PC Sutton, there had been no mention of it in the next Sawston Newsletter. He said that the County Council had apologised for its failure to report the vandalism effectively, which would have provided an opportunity for investigation: the County Council would try to get it reported properly. Mr Barnes said that he had tried to get a previous incident of vandalism reported as arson and again it had not been reported.

Hardman Road

The Clerk had asked John Kay to supply details of the type of light installed, but had not heard further from the firm. She said she would chase the matter up.

Code of Practice

As a meeting was a matter of some urgency, it was agreed to arrange a date after the present meeting.

Work Area at side of Railway track just off Barrington Road

The clerk had tried to contact the relevant Department at Network Rail but had only been able to leave a message. This had not received a response and she would chase the matter up. Mr Blakesley said that the site was now designated by a sign as “Foxton Depot”.

Correspondence

(i) Item 7 – CCC Environment and Transport Department bidding round for jointly funded minor improvement schemes.

Mr Hockley said he had put in a bid for improvements to the following sites:

- Fowlmere Road – speed and parking problems and speed round Vicarage corner
- Caxton Lane/High Street junction

Mr Hockley quoted from a letter from Mr Studd complaining about the hazards and suggesting white lines in the High Street. It was agreed that the clerk would liaise with Mr Hockley in replying to Mr Studd’s letter.

(ii) Item 13 –Letter from the Milestones Society

Mr Hockley said that the council was sympathetic to the need for repair and refurbishment but had suggested the Society contact the County Council’s South Highways Division.

REPORTS FROM THE COMMITTEES

RECREATION AND AMENITIES

Mr Chilton reported as follows:

- He had received a bill for the Bowls Club fence only to find that it was the Tennis Club fence that had been repaired. Matters had been sorted out and the Bowls Club fence would be repaired.
- The grass cutting tenders had been drawn up and Mr Chilton said that Mr Boreham had asked him to obtain a separate quotation, at the same time, for grass cutting in the churchyard.
- Mr Chilton reported that Rosalind Meese-Grove had reported that a rope swing had been made on a tree at the bottom of the footpath onto the Recreation Ground from Illingworth Way. She had also offered to organise any planting the council wanted to carry out at the rear of Illingworth Way properties and Mr Chilton asked whether there was any money available to provide plants. *The clerk asked whether the council would be covered by its insurance for the rope swing. It was thought that this needed to be clarified and the clerk was asked to check this with Cornhill Insurance.*
- The Disability Discrimination Act now in force had implications for the play area. Mr Chilton had received a booklet from Wicksteed that gave details of what would be needed. He didn’t yet know how much it would all cost. *Mr Hockley suggested consulting CALC before any action was taken. The matter was referred to the Recreation and Amenities Committee.*
- Although the design work for the signs had been completed, it was wished to have them made in metal and unfortunately the firm who could do it had gone out of business and the Committee would have to seek another firm.

Mr Pusey then reported on the Skateboard/BMX project. He said that he had set up a meeting with Mrs Thake, Mr Broadly, Dr Grindley and himself this week, but said that there had been little activity during the summer and hoped this did not denote a lack of interest.

FINANCE

Mr Hockley gave details of the bank accounts as follows:

Current Account	£6000.25
(This included a deposit of £5950 being the second half of the year's precept, paid in a few days before the meeting)	
Deposit Account	£6453.61
(This included interest for the period 7/7/04-5/9/04 of £18.95)	
Cambridge Building Society	£7963.78

Mr Hockley proposed that the following cheques be approved:

Foxton Village Hall Trust (Hire of Meeting Room on 2 and 26 August)	£23.00
Royal British Legion (Remembrance Day wreath)	£16.50
D Pusey (reimbursement for copy of the Buchanan Report)	£28.00
CALC (copy of "Model Contract of Employment")	£3.00
Anglia Office Systems (toner cartridge for printer/copier)	£111.63
V W Mead (3 weeks refuse collection and ground maintenance, September)	£21.30
Inland Revenue (tax on JEB/VWM earnings for 3 months to 5/10/04)	£132.56

Dr Grindley seconded the proposal and all were agreed that these payments, totalling £335.99, should be made and that £5612 should be transferred from the Current Account to the Deposit Account.

Mr Hockley reported that the Finance Committee had been reviewing the clerk's hours and duties. The review could not be completed until the study of the implications of the Standing Orders and Chairmanship publication had been completed. For instance, there might need to be changes to the agendas for Parish Council meetings. The Committee would also consider holiday entitlement and separate payment for extra tasks beyond normal duties such as taking the Minutes of meetings about the threatened large-scale development. However, in the meantime, Mr Hockley proposed that the Clerk's hours be increased from 28 to 32 per month from the 1st September 2004. Dr Grindley seconded the proposal, and all were agreed.

PLANNING

Mr Blakesley reported as follows:

Mr Pusey reported that there had been no progress since the last meeting. However, now that Richard Hodgson had been replaced by Andrew Hall at the County Council there was reason to be more optimistic. However, office time had not yet been allotted to resolving matters.

COMMUNITY PROJECT

Mr Pusey said that great efforts were being made to get Gerald Browning (CCC) to a meeting about the outstanding problems. Water had been coming into the hall to such an extent that a class had to be abandoned. Even then there was no response from the County Council. It was hoped that the meeting, arranged for Thursday, 7th October, would go some way towards making progress.

DOVECOTE/MEADOW PROJECT

Mr Pusey said that the county Council officer (Andrew Hall) had consulted with CCC's Solicitors and started the process all over again. However, although this had resulted in extra solicitor's fees for FPC, the good news was that the lease would now be for the whole site for 25 years. He recommended that the Friends Group go through the points raised by FPC's solicitor, Denise Wilkinson. All were agreed.

Mr Pusey said that there would be a project launch to celebrate the £25,000 grant from Local Heritage Initiative on Wednesday, 13th October at 2.30pm. The Press would be invited and volunteers from the Green Belt Project and the village would carry out grassland management on the same day.

Mr Pusey said that the County Council have let the contract for the new school playing field. Unfortunately, despite Richard Hodgson having agreed to include the footpath fencing in the contract, this had not happened. He said he was trying to persuade Andrew Hall to talk to the Education Department with a view to getting the fence work done by the contractors.

Mr Pusey said that CCC and SCDC were conferring on whether a planning application for the provision of a footpath and a fence would be needed. Although they had not met, the initial preference from members of the Friends group was for a 1.8m post and rail fence with a 2m wide grass footpath that would need little upkeep.

CORRESPONDENCE

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

- 1) Letter dated 3rd September from Cambridgeshire Constabulary re enhanced community pages on its website: enclosing literature.
- 2) Letter dated 7th September from SCDC Housing and Environmental Services re kitchen waste bins: enclosing poster (displayed).
- 3) Letter dated 7th September from Cambridgeshire Police Authority re next meeting of Sawston Sector Liaison Group to be held on 7th October: enclosing agenda and Minutes of previous meeting.

- 4) Letter dated 7th September from the SCDC Environmental Services re South Cambridgeshire Draft Licensing Policy – Licensing Act 2003:enclosing draft Licensing Policy Statement. *Passed to MK*
- 5) Letter dated 8th September 2004 from Rugby Cement informing that the firm will be drilling three exploratory boreholes in the land to the west of the plant as part of its strategic review of reserves.
- 6) Letter dated 9th September from Cambridgeshire Constabulary re the planned restructuring of Southern division.
- 7) Letter dated 9th September from South Cambridgeshire Crime and Disorder Partnership with invitation to its Safety consultation event to be held on 3rd November at Marshall Airport: acceptance slip enclosed.
- 8) Letter dated 14th September from CCC Environment and Transport Department enclosing a copy of the Local Transport Plan Annual Progress Report 2004. *Passed to BH*
- 9) Letter dated 14th September from John Ballantyne, SCDC, reminding that the Budget Consultation Evening would be held on 22nd September.
- 10) Letter dated 14th September from HYDRA Consultants re its master composting Scheme: enclosing article. (*Copy sent to the editor of "The Laurentian"*)
- 11) Letter dated 17th September from CCC Environment and Transport Department acknowledging Foxton's recently submitted bid under the Jointly Funded Minor Highways Improvement programme.
- 12) Letter dated 20th September from the Boundary Commission giving the website address for their final recommendations.
- 13) Letter dated 21st September from Cambridgeshire Constabulary informing that Sawston Sector Police will return to Sawston from Wednesday, 6th October.
- 14) Letter dated 21st September from SCDC Development Services Department acknowledging correspondence re milestones at Foxton.
- 15) Letter dated 22nd September from CCC Environment and Transport Department re Local Authority Parking Enforcement (LAPE) to commence on 25th October.
- 16) Letter dated 27th September from Buchans (landscaping and Maintenance) offering its services for grass cutting. *Passed to DC*
- 17) Letter received 29th September from DEFRA asking for comments on its consultation called "Clean Neighbourhoods": website address given.
- 18) Letter dated 2nd October from Whittlesford PC inviting members of Foxton PC to a meeting to be held at Whittlesford Memorial Hall at 7.30pm on Thursday, 14th October about the possibility of Marshalls airport moving to Duxford: enclosing poster.
- 19) Information from CALC including:
 - Memo County AGM 6th November at Huntingdon together with agenda and Minutes of the last AGM
 - Details of workshop for councillors

- Employment update (variation of employment contracts)
 - Leaflet on the Discrimination Act 1995
 - Memo from the Boundary Committee
 - Details of photography competition
 - Memo re leaflets sent out by Chancellor Formecon Ltd on Health & Safety
 - September Bulletin
- 20) Information from Cambridgeshire ACRE including:
- Leaflet on Cambridgeshire ACRE Resource Centre
 - Leaflet entitled “Help shape the future of Health” published by the Commission for Patient and Public involvement in Health together with application form for further information
 - “Harvest” magazine September/October
- 21) Sawston Newsletter, September.
- 22) Cambridgeshire Guided Busway newsletter 5.
- 23) Cambridge City NHS Primary Care Trust publicity material (displayed).
- 24) “Flood Action” issue 4.
- 25) “The Event” South Cambridgeshire guide to Arts and Entertainment, October–December 2004
- 26) SCDC “Know your Local Councillors” leaflet.
- 27) South Cambs magazine, and Tenants’ Newsletter Autumn 2004.
- 28) “Clerks and Councils Direct” magazine, September 2004.
- 29) “Postwatch” East of England issue 3.
- 30) Publicity material from Adventure Playgrounds Ltd

Referring to item 18, Mr Pusey said that the site of Marshall’s airport had been designated for housing, so that a new site for the airport would be needed. The alternatives were RAF Wyton or Duxford. It was agreed that Dr Grindley would attend the meeting and that the clerk would inform Whittlesford PC of this.

VISITORS’ QUESTIONS

Mrs Gaskin reported a large pothole in Fowlmere Road.

She was advised that the best way to get this dealt with was to report the matter to CCC South Highways Division.

Mrs Duckett complained of speeding in Fowlmere Road.

Mr Pusey said that the council had been trying for years to get something done. The County Council had said that it would install gates that would give the optical illusion of road narrowing but had failed to do this.

Mr Challis asked for an update on the allotment site.

Mr Pusey said that things had not moved since the last meeting. However, now that Richard Hodgson had been replaced by Andrew Hall, he was optimistic that after the dovecote issues had been settled, he would take action on the allotments.

Mr Challis asked how the footpath in the dovecote field related to the new playing field.

Mr Pusey said that this would run from the High Street, crossing the meadow before running along the rear of properties in Edis Way. It emerged in the car park near the school

Mrs Howell asked about the sewage pumping station on Vicarage Corner. Sewage smells were still a problem.

Mr Barnes said that the pumping station at Thriplow had been refurbished and this was supposed to help. The clerk was asked to write to Anglian Water saying that once again the village was experiencing sewage smells and asking them to look into the problem.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Development

Mr Pusey said he would like to take the opportunity to clarify the situation about future housing development. He said that the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) had said that 18,000 additional houses would be needed in the Eastern Region. The Eastern Region Assembly (EERA) had commissioned a report – the Buchanan Report – and this posed the possibility of 5,000 of the houses being built in the area north of Royston. However, this was only one report amongst several. A further report called the “Study of Studies” had been produced that covered the findings of all the reports.

Mr Pusey said that there had been two meetings so far of representatives of the parish councils most likely to be affected by development north of Royston, who had formed a group. There had been another meeting at Cambourne arranged by Andrew Lansley attended by representatives from a wider range of parishes. The latter meeting was conducted on an all-party basis. It had been agreed that parishes should unite in opposing such large-scale development and that there was no case for these houses along the M11 corridor. Unfortunately, Cambridgeshire County Council had “left the door open” by saying it might be possible to accommodate 3,000 houses.

Mr Pusey stressed that the 18,000 houses were in addition to the housing already planned in the area. It was the housing already planned to which the recent magazine produced by SCDC referred.

Mr Pusey said that the local group of parishes was willing to fund some action, but this would have to wait until conclusions had been made about the siting of all these houses. He pointed out that South Cambridgeshire had previously had no representation on the body (EERA) reporting to the ODPM and that there was a battle going on over the “infrastructure deficit”.

Mr Pusey said that the group of parishes was working on producing an explanatory newsletter, which would go out to all households in those parishes including Foxton. Once a public meeting was held, it would be possible for action groups to be formed.

Mr Barnes said that the same thing was being done in North Hertfordshire in relation to Royston.

A member of the public asked about the membership of the EERA and Mr Pusey read out a list, concluding by saying it was not very democratic.

Disabled Access to Village Shop

Embarking on a second matter, Mr Pusey said he had been asked by Colin Black whether the council would consider helping with the expense of complying with the Disabled Discrimination Act. There was a short discussion and the feeling was that although the Post Office/shop is a commercial concern, it plays a vital part in village life, and the Blacks voluntarily do a lot to help the village: thus a contribution under the S137 heading would be considered.

Village Website

Thirdly, Mr Pusey raised the matter of problems with the village website. He had been approached about the possibility of having an on-line version of the village information booklet produced some years ago. Mr Kennedy offered to assess the situation. Mr Pusey said that Ian Sanderson has offered to do more work on the website. Mr Hockley said that the specification needed to be right. Dr Grindley said links to organised groups in the village would be needed. Mr Kennedy said that the website was really a matter for another committee.

Resignation

Finally, Mr Pusey said he was sorry to announce that Mr Blakesley had tendered his resignation from the council. Mr Pusey said he was sorry that Mr Blakesley's commitments did not allow him to continue with the council and thanked him for all the work he had done.

Mr Barnes agreed to receive planning applications until a new chairman of the Planning Committee had been elected and the clerk would set in motion the procedure for advertising a vacancy on the council.

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

It was confirmed that this would be held on **Monday, 1st November 2004 at 7.45pm, in the Village Hall Meeting Room.**

Dr Grindley gave his apologies in advance for this meeting. There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.50pm.