

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF FOXTON PARISH COUNCIL

HELD ON MONDAY, 3rd OCTOBER 2011 AT 7.45 p.m.

PRESENT

Dr Oakley, Dr Grindley, Mr Bore, Mr Barnes, Mr Elliott, Mr McCreery, Mrs Macintyre, and Mrs McFadzean

County Councillor Susan van de Ven

IN ATTENDANCE

3 members of the public

APOLOGIES

District Councillor Deborah Roberts, Mr Sutton

Dr Oakley welcomed all to the meeting.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

All Parish Councillors have received a dispensation from the SCDC Standards Committee to permit them to discuss, without prejudice, matters concerning Foxton Recreation Ground Trust of which they are all trustees and thus have a personal interest.

There were no other declarations.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Two amendments were needed:

- (i) On page 34, Dr van de Ven left not immediately after her report, but before the Finance Working Party's report.
- (ii) In the first sentence of the Dovecote/Meadow Report, this should read “---Jon Cairns had piled up half the cuttings at an estimated (*not total*) cost of £150.

Dr Oakley proposed that, with these amendments, the Minutes of the previous Meeting, held on Monday, 7th September 2011 be signed as a true record. Mrs McFadzean seconded the proposal and all were agreed.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

County Councillor's report – 50mph speed limit on the A10

Dr van de Ven said that the extended 50mph speed limit on the A10 was now in place.

Police Liaison Report – speeding in the village

Mr Barnes said that 30mph stickers were available for residents of Fowlmere Road, High Street and Station Road to affix to their wheelie bins.

Correspondence – e-mail from CCC re double yellow lines in Station Road

A further e-mail had been received from Mr Stinton confirming that the extension of double yellow lines in Station Road would be considered for partial funding by the County Council. Dr van de Ven however, warned that, due to reorganisation being carried out by the County Council, there was considerable confusion over funding issues for minor traffic problems and recommended that FPC “watch this space”.

Any Other Business – Training lights

Dr Grindley said he had attended a meeting with the installer on 2nd October to check the timings for the training lights on the Recreation Ground. These had now been programmed to come on from 5.45pm until 8.15pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays and from 6.45pm until 9.15pm on Wednesdays.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR’S REPORT

Dr van de Ven reported as follows:

1. Primary School’s Safer Cycling

The offer from the County was now being charged at £15 per head, compared with nothing at all in the past. Training was done by volunteers and there was also a training package paid for in full by central government. Dr van de Ven said she was looking into this.

2. Bus subsidy cuts

A consultation was now being undertaken with a deadline of 9th December. The consultation was being conducted online, which might not suit everyone. Dr van de Ven said she had lots of paper copies of the questionnaire and distributed a number of these to the council, together with freepost envelopes for their return.

3. Rail User Group

High-ranking officers from the County Council and from First Capital Connect came to a recent meeting and there had been some progress on long-term campaign points. Dr van de Ven said that it was particularly fortuitous that this meeting occurred when the pedestrian gates were out of use. She said there was a lot of lobbying going on behind the scenes and hoped to have a full report soon. Dr van de Ven had asked Network Rail to take over the watering of the platform tubs whenever the gates were down.

4. Successful call-in of County Farms' policy on wind farms

The County Council Cabinet had recently taken the unusually autocratic decision to ban all wind turbines, of whatever quantity or size, anywhere on its massive land holdings known as County Farms. This also precluded any prospect of individual small turbines proposed by tenant farmers being allowed on their smallholdings. Dr van de Ven said the normal channel for this kind of decision-making was the planning process, but that the new style of County Council leadership was quite single-minded. The Cabinet decision was being challenged and a “call-in” of the decision was successful, meaning that the Scrutiny Committee had decided to send the decision back to Cabinet for review, with certain specific recommendations.

5. Local Public Service Agreement Reward Grant

Dr van de Ven said that the County Council was essentially the banker for government money as it was channelled down to agreed local projects. Much of this grant went to District Councils for local and community projects and other funds went to voluntary organisations. The County Council had stopped the flow of this cash and withheld it for other projects. Dr van de Ven said she been approached by the Care Network which had been awarded £59.5K by the Government for Community Transport projects. The County Council has ignored all communication from the Care Network, and its plea that the project was ready to take off pending the LPSA grant. She said that this came at a time when CCC was suggesting that community transport take up the slack in the wake of bus subsidy cuts - again, this was an example of the new single-minded attitude to decision-making.

In conclusion, Dr van de Ven said that Cemex would be in touch with the council about its settlement plan.

Dr van de Ven left the meeting shortly after having given her report.

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

There was no report from the District Councillor, Deborah Roberts.

PARISH PLAN UPDATE

Mr Hockley said that a very useful meeting had been held on 19th September attended by himself, Dr Grindley, Mr Sutton, David Allars, Ian Sanderson and Linda Browne (SCDC). The action plan had been updated and circulated to members of the council. Dr Oakley said that councillors' comments would be collated and passed on.

REPORTS FROM THE WORKING PARTIES

RECREATION AND AMENITIES

Mr McCreery reported as follows:

1. Recreation Ground

Work on removing dead trees, suckers and dangerous branches on the south side of the Recreation Ground had been completed.

The meeting was suspended to allow two members of the public to query the necessity for this work that they claimed had left the area open and caused a lot of noise while the work was being carried out.

They were assured that the work had been necessary to remove dead trees.

2. Sports Club Meetings

A meeting had been held with the Cricket, Football and Dynamo Foxton Clubs early in September when the Terms & Conditions document for use of the Recreation Ground was discussed and agreed to by the three clubs.

Consideration would to be given to arranging an application of fertiliser in mid-April 2012 and Richard Barnes had offered to arrange for soil tests to be carried out. In addition an application of weed-killer would be required in May 2012.

The clubs were asked to consider uses for the hard standing area previously used for netball, as development of this area for better use would be desirable.

3. Seating for the Bus Shelter

Delivery of the seat was still awaited.

4. Play Area Improvement Group

The group was still awaiting responses to grant applications. Further fund raising was ongoing.

5. Trees

A tree had fallen over the Shepreth footpath from the garden of the adjoining property and this has been cleared by the owner. Replacement of the Chestnut trees on Station Road was still to be finalised.

6. Paths

The paths had been cut by CCC and the two salt bins had been filled.

FINANCE

Mr McCreery gave details of the Bank Accounts as follows:

Deposit Account (This included interest for the period 6/4-4/9 of £1.24)	£10,714.96
Current Account (This included £10,275 being the 2 nd ½ of the precept)	£10,326.76
Standard Life Bank	£30,344.92

Mr McCreery proposed the following cheques for payment:

CGM (Cambridge) Ltd (grass cutting August) (£576.00 less credit of £300)	£276.00
Town & Country Tree Surgery Co. (tree work on Recreation Ground)	£1,008.00
Npower Ltd (electricity supply to Recreation Ground)	£17.75
Moore Stephens (audit fee 2010/11)	£392.40
Teloopa Garden Design (annual cut and rake in Dovecote meadow)	£188.00
J E Burns (reimbursements for):	
Date stamp inc. delivery	£9.47
Box 1000 envelopes	<u>17.16</u>
	£26.63
Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal (wreath for Remembrance Sunday)	£17.00
T J Austin (cutting the Dovecote Meadow hedge)	£54.00
D Salmons (Village Warden duties, September)	£75.00

Dr Oakley seconded the proposal and all were agreed that these payments, totalling £2,054.78 should be made and that £8,217 should be transferred from the Current Account to the Deposit Account.

The clerk had received the completed and signed audit from the external auditors, Moore Stephens, and would display a notice on the council's notice board to the effect that the audit for the year ended 31st March 2011 had been completed.

PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT

Dr Grindley reported as follows:

The Planning Committee met on Thursday, 29th September with two members of the public present.

The following applications were considered:

Mr and Geoffrey Mrs Maskell Application No. S/1801/11 for alteration and extension to the stable linking the two separate “barns” to form one single-family dwelling. Also to replace artificial slates with natural slate on the existing “barn” to the north of the site and to create a detached cart shed and lockable store at “The Stables”, Mortimers Lane

Approval was recommended subject to the suggestion that the position of the proposed cart shed be moved to the south east to avoid interfering with the existing right of way and to reduce the impact on the neighbouring property, Meadow View.

Mr Jonty Best Application No. S/1788/11 for extension to dwelling at 2 Hardman Road
Approval recommended

Mr and Mrs Bailey Application No. S//1868/11 for replacement garden room at 20 Barrington Road
No recommendation

The following comments were made on the latter application:

1. The proposed position of the garden room appears to put its southeast side directly on the boundary of the property, and the window on this side would overlook and open onto the neighbouring garden. The construction of the building on the boundary to the property and the proposed window are likely to cause problems with building regulations.
2. There are some anomalies on the application:
 - The proposed use of building is not stated.
 - The fenestration on the plan differs from that shown on the elevations.
 - “View A” should be labelled “North East” and not “South West”, and “View B” should be labelled “South West” and not “North East”;

A letter had been received from the senior lawyer at the SCDC Legal Office in reply to the council’s letter regarding its concerns about the district council’s handling of the application regarding the new access to the Burlington Press site. SCDC did not accept that the wording “required” in the General Permitted Development Order (GDPO) actually meant required. Instead it suggested that the wording “required” in the context of the GDPO actually meant “to facilitate”, and on that basis dismissed the Parish Council request for Counsel’s advice. The reply completely ignored the request the Parish Council made for an explanation of why SCDC granted planning permission for the development in the absence of a planning application for the development, and without the authority of the General Procedure Order (since the requisite notices had not been published) and why SCDC did not consider their decision ultra vires in these circumstances.

It was agreed that Dr Grindley would draft an appropriate response, to draw the District Council’s attention to the points that SCDC had ignored, and ask that the

legal points that had been requested would be addressed by referring them to counsel. *The clerk was asked to send this letter to SCDC.*

A letter from Endurance Estates had been received in reply to one from Dr Oakley.

Dr Grindley asked the meeting for authorisation to incur expenditure in seeking clarification from the Land Registry about a piece of land in Foxton. Dr Oakley seconded the proposed expenditure and all were agreed with one abstention.

PURCHASE OF FOWLMERE ROAD TELEPHONE KIOSK

There had been a consultation with residents on whether the council should purchase the kiosk from BT for £1, and a contract for the purchase had been circulated to all councillors. Dr Oakley proposed the council purchase the telephone kiosk. Six councillors supported the proposal, and two were against. A cheque for £1 payable to BT was signed and the clerk was asked to complete the paperwork.

POLICE LIAISON REPORT

Mr Barnes reported as follows:

There had been one burglary in Barrington Road, one other offence in Cambridge Road and an antisocial behaviour incident. There had also been an incident at the station involving the gates and the flowerpots, which the British Transport Police were investigating with the possibility of a prosecution.

RECREATION GROUND TRUST REPORT

Mr Bore reported that one of the defective showers in the pavilion had been modified and another was “work in progress”. The protective film for the roof lights had been fitted. A note and plan to the Village Hall Committee regarding storage facilities.

DOVECOTE/MEADOW REPORT

There was nothing to report.

CORRESPONDENCE

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

- 1) Letter dated 9th September from the Resident Involvement Officer re the SCDC council supported Disability Forum with information sheet. *Copy passed to “The Laurentian”*
- 2) Letter dated 23rd September from CPRE/NALC (Supporting Communities and Neighbourhoods in Planning) enclosing a copy of a new guide entitled “How to respond to planning applications”. *Passed to the Planning Committee*
- 3) Letter dated 27th September from Hewitson’s, solicitors, in response to the council’s letter requesting information about a piece of land.

- 4) Letter dated 27th September from the SCDC Legal Office in response to the council's letter re its concerns about the way SCDC dealt with the Burlington Press access planning application.
- 5) Letter received 23rd September from Cambridgeshire Horizons inviting a representative to attend an event on 28th September at Shire Hall when the Cambridgeshire Renewables Infrastructure Framework (CRIF) would map energy demand up to 2031 and assess the energy generating potential for Cambridgeshire. *Invitation e-mailed to councillors prior to the present meeting*
- 6) Letter received in September re Cambridgeshire County Council's consultation on review of the decision to remove all subsidised bus service funding: online questionnaire available with closing date for response 9th December.
- 7) Letter (dated 6th September) from Victim Support requesting a donation.
- 8) Letter (dated September and addressed to the Chairman) from the Society of Local Council Clerks, reminding the council that the clerk does not hold membership and suggesting a home study course supporting clerks in obtaining a Certificate in Local Administration.
- 9) Letter (dated September) from Roger Taylor, University of Cambridge, North West Cambridge Development Project Manager, informing that the Cambridge University has now submitted a planning application for its new sustainable, mixed use development in the North West of the city. Two consultation exhibitions will be held on Saturday 15th October and Thursday 20th October.
- 10) COPE newsletter, October 2011.
- 11) Local Council Review, Autumn 2011.
- 12) South Cambs magazine, Autumn 2011.
- 13) Publicity material from Wicksteed (play equipment) and Glasdon.

VISITORS QUESTIONS

There were no visitors' questions.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mr Elliott reported that two girls had noticed rubbish dumped over the station wall and had come back the next day to clear it up. Their public spirit was commended, but the council was concerned about the safety issues. Mr Elliott volunteered to submit a short item on the matter for "The Laurentian".

Mr Barnes said Mark Howard had reported that when tidying the plants at the station he had found bags of dog litter left by the gate.

Dr Grindley said that the sports clubs would be asked to contribute towards the running costs of the training lights. He had agreed to submit monthly invoices to the sports clubs.

Mrs Macintyre distributed three possible designs for the new village sign and the majority choice was adopted.

Mrs McFadzean said that the Melbourn Youth Club had re-started but that last week there had been only one member from Foxton who had used the transport arranged. Also, despite numerous posters having been displayed, only one member of the Youth Club turned up for activities that had been arranged to be held on Foxton Recreation Ground. The building in which the Youth Club meet had undergone some refurbishment and this had, unfortunately, resulted in the facilities for the club being reduced. A service level agreement was being circulated for comment.

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

It was confirmed that the next meeting would be held on **Monday, 7th November 2011 at 7.45pm** in the **Meeting Room** of the **Village Hall**.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.05pm.