

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF FOXTON PARISH COUNCIL

HELD ON MONDAY, 2nd JUNE 2008, AT 7.45 p.m.

PRESENT

Dr Oakley, Dr Grindley, Mr Barnes, Mr Bentinck, Mrs Macintyre

District Councillor Deborah Roberts

IN ATTENDANCE

7 members of the public

APOLOGIES

County Councillor David McCraith, Mr Allars, Dr McKeown

Dr Oakley welcomed all to the meeting.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

No amendments were needed and Dr Oakley proposed that the Minutes of the previous Meeting (the AGM) held on 12th May 2008 be signed as a true record. Dr Grindley seconded the proposal and all were agreed.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Recreation and Amenities Working Party Report – Overgrown hedges

Dr Oakley asked Mr Challis (in the visitors' seats) if, when writing for "The Laurentian", he would include an item asking residents to cut their hedges back in July where they are overhanging the village footways. *Mr Challis agreed.*

REPORTS FROM THE WORKING PARTIES

RECREATION AND AMENITIES (R & A)

Mr Bentinck said that the R & A group had not met during the month although the members had kept in touch.

Recreation Ground

The new signs had been erected plus a temporary one for the Bike Park – a more permanent sign for the Bike Park would be put up soon.

Tony Shelford was involved with the picnic area on the Recreation Ground extension, and it was hoped this area would be grassed over soon.

The Recreation Ground had received the first spraying against weeds and the second spraying would be carried out any day soon.

The standard of grass cutting in the village had been very poor this season and Mr Bentinck said that he would be meeting the contractor on Friday, together with a representative of the Cricket Club, to discuss this.

It was noted that five residents with properties backing onto the Recreation Ground (RG) had not returned forms requesting permission for access onto the RG from the rear of their properties.

The annual RoSPA inspection of the Play Area (and this time of the Bike Park) had been completed and the report was available.

Tree Report

Mrs Macintyre, who had taken over as the council's Tree Representative apart from outstanding matters still with Mr Barnes said that Chris Hindley had agreed to deal with the tree at the entrance to West Hill Road

Mr Barnes said that he had received four quotations for work on the trees in the gravel car park ranging between £545 and over £1,000 and recommended accepting the lowest quotation, from Eastern Tree Surgery for £545 plus VAT. All were agreed.

Village Warden Report

Mr Bentinck said that Mr Salmons had now started his course of injections against Hepatitis B.

Youth Initiative

Mr Bentinck reported that he and Mrs Roberts had looked at a locally made youth shelter at Gamlingay that had been up for four years and had proved popular and had solved a lot of problems in the village. The cost of such a shelter would be in the region of £4,000. The R & A group would pursue the issues of funding and location to be followed by consultation with residents.

Mr Bentinck said that the Football Club saw such a shelter as an asset on the RG.

It was agreed that a further meeting with Foxton youths was needed and a quotation sought for a shelter.

Mr Barnes said he had received a number of complaints about grass cutting of the verges at Foxton Bottom. The clerk agreed to contact the CCC Highways Department.

FINANCE

Dr Oakley summarised the headings in the council's Statement of Accounts for the 2007/08 Annual Return for the external audit. Dr Grindley proposed the council's acceptance, Mr Bentinck seconded the proposal, and all were agreed.

Dr Oakley then read the council's Governance Statement for the 2007/08 annual Return for the external audit. Mr Bentinck proposed the statement be accepted, Dr Grindley seconded the proposal and all were agreed.

Dr Oakley and the clerk then signed the relevant sections of the Annual Return, which the clerk would post to the auditors, Moore Stephens, the following day.

The council then discussed the question of supporting the Foxton Dynamos club, which was in need of start-up funds.

From the visitors' seats, Mr Marcus Kohler, Manager and Treasurer of the club, made an application to the council for funds. He said that the club had appointed committee officers with David Wilkins (previously chairman of Foxtton Colts) as Chairman and with David Salmons as Welfare Officer.

Chief among the club's needs were goal posts to replace the existing damaged ones, as well as nets and a pair of collapsible goals for practice matches and training sessions. There were various other needs including a set of away shirts.

The club had inherited £675 from Foxtton Colts and had donations of £100 and up to £250 from Jim Welch and MKA Ecology respectively. The total for additional start-up costs came to £954. Mr Kohler concluded by requesting a grant of between £300 and £500 from the council.

Mr Wilkins said that it was hoped that the members of the club would primarily come from Foxtton.

Mrs Roberts suggested that the District Council might be able to provide some grant funding and it was agreed she should make enquiries from SCDC officers.

Dr Oakley concluded by saying that the council supported the club in principal and would await the result of Mrs Roberts' enquiries.

Dr Oakley then gave details of the Bank Accounts as follows:

Deposit Account	£11,329.01
Current Account	£51.34
(A cheque for £9,000 from RGT to FPC, to cover some of the costs on the RG extension, had been received but not yet paid in)	
Cambridge Building Society	£14,395.69
(This included a tax rebate of £107.98 in respect of the financial year 2007/08)	

Dr Oakley proposed the following cheque for payment:

N Oakley (1 st half Chairman's Honorarium)	£80.00
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REPORT OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE

Mr Barnes reported that the Planning Committee had met on 28th May. Present were Dr Oakley, Mr Barnes, Mrs Macintyre and seven members of the public.

Dr Oakley had chaired a short meeting to discuss the following application:

Dr K Beardsall	Application No. S/0740/08/F for an extension at 36 High Street
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The application was refused on the same grounds as the previous application as contrary to the SCDC Policy HG12 and local plan 2004 –problems of overbearing mass, with consequent loss of light, and loss of privacy due to the additional windows, impacting on the occupants of more than one adjoining properties.

Mr Barnes said that Gareth Jones (SCDC Head of Planning) had visited the site and would discuss the application with his fellow officers.

As consultations on applications were frequently being received from the SCDC Planning Department with too little time to advertise them on the agenda for FPC

meetings, it had been decided to hold a Planning Committee meeting on the third Tuesday of each month unless there were no outstanding applications.

The District Council had sent a letter reviewing the boundaries between Cambridge and the district prior to proposing alternatives to the Boundary Commission. As Foxton was not affected it was agreed that the letter would be considered at the next Planning Committee meeting.

Dr Oakley asked Mrs Roberts for her comments on the proposed eco-town at Hanley Grange. Mrs Roberts said that there was very little time for getting comments in and said the government's proposals for eco-towns ignored the usual planning criteria. She had attended a meeting three weeks ago attended by representatives of 14 parishes. Each parish had been asked to contribute £250 regardless of the size of parish. As Fowlmere was less affected than most others, Fowlmere PC felt unable to contribute this amount, but would help with the production of leaflets. As a leaflet about Hanley Grange had been circulated to Foxton residents, Dr Oakley proposed that responses should be **left** to the individual.

PARISH PLAN UPDATE

The clerk had heard from Mr Allars that the steering group was proposing to have 600 leaflets printed and would reserve 100 of these for Foxton Fun Day. There would also be 12 x A4 and 2 x A3 laminated posters displayed. Mr Allars had given the clerk a sample of the A4 poster, which was passed around.

POLICE LIAISON REPORT

Mr Barnes said there had been no incidents reported since the last meeting. Mrs Roberts (referring to Mr Salmons having found a syringe) warned of the need to be vigilant about hard drugs being introduced in the village.

RECREATION GROUND TRUST REPORT (INCLUDING REGEC REPORT)

Dr Oakley reported on behalf of David McKeown as follows:

The Recreation Ground Trust (RGT) met on 27th May and the Recreation Ground Extension Group (RGEC) the following day. A meeting between the Village Hall Trust (VHT) and RGT was also held on the 27th May. The main points arising were:

1. An order had been placed for repairs to the roof of the pavilion and the Village Hall. The contractor had been asked to look at the rest of the roof whilst there.
2. A quotation for external decoration had been accepted. *(The order was placed immediately after the meeting with the same contractor the school will use.)*
3. The VHT was working successfully and a new Hon Treasurer had been found. For the first time since hiring commenced, the VHT had needed to apply an increase to hiring rates (8% from later in the year).
4. Revenues for the Foxton Sports Clubs Association had fallen and the Association was not functioning as was hoped. A meeting would be held to address the means of establishing a more viable future for the pavilion and the clubs.

5. The RGT made over £9000, being the sum granted by “Awards for All”, to the FPC to help pay for the Extension infrastructure work.
6. Leases for the Cricket Club and the Pre-School were ready to be issued and the lease documents were sent to the FCC Officials last weekend.
7. Work on the Pre-School Garden was almost complete but RGT was awaiting the delivery of standpipe housings to allow installation of water before finalisation of the groundwork.
8. The RGEC would like to stage an official opening of the extension areas to coincide with the Foxton Fun Day.

There was some discussion on this matter and it was agreed that it was the council's opinion that the official opening should be deferred until more of the remaining work on the extension had been completed. Dr Oakley said he would e-mail Dr McKeown to ask him to consult with Dr Rob Brooksbank, chairman of REGEC Committee, about the council's opinion on the opening.

Dr Grindley said that the Trust had liaised with Jon Cairns on suggested improvements to the planting in the Picnic Area including extra shrubs and a further tree, and the plans would be sent to SCDC for approval. The Gardens Association was willing to provide some of the labour and the work would be carried out in October/November. The FGA also offered to help with the purchase of plants if necessary.

Dr Grindley suggested a letter of thanks be sent to Foxton Gardens Association. The clerk undertook to do this.

Mrs Roberts reminded those present of the need to keep the “Awards for All” body informed about progress.

DOVECOTE/MEADOW PROJECT

Mrs Macintyre said that there had been a successful day's grass-cutting on May 14th with the help of volunteers. The owl box was nearing completion and the usual annual quadrant survey would be carried out this Wednesday.

CORRESPONDENCE

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

- 1) Letter dated 12th May from the Planning Policy Manager, Cambridge City Council re consultation on North West Cambridge Submission Draft Area Action Plan: responses to be received by 30th June 2008. *(Passed to CG)*
- 2) Letter dated 14th May from Cambridge City Council enclosing consultation leaflet with questionnaire on a new signage system for Cambridge.
- 3) Letter dated 19th May from Bassingbourn Community Facilities and Events Working Group requesting detailed information about Foxton Village Hall. *(Questionnaire passed to Mrs Howell)*

- 4) Letter dated 28th May from SCDC Legal Department giving advance notice of a letter form the SCDC Chief Executive asking for parish councils' views on the proposals for a change in the boundary between Cambridge City and the district: responses to be received by 27th June.
- 5) Copy of the Local Councils Liaison Committee Minutes for the meeting held on 17th April 2008, including an item on Post Office closures.
- 6) Letter received in May from CCC Passenger Transport Services with details of changes to the Emmanuel Street, Drummer Street and St Andrews Street bus interchange.
- 7) Letter received May 2008 from the Terminal Control North Consultation Team re proposed changes to airspace (consultation now closes 19th June).
- 8) Letter received 29th May from the SCDC Assistant Licensing Officer re SCDC's review of Street Trading Consent for South Cambridgeshire District: enclosing questionnaire.
- 9) Letter dated 29th May from the SCDC Legal Office re proposals for a review of the boundary between South Cambridgeshire District Council and Cambridge City Council and consultation with the parishes in South Cambridgeshire: enclosing report of the meeting of SCDC's Electoral Arrangements Committee on 16th April. (*passed to CG: responses by 27th June*)
- 10) Information from COPE including
 - Memo advising that the newsletter will no longer be distributed to parish clerks
 - COPE newsletter, June 2008
 - Leaflet on elder abuse
 - Information on Cambridgeshire LINK
- 11) Letter from Ridgeons re its new Independent Living Centre near Pampisford featuring a range of care equipment for older and disabled people.
- 12) Posters advertising "Women try Sport" 6-week course at Bassingbourn Sports Centre commencing 9th June (displayed).
- 13) Letter received May from SCDC enclosing poster (displayed) for two Tenant Open events that have been organised as part of the Housing Futures process.
- 14) Leaflet produced jointly by higher tier councils and Cambridge Horizons inviting comments (by 30th June) on the proposals for an eco-town at Hanley Grange
- 15) Memo from Cambridge Water Company re its photographic competition – "Capturing Water": enclosing poster (to be displayed).
- 16) SCDC Housing Futures leaflet with Freepost Questionnaire form and poster (to be displayed).
- 17) Invitations from Barcham Trees to attend lecture on 17th June on "Trees in the Urban Environment" and seminars on designing with trees on 5th June and 3rd July, together with catalogue. (*Passed to RM*)

- 18) Publicity material from Sutcliffe Play, Glasdon, Oakwood Joinery Services and Digital Copier Systems.

VISITORS' QUESTIONS

Mr Challis said it was good to hear about the progress with the shelter and said he was also pleased that junior football in the village was being put on a sound footing. He also commented that the trees at the entrance to the village at Foxton Bottom made a very pleasant avenue and this village asset was due to a previous chairman of Foxton Parish Council, Donald Sims.

Mrs Howell asked Mr Kohler whether any other bodies had been approached to provide funds for Foxton Dynamos.

Mr Kohler said he was not aware of other funding organisations. Mrs Robert said she would pass on relevant information.

Mrs Howell also pointed out that it was not in order for the Planning Committee to hold meetings in the Foyer. She said she would book the Lounge for the third Tuesday each month, and cancel the booking if a meeting were not needed.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mr Barnes pointed out that a planning application for the former Q8 garage had still not been submitted and that there were other outstanding matters. It was agreed that Mr Barnes would let Mrs Roberts have a list of these matters, which she would then chase up at the SCDC Planning Office.

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

It was confirmed that this would be held on **Monday, 7th July 2008 at 7.45pm in the Village Hall Meeting Room.**

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.25 pm.