

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF FOXTON PARISH COUNCIL

HELD ON MONDAY, 5th JANUARY 2004, AT 7.45 p.m.

PRESENT

Mr Pusey, Mr Barnes, Mr Chilton, Dr Grindley, Mr Hockley, Mr Kennedy, Mrs Thake

County Councillor Professor Milton

District Councillor Mrs Roberts

IN ATTENDANCE

3 members of the public

APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Mr Blakesley and Mr Broadley

Mr Pusey welcomed all to the meeting. Mr Mark Kennedy was confirmed as the new member of the council and agreed to serve on the Finance Committee and to help with the Dovecote project.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

There were no amendments. Mr Chilton proposed that the Minutes of the previous meeting, held on 1st December 2003, should be signed as a true record. Mr Hockley seconded the proposal and all were agreed.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Old School site

Mr Pusey had received an e-mail from Alan Davison (CCC) saying that the County Council had been advised to seek Counsel's opinion on the legal status of the site, and was now looking for suitable Counsel. It was agreed that the proposed meeting between the County Council, Foxton Parish Council (represented by Mr Pusey) and District Councillor, Mrs Roberts should go ahead despite this delay. It was agreed to brief County Councillor Professor Milton on this matter, so important to the village, so that he could also attend the meeting.

Village Newsletter

No feedback on the newsletter was reported.

Road surface, Hardmans Road

Mr Pusey had heard nothing further, and was trying to establish who was dealing with the matter. Professor Milton agreed to chase this up.

CCTV Cameras at the Community Building

Concerning Mr Mycroft's comments about CCTV cameras, it was confirmed that the council could not do much as the design had been chosen by the school. The two

Trusts and members of Foxton Parish Council were due to have a meeting with Gerald Browning (CCC) re outstanding issues.

Wheelie Bins

Dr Grindley said he had requested two wheelie bins (one black, one brown) for the Sports Pavilion. Mrs Roberts agreed to follow this up.

Village Hall Signs

Professor Milton had looked into this with County Council officers with no satisfactory result. It was agreed that a sign showing the location of the Village Hall and the Recreation Ground and village parking was really necessary and Professor Milton agreed to take the matter up again.

Planning Committee Report

Mr Pusey referred to the tree application (Mr Kohler) mentioned in last month's planning report for "Bartholomews", Shepreth Road. He had heard that Mr Kohler was thinking of erecting a shed/workshop in his front garden and the neighbours were concerned. Mrs Roberts said she would look into this to see whether Mr Kohler needed planning permission for such a project.

Correspondence

i) Item 5 – Members' allowances for Parish Councils

Mr Pusey suggested that FPC adopt the scheme, but a formal proposal for adoption was deferred till the next meeting to allow councillors time to study the letter from SCDC outlining the scheme.

ii) Item 14 – Parking restrictions in Station Road

The Clerk had not heard from the County Council following her response to its letter proposing parking restrictions.

At this point, a letter from Dr and Mrs Maitland (occupiers of 20 Fowlmere Road) expressing their concerns about the number of cars parked outside No.21 Fowlmere Road was circulated. The cars make egress from No. 20 both difficult and hazardous. Mrs Thake agreed to talk to the occupants of No. 21 about the problem.

Visitors' Questions – Road surface, Caxton Lane

The Clerk reported that she had spoken to Mr Cooper of South Highways Division. The road was subsequently inspected, and Mr Cooper said that it was clear that remedial work was needed, and that this work would be added to the Division's schedule.

Any Other Business – CCTV Cameras Grant

Mr Barnes said he had not been able to go forward with a claim for a grant from SCDC towards the cost of CCTV cameras whilst issues regarding the car park lighting were still to be resolved. Mrs Roberts warned that SCDC was reaching the end of the financial year and any claim for funds needed to be submitted very soon.

REPORTS FROM THE COMMITTEES

RECREATION AND AMENITIES

Mr Chilton said there had been no meeting in the past month and reported as follows:

- The new bins were now in place, but it appeared that at least one of the bins had not been emptied. The Clerk said she had informed the SCDC Commercial Department of the new bins and their locations, and had been assured that the council's schedule had been amended to include them. The Clerk agreed to check the matter out.
- The fence rails had been replaced and fencing to the play area to the rear of the Howard's house had been repaired.
- Mr Chilton said he had been assured by Stewart Bullard that he would send a quotation for an extension of the grass-cutting contract, but it had not arrived.
- The County Council had promised a pack of 100 free hedge saplings of the shrub type, including dogwood, field maple and elder rose. The ground would need to be prepared before collection. Mr Kennedy agreed to inform nearby residents. A few of the saplings would be reserved for repairs on the Illingworth Way side of the Recreation Ground where the cutting back had been over-enthusiastic.
- The question of a light for the end of the Illingworth Way footpath to the Recreation Ground had been discussed and would be dealt with as part of the development of the new allotment site.

Although Mr Broadley was not present, he had e-mailed a report on the skateboard project to Mr Pusey, who reported on his behalf. The project group had met on 4th December 2003. Ian Apps and some of the youngsters involved had been present. Amendments had been made to the layout with the larger items being moved to the back of the site to allow better supervision. The plan had been sent to RoSPA for its approval, but no response had been received as yet. Two of the skateboarders had joined the project group and a further £300 had been raised. One parent suggested she might hold a jumble sale as part of the fund-raising effort.

On another subject, Mr Broadley had confirmed that the councillors' training day would be held on Wednesday, 21st January and it was hoped that councillors would arrange shared transport.

The Clerk asked the Recreation Committee to consider replacing the padlock on the Parish Council's Notice Board with a lock and key as the hasp of the padlock had rusted completely for the second time. The protective "Roof" to the Notice Board sloped the wrong way so that water was still getting in.

Mr Pusey asked about signage for the gravel car park and Mr Chilton promised to follow this up.

FINANCE

Mr Hockley gave details of the Bank Accounts as follows:

Current Account	£50.57
Deposit Account	£5715.61
(This included interest of £7.07 for the period 8/9/03-7/12/03)	
Cambridge Building Society	£5784.27

Mr Hockley proposed the following cheques be approved for payment:

Glasdon UK Ltd (litterbins and accessories)	£931.18
Cambridgeshire ACRE (renewal of membership)	£25.00
J Pollard (installation of 3 litterbins, fence repairs etc)	£411.25
Foxton Village Hall Trust (hire of meeting room 6/1/03 and lounge 19/11/03)	£20.50
Lawrence Printers (500 A4 leaflets)	£56.00
J E Burns (salary December '03/January '04)	£413.86
J Burns (expenses November/December 2003)	£31.27
V W Mead (refuse collection and ground maintenance, December)	£35.32
Inland Revenue (tax for JEB/VWM for 3 months to 5/1/04)	£129.74
D Pusey (2 nd half Chairman's Honorarium)	£60.00
G Dash (gardening work)	£160.00

Mr Barnes seconded the proposal and all were agreed that these payments, totalling £2274.12, should be made, and that £2274 should be transferred from the Deposit Account to the Current Account.

Mr Pusey said that it might be possible for the RGT to assist with regard to with the large bill for the litterbins.

The Clerk said that she had applied for the County Council's contribution to grass cutting in the village and would be submitting a VAT return in the near future.

It was agreed to hold a meeting of the Finance Committee on either the 19th or 20th January to discuss the precept needed for 2004/05. Mr Pusey would confirm the date with members of the committee.

At this point it was also agreed to hold a meeting of the Recreation Ground Trust on 29th January at 8 pm. The clerk was asked to book the lounge for the meeting and ask for the booking to be charged to the Trust.

PLANNING

In the absence of Mr Blakesley, Mr Hockley reported that there had been a Planning meeting on 30th December, at which the following application had been discussed:

Planning application considered:

Mr and Mrs R Reeve

Application No. S/2495/03/F for an extension, and S/2494/03/LB for alterations – replacement of single storey extension by 2 storey and lean-to extensions comprising enlarged kitchen, lounge and stairs to bathroom and master bedroom, at 3 High Street.

Both applications approved with comments agreed as follows:

Extension

Vehicular access is required at all times along the common driveway between 1 and 3 High Street to reach the rear of No. 1. The applicant should ensure that the builder keeps this access-way clear during the building works.

Listed Building Consent

The materials used for the new extension will need to be in harmony with those on the original building at the front of the site.

Mr Pusey agreed to write to Mr Reeve about maintaining access to No. 1 during building works in the event of the application receiving planning consent.

RECREATION GROUND TRUST REPORT

Mr Pusey said that he had received no response to the letter about the extension to the Recreation Ground sent on 12th November 2003 to Richard Hodgson (CCC). It was still hoped that the County Council would agree to a land sale rather than a long lease.

DOVECOTE/HORSES' FIELD

Heads of Terms for an agreement had been discussed at a meeting of Mr Pusey and Mr Broadley with Friends of the Dovecote in early December. The group had formed the general impression that the terms proposed by the County Council were very one-sided in favour of CCC. A letter responding to the Heads of Terms had been sent to the County Council on 16th December and it was suggested that a meeting between Richard Hodgson and the Friends of the Dovecote take place as soon as possible. A draft action plan had been prepared and a further project meeting would take place in the near future.

CORRESPONDENCE

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

- 1) Letter dated 5th December from DEFRA on equine issues.
- 2) Letter Dated 4th December from Cambridgeshire Local Access Forum: the Forum has now been established and the first meeting will be held on 20th January. (Information on the Forum included.)
- 3) Letter dated 5th December from SCDC Finance and Resources Department on Members' Allowances.
- 4) Letter dated 9th December from SCDC Community Services Team enclosing a copy of the Community Services Funding Toolkit. (*Passed to DB*)
- 5) Letter dated 10th December from CCC South Highways Division informing that FPC's bid under the Jointly Funded Highway Improvement Scheme had not been successful.
- 6) Letter dated 11th December from Royston Community Transport enclosing a poster (displayed) about a Christmas Shopping Trip being organised for villages in the Royston area.
- 7) Letter dated 18th December from CCC Records Office on the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (CroW2000) – Extension of consultation period in

Area 8, The East. Draft access maps available for inspection until 13th January 2004. (*Passed to DP*)

- 8) Letter dated 22nd December from the CCC Chief Executive enclosing copies of the CCC leaflet on the County Council Budget for 2004-05. A public meeting will be held on 13th January at Shire Hall and surgeries will be held in libraries across the County (dates, venues and times given).
- 9) Letter dated 23rd December fro CCC Environment and Transport Department re changes to local bus services. (*Passed to BH*)
- 10) Letter dated 30th December from CPRE re a workshop to be held on 6th March 2004 on assessing and commenting on planning applications with booking form and application form for membership of CPRE. (*To be passed to JB by the Clerk*)
- 11) Letter from Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service enclosing a draft document for consultation entitled “Integrated Risk management Plan 2004/05 and copies of a guide to the plan. (Responses to be received by 14th January 2004.) (*Passed to GB*)
- 12) “Flood Action”, November 2002.
- 13) Local Council Review, January 2004.
- 14) Christmas Newsletter from PC Sutton and Sawston News-sheet, December: also memo on drink spiking and leaflet entitled “See it! Report it!”.
- 15) South Cambridgeshire NHS Primary Care Trust, December Bulletin.
- 16) CCC Highways Review November 2003 and Guided Bus Newsletter.
- 17) SCDC “The Event” leaflet December/January 2004.
- 18) Publicity material from Base (multisport specialist).

In a discussion of item 5, Mrs Roberts said that she had spoken to an officer at the County Council who said that if Foxton Parish Council put through a specific scheme, it might be possible to find funding from other sources. Mr Hockley would investigate.

There was also a discussion about the County Council’s budget consultation with reference to the level of Council Tax for the forthcoming year. Mr Pusey was glad to hear that the County Council favours the lowest of the options (a 6% increase), and Mrs Roberts strongly represented the serious problems of pensioners and those on low or fixed incomes in coping with the inexorable rises in Council Tax above the level of inflation. She said that the County Council should make cuts in the number of staff employed.

VISITORS’ QUESTIONS

Mr Challis said he would forbear to comment on Council Tax increases and instead made a strongly worded exhortation to Professor Milton to take the County Council to task over its failure to deal with the road surface and pavements in Hardmans Road.

Because the final layers have not been applied, serious hazards exist, including the raised level of the inspection covers above the existing surface. Nothing had been done to remedy the situation since last summer.

Professor Milton promised to look into this matter.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mrs Thake asked about the Traffic Warden mentioned by PC Sutton at the previous meeting. She said that a car was wholly parked on the path by the Hillfield bungalows, causing a serious obstruction of the footway. Both Mr Pusey and Mrs Roberts suggested she contact PC Sutton about this problem.

Mrs Roberts said she had received an e-mail from Marion Bailey, the co-ordinator for Care Network, who had suggested a meeting in the New Year to talk to the council about her organisation. It was agreed to invite Ms Bailey to the next Parish Council meeting and to invite members of Fowlmere Parish Council to attend. It was agreed to start the meeting early at 7.30 pm.

Mr Barnes reported a gang of youngsters who had been causing a nuisance by ringing on people's doors at the Melbourn end of the village. Mrs Thake agreed to mention this problem to PC Sutton at the same time she reports the car parked on the footway near the Hillfield bungalows.

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

It was confirmed that this would be held on **Monday, 2nd February 2004, at 7.30 pm, in the Meeting Room.**

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.20 pm.