

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF FOXTON PARISH COUNCIL

HELD ON MONDAY, 7th JUNE 2004, AT 7.45 p.m.

PRESENT

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

County Councillor Professor Milton

District Councillor Mrs Roberts

IN ATTENDANCE

6 members of the public

APOLOGIES

No apologies were received

Mr Pusey welcomed all to the meeting.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

There were no amendments, and all were agreed that the Minutes of the previous meeting (the Annual General Meeting) held on Monday, 17th May 2004, should be signed as a true record.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

The Old School Site

Mr Pusey reported that Foxton's old school site had been chosen to provide accommodation, for two years from September 2004, for the pupil referral unit presently at Littleton House, Girton. He said there had been a meeting last week at which he and Colin Grindley had met with Kevin Manley, Brian Harris and Bob Sproson from the County Council, District Councillor Deborah Roberts and Peter Mansell whose house has a shared boundary with the old school site. Discussion had centred mainly on the works that needed to be undertaken in order to bring the site back into use. These included exterior decoration, windows and brickwork, some internal alterations and decoration. The kitchen would be converted to a technology teaching area and there would be some changes concerning the toilets and reception area. Services would need to be reconnected. Outside, the mobile classrooms had been removed, trees would be pruned and provision would be made for parking about twelve cars. It was planned to erect a 6ft-high boarded fence along the joint boundary with Mr Mansell, and he had agreed to this. Dr Grindley had suggested that a lay-by might be constructed at the entrance to the school to alleviate the problem of numbers of taxis arriving at the school together: this would affect the positioning of the gates to the school.

Mr Pusey said that management issues had been discussed, including complaints procedure and how the governing body would work. The possibility of having a

representative of Foxton Parish Council on the governing body had also been discussed.

Mr Pusey said that he, Colin Grindley and Deborah Roberts had tried to establish the expectation that future use of the site would be for affordable or sheltered housing. County Council officers had said that in the event of sale of the site, the council would need to produce a community value assessment – FPC did need the County Council on its side. Professor Milton said he had not been invited to the meeting, and felt he should have been. Mr Pusey said that he was of the understanding that he would have received an invitation to the meeting through County Council officers.

Dr Grindley said that a cost/benefit analysis would be needed and that Cambridgeshire CC needs expertise in this area. Mrs Roberts said that she had stressed that a District Council meeting, in autumn of this year, would be needed in order to get funding in place before the end of the two-year period. She said she would be seeing Sarah Lyons (SCDC housing officer) this week and pointed out that a sheltered housing scheme would necessitate getting some of the Green Belt land at the rear of the site.

Mr Barnes warned that, as all services and the soakaway run out at the front of the site, there might be problems in providing a lay-by there. Mr Blakesley said it was abundantly clear that more sheltered housing was needed in Foxton. Mrs Roberts said she doubted such a scheme would be possible, as it was not the District Council's policy to provide more sheltered housing, as there was already a large stock of such housing in South Cambridgeshire.

Road Surface, Hardman Road

Mr Pusey said he was trying to make progress and understand the present reason for delay. The road adoption process was still ongoing and was in the hands of the developers solicitors. The matter of the thin triangle of land that had given rise to problems was also with solicitors. He said that the developer, Meldire, was covenanted to complete the job and this was an enforceable matter. Mr Pusey recommended that the parish council write to Meldire reminding them of these facts and warn them that if they fail to complete the work, then Foxton Parish Council will put the work in hand.

Dr Grindley thought the letter should be jointly from both FPC and the residents affected. There were problems with this approach and it was thought that separate letters, the one from residents in the form of a petition, would be advisable. The Clerk, who would be away for the next fortnight, said that she should really sign the letter from FPC. It was agreed that Mr Pusey and Mr Kennedy would devise the best means of proceeding with a residents' petition.

Code of Practice

The sub-committee looking into this had still not met.

Minor Road Improvements

It was reported that the footways in St Laurence road and Hillfield had been skimmed with Tarmac. However, it was a very poor job, with weeds already sprouting through and an uneven surface.

Faulty Streetlamp

As was reported at the last meeting, this had been repaired. Mr Pusey thanked Mrs Thake for her efforts in this matter. The Clerk was asked to write to the County Council to enquire about the possibility of the council adding the lamps in Hardman Way to its maintenance schedule. The school lamps should be treated in the same way.

Correspondence

(i) Item 12 – Cambridgeshire Rights of Way Improvements Plan

Mr Blakesley had not yet responded to the questionnaire.

(ii) Item 14 – Letter from Massucco Buttress re Right of Way (7 Edis Way)

Mr Pusey said that Foxton Parish Council’s solicitors take the view that the council does not have an interest in this matter.

(iii) Item 16 - School Governors

It was confirmed that following changes to representation on school governing bodies, there is now no requirement for Minor Local Authorities (eg parish councils) to be represented on school governing bodies.

REPORTS FROM THE COMMITTEES

RECREATION AND AMENITIES

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

1. Bowls Club Fence

Mr Chilton had met with Joe Cox of the Bowls club and discussed how to proceed. Mr Cox was not aware that the Bowls club had previously made a contribution, but the evidence was there in the parish council’s “Bowls Club” file. It was agreed that the Bowls club would get a quotation for the repair of the fence. The Bowls Club would undertake the repair to the end section of the fence and suggested that this might be considered as the Bowls Club’s contribution to the overall work. Mr Chilton said a decision on this would need to await seeing how much the repairs would cost.

2. Recreation Ground

Mr Chilton said that Andy Cambridge, the Football and Cricket Clubs’ groundsman, had asked him if there was any intention to clear the overgrown area of land at the rear of the churchyard. This would eventually be done when the Skateboard Park had the go-ahead.

RoSpa had sent a favourable report following the annual inspection of the Play Area, and Mr Chilton said there was nothing that really needed to be done.

Signs

Mr Chilton said that he had given his contact the specifications and the signs should be ready soon.

Hedging

Mrs Thake said the hedge slips had been planted for the most part, but there was a stretch that could not be planted owing to the amount of rubble. The guttering would be repaired in the next two weeks.

Damaged bins

Mr Chilton said that Mr Mead had reported several problems with the bins. *Mr Chilton agreed to deal with these.*

3. Skateboard/BMX Project

Mr Broadley reported that the current Skateboard fund now stood at £2600.59. Mrs Hindley had given him a cheque for the money raised by the skateboarders (£1586.14). Donations had also been received from Mr and Mrs Sharp (£150) and Dorothy Ross (£5) and the clerk had paid these monies into the Cambridge Building Society Account. Mr Broadley said that the parish council had agreed to contribute another £500 from this year's budget and this would bring the total fund to over £3100. The next stage in the project was to get estimates as the ones already received were now out of date. It was also hoped that a grant would be forthcoming from the District Council.

4. Grass-cutting

Mr Chilton said he had received a lot of complaints about the standard of grass cutting in the village. Hall Close had not been touched and The Green had only been cut for the first time three weeks ago. Mr Chilton said he had been in constant touch with Stewart Bullard, the contractor, and, unless there was an improvement, it might be necessary to consider withholding payment in future.

FINANCE

Mr Hockley gave details of the Bank Accounts as follows:

Current Account	£50.32
Deposit Account	£10869.39
Cambridge Building Society	£7963.78
(This included a tax rebate for 2003/04 of £25.35 and contributions to the Skateboard/BMX project of £1586.14 from Geraldine Hindley on behalf of the skateboarders; £150 from Mr and Mrs sharp; and £5 from Dorothy Ross)	
Mr Hockley proposed that the following cheques be approved:	
South Cambridgeshire District Council (emptying dog-bins 1/4/04-30/6/04)	£86.13
Stewart Bullard (grass-cutting, May)	£453.24
Foxton Village Hall Trust (hire of meeting room on 1/5/04 (two sessions) and On 17 th May)	£34.50
V W Mead (refuse collection and ground maintenance, May)	£50.30
D Pusey (reimbursement for Land Registry fees)	£40.00

Mr Broadley seconded the proposal, and all were agreed that these payments, totalling £664.17, should be made, and that £665 be transferred from the Deposit Account to the Current Account.

Mr Hockley said that a meeting of the Finance Committee would be held during the month at which the pay and conditions of the council's employees (the Clerk - Mrs Burns - and Mr Mead) would be reviewed.

The Clerk said that the Annual Return for 2003/04 was ready to send to the external auditor at the appropriate date.

PLANNING

Mr Blakesley reported as follows:

Planning application considered at the meeting:

Mr and Mrs Waltenberg	Application No. S/1063/04/F for extension of border fencing at No. 13 Edis Way.
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Mr Kennedy said that if permission were given to this application, residents in about six other houses would be affected. It was agreed that no comments could be made about this application until the views of those residents who would be affected had been canvassed. Another consideration was that if other similar applications were successfully made, the whole appearance of the estate would be changed.

District Councillor Roberts was then invited to talk about the recent disclosure that, due to the intervention of the Deputy Prime Minister, the housing target for the M11 corridor (including Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire) has been increased by a further 18,000 houses. This would be on top of the huge number of new houses already planned. Mrs Roberts said that three areas were being looked at. The options were either a single large new town, possibly at Great Abington, or two new smaller towns at Waterbeach to the North and Foxton to the South between the A505 and the A10. Mrs Roberts said she had requested clarification from Keith Mills (SCDC Planning) about the areas of search. Mrs Roberts said that this was a serious development and, in her view, protest would be more effective if the areas affected had a joint, rather than an individual, response. If villages affected all fought their own corner, the result would be "divide and rule". She therefore had asked for a joint meeting, at the new offices of South Cambridgeshire District Council at Cambourne, when representatives all three areas (Abington, Foxton and Waterbeach) could get together.

Mrs Roberts said that one criterion for expansion was the existence of direct links. Mr Barnes said that the readiness to put a road bridge at Foxton in the Transport Plan was probably part of the government's plans for expansion.

Professor Milton said that this plan for a further 18,000 houses had been discussed at the last meeting of Meldreth Parish Council, who would be writing a letter about it. He pointed out that 18,000 houses would mean about 50,000 people coming to the area. Addenbrookes would not be able to cope, the M11 would be overcrowded and the houses would be occupied by London commuters.

Mr Pusey said that he agreed a joint meeting initially would be a good idea, but that there might be a point where Foxton Parish Council might need to assert itself independently. He said the meeting should be held as soon as possible and added that the M11 needed to be kept free for national traffic and not clogged up with local traffic.

At this point, Mrs Roberts asked Mr and Mrs France (in the visitors' seats) whether they were attending the meeting because of planning issues, in particular developments at The Barn, Mortimers Lane. Mrs France said that was not their reason for attendance, but confirmed that a member of the Abbots family had taken up residence in one part of the two buildings comprising "The Barn". Planning consent had been granted on condition that the two buildings were treated as one. The situation would need investigation.

RECREATION GROUND TRUST REPORT

Mr Pusey reported that Mr Hodgson (Cambridgeshire CC) was hoping to get the Heads of Terms for the extension to the Recreation Ground to the council's solicitors this week. The plan of land ownership was being progressed as the various pieces of the jigsaw were sorted out. There had been a meeting with David Carey (Cambridgeshire CC) to inspect the Recreation Ground and proposed extension. Several areas had been identified that needed clarification about ownership by talking to people and looking at road adoption plans. Mr Pusey said that the research at the Land Registry at Peterborough had been very helpful. Some very accurate surveying would be needed and this was likely to take place in July. Mr Pusey said he had left a message with John Callin about the valuation of the sinking fund. This needed to be in place before the trust accounts could be submitted for audit.

Dr Grindley asked whether there was a date for completion. Mr Pusey said there was no completion date, but he had tried to push for one and it had not been forthcoming.

As the land proposed for an extension to the Recreation Ground was becoming very overgrown with weeds, Professor Milton agreed to push the County Council to get the area sprayed.

DOVECOTE/MEADOW PROJECT

Mr Pusey reported that the County Council had instructed its Legal Department to prepare a lease and management agreement. The Local Heritage Initiative would meet in July/August to consider a major grant to the project. A further meeting of the Friends of the Dovecote/Meadow would be held in July and the meeting would include the necessary planning application. Mr Kennedy said he was not acquainted with the letter that had been sent by South Cambridgeshire District Council about grant-aid for the project. The Clerk said she had a copy of the letter, and would get a copy to him.

CORRESPONDENCE

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

- 1) Letter dated 17th May from SCDC Development Services Department re the updating of village leaflets. *Passed to DP*
- 2) Letter dated 17th May from SCD Finance and Resources Department acknowledging response to queries about the maintenance of open spaces in South Cambridgeshire.

- 3) News release from SCDC concerning the council's strong opposition to yet more development in the area following the emerging details of the approach being taken by the new Regional Plan by the Government.
- 4) Letter dated June 2004 from Cambridge Police Authority re Public Consultation summer 2004 with dates and venues, together with a questionnaire and the summer edition of Police Authority News. *Passed to JB*
- 5) Information from CALC including:
 - Minutes of the meeting of South Cambridgeshire District Association held on 17th March, and agenda for the next meeting on 24th June
 - Circular giving agreements reached in the national Joint Council for Local Government Services on car allowances.
 - Details of Workshops for Chairmen, 3rd September 2004 and Clerks, June and July
 - Invitation to Clerks to attend barbeque 9th July 2004
 - Appeal on behalf of the Winged Fellowship Trust
 - Bulletin May 2004
- 6) Information from Cambridgeshire ACRE including:
 - Invitation to Parish Council representatives to attend the Finalists' Evening of the Village of the Year Competition on 8th July
- 7) Highways Review, May 2004
- 8) Publicity material from Glasdon, Shaws (Local Councils catalogue) and Hays Accountancy Personnel.

VISITORS' QUESTIONS

Mrs Howell said that there were brambles sticking out from hedges along Station Road that were hazardous to pedestrians.

Local correspondant, Mr Challis was asked to include an item asking parishioners to cut back overgrown hedges and overhanging trees where they might cause problems to pedestrians. Mrs Roberts said that, if trees and hedges were causing problems, and overhung County Council paths, the County Council could make them safe and bill the householder.

It was noted that the trees at the junction of Station road with the A10 (on the Villiers Park side) needed to be cut back.

Mrs France suggested that a 20 mph speed limit should be imposed in Fowlmere Road, due to the hazard of parked vehicles.

Mr Hockley said that a 20 mph limit could only be imposed if traffic-calming measures were installed and these were very expensive. Mr Blakesley reminded councillors that the County Council had said they would install "mock gates" at the entrances to the village, but nothing had come of this. Mr Pusey suggested that this matter be taken up with the County Council.

Mrs Tudor (misunderstanding an item in "Correspondence") asked when the new village brochures would be ready.

It was explained that the brochures referred to, and in need of an update, were produced by the District Council and gave basic information. The brochure she was thinking of had been produced by the parish council and there were no remaining stocks. The information in these brochures was becoming out of date.

Mrs France complained about the state of the pavements in Foxton, which she said were in an appalling condition.

Mr Pusey said that, as far as those in Hardman Way were concerned, the developer was responsible. Mr Hockley said that Mrs France's complaint would give him some ammunition when talking to the County Council about minor road improvements.

Mr Tudor complained about the road surface in Mortimers Lane, which was in need of repair.

Mr Pusey said it was always worth residents writing to the County Council in person.

Mr Tudor said he had done that, had received an acknowledgement of his letter, and then nothing further in the last two years.

Mr France complained about the problems caused by cars parking on the village roads.

Mr Pusey said this issue had been raised with the County Council two months ago, but, unless there are double yellow lines, the parking is legal and there was little that could be done.

Mr Challis asked for clarification about the situation regarding the road and pavement surfaces in Hardman Road.

Mr Pusey confirmed that if Meldire failed to comply with the covenant made by them, the County Council could undertake the work and recover the cost from retention monies still held by them under the development contract.

Professor Milton asked whether any money had been held back from the purchase price of the houses where the road and pavement had not been completed.

Mr Pusey said that so far as he knew this was not the case.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mrs Thake said that the wire fence to one side of the footpath between Hillfield and Rowlands Close was in a very dangerous condition.

Mrs Roberts said that she would follow this up.

Mr Blakesley said the matter of most concern to him that had been discussed during the meeting was the prospect of a large housing development focussed in South Cambridgeshire, and asked what Foxton Parish Council was going to do about it.

Mrs Roberts said that she hoped the District Council would make all the arrangements for a meeting about this threat. Mr Pusey said that an officer from South Cambridgeshire District Council could attend a meeting of Foxton Parish Council or of its Planning Committee, but this would have to be after the big meeting at the SCDC offices proposed by Mrs Roberts. Mrs Roberts said that such a large meeting would have more effect on the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister than smaller meetings.

Dr Grindley praised Shelford's Village Design Guide and thought something similar might be done in Foxton. Mrs Roberts said that she would try to get some copies but warned that such an undertaking would require a great deal of work, and would be a very expensive project that would need a considerable sum to be raised through the precept. Mr Hockley said that Shelford's website should be a source of information for their design statement.

Mr Pusey said that Cambridge Water Company and CEN were inviting applications to their Village Life Fund. The application form was passed to Dr Grindley, who had hopes of the provision of a picnic area on the Recreation Ground extension.

Mr Barnes said that he had found that it was not the road name sign at Barrington Road that was damaged, but the sign for Barrington on the finger post at the junction of Barrington Road with the A10. This was a matter for the County Council.

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

It was confirmed that this would be held on **Monday, 5th July 2004 at 7.45 pm, in the Village Hall Meeting Room.** There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.55 pm.