

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF FOXTON PARISH COUNCIL

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

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| <u>PRESENT</u> | Mr Pusey, Mr Barnes, Mr Blakesley, Mr Broadley, Mr Chilton, Dr Grindley, Mr Hockley, Mr Kennedy, Mrs Thake District Councillor Mrs Roberts |
| <u>IN ATTENDANCE</u> | 4 members of the public |
| <u>APOLOGIES</u> | Apologies were received from Professor Milton and Mr Broadley |

Mr Pusey welcomed all to the meeting.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Two amendments were needed:

- (i) On page 28, 2nd paragraph (The Old School Site), the first sentence should be amended to read "Dr Grindley said that a cost/benefit analysis would be needed and that Cambridgeshire CC needs (not *does not have*) expertise in this area."
- (ii) Under "Any Other Business", page 35, the last sentence of paragraph 2 should be amended to read "Mr Hockley said that Shelford's website should be a source of information for their design statement".

Mr Chilton proposed that, with these amendments, the Minutes of the previous meeting held on 7th June 2004, should be signed as a true record. Mr Hockley seconded the proposal and all were agreed.

MATTERS ARISING

The Old School Site

Mr Pusey reported that the County Council had agreed fencing and tree work with Mr Mansell at his boundary with the site. The County Council had also agreed with Leigh Brown, The Bury, to look at the possibility of trellis on top of the fencing at her boundary with the site. Mr Pusey said he had today received an extensive Schedule of Works from Brian Harris (CCC). The cost of building and site works was estimated at £45,000 with a further sum needed for engineering services etc. Work should have started last Monday.

Mr Pusey said that a meeting about the long-term future of the site had yet to be arranged.

Road Surface, Hardman Road

Mr Pusey read out the hard-hitting letter he had sent to Meldire about the road and footways, and the reply dated 30th June (from H C Moss), which stated that the necessary work should be completed by the end of July.

Code of Practice

It had still not been possible to hold a meeting of the sub-committee.

Correspondence – May meeting

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

Mr Blakesley said that the questionnaire had really been aimed at local businesses. He had passed copies of the questionnaire to the Press and the Village shop and had other copies available.

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

Foxton PC had written to Massucco Buttress stating that its understanding was that the charge in favour of FPC had been released. However, a further letter had been received for Massucco Buttress saying that the Land Registry had no reference to the release. Mr Pusey said that he felt he had no alternative than to ask FPC's solicitors to deal with the matter and had sent copies of the correspondence to them. He asked for the council's approval and this was given.

(iii) Item 16) – Letter from Foxton School re appointment of School Governors

This letter was read out to the meeting to see whether a response was called for in view of the derogatory (to Foxton PC) tone that the letter might be interpreted to convey. Mr Barnes, a School Governor himself in his capacity as ??, thought that the letter had not been intended to give such an impression and that the school was anxious to maintain good relations with the Parish Council. It was agreed that no response was needed.

Planning Report

Mrs Roberts and Mr Pusey had attended a meeting earlier in the evening at the District Council offices in Cambourn about the possibility of a large-scale development of 18,000 houses along the M11 corridor. Keith Miles, SCDC General Project Manager and David Hussell, SCDC Director of Planning, had been present with 29 representatives of affected councils in attendance. Mr Pusey had taken the chair at the meeting. The development would either be at two locations with 9,000 houses each (of which Foxton was one), or a single large development of 18,000 houses, an option for this being at Great Abington. Consultants were working on a report to the Eastern Regional Assembly, so initial comments would need to be made very soon.

Mrs Roberts said that she understood there were several stages in the process of consultation. The first was prior to the report to the Eastern Regional Assembly, whose membership of which was based on a political process. The unfortunate result of this method of selection was that South Cambridgeshire, the area most affected by the proposals, had no representation whatever. The second stage would be consideration of the report by the Regional Assembly followed by the third stage, a public enquiry. Mrs Roberts thought that there were slight indications that Foxton

was not the most favoured area, but no reliance could be placed on this. She said that a lot of parishes had already submitted written comments. Mr Pusey thought that Foxton PC should send a letter but said he would like some input from other councillors in drafting it. He said the letter should be copied to the District, City and County Councils and to Andrew Lansley MP.

Mr Kennedy thought that a group of well-qualified Foxton residents should be formed to fight a large development centred on Foxton. Mr Pusey said that he had received a letter from John Callin (former member of Foxton PC) urging the council to seek professional planning advice when submitting comments. Mr Pusey also commented that it was most important that FPC should be substantially in agreement with the District Council.

Mr Blakesley thought a public meeting should be held for Foxton residents. Mr Chilton recommended a special insert in the Laurentian to alert residents to the proposals. Mrs Roberts warned that Foxton might have to ask for increased precept to fight a large-scale development. Mr Barnes thought that Royston was a more likely centre for development and, in support of this claim, pointed out that the A10 had not been de-trunked in Hertfordshire.

It was agreed that the next steps would be to get a letter sent to the consultants writing the report, and to get an insert about the proposals for large-scale development in the Laurentian. Mrs Roberts said that the District Council would make the Council Chamber available for meetings on large-scale development on Saturday mornings.

Correspondence – June meeting

Item 4 – Police Questionnaire

Mr Blakesley said that he had not yet completed this.

Visitors' Questions

Road and traffic problems in Foxton had been discussed and Mr Hockley said that following his meeting with Philip Sharp (CCC) a letter had been expected from him. Mr Hockley said he had chased the matter up to no avail. Mr Hockley said he was sorry that Professor Milton was not present as he might be able to help with this: he proposed to e-mail Professor Milton to try to get some action. Mr Pusey made clear that the case where the police made a prosecution had nothing to do with the parking problems in Fowlmere Road highlighted at an earlier meeting. Some villagers had apparently misunderstood this, and Mr Challis, local correspondent, agreed to insert a note to this effect in his report of proceedings.

Any Other Business

Footpath between Hillfield and Rowlands Close

Mrs Thake said that the dangerous wire fence on the side of the footpath between Hillfield and Rowlands close had been removed, although the concrete posts had been left in situ and these were also a hazard due to the lack of light on the footpath. Mrs Roberts said she would follow this up.

Damaged Barrington Road Sign

The Clerk had not yet followed this up with the County Council but would do so this month.

REPORTS FROM THE COMMITTEES

RECREATION AND AMENITIES

Mr Chilton reported as follows:

1. Bowls Club Fence

A quotation for £787 had been received for the repairs needed. Mr Chilton thought this rather high and said he would seek a further quotation. The Bowls Club had offered to be responsible for the fence at the far end, but it remained to be seen whether this amounted to a fair proportion of the cost. *Mrs Roberts suggested that it would be a good idea to contact Jane Lampshire (SCDC) who might be able to make a contribution to the repairs.*

2. Litter Bins on the Recreation Ground

The “Froggo” bin in the Play area had been destroyed and would need replacement and there were two bins whose liners needed replacement. *All were agreed that the committee should go ahead in attending to these matters.*

3. Signs for Recreation Ground/Village Hall and Play Area

The specifications for the signs had been sent, but the prices were not as yet available.

4. Gate onto the Recreation Ground

This had been damaged. *It was agreed that repairs should be put in hand.*

5. Play Area Damage

Mr Chilton reported that there had been considerable damage to the fence after a recent televised football match. Nine panels of the fence had been found and replaced. Some swing seats had also been vandalised.

6. Grass-cutting

Mr Chilton said that the grass cutting had been improving lately, but he would be looking for alternative contractors. *He asked the Clerk to e-mail the details of the firm that the Clerk for Sawston PC had mentioned to her.*

7. Skateboard/BMX Park

Mr Broadley was not present to report on this. Mr Chilton said that prices were needed so that grant applications could be made and that Mrs Thake had volunteered to help Mr Broadley with this project.

Mrs Thake said that she would ask Mr Dash to cut back growth at Vicarage Corner.

FINANCE

Mr Hockley said the committee had met on 17th June with himself, Dr Grindley and Mr Pusey present and had agreed the following recommendations to be put forward at the present meeting:

1. Clerk’s Contract of Employment

The Clerk's contract of employment to be reviewed to ensure that it meets the present needs both in terms of tasks included and hours contracted

2. Inflation increases (expected to be about 3%) for the council's employees to be implemented once these have been promulgated by CALC.
3. Revised car mileage rates from 1st April 2004 to be implemented for the Clerk.
4. The council's ground maintenance employee's hours to be reviewed in view of the perceived increase in workload, and his rate of pay to be increased to £7 per hour with immediate effect (in addition to the inflation increase referred to in (2) above).

Mr Hockley gave details of the Bank Accounts as follows:

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| Current Account | £51.15 |
| Deposit Account | £10,216.66 |
| (This included interest of £12.27 for the period 8/3/04-6/6/04) | |

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| Cambridge Building Society | £7,963.78 |
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Mr Hockley proposed that the following cheques be approved:

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| J E Burns (salary for June/July) | £416.48 |
| J E Burns (expenses May/June) | £40.91 |
| V W Mead (refuse collection, ground maintenance, fence repair and 6-monthly playground inspection, June) | £45.38 |
| Inland Revenue (tax on JEB/VWM pay for 3 months to 5/7/04) | £136.08 |
| Foxton Recreation Ground Trust (transfer of money paid by VHT into FPC account) | £310.48 |
| G Dash (planting hedge and fixing gutter and seat) | £350.00 |
| Stewart Bullard (grass-cutting, June) | £453.24 |
| Foxton Village Hall Trust (hire of Meeting room on 7 th June and Lounge on 3 rd June) | £20.50 |

Dr Grindley seconded the proposal and all were agreed that these payments, totalling £1773.07, should be made and that £1773 should be transferred from the Deposit Account to the Current Account.

The Clerk reported that, following the submission of the End of Year Return, the Inland Revenue had written saying there was no tax to pay.

The Clerk also said that the "Change of Signatories" form for the Cambridge Building Society account had at last been fully completed. It only remained for the new signatories to visit the Building Society to show their proof of identity and confirm their signatures.

Mr Pusey referred to the CALC Bulletin item about VAT for large projects and thought that as the council have two large projects in hand – the Dovecote/Meadow and the Skateboard/BMX Park – the local VAT office should be contacted. The clerk agreed to do this.

PLANNING

Mr Blakesley reported as follows:

Planning application Amendment:

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| Mr and Mrs A Young | Application No. S/0556/04/F for the conversion of garage to sitting room at 48 High Street. Plans amended to retain half the garage. |
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Tree application:

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| Christine Hall | Application C/11/17/30 to fell 1 dead elm tree, and 1 small sycamore (close to building) and dead-wood remaining trees on site of Villiers Park where necessary. No comments. |
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A letter had been received from Flagship Housing Group in partnership with Cambridge Housing Society about a proposal for a small-scale development on a plot of land in Foxton. The views of Foxton PC were sought and information about the ownership of the land. Due to the sensitivite nature of this proposal, it was referred to the Planning Committee.

RECREATION GROUND TRUST REPORT

Mr Pusey reported that besides the valuation of the sinking fund, that it was hoped John Callin would provide in the near future, some outstanding work to the Community Building facilities was needed. This included the replacement of 5 external lights on the pavilion side of the hall. The County Council lighting engineer was to identify a suitable fitting before matters could be taken further. Gutter protection had been fitted. *Although Mrs Thake was not sure whether the job had been completed as a ladder had been left at the site.* Mrs Thake had reported that the hedging had been planted, but only opposite the school, as the contractor had found the ground too full of rubble to continue planting. *This matter would be looked into by the Recreation and Amenities Committee including arrangements for watering the new hedging.*

Mr Pusey reported that Richard Hodgson was leaving the County Council for a post elsewhere.

Finally, Mr Pusey said that efforts were being made to get both the Parish Council land and the Recreation Ground registered. There were several places where the boundaries needed investigation, including the entrance to the RG from St Laurence Road, 2,Edis Way and the back of the old vicarage.

DOVECOTE REPORT

Mr Pusey said that progress had been made. As Mr Hodgson was leaving, he had passed the file to another officer. The County Council's solicitors had looked into it and in turn passed things on to Foxton PC's solicitors, who had informed FPC. He said the present problem is that Mr Hodgson had shown the boundary differently on the present plan to the position shown on the County Council's planning application, viz immediately behind the dovecote. As a result a series of e-mails had gone back

and forth and Mr Pusey said he had hoped for a decision by tonight's meeting. He said he recommended that the council does not accept the plan as submitted and send a response accordingly to Foxton PC's solicitors.

Mr Pusey said he had received a letter from Nick Grimshaw (SCDC) about the grant application for the project asking for more details.

Two letters had been received from Mr and Mrs Thomas (23 Edis Way), and from Mr and Mrs Tauwhare (25 Edis Way) expressing their concerns about the planned footpath beside their boundary. The chief concerns were security risks and the possibility of vandalism. Mr Apps was present in the visitors' seats and was able to hear Mr Pusey's defence of the proposed footpath. The council felt that it was impossible to eliminate vandalism in the village and that this risk should not outweigh the provision of an amenity for the village as a whole. As Mr and Mrs Tauwhare were not present, the Clerk was asked to write to both the residents explaining the council's position.

CORRESPONDENCE

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

- 1) Letter (undated) from The Countryside Agency re one-day conference on Parish Plans in Cambridgeshire: The Way Forward, to be held on 7th July at the Maltings, Ely. (*Original passed to CG*)
- 2) Letter dated 14th June from the SCDC Licensing Officer re the application for a Public Entertainment Licence (occasional) from Peter Mead (Bleak House Farm) for 19th June.
- 3) Letter dated 18th June from CCC Environment and Transport Department re changes to local bus services.
- 4) Letter dated 22nd June from Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service enclosing the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Fire Authority Corporate Performance Plan 2004/05.
- 5) Letter dated 22nd June from Philip Shaw (resident, Barrington Road) requesting information about increased activity on a work area at the side of the railway track just off Barrington Road and the installation of floodlights. *The Clerk said she had contacted Network Rail about this and they would get back to her. The council wondered whether planning consent had been given for the lights, and Mrs Roberts said that she would look into this.*
- 6) Letter dated 25th June from the CCC Chief Executive re Local Government Revenue Support Grant – “Floors and Ceilings”: enclosing copies of information leaflet.
- 7) Letter dated 28th June from CCC social Services Department re the Family Link Service, which needs more carers: enclosing leaflet and poster.
- 8) Letter dated 30th June from H C Moss (Builders) Ltd. saying that surfacing works at Hardman Road should be completed by the end of July.
- 9) Copy of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Structure Plan 2003.

- 10) Letter from Cambridge Open Studios enclosing poster.
- 11) Letter from Active 4 Life re its directory for the older adult and those returning to a more active lifestyle. - information for inclusion to be received by 16th July.
- 12) Letter dated 30th June from Flagship Housing Group (in partnership with Cambridge Housing Society) re the possibility of developing land for a small-scale development of about 10 affordable houses. The letter asks whether Foxton PC would support such a development and whether the council knows the name and address of the landowner. (Plan attached and CHS brochure)
- 13) Letter received 3rd July from Len Cambridge saying that a seat has been selected and that the family would like to lay the concrete base and install the seat. Mr Cambridge suggests a position on the RG near the parking area at the top of Hardman Road (plan attached). *DC to liaise with Len Cambridge.*
- 14) Information from CALC including:
 - Memo re training for Certificate in Local Council Administration.
 - Details of workshop for new councillors.
- 15) Details of NALC Annual conference and Exhibition 1-3 October 2004.
- 16) Sawston Newsletter June 2004.
- 17) South Cambs magazine, and Tenants' Newsletter, Summer 2004.
- 18) "Clerks and Councils Direct" magazine, July 2004.
- 19) "Networking East" magazine, June 2004 including leaflet on Learning Roadshows.
- 20) Local Council Review, July 2004.
- 21) Publicity material from Fitzpatrick Woolmer (information services including signs and notice boards)

VISITORS' QUESTIONS

Mr Apps said that the plastic covering that had been laid where the new hedge had been planted was preventing effective watering.

Mrs Thake said she would look into the matter.

Mr Miller was worried about his access, as the neighbouring property, the garage on the A10 at the level crossing had asked him to get off the site.

Mrs Roberts said she would look into both matters and asked for Mr Miller's telephone number so that she could let him know.

Mr Challis asked for details of the meeting held in the evening at the SCDC offices at Cambourn.

Mr Pusey said that this had been a meeting to discuss the implications of the demand for a further 18,000 houses along the M11 corridor, and had been attended by SCDC officials and 29 representatives of local councils.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mr Pusey said that there were three matters he wished to raise.

He said that the churchyard was not being maintained as regularly as hitherto. It had apparently been decided to cut the grass only 3-4 times a year. There was concern that the Parish Council would consequently be bearing a much larger proportion of the cost of maintenance under this policy. Mr Barnes said he would look into the matter.

Mr Pusey said that after maintaining the War Memorial for many years, Barbara Boreham would now like to give this up, so that a volunteer would be needed. Mr Chilton suggested that this might be something that could be added to Mr Mead's duties.

Mr Pusey reported on correspondence received since the last meeting about the Environment Agency's consultation on its intention to change the protocol for burning substitute fuels in cement and lime manufacturing. Given the proximity of the Rugby Cement Works at Barrington, he had written to the Environment Agency, seeking reassurance about its intentions and stating that the council would be opposed to any relaxation in the current regulations. Mrs Roberts said that the SCDC Environmental Health Department had circulated an e-mail to District Councillors.

Dr Grindley reported weeds on the Recreation Ground behind the churchyard and that stones from the gravel car park were appearing on the Recreation Ground: he said that this was not really a suitable surface for the car park. The matter was referred to the Recreation and Amenities Committee.

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that there would be no meeting in August and that the next meeting would be held on **Monday, 6th September 2004 at 7.45pm, in the Village Hall Meeting Room.**

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 10.30pm.