

Minutes of a meeting of the Planning Committee of Foxton Parish Council

Held on 19th September 2017 at 6:00pm in the Parish Council Office.

Present: Liam Elliott, Caroline Ilott, Ron McCreery (Mr McCreery was co-opted onto the planning committee for this meeting, to ensure that the committee were quorate).

Apologies: Malcolm Bore, Simon Bugey.

Two members of the public were also present – Andrew and Helen Sanderson, for discussion of application S/3064/17/FL.

Mr Elliott took the chair for this meeting, in the absence of Mr Bore.

Declarations of interest

None.

Application S/3064/17/FL – 2 Illingworth Way, Foxton (Andrew Sanderson)

This application is in addition to a previous approval to build an extension, and is to construct a 1.8m high boundary wall at the right-hand side of the house, replace external wooden cladding with Marley Eternit cladding, and replace white UPVC windows with aluminium. Mr and Mrs Sanderson commented on their plans and had brought photographs and samples of the cladding to the meeting.

Although the colours of the cladding would be different from the neighbouring properties, there are several different colours of cladding and window fittings along this stretch of Illingworth Way. The committee had no objections to the proposals.

The Parish Council recommend approval.

Application S/3118/17/FL – 16 Barrington Road, Foxton (Peter Koyander)

This application is to replace existing windows, install a new front door at the front of the property and a security gate to the side, and to install new cladding to the front elevation and new hardstanding. The committee felt that these proposals would enhance the property's frontage.

The Parish Council recommend approval.

Application S/3197/17/TP – Faraday House, 40 Barrington Road, Foxton (Mr Mark Howard)

This application is for tree works, but was not discussed, since approval had already been granted by CCC at the time of the planning committee meeting (due to the trees being dangerous).

Correspondence

- Notification of approval was received for application S/2857/17/PA (14 Station Road, Foxton - Prior approval for a single-storey rear conservatory; Mrs Elizabeth Pyle).
- Notification of a Lawful Development Certificate was received for application S/3185/17/LD (18 Illingworth Way, Foxton – Proposed single storey rear extension; Mrs Johanna Pinney)

AOB

SCDC Planning Forum: Mr Bore had attended the SCDC planning forum on Tuesday 12th September at Cambourne. A summary of his notes from the meeting is as follows:

Local Plan: the hearings are now finished; SCDC are awaiting a letter from the inspector with any further issues that need addressing. There will then be a further 6-week consultation. It is hoped that the plan will be completed in the spring; as it nears completion, it will be given additional weight when considering applications.

Criticism of SCDC's planning department: There has been lots of criticism over lack of communication and appalling service. SCDC have acknowledged that they are struggling to retain staff, and are looking to share services with CCC to counteract this. They have also been criticised for refusing to recommend applications to the Planning Committee when requested; in the last 12 months 157 applications were considered for decision by the committee, but only 10 of these were actually referred (6%).

Community Land Trust (CLT): This is a form of community-led housing, set up and run by ordinary people to develop and manage homes as well as other assets important to the community, such as community enterprises, food growing or workspaces (See <http://www.communitylandtrusts.org.uk> for more details). This was launched as a new initiative, although it has been operational for a while. The idea is that the CLT are able to offer grants to community groups towards setting up a community housing scheme; so if you have a land owner who will allow a community group to own affordable houses as trustees (this may be as part of a shared private development, perhaps an exception site that would not normally get approved), you can set up such a group. Unlike the SCDC exception site, these houses are exempt from Right to Buy. Stretham have a scheme where they have managed to charge rents at 60% market rate.

Neighbourhood Plans: It was emphasised how important these are.

Other: It was suggested that since an applicant has a right to appeal a refusal, there should be the same right for those who wish to object to an approval.

Herod's Farm land: Mr McCreery had met with the deputy chief executive of CCC, who has verbally agreed that the proposed housing development will be dropped. He has also agreed to involve Foxton Parish Council in discussions about the development of the old School Site.

Conservation Area: This is progressing well. Once the draft is finished, we will need to contact all residents with a summary and hold a public consultation meeting; comments will be used to update the draft before submission to SCDC.

The meeting closed at 6:35pm.