

FOXTON PARISH COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday 15 April 2019 at 7.30pm

Present – Cllrs. Simon Buggey, Caroline Ilott, Jane Trevanion, Peter Howell, Andy Brown and Louise Lord of the Parish Council, Cllr. Peter Topping (County Councillor) and Cllr. Deborah Roberts (District Councillor), and 13 members of the Foxton electorate.

Apologies – Cllr. Peter Tye and Cllr. Geoff Barnes

Refreshments were provided and a printed financial summary for the year 2018-2019 was distributed.

1. **Minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting held on 16 April 2018** – Proposed Cllr. Simon Buggey, seconded Peter Sutton. Approved.
2. **Matters Arising** – None
3. **Report of the Chairman covering the activities of the Parish Council**

See Appendix 1

4. Reports by other village organisations

Reports were given by Steve Tongish on behalf of the Foxton Gardens Association, Jill Hockley on behalf of the Woman's Institute, Cllr. Peter Howell on behalf of the Foxton Twinning Association and Kimberly Tongish on behalf of the Friends of STREAM (St Laurence Trust for Restoration and Maintenance).

5. Open forum for questions and feedback

A member of the electorate advised that S106 money received on 30 October 2014 was in relation to 22 Fowlmere Road rather than 27 Fowlmere Road as detailed in the summary finance report provided. Noted by the Parish Clerk.

Feedback was provided by Peter Sutton, a director of the Community Interest Company formed to oversee the rail affairs of the villages of Foxton, Melbourn, Meldreth and Shepreth. The rail administrator, Sarah Gove, hired by the Community Interest Company, is carrying out valuable work within the community and with local schools as well enabling communication between rail users, the rail industry and government to improve rail services. The rail administrator post is currently funded by contributions from Foxton, Melbourn, Meldreth and Shepreth Parish Councils. Contributions have also been received from SCDC and Govia Thameslink. It is hoped that the rail administrator's funding and activities will increase in the future.

Cllr. Deborah Roberts thanked the Parish Council for their hard work over the year particularly in relation to the speculative planning applications received. She noted that Foxton and Fowlmere had collaborated on the Thriplow Grain Store appeal and that Fowlmere Parish Council will contribute to the cost of the planning consultant.

A member of the electorate thanked Cllr. Illott and the Parish Council for their role in the road resurfacing work outside properties on Fowlmere Road undertaken by County Council Highways. The same member of the electorate asked what had happened to the bench at West Hill. The Parish Council advised that the bench had been removed after it was damaged and not replaced as it was thought to be infrequently used, if at all. A new bench will be considered for S106 funding.

Action S106 Working Party

A member of the electorate asked if the pavement on Station Road, which is patchy and uneven, will be resurfaced. Cllr. Peter Topping will ask County Council Highways to come to Foxton to inspect the pavement.

Action Cllr. PT

A number of parking issues in the village were raised by the electorate and noted by the Parish Council:

- parking at the southern end of Station Road before the junction with the High Street impedes the flow of traffic and causes buses to mount the pavement to get by.
- the road by the bus stop at the Burlington Press is often obstructed by parked cars opposite the bus stop. Parking is currently prohibited outside the old Trinity School site. As this is no longer a school, it was suggested that this section of road could be released for parking.
- Parking on blind corner of Caxton Lane is dangerous.
- Parking by the Green on the High Street has been addressed but it is possible that these vehicles are parking elsewhere.

The Chairman advised that the parking issues have been discussed by the Parish Council at previous meetings and noted there has been a reluctance to implement yellow lines partly due to the lack of police capacity to enforce this.

Action Parish Council

A member of the electorate asked whether speeding restrictions were being considered on Fowlmere Road.

The Chairman advised that the Parish Council had applied for a Local Highway Improvement grant (LHI) to create a 40mph buffer zone beyond Chalk Hill (this was changed from extending the 30mph zone on County Council Highways' advice). The application was unsuccessful, as the previous year's application to move the 30mph sign had been. The Parish Council will reconsider its options and the feedback provided by County Council Highways which included consideration of a broader village approach and a higher contribution towards cost.

Action Parish Council

A member of the electorate asked if a 20mph speed limit for the village, as implemented in other villages, could be considered.

The Chairman advised that the police are unable to enforce speed restrictions in the village. An active Speedwatch is a consideration. A speed survey was undertaken 3 years ago on the Shepreth, Fowlmere and Barrington Roads in and out of Foxton. The average speed on all roads was in excess of the speed limit. This evidence was used in the recent LHI application. Data obtained in the Neighbourhood Plan consultation showed a reluctance to implement physical speed barriers and a preference for educational tools such as signs. Illuminated signs are an option but are expensive (approx.£4-6,000 plus maintenance cost). Grants may be available.

Action Parish Council

A member of the electorate noted the recent fly tipping in a layby on Shepreth Road and asked if anything could be done about this or if the heavily rutted layby could be removed. The Parish Council will look into this.

Action Parish Council

A member of the electorate asked about plans for the old Trinity School site.

The Chairman explained that no planning application had yet been made. This Land Ltd, a development company wholly owned by Cambridgeshire County Council, had attended the February Parish Council meeting with their initial plans. The Parish Council were not impressed with their plans and subsequently met with This Land Ltd to reiterate the need for smaller, quality, affordable housing in the village as evidenced by data received in the Neighbourhood Plan consultation. Although they are a commercial developer, This Land Ltd are prepared to listen to the Parish Council and are reconsidering their plans.

A member of the electorate asked if grass cutting contracts had been renewed. The Parish Council advised that tenders had been sought and it is in the process of awarding contracts.

It was requested that Foxton Gardens Association be consulted about Parish Council grass cutting. The daffodil bulbs need to be protected from being cut too soon.

Action R&A

Cllr. Jane Trevanion asked if there was any feedback on Parish Council's communications using the Laurentian, noticeboard, website and Facebook.

A member of the electorate noted that it would be helpful to add notice of the Annual Parish Meeting to the Laurentian to encourage more attendees. This was noted by the Parish Council for the next Annual Parish Meeting, in addition to notices around the village, the website and Facebook.

Action Parish Council

A member of the electorate asked if planning applications are updated on the website. Planning applications will be updated.

Action CI

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending.

Date and time of next Parish Council Meeting:

Annual Meeting Monday 13 May at 7.45 pm in the Village Hall.

The Meeting closed at 8.35 pm

Annabel Wright
Parish Clerk
25 April 2019

Appendix 1 - Chairman's Report by Simon Buggey

Annual Parish Meeting 15 April 2019

Your Parish Council works on your behalf to look after the interests of the village and it is my privilege to report on the activities of the council over the past year.

This Parish Council was elected to office last May - albeit without an election as only nine persons stood. The new Council was made up of three re-elected Councillors, one returning after a gap of three years and five who were totally new to the role. With the departure of a number of very experienced Councillors, including the Chairman, we have all new roles and responsibilities to learn which has been a major challenge. I was honoured to be elected by the new Council as its Chairman and I am grateful to all my colleagues for their support over the past year.

I am particularly grateful to our clerk, Annabel Wright who has now completed her first full year in the role. As well as taking on the the role of the Responsible Financial Officer, Annabel has also led improvements to our governance, procedures and record keeping.

I would also like to thank our District Councillor, Deborah Roberts and our County Councillor, Peter Topping for the work they do to further Foxton's interests.

I will now report on some of the key activities of the council over the past year.

Planning

Over the year Foxton residents have submitted applications for 11 residential extensions, two agricultural buildings, two commercial buildings, two listed building alterations, one building conversion, seven new properties and five tree works.

All these were considered by our Planning Committee, now chaired by Caroline Illott.

In late 2018 we finally saw the adoption of the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan. This has confirmed Foxton's status as a Group Village, identified the five year housing supply and finally put an end to speculative planning applications. This had an immediate effect on the application for 32 houses on Shepreth Road which was refused and the subsequent appeal has been dismissed.

Planning permission for 22 new houses off Station Road behind the 'Press cottages' was granted before the Local Plan came into effect and work on that development will start soon. The Parish Council has been providing feedback to the developer on the final design and layout of the site.

The Country Council's development company is taking forward the redevelopment of the old Trinity School site. The latest plans indicated seven dwellings including conversion of the old Methodist chapel. Again, we have provided feedback as to what would be in the best interests of Foxton. No planning application has yet been made.

The application by Thriplow Farms to build a large grain store and other associated buildings on land to the east of Fowlmere Road is outstanding. Initially refused by SCDC, the decision was appealed and was heard by the Planning Inspector on 2 April. Parish Councillors and residents attended and spoke against the appeal and we await the Inspector's decision

We are pleased that the White Horse has had its status as an Asset of Community Value renewed till 2024.

Infrastructure

We have engaged on an ongoing basis with the Greater Cambridge Partnership with regards to the local transport infrastructure and a representative attended the November parish Council meeting to provide an update. We have asked that they are more proactive with their community engagement as we want to ensure that our voice is heard and that any proposals meet the needs of Foxton.

There have been a number of minor but important improvements to our roads to reduce flooding, improve road and pavement surfaces, and deal with overgrown hedges impeding pavements. While this work is undertaken by either the District or County Council, it is all as a result of constant pressure by the Parish Council.

Recreation and amenities

Following formation of new Parish Council, R&A is now led by Jane Trevanion alongside Peter Tye and Dean Howe.

We had a fresh look approach to re-evaluate what needs doing to improve the maintenance and upkeep of the recreation area and green areas in the village. As a result, significant tree and hedge tidying has taken place. In 2019 to 2020 financial year, the frequency of cutting of non-sports pitch areas on the recreation ground will be increased.

New contracts for grass cutting will soon be in place and it has been decided that these will be renewed on an annual basis to ensure we are getting the best from our contractors.

The routine role of the Village Warden has been reviewed and increased to include more litter picking, sign cleaning and general activities to improve the general appearance of the village.

Finally, the play area is on the radar for improvement. A working party including Parish Councillors has (just) been formed to co-ordinate and take forward ideas.

Finance

As mentioned earlier, Annabel Wright has been appointed Responsible Finance Officer and we have established a finance working party to oversee the Council's finances.

Receipts and expenditure overall was within the agreed 2018-19 budget, with the main financial outlay being staff and maintaining open spaces. Other considerable costs are administrative, planning (legal advice and Neighbourhood Plan) and donations to other organisations.

For example, we continue to provide financial support to organisations such as Royston and Area Community Transport, Melbourn Area Youth Development (MAYD), and the Community Rail Partnership: All these work for the benefit of our residents and we are happy to support their work.

The precept for 2019-20 has increased by 7.5 per cent to £35,000. This is mainly to cover the cost of the Responsible Finance Officer now being a paid employee of the Council and to improve maintenance of open spaces in the village.

A financial summary report has been distributed to the meeting.

Neighbourhood Plan

The process of establishing a Neighbourhood Plan is nearing the final stages. It has been a lengthy process but through the hard work of the Neighbourhood Plan Working Party, in particular its Chair, Catherine Cairns, we are now in a position to undertake a pre-submission consultation on the draft Plan before it is submitted to South Cambridgeshire District Council for scrutiny.

Just a few other things:

We have recently established the Friends of Foxton Woods - a working party to maintain the Woods and look to how they can be improved as a village amenity. The first maintenance day took place last month and more will follow.

We have also established a working party that is looking at how we should spend the money that has come from developers to improve and enhance the village (known as Section 106 money). We have started to compile a list of potential projects, both large and small, and will take these forward over the coming months.

And finally, we have set up a Parish Council Facebook site to try and provide a better reach to residents.

There is much more besides but I hope that this has given a flavour of what the Parish Council has worked on and achieved in the past year. You can always find out more by attending Parish Council meetings and the minutes of all our meetings are published on our website.

Foxton is fortunate to have residents who are prepared to give up their time for the benefit of the village and we look forward to the challenges of the next three years of this Council.

Thank you.

Simon Bugey

Chairman

Foxton Parish Council