

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF FOWLMERE PARISH COUNCIL HELD  
IN THE SCHOOL ROOM, UNITED REFORMED CHURCH, CHAPEL LANE  
15<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2009 AT 7.45 PM**

**PRESENT:** Cllr D Roberts (Chairman), Cllr M Bates, Cllr P Cook, Cllr A Eades, Cllr P Flynn,  
Cllr B Kohler, Cllr D Woods, Mrs J Wright (Clerk)

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Cllr T Stone, Mr & Mrs Price, Mr C Jelley, Ms M Thornton, Mr S Lester, Mr  
T Deans and Mr N Pettit.

		<b>Actions</b>
1.	<b>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:</b> There were no apologies for absence	
2.	<b>DECLARATION OF INTEREST IN AGENDA ITEMS:</b> No items were declared	
3.	<b>MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF 21<sup>ST</sup> JULY 2009:</b> The minutes were agreed and signed as a true record.	
4.	<b>MATTERS ARISING:</b> 6.) War Memorial. Cllr Roberts informed the Council that this had now been replaced and fixed by David Salmons and we are awaiting his bill.  11b.) The Village Hall – an archaeological dig has taken place, on behalf of Chartism Housing on the site next door to the Village Hall – nothing of interest has been found.	
5.	<b>COUNTY COUNCIL AFFAIRS:</b> Cllr Tim Stone gave his report:  <i>“Regional Spatial Strategy - You should all have received news of the first of the East of England Regional Assembly’s consultative meetings on the revision of the East of England Plan (Regional Spatial Strategy). I attended last week’s consultation evening at Robinson College to get an idea of what exactly are our options.</i>  <i>Several speakers, including a representative from EERA spoke about the need for increased housing in the East of England, an assessment which was eloquently supported by the representative from Shelter. In brief, there is an undeniable need for increased affordable housing in the region. Considering the period 2011 to 2031, four scenarios have been proposed on which public comment is sought:</i>  <i>* Scenario 1: A target broadly based on the views of local councils. For South Cambridgeshire, this would mean a 20 year target of 23,600. (This scenario is the one favoured by Cambridgeshire County Council and equates to limiting growth to the same figure as proposed for the period up to 2021.)</i>  <i>* Scenario 2: Promotes growth in areas identified by the Regional Scale Settlement Study (Jan 2009). Notable changes to other counties and areas in the region. For S. Cambs a 20 year target of 26,600. This scenario includes a new settlement in Huntingdonshire – probably at Alconbury.</i>	

*\* Scenario 3: Promotes growth around successful business locations where new jobs are attracting workers. Particular focus on Hertfordshire, S. Essex and Cambridgeshire. For S. Cambs a 20 yr target of 23,920.*

*\* Scenario 4: Promotes growth where households are projected to grow. Based on long term trends such as people living longer and people moving to the region. Majority of additional growth in Herts, Essex, Norfolk and Suffolk. For S. Cambs a 20 year target of 19,000.*

*Note: Scenarios 2 to 4 will test the Government's view that more homes are needed in the region, although EERA has already rejected the highest end of the range being proposed by the Government.*

*However, the important part of this is the opportunity for the public to make their views known, and to this end, Cambridgeshire has made a short questionnaire available in paper form, or on their web site. Responders have the opportunity to nominate their priorities for Cambridgeshire, and their choice of scenario as given above. The questionnaire includes a little competition which will earn the lucky winners £25 vouchers from M & S, iTunes and Accessorise. You can find the site at: [www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/environment/planning/regional/Future+Cambridgeshire++Have+your+say.htm](http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/environment/planning/regional/Future+Cambridgeshire++Have+your+say.htm)*

*I have had trouble finding the County website which was quoted. I have been to see the communications team today and they will seek to have the consultation featured boldly on the main page of the website. That should make it easier for respondents. We really need people to respond by saying they don't want Hanley Grange, which still lurks in the papers as a possibility. The reasons are just the same as they were for the eco-town but we want an explicit statement from EERA that Hanley Grange is dead.*

***New Household Recycling Centre*** - *The county council is to decide where to put a new Household Recycling Centre to the south-west of Cambridge. The Development Control Committee, of which I am a member, met last week to agree a proposal to go forward to the County's Cabinet for final approval as part of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste Plan.*

*There has been much controversy about where the Household Recycling Centre site should be: on the old Bayer site in Hauxton on the west of the A10 opposite where the old buildings have been demolished or off the new Addenbrooke's slip road in Trumpington. A new site is needed not least because of the planned housing growth in Trumpington Meadows, Glebe Farm and so on.*

*The new brand of Household recycling centres is nothing like what we know in*

	<p><i>Thriplow. To begin with they are enclosed in modern buildings which not only look good but also avoid dust blowing around. More items can be recycled and instead of having to climb up steps to deposit things, users will be able to drop waste into skips at a lower level. And skip lorries and cars don't come into contact.</i></p> <p><i>At the moment it seems that the Trumpington site could well get the go-ahead, though nothing is finally decided yet. While Thriplow will stay open the new site could nevertheless be of interest to people in our local villages: it could well be more convenient for people driving to Cambridge or the Trumpington Park &amp; Ride and for the less muscular the thought of avoiding those stairs could be a real attraction.</i></p> <p><b>Transport Innovation Fund</b> - <i>The Cambridge Transport Commission has now issued its report. The main conclusions are that Cambridgeshire should pursue its bid for £500 million funding for road and other engineering works to improve access to Cambridge. The report also seeks to de-fuse the contentious congestion charge by suggesting that the County should establish with the government a trigger point at which stage a congestion charge would be introduced. This would enable introduction of the charge to be delayed.</i></p> <p><i>Initial reaction from the government is that such a procedure would not be acceptable as the principle of demand management is written into the rules of the Transport Innovation Fund. The opposition has made no commitment to funding the transport Innovation Fund without congestion charging. What is more, the County has until the end of October to put in its bid within the original framework or it runs out of time.</i></p> <p><i>The Transport Commission underlined the serious transport infrastructure deficit in and around Cambridge, suggesting that £500 million was far too little to invest, regretting the lack of a more ambitious programme and concluding that at some stage tunnelling would become inevitable. We look forward to the County coming down off the fence.</i></p> <p><b>Council Cash Crunch</b> - <i>As is reported in today's Cambridge News, the County Council warns that it is facing a huge cash crunch. This year, after the schools budgets have been removed, the council has £326.4million to spend on all the services it delivers. After various adjustments the figure for 2014/15 is calculated to be £213.3million, a drop of nearly 35%."</i></p> <p>Cllr Stone added that he was still attending to the problem of the obscured repeater 30mph sign in Long Lane.</p> <p>The Clerk is to brief Cllr Stone on the issue concerning the ditch in Chapel Lane for his attention.</p>	<p>Cllr Stone</p> <p>Clerk</p>
6.	<p><b>PLANNING COMMITTEE:</b> The minutes of the previous planning meetings were agreed and are detailed below:</p> <p><b>MINUTES OF A MEETING OF FOWLMERE PARISH COUNCIL PLANNING COMMITTEE HELD IN THE DOROTHY PLUCK ROOM, ST MARY'S CHURCH,</b></p>	

On 18<sup>th</sup> August 2009 at 7.30pm

PRESENT: Cllr D Roberts (Chair), Cllr M Bates, Cllr P Cook, Cllr A Eades, Mrs J Wright (Clerk)

APOLOGIES: There were apologies from Cllr P Flynn, Cllr W Kohler and Cllr D Woods.

1. **Declarations of interest** (*if any*)

Before discussion, Cllr Roberts declared that if an application is later placed before South Cambridgeshire District Council she will approach any new information afresh.

2. S/0727/09/F – For information only. **Permission granted**

Oil Tank

**32 Chapel Lane, Fowlmere**

**Mrs Jackie Wright**

The Parish Council noted the decision

3. S/0773/09/F – For information only. **Permission refused**

Extension

**3 Cambridge Road, Fowlmere**

**Mr & Mrs Easto**

The Parish Council noted the decision

4. S/1003/09/LB

Alterations – GF – resite and change kitchen window / door and render brickwork and remove wall to utility room. Install gas fired boiler in cloakroom. Replace window in sitting room. Form FF bathroom with raised floor. SF install partitions to form bathroom with internal window. Resite doorway and install new doorway to ensuite shower room with new window and part raised floor. Remove partition in Bed 8 and adj. Shower rooms, install double doors to guest suite with new shower room and window. Install rooflight and form lightwell in landing ceiling. Replace concrete floors with limecrete. Replace modern plasters and renders with sheeps wool insulation, timber lath and lime mixes. Replace concrete roof tiles with salvaged and new clay tiles and install solar collector.

**9 Chapel Lane, Fowlmere**

**Dr and Mrs Hobro**

The Council has no objections to the application and they look forward to seeing the building work completed in order to restore what is an important historical building in the village back to its former glory.

5. **Other Matters and Updates**

Ditch at the side of 19 Chapel Lane. The ditch is not a Parish ditch and it has

never been maintained by the parish and any previous clearance would have been done by the riparian owners on either side. Clerk to write to Mike Cooper at SCDC Highways to alert him of the position of the Parish Council.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 7.50 pm

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**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF FOWLMERE PARISH COUNCIL PLANNING  
COMMITTEE HELD IN THE SCHOOL ROOM, URC, CHAPEL LANE,  
On 8<sup>th</sup> September 2009 at 7.30pm**

PRESENT: Cllr D Roberts (Chair), Cllr M Bates, Cllr A Eades, Cllr P Flynn, Cllr W Kohler, Cllr D Woods and Mrs J Wright (Clerk)

APOLOGIES: There were no apologies for absence.

1. **Declarations of interest** (*if any*)

Before discussion, Cllr Roberts declared that if an application is later placed before South Cambridgeshire District Council she will approach any new information afresh.

Cllr Eades and Cllr Kohler declared a personal but non-prejudicial interest in item 3 on the agenda, due to living in the same road.

2. S/0950/09/F – For information only. **Application withdrawn**

Replace park home with a dwelling.

**Springfields, Fowlmere Road, Melbourn**

**Mrs Maxine Blyth**

The Parish Council noted the decision

3. S/1142/09/F

Extension

**20 Chapel Lane, Fowlmere**

**Dr Bobby Agrawal**

The Parish Council recommend approval for this application because they feel the proposed extra size is not detrimental to neighbouring properties and the size of the proposed extension fits well into the plot size.

4. S/1056/09/F

Field Shelter / hay store

**Land to the East of RSPB Wildlife Reserve, Mill Road, Fowlmere**

**Dr M Bruggemann**

The Council recommend approval for this application as it blends in adequately to the countryside and is necessary for the horses on the site.

5. **Other Matters and Updates**

Cllr Bates reported that he had received confirmation that the land at the Moat was registered to Fowlmere Parish Council. Cllr Bates will chase the paperwork required from English Heritage in order to progress this at the next formal meeting of the

	<p>Council.</p> <p>There being no further business, the meeting closed at 7.55 pm</p>	
	<p><b>The Meeting was then opened to members of the public and press and the following issues raised, which will be addressed in the relevant agenda items:</b></p> <p>Mr Lester attended the meeting because of the issue of overhanging trees in his garden from the round moat area. The trees are encroaching onto his back garden, causing a loss of light. Some need topping whilst others need removing. Cllr Roberts replied explaining that tree work is prohibitively expensive and the Parish Council must prioritise any dangerous ones which need removing.</p> <p>Ms Thornton, Mr Jelley and Mr and Mrs Price attended the meeting for similar reasons as their houses in St Mary's Walk also back onto the moat area. Mr Price and Ms Thornton reported that the trees are 2 to 3 times the height of the houses, leaning, with branches falling into the garden, causing loss of light. Some branches overhang half way down the length of the whole garden. Three trees have fallen down in the wind in the last 10 years behind their property. The residents want to know if they can cut any low branches and they have also offered to contribute to the cost of the tree work because they feel they want a resolution as they have been writing to the council for over 2 years. Residents have been requested to help in the past and lent tools with which to do so and those present at the meeting indicated that they would be happy to do so again.</p> <p>Cllr Roberts explained that many of the trees have reached a stage where it would be too much for any residents to tackle safely so expert help would be required (it is even too large a job for Chris Wall and a specialist tree surgeon should be used.) Cllr Roberts added that we have a lot of trees in Fowlmere and the cost of their maintenance has to be balanced against the precept we ask of residents from their Council Tax.</p> <p>Cllr Bates asked Mr Lester whether he had removed some lower branches himself, to which Mr Lester replied he had. Mr Bates also advised against any further work as it was deemed beyond domestic capability.</p> <p>Mr Price also provided the Council with some useful photos of leaning and overhanging trees in the moat area behind his house. He also explained that there is a problem with prolific ivy.</p> <p>Mr Deans added that the dead trees in the moat are still the responsibility of the Parish Council and queried whether resident's insurance actually covers them against any damage? Cllr Roberts responded that we would need to check with our own insurance company.</p> <p>Mr Deans added the main reason for his visit was to stress the importance of the obscured 30mph sign in Long Lane. Cllr Roberts explained that this was the responsibility of Highways but unfortunately our contact is currently away. The Clerk will update Cllr Stone and request urgent attention to this matter, regardless of Mr Cooper being absent.</p> <p>Mr Pettit was attending the meeting in order to update the PC on the situation regarding the public space in Cassander Close. This has been ongoing for 2-3 years and by rights, according to the Section 106 agreement, the open space should be handed over to the Parish Council to maintain. This cannot happen because the land owner cannot be traced due to his being unobtainable. Natwest bank will not respond in any way and searches with Companies House have been fruitless. Mr</p>	<p>(Clerk)</p> <p>Clerk &amp; Cllr Stone</p>

	<p>Pettit also explained how the £15,000 the landowner should have paid, which was imposed by the County in educational charges, was not paid and had to be met by the residents of Cassander Close.</p> <p>The residents are currently drawing up a formal agreement which will ensure that the open spaces in the road will be properly maintained and each household is meeting this cost. The road and sewers have also not been adopted by the Council and this situation will continue as long as the landowner doesn't transfer the land over. This is a particular regret because the County Council had the opportunity to adopt the road when the landowner was available and failed to do so. As a result, the residents will be looking to pay a further £15,000 - £18,000 this year to bring the road up to a good standard.</p> <p>Responses to these issues are covered in the relevant agenda items</p>	
7.	<p><b>BURIAL BOARD:</b> Cllr Roberts reported on the recent clear-up at the cemetery. It was very successful but there is still more work to do so another date will be arranged. Cllr Roberts thanked everyone who attended for their help.</p> <p>The Clerk reported that there had been one grave space purchased in the past two months.</p>	(Clerk)
8.	<p><b>TREES, GRASS AND HEDGES:</b> <b>a) Update on the Moat:</b> Cllr Bates informed the Council that external funding is being sourced for the remedial work required in the Round Moat. The preliminary examination found a stock of mature elm trees which are regarded as having national importance. The next stage survey will cost £1200 and needs to be done as soon as possible. Funding is available (including DEFRA money) and Cllr Bates is working towards achieving this with the eventual aim of producing a plan of maintenance and implementing it. Cllr Bates stressed that the Parish Council were very conscious of residents concerns but at this stage the Council can only respond to what is necessary on safety grounds and can't allow residents to take matters into their own hands regarding tree maintenance. Cllr Bates suggested any interested residents attend the next site visit by English Heritage.</p> <p>Cllr Roberts also realised the residents concerns and said that a time will come in the near future when their volunteer help will be asked for and asked for them to come on board with any further discussions. She also thanks Cllr Bates for his work in the matter so far.</p> <p><b>b) BC Group Trust</b> Regarding unrequested work done in Ryecroft Lane - The Clerk had looked for old paperwork relating to any agreement but none could be found. Cllr Roberts proposed the motion that the bill for £207 was paid and Cllr Woods, whilst indicating that she felt it was wrong to pay for the work, agreed to the proposal on the grounds that a strongly worded letter goes to BC Trust, thanking them for any past work but explaining that they no longer have a contract with Fowlmere Parish Council and no further work will be required of them. The motion was seconded by Cllr Bates and carried.</p> <p><b>c) Ditch in Chapel Lane</b> The Clerk read the latest e-mail from Mike Cooper (Highways) which encouraged the Council to maintain the ditch in question. It was agreed that the Clerk to write again to Mr Cooper explaining that it is a watercourse, following riparian ownership and not a parish ditch and he should consult the land register if he is looking for exact</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>

	ownership. Cllr Roberts also added that the person who came out from South Camb said that the ditch shouldn't be dug out too much and disturb the bed.	
9.	<b>FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES:</b> Cllr Woods informed the Council that the next Finance meeting is the 6 <sup>th</sup> October, at St Mary's at 7:30pm. Cllr Woods and the Clerk have had and are having another training session on the new Sage package. Cllr Roberts thanked Cllr Woods for her time spent.	
10.	<b>CORRESPONDENCE:</b> The Clerk was asked to respond to Mr Ron Ward and thank him for his offer of bulbs which the Parish Council would seek to plant in the village, including in the open space in Cassander Close.  Cllr Roberts said that a litter pick should be organised for the Spring	Clerk  Clerk and Council
11.	<b>OTHER MATTERS:</b> <b>a) Recruitment of new Parish Councillors:</b> Cllr Roberts reported that the Council had already seen one prospective Councillor and it was a very useful meeting. The Council hope to see the second applicant in two weeks – Clerk to arrange. It was agreed that a final decision will be made on that night.  <b>b) Village Hall</b> This is in regards to the possible purchase of a new video camera for the Village Hall by the Parish Council. Cllr Woods read out the correspondence to the Village Hall from the Council, which included the code of practice, which requested the details of the person(s) responsible for the maintenance of the video camera, and also regular financial details were requested, including notice of the AGM but so far there has been no response.  Cllr Bates will chase up and noted that the Village Hall have expressed their gratitude and there have been several changes in the Village Hall committee structure to contend with. Cllr Roberts had received details of the AGM which she will circulate.  <b>c) Review of Chairman's Delegation Process correspondence</b> Clerk to resend the information from Caxton and Comberton Parish Councils for the Councillors to re-read. Cllr Roberts requested this be put on the next planning agenda and hoped to send a letter in support.  <b>d) Cassander Close, Open Space Section 106 agreements</b> Following Mr Pettit's earlier update, the Clerk to respond to SCDC, first consulting Mr Pettit with the draft.  <b>e) 2010 Dates for Next Meetings</b> To be confirmed at the next meeting but suggested as: Parish Council – Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> January, 7:30, Chapel Parish Council – Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> February, 7:30, Chapel Parish Council – Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> March, 7:30, Chapel Parish Council – Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> April, 7:30, Chapel Parish Council – Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup> May, 7:30, Chapel Parish Council – Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup> June, 7:30, Chapel Parish Council – Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> July, 7:30, Chapel Parish Council – Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> September, 7:30, Chapel Parish Council – Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> October, 7:30, Chapel Parish Council – Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> November, 7:30, Chapel Parish Council – Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> December, 7:30, Chapel	Clerk  Cllr Bates Cllr Roberts  Clerk  Clerk

<p>Finance – Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January, 7:30, St Marys  Finance – Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> March, 7:30, St Marys  Finance – Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> June, 7:30, St Marys  Finance – Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> October, 7:30, St Marys</p> <p>Annual Village Meeting – Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> May, 7:30, St Mary's</p> <p><b>Bus Shelter:</b>  Cllr Kohler informed the Council that the project was going to be launched on a Saturday in December and the students were doing a village-based collage, also involving the nature reserve. Cllr Kohler requested we give the launch some thought and it was hoped that local press would be involved.</p> <p>Cllr Eades and Cllr Kohler to treat the woodwork once any other repairs to the shelter had been done.</p> <p><b>Play equipment:</b>  Cllr Woods and Cllr Flynn reported that they had undertaken the necessary maintenance on the play equipment, including staining and repainting. Cllr Roberts thanked both for their hard work.</p> <p><b>Jackson's Way:</b>  Cllr Flynn had been asked about the possibility of erecting a barrier at the end of the Jackson's Way alleyway which comes out nearly opposite the Chequers. This should be mentioned to Cllr Stone at the October Meeting.</p> <p><b>Dove House Close Trees:</b>  The Council is not taking responsibility for the overgrowing trees – Cllr Roberts to chase up.</p> <p><b>Fire Engine Shed and Butts:</b>  It had been noted that several youths had been hanging around on the Butts site. It was also noted that the Fire Engine Shed needed a new lock. Cllr Roberts to investigate.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">The Meeting closed at 9:30pm</p>	<p>Council</p> <p>Cllr Kohler &amp; Cllr Eades</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Cllr Roberts</p> <p>Cllr Roberts</p>
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