

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF FOWLMERE PARISH COUNCIL HELD
IN SCHOOL ROOM, UNITED REFORMED CHURCH
17th MARCH 2009 AT 7.30 PM**

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Cllr T Stone
Mr A Deanes
Ms Kirsten Bicknell, Arts Development Manager, Melbourn Village College
Four residents from the village

		Actions
1.	APOLOGIES – There were no apologies.	
2.	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST	
	<p><u>Item 6 - Mr A Deans 30 mph signs</u> Cllr Roberts declared an interest and stated that she would leave the room at this point.</p> <p><u>Item 9 - Affordable Housing</u> Cllr Roberts declared that if an application is later placed before South Cambridgeshire District Council she will approach any new information afresh.</p>	
3.	MINUTES OF MEETING OF 17 February 2009 - The minutes were agreed and signed as a true record.	
4.	MATTERS ARISING	
	<p><u>Bus Shelter</u> MB reported that work to the bus shelter has been completed and the invoice has been sent to Insurers.</p> <p><u>Crows' Parlour</u> David Kenney has not made contact – MB will chase.</p> <p><u>Potholes</u> Although some potholes have been filled, others are still appearing.</p>	Cllr Bates
5.	COUNTY COUNCIL AFFAIRS	
	<p>The following report was presented by Cllr Stone</p> <p>State of the Roads Most of the potholes caused by the icy weather have been mended. County Highways have been extremely active responding to people's messages. There are still a few potholes around and I would urge you to report them if you know of one. The telephone number is 0345 045 1360.</p> <p>Rectory Lane I've looked into signs on Rectory Lane to discourage through traffic. David Lines says that two double-sided signs erected at either end of Rectory Lane would cost about £250. Because County Highways is extremely short of money, the cost would be for the parish council.</p> <p>Would you like me to take the matter further?</p> <p>Hanley Grange The consultation which was to have ended on 6th March has now been extended to 30th April. I</p>	

have e-mailed my response to all parish councils across the Division in case any one has not sent a reply and would like to borrow anything I have said.

Although an invitation was extended by blackberry device to the secretary of the Joint Action Group to address the Joint Cambridgeshire Regional Spatial Strategy Review Panel (CReSSP), I have discovered that this was not conveyed to officers. The first opportunity to address the Joint Action Group will have to address CReSSP is therefore on 7th April. This will now happen.

I attended the CReSSP meeting on 6th March though I did not ask to speak. I may do next time.

On 24th February I attended an Economic Workshop about the Regional Spatial Strategy. That should help inform the County Council's work on the Cambridgeshire Development study, which is to be finished by 20th March. There was a good exchange of views but it will be difficult to extrapolate any single trend. The next meeting of the same Workshop is in Wisbech on 27th March and I intend to be there, too.

Transport Innovation Fund

The first public meeting of the Cambridgeshire Transport Commission was held on 4th March. I went along and was surprised to note that nobody from the county's cabinet was present. Evidence was taken from representatives of the Government Office for the East of England, the East of England Regional Assembly, Cambridgeshire Horizons and officers of Cambridgeshire County Council. The session was very businesslike.

Some of the background information was fairly stark:

- ◆ 45% more traffic is expected on the strategic road network by 2021.
- ◆ Cambridgeshire's population is expected to grow by a third between 2006 and 2031 to reach 800,000.
- ◆ The cost of local congestion, currently estimated at £1bn will double by 2021.
- ◆ After construction of Chesterton station, due for completion by the end of 2016, there is about £80million left over for total transport schemes costed at about £1bn.
- ◆ By 2021 there will be 20,350 more morning peak trips into and within Cambridge (on a base thought to be in the region of 90,000, though that was not clear)
- ◆ That will bring an 84% increase in junction delays, a 30% increase in distance travelled and a 40% increase in travel time.
- ◆ 40% of greenhouse gases come from transport.
- ◆ Only demand management will bring about a reduction in private car traffic in and around Cambridge.

Main lines of enquiry were:

- ◆ whether, in view of the economic crisis, the projected growth in and around Cambridge will actually happen, and if so when. Current plans show that there will be 30,000 more jobs than houses by 2031.
- ◆ whether the proposed £500 million is just an attempt by government to paper over gaping holes in how much Cambridgeshire needs to finance infrastructure. The costs are estimated at £4bn, of which £2bn is for transport. Within the city a contribution of £500million will still leave a gap of £760 million.
- ◆ what kind of increase in congestion could be regarded as "acceptable."
- ◆ why increases in traffic should be inevitable when over the past few years blocking off the city centre and successful Park and Ride services had actually reduced traffic.

The elephant in the room was what £500million can buy. Private discussions suggested that the County has done a very poor job in showing what the carrot could be and everyone is fixated on the stick. This will be rectified.

The second meeting took place on 10th March. A congestion charge in Cambridge could save plumbers £2,500 a year as they spend more time plumbing and less stuck in traffic jams. The

	<p>evidence came from Dick Jarvis, Chairman of the Cambridgeshire branch of the Federation of Small Businesses.</p> <p>These figures are based on a plumber wasting 6.2 hours a week in congestion. Transport Commission member Professor Tony Travers pointed out that at a plumber's rate of £25 an hour the real figure was more like £7500 a year. Dick Jarvis admitted that his members didn't really understand the implications of the charge.</p> <p>Meanwhile Liberal Democrats have urged the county council to produce a simple guide to explain what benefits the Transport Innovation Fund money would bring.</p> <p>If anyone would like to go along you can find out all about the Cambridgeshire Transport Commission on its website. www.cambstransportcommission.co.uk.</p> <p>Stars Cambridgeshire has been awarded three stars (out of four) for its overall operations. This is the last year in which local authorities will be rated in this way. Next year sees the introduction of Comprehensive Area Assessment, where the main judgements are made by residents, combining their views on all local services they receive from all public service providers, including the police, NHS, county and district councils.</p> <p>For a second year in a row the county has received four stars (out of four) for use of resources. Once again I take no personal credit for this, but it is nice to see that the Audit and Accounts Committee, of which I am chairman, is responsible for ensuring that finances are properly and safely controlled and that the risks which the county faces are understood and dealt with. Cambridgeshire ranks in the top third of county councils across the country.</p> <p>The county's Trading Standards have received a Beacon Award for cutting red tape and delivering real economic and social benefit through better local regulation. Choice of award winners is led by the Department for Communities and Local Government. These are local government Oscars.</p>	
6.	<p>The meeting was opened to Mr A Deans</p> <p>Cllr Roberts left the room at this point</p> <p>a) Mr Deans displayed the Chris Boote Memorial trophy that had been won by Fowlmere. He also passed to the Clerk a copy of tournament finance documents for 2008.</p> <p>b) Mr Deans stated that speeding in Long Lane/Shepreth Road was getting worse and that if signs are not maintained the Police cannot take action in the event of an accident. One sign can only be seen from one direction and another sign is missing.</p> <p>Cllr Stone advised he would speak to CCC Highways Division.</p> <p>Cllr Bates advised that the matter would also be referred to the next Police Liaison meeting.</p> <p>The meeting was closed to Mr Deans who left the meeting at this point.</p> <p>MB stated that road signs are the responsibility of CCC. DR asked TS if the County would be interested if the PC could pay half of the cost.</p> <p>Cllr Roberts returned to the room</p>	
8.	<p>PLANNING – (Item 7 will be heard following Item 8, Planning and Item 9, Affordable Housing)</p>	
8/A	<p>MINUTES OF A MEETING OF FOWLMERE PARISH COUNCIL PLANNING COMMITTEE HELD IN DOROTHY PLUCK ROOM, ST. MARY'S CHURCH on</p>	

10 March 2009 at 7.30pm

PRESENT: Cllr D Roberts, Cllr P Flynn, Cllr M Bates, Cllr B Hawkins, Cllr D Woods, Cllr W Kohler, Cllr P Cook, Mrs J Fletcher (Clerk)

APOLOGIES: Apologies were received from Cllr A Eades.

IN ATTENDANCE: Nine residents from the village

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. Proposals by Circle Anglia for Affordable Housing

Cllr Roberts thanked everyone for attending and explained that for a number of years the PC has been looking for a suitable area for affordable housing development, as Council housing in the village is greatly reduced.

Cllr Roberts introduced Mike Sugden, a colleague and Tony Welland from Circle Anglia and Schuyler Newstead, Housing Manager, SCDC - Circle Anglia had been approached by two groups of landowners in the village to purchase exception site land for affordable housing development.

Cllr Roberts explained that the purpose of the meeting was not a decision-making exercise but an opportunity for Circle Anglia to outline three proposals – two at the Triangle and one in Shepreth Road – and to provide residents with an opportunity to be made aware of these proposals. DR suggested everyone look at the sites in question and consider the implications.

Affordable Housing will be an agenda item for the 17th March monthly PC meeting when a decision would be made whether to support or not support, in principle, the proposals; the PC would then advise Circle Anglia of their decision.

Mike Sugden outlined a previously proposed scheme in Cambridge Road which had terminated when the landlord withdrew his offer to sell his land. The landowner is again interested in selling and initial sketch ideas to develop the site were circulated to all present.

An initial sketch proposal for a site in Shepreth Road was also circulated.

Circle Anglia has support from SCDC for the Triangle sites but feedback is awaited for the Shepreth Road site. Circle Anglia is looking for guidance from the PC whether they feel support can be given.

DR stated that the PC would prefer two small sites rather than one big development and would not want the development to be for more than the village need.

Schuyler Newstead gave her interpretation of an exception site and mentioned that an exception site is not within the development framework and can only therefore be developed for affordable housing. SN stated that the Housing Needs survey of 2007 identified a need in Fowlmere for at least 10 properties within two years and a further 13 properties in the following 2-5 years.

A landowner will receive between £8,000 and £10,000 per plot when selling land for affordable housing development.

Mike Sugden advised that in the current financial climate Circle Anglia is trying to avoid shared ownership of property but should a development commence in two year's time the market may have improved and a mix of ownership could be considered.

	<p>Circle Anglia stated that SCDC will provide part of the funding and the development will be for 2 and 3 bedroom houses. Rent for a two-bed property could be in the region of £90/£95 per week. Specific needs, e.g. bungalows, could be considered.</p> <p>Tony Welland stated that good quality materials are always used for properties and features could be chimneys (for decoration), and traditional look for houses. Lighting on each property is a regulation and talks with County Council would be necessary for anything more. DR mentioned that current residents might not want mass lighting to invade their space.</p> <p><u>Comments from the Public</u></p> <p>Interested in how this development will contradict previous approved plans. Reply was that Affordable Housing is for exception sites which have nothing to do with the Development Framework plans of a village.</p> <p>MB mentioned that in the light of these current proposals, and following past interest by Sheldrick Farming to offer their land for affordable housing, they were approached to ascertain if this land could still be considered – the reply was that this land will not be offered. The Sheldrick field is outside the village envelope and considered a special countryside frontage.</p> <p>Circle Anglia confirmed that hedging would be retained on proposal '1'.</p> <p>DR clarified again that the sites in question are exception sites outside the village envelope which would not be given planning permission for open market development.</p> <p>DR concluded the meeting by explaining that residents would have an opportunity to comment if a planning application was submitted for any scheme.</p> <p>The Parish Council will decide at the 17th March PC meeting which site, if any, they would support for affordable housing development.</p> <p>The public is welcome at all PC meetings when a short time will be made available for questions and comments.</p> <p>3. Other Matters and Updates – There were no other matters to discuss.</p> <p>There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.40 pm</p>	
9.	AFFORDABLE HOUSING	
	<p>Cllr Roberts displayed various documents showing the village envelope, green belt areas, etc. Information regarding exception sites was also available.</p> <p>DR reiterated that neither of the proposed sites was within the village envelope. A Housing Association had been offered two sites adjacent to the village envelope – Shepreth Road and Triangle site.</p> <p>Following the Planning meeting on 10th March DR had requested that Councillors visit the sites. Now the Parish Council must decide whether to support these offers of land and whether to support the development of one or both sites.</p> <p><u>Information for consideration:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Both sites fit the criteria • SCDC Planners in principle believe the Triangle site can be developed • SCDC Planners have not yet commented on the Shepreth Road site. • CCC, Highways Division would need to comment on whether visibility is acceptable • It would be undesirable to have an entrance on Thriplow Road as this would mean the 	

	<p>hedge would be removed</p> <p><u>Councillors views were as follows:</u></p> <p>DW – Agreed with the views expressed by Cllr Roberts and her preference would be the Triangle site with Cambridge Road access. DW has grave concerns about the Shepreth Road site due to road access.</p> <p>BH – Would also support the Triangle site with Cambridge Road access. The footpath near the Shepreth Road site is less than 1 metre wide and the road cannot be changed.</p> <p>PF – Triangle site with Cambridge Road access is the best proposal.</p> <p>AE – Triangle site with Cambridge Road access is the best proposal because of visibility.</p> <p>WK – Triangle site with Cambridge Road access and the 30 mph limit moved.</p> <p>PC – Triangle site with Cambridge Road access appears to be the best option.</p> <p>The Parish Council was unanimous in supporting the Triangle/Cambridge Road proposal.</p> <p>DR suggested that Circle Angle be asked to return with their ideas on the proposed street scene and lighting.</p>	
	<p>The meeting was opened to the public</p> <p>Public: The meeting was asked for a copy of their Terms of Reference, especially regarding declarations of interest.</p> <p>PC: It was explained to late-comers that all appropriate declarations of interest had been made at the beginning of the meeting.</p> <p>Public: Lighting is extremely poor and there are no traffic calming measures.</p> <p>PC: MB mentioned that street lighting has been a contentious issue in the village for a number of years.</p> <p>Road safety is a County Council issue and all public organisations would be involved in the decision-making process should a planning application be submitted for this development. Everyone in the immediate vicinity would be given an opportunity by SCDC to submit their comments direct to the Planning Authority.</p> <p>DR stated that although the PC is not obliged to do so, relevant property owners had been advised of this proposal at the outset.</p> <p>Public: Speeding traffic is an issue.</p> <p>Cambridge Road is not a safe route without lighting and footpaths.</p> <p>No-one from the Shepreth Road area had attended a PC meeting.</p> <p>PC: The Police have been requested to carry out a speed survey in the village and this is still awaited.</p> <p>Cllr Stone advised that there are strict rules on where a 30 mph sign can be sited and that any move will be at the cost of the Developer.</p> <p>Public: Believe the landowner is offering this plot as a means to a much bigger end.</p> <p>PC: MB explained that there had been two previous attempts by the landowner to sell the land for social housing and neither had succeeded.</p> <p>As a Council, we would not support a wider development on this site.</p> <p>Public: Is there a list of people waiting for social housing and how can people get on the list?</p> <p>PC: Yes, there is a list and people write to SCDC.</p> <p>There was a full housing survey done in 2007 which showed there is a need for social housing. Such a development would only be for people in the village or with a village connection. If there are not enough on the list to fill the development, then neighbouring village lists would be included.</p> <p>The meeting was closed to the public at this point and the residents left the room.</p>	

7.	PRESENTATION BY KIRSTEN BICKNELL																									
	<p>Kirsten Bicknell is the Arts Development Manager at Melbourn Village College and one aspect of her job involves working with local schools.</p> <p>Mr R Elcock, Headmaster at Fowlmere school, had proposed the children be involved in redecorating the bus shelter at the war memorial. The PC felt that this would be a great idea and fully supported the project.</p> <p>KB advised that a 5-day project of this nature could cost £1500 of which there was the potential of a £750 contribution. Fund-raising will be necessary. KB will try and find funding for this project and an artist to help. DW advised that the PC Finance committee will meet on 7th April and possible financial help with the project could be discussed then. As the precept has already been set for the coming year the PC would need KB to raise as much as possible.</p> <p>KB also advised that there will be a window of small glass tiles made at MVC to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the College and DR will be the PC representative.</p>	<p>Cllr Woods</p> <p>Cllr Roberts</p>																								
	Cllr Stone, Mr Elcock and Kirsten Bicknell left the meeting at this point																									
10.	BURIAL BOARD																									
	<p>A request to refund a plot purchase (£120.00) had been received. The initial views of the meeting were to refund £60.00. Full details will be circulated to all Councillors before a final decision is made.</p> <p>£21.00 had been received from the War Graves Commission in respect of grave maintenance costs.</p>	Clerk																								
11.	TREES, GRASS AND HEDGES																									
	Cllrs Bates, Woods and Roberts are still to visit the cemetery to look at possible hedging and will now meet at 2.30 on 26 th March.	Cllrs Bates, Woods and Roberts																								
12.	FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES																									
	The next Finance meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, 7 th April 2009.																									
	<p>Cheques signed since January 2009 meeting</p> <table> <tbody> <tr> <td>Mrs J Fletcher</td> <td>February salary</td> <td>£ 404.64</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mrs J Fletcher</td> <td>Unpaid salary rise</td> <td>£ 198.72</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mrs J Fletcher</td> <td>Repayment of credit card item for data protection registration</td> <td>£ 35.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cambridge Water</td> <td>Cemetery water rates</td> <td>£ 43.15</td> </tr> <tr> <td>SCDC</td> <td>Eurobin collection</td> <td>£ 122.59</td> </tr> <tr> <td>St. Mary's church</td> <td>Room hire</td> <td>£ 130.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>SeniorLink</td> <td>Monitoring</td> <td>£ 66.52</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Gardencare</td> <td>Ivy removal from trees</td> <td>£ 60.00</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Mrs J Fletcher	February salary	£ 404.64	Mrs J Fletcher	Unpaid salary rise	£ 198.72	Mrs J Fletcher	Repayment of credit card item for data protection registration	£ 35.00	Cambridge Water	Cemetery water rates	£ 43.15	SCDC	Eurobin collection	£ 122.59	St. Mary's church	Room hire	£ 130.00	SeniorLink	Monitoring	£ 66.52	Gardencare	Ivy removal from trees	£ 60.00	
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13.	CORRESPONDENCE – nothing to discuss																									
14.	OTHER MATTERS																									
	<p><u>Village Hall</u> MB advised that the Village Hall committee has asked for the basketball court to be included under the PC insurance policy. Costs involved will be ascertained before a decision is made.</p>	Clerk																								

	<p><u>Clerk Vacancy</u> Interviews had been held and both candidates were very well qualified. The interview panel – MB, BH, DW – agreed on a candidate and a verbal offer has been made and accepted. An announcement will be made as soon as the necessary paperwork has been received. The new Clerk will take up her position at the end of April.</p>	
15.	<p>CONFIRM DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS</p> <p>Finance Meeting Tuesday, 7th April 2009 PC Meeting Tuesday, 21st April 2009 Annual Parish meeting Tuesday, 5th May 2009 PC Annual meeting Tuesday, 19th May 2009</p>	
	The meeting closed at 9.05 pm	
	Clerk to the Parish Council: Julie Fletcher, 21 Ryecroft Lane, Fowlmere, SG8 7TT	