

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF FOWLMERE PARISH COUNCIL HELD  
IN THE SCHOOL ROOM, UNITED REFORMED CHURCH, CHAPEL LANE  
16<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2010 AT 7.30 PM**

**PRESENT:** Cllr D Roberts (Chairman), Cllr M Bates, Cllr P Cook, Cllr A Eades, Cllr P Flynn,  
Cllr E O'Regan, Cllr Schonken, Cllr D Woods, Mrs J Wright (Clerk)

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Cllr Tim Stone, Mrs M Thornton, Mr and Mrs Jelley, Mrs Y Wooldridge, Mr  
S Lester

		<b>Actions</b>
1.	<b>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:</b> Apologies were received from Cllr Kohler.	
2.	<b>DECLARATION OF INTEREST IN AGENDA ITEMS:</b> No items were declared	
3.	<b>MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF 16<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2010:</b> The minutes were agreed and signed as a true record.	
4.	<b>MATTERS ARISING:</b> All matters are covered in the agenda	
5.	<p><b>VILLAGE HALL:</b> Cllr Bates and Cllr Flynn attended the last VH meeting (3<sup>rd</sup> March) and the minutes have been circulated. Cllr Roberts had concerns, namely that there is no mention of a priority list of jobs to be done and also that the VH don't appear to have applied to SCDC for available funding (the money is available in May) and it's imperative that if they have projects in mind they need to apply. Cllr Bates reported that Mrs Goodfellow has spoken to SCDC but we are not aware of the outcome.</p> <p>The comments from Cambridgeshire ACRE have not shown the PC in a favourable light - the Parish Council has supported the VH for years in different ways including paying for the original Public Works Loan.</p> <p>Cllr Bates said they need to be very clear what exactly they are asking money for, ie green issues, new boiler. We need clear thinking and decision making on what they need the money for and they need to move swiftly. They seem to be concentrating on the £8000 revenue funding but it's the bigger picture that will need funding.</p> <p>Cllr Schonken kindly sent a pro-forma business plan, which should be useful.</p> <p>Cllr Woods has said no one has come back to her re caravan clubs, despite her offering to mail-shot local caravan clubs.</p> <p>Regarding the security cameras – the Clerk had a request from the VH to now purchase the digital video recorder as the committee were confident that the VH would stay open. Cllr Roberts suggested this is taken to the next Finance Committee Meeting for further discussion and the Clerk to put in a holding e-mail in the short term.</p> <p>It was agreed that it would be sensible to source the deeds, which are probably archived with the solicitor – Clerk to ask them to source (Hewittsons in Newmarket Road, Cambridge). This was prompted by a comment from Cllr Schonken saying that unfortunately we do need to be aware of the worse-case scenario of the VH closing. Cllr Flynn to provide a copy of the lease.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Cllr Flynn</p>

	Cllr O'Regan also reported that the new VH website is now on-line.	
6.	<p><b>COUNTY COUNCIL AFFAIRS:</b> Councillor Stone gave his report:</p> <p><b>“Household Recycling</b> <i>You may have seen that the Thriplow Household Recycling Centre (aka Tip) is now being refurbished. This will certainly make it a better place for the staff. I'm still not entirely clear what will happen when the rear part of the site is opened up but the site should be less cramped as a result.</i></p> <p><i>Last week I went to the exhibition at Shelford Rugby Club which coincided with the last opportunity people have to comment on the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste plan. The most important local issue is where to put a Household Recycling Centre for the south-west corner of Cambridge. It seems pretty clear that the residents of The Shelfords are mostly in favour of the proposed site of the Addenbrooke's relief road. Some residents of Trumpington object because the building would create further incursion into the Green Belt. Personally I believe that if the artist's impressions of the new building are anything to go by then there is nothing to worry about.</i></p> <p><i>Because the Trumpington site will be state of the art on two levels, it could be attractive to some residents of Fowlmere who are less than comfortable at having to climb stairs to get their waste into skips.</i></p> <p><b>Transport Innovation Fund</b> <i>The opportunity to get £500million to improve access to Cambridge, reduce congestion and pollution has been lost. The County is putting a brave face on this, saying that the lessons learned will put us in pole position for a bid for the newly announced Urban Challenge Fund.</i></p> <p><i>The work carried out for the original Cambridgeshire bid for the Transport Innovation Fund brought together the views of the public and businesses through the independent Cambridge Transport Commission. This highlighted the need for an extensive package of transport improvements.</i></p> <p><i>The stumbling block was the proposed congestion charge, which caused great resentment. The County wasted millions in trying to appease objectors in launching its bid, though South Cambridgeshire District Council voted against.</i></p> <p><i>As Stagecoach have clearly said, without getting cars off the road, increasing the number of buses will just add to congestion. So it will be interesting to see where how the Urban Challenge Fund bid will go – assuming that the next government doesn't scrap it.</i></p> <p><b>Guided Busway</b> <i>I am a member of the Guided Busway Delivery Group. Its meetings are held in private and in conditions of great confidentiality. Then the next day most of the stuff appears in the Cambridge News. Quite a bit has been published as a result of questions in Full Council and as part of the budget papers.</i></p> <p><i>We have no idea when either part of the busway will be opened. That will depend entirely on the project being delivered in a state which the Council can accept. The contract is written in such a way that the County has to pay the contractor for costs incurred. Once the project is delivered the contractor has to repay all those bits of the overrun which cannot be laid at the door of the Council. Meanwhile the County is already borrowing over £40million which it hadn't expected to borrow and has budgeted £1million a year for the next five years to add to the</i></p>	

project. That £5million would normally have been allocated to other transport projects.

Because the £5 million comes direct from Westminster, the County has claimed that the Council Taxpayer will not have to pay a penny. I have protested that this sort of sleight of hand is what gets politicians a bad name.

### **Potholes**

Potholes have become a scandal. While the County continues to talk about exceptional winters and difficult conditions, the fact is that a properly maintained road network doesn't permit potholes to occur. As I have said before, just have a look next time you're in Switzerland.

The County has said that it has allocated £3 million more for road maintenance. But you only find in the small print that that's over three years. The Liberal Democrat alternative budget proposed spending an extra £5 million above the Conservative figure this year and £7 million next year, which would at least have made an appreciable difference.

Meanwhile County Highways are aware of some 700 potholes within the area covered by Whittlesford depot. Some 40 are being reported daily but many of them have already been reported by other people. Cambridgeshire Highways are working on the most heavily used roads first. Shepreth Road should be dealt with next week but Fowlmere Road is not classified as a heavily used road and there is currently no timetable for fixing it. It is nevertheless very much on Mike Cooper's radar.

### **Accident waiting to happen**

The Spring edition of South Cambs Magazine contains a nugget to say that we suffer significantly more road injuries locally than the national average: 98 per 100,000 population compared with the national average of 54 per 100,000.

Unless you think that our drivers behave much worse than drivers in other parts of the country then you might believe that these figures might have something to do with the state of our roads.

The number of times I have heard about accidents waiting to happen only to be answered by County Highways that there are much more deserving accident spots and too little money.

Which brings me on to: South Cambs Magazine assures us that "a questionnaire was delivered to all households in the middle of January" about the Local Transport Plan. The Local Transport Plan gives you an opportunity to comment on future transport spending.

I've asked ten local parish councils if the questionnaire has been seen in their villages. It hasn't. So why not? The questionnaire allows you to prioritise roads by putting a 1 against Improve roads for cars in the Transport Improvements section. Quite why the County thinks that only cars use roads is beyond me. Cyclists, van and lorry drivers and buses use exactly the same roads and all are fed up with the number of cracks and potholes.

Even without the paper questionnaire you can comment on line at [www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/ltp](http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/ltp)

### **Cereals 2010**

County Highways have been working with the Cereals organisers to try to avoid the problems that arose last year. Part of the problem was 2 accidents that occurred nearby, but with the large volumes of traffic descending on an area with limited space, the organisers have put together a plan which means that visitors will be parking at 3 'park and ride' sites away from the actual site of the event. The traffic management being put in place is mainly for the buses that will be coming to and from the site.

	<p><i>The park and ride sites are situated at Bassingbourn Barracks, an industrial area in Whittlesford and a site just over the border in Essex. There will be no parking on site except for those working at the event and all signage will lead visitors to the park and ride sites. The actual venue for the event is not being publicised, so that visitors will not attempt to park there and will go to the park and ride sites. I feel the organisers have come up with a good plan for the event this year, which should limit the problems Fowlmere experience.</i></p> <p><i>These plans have been discussed with Clive Holgate of Cambridgeshire Constabulary and he is both happy with the Traffic Management Plan.</i></p> <p><b>Roadside Litter</b>  <i>I believe that the District Council has at last cleared up some of the roadside litter along the A505. I have been in contact with them about the poor impression it gives to visitors to Cambridgeshire. The blackspot has been the layby opposite the Seearo site."</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">*****</p> <p>Cllr Roberts is still concerned that Fowlmere does not become a 'through route' for the Cereals 2010 event so please can Cllr Stone keep us updated on any developments. Also regarding pot-holes, several Cllr's have been contacting SCDC about the Fowlmere / Melbourn pot-hole at Mill Road, which hasn't been done yet. Cllr Roberts had written and reported it and the complaint had been acknowledged. Cllr Stone acknowledged that there can be liability against the County Council if there are accidents resulting from the reported holes not been then mended.</p> <p>Cllr Bates reported several other pot-holes - a deepening hole along Butts Lane / Westfield Road and several along Butts Lane outside of the school, also Thriplow Road as it joins the village, also to Foxton from Newton junction.</p>	
7.	<p><b>PLANNING COMMITTEE:</b>  <b>a) MINUTES OF PREVIOUS PLANNING MEETING DATED 2<sup>ND</sup> MARCH 2010</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>MINUTES OF A MEETING OF FOWLMERE PARISH COUNCIL PLANNING COMMITTEE HELD IN THE DOROTHY PLUCK ROOM, ST MARY'S CHURCH, ON 2<sup>ND</sup> MARCH 2010 AT 7.15PM</b></p> <p>PRESENT: Cllr D Roberts (Chair), Cllr M Bates, Cllr P Cook, Cllr P Flynn, Cllr, E O'Regan, Cllr D Woods and Mrs J Wright (Clerk)</p> <p>APOLOGIES: Cllr A Eades and Cllr W Kohler.</p> <p><b>1. Declarations of interest (if any)</b>  Before discussion, Cllr Roberts declared that if an application is later placed before South Cambridgeshire District Council she will approach any new information afresh.</p> <p><b>2. S/1627/09/F – For information only. Permission Granted</b></p> <p>Two Portakabins  <b>Ion Science Ltd, The Way</b></p>	

**Ion Science**

- 3. S/0156/10/LB  
Insert 2 new sash windows, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor south elevation  
**9 Chapel Lane, Fowlmere, Cambridgeshire, SG8 7SA**  
**Dr James Hobro**

The Parish Council recommended approval as the windows are in keeping with the building and do not impede on any neighbouring properties. The Council are pleased to see the continuing upgrade of an important local building.

- 4. S/0210/10/F  
Extensions  
**St Marys Prospect, Rectory Lane, Fowlmere, Cambridgeshire, SG8 7TL**  
**Mr & Mrs Chris and Jennifer Neild**

The Parish Council recommend approval and, although the size of the house is doubling, the plot is adequate to take that size of extension and is in keeping with the area.

**5. Other Matters and Updates**

An update on affordable housing (Circle Anglia) was requested by Cllr Bates for the next meeting. Clerk to put it as an agenda item.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 7:30pm

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The Clerk updated that PC that the application for item 3 (above) had since been withdrawn.

**b) UPDATE ON AFFORDABLE HOUSING SCHEME**

Cllr Roberts updated the Parish Council to say that Circle Anglia appear to have come to an agreement with the owners of the land and should be preparing Heads of Terms soon, so it appears to be moving quite well now. Cllr Roberts asked whether we should notify the neighbours yet of any developments – it was agreed to notify the near neighbours when a planning application is submitted.

**The meeting was then opened to members of the public and press.**

Mr Lester asked regarding the affordable housing scheme - will there be improvements to the footway / lighting? Cllr Eades reported they should be included in the scheme and will be further discussed. Cllr Roberts added that villagers will get priority for the houses within the development (probably rented only). It's only an outline plan at the moment.

Cllr Bates reported that on 4<sup>th</sup> December we signed the agreement for payment for the tree survey and only received the paperwork this week. Payment to be made by



	Clerk to send e-mail re Sportsmatch to VH Committee – Keith Goodwin.	Clerk
12.	<p><b>ACTION LIST UPDATE:</b>  Cllr Roberts to speak again to SCDC re 1 Ryecroft Lane.</p> <p>The Bus shelter is on hold until correct contracts have been received.</p> <p>Cllr's to provide an update for the profile on the web-site</p> <p>Ask Cllr Stone re grit bins liability at April meeting</p>	<p>Cllr Roberts</p> <p>All</p> <p>Clerk</p>
13.	<p><b>OTHER MATTERS:</b></p> <p>a) Cllr Flynn suggested that Highways need to put a sign at the High Street end of Rectory Lane saying 'no large vehicles' as they are knocking into the wall as they turn in. Clerk to ask Cllr Stone</p> <p>b) Cllr Bates asked that as there have been staff reductions at SCDC, will there be any major effects on overall budget / service? Cllr Roberts said that it was a great shame that the community development department was massively reduced now.</p> <p>c) The date of the next full PC meeting is 7:30pm on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2010 at the URC Chapel, Chapel Lane, preceded by the Finance Meeting on the same date, at the same venue at 7:00pm.</p> <p>The meeting closed at 8:55pm</p>	Clerk