

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF FOWLMERE PARISH COUNCIL HELD
IN THE SCHOOL ROOM, UNITED REFORMED CHURCH, CHAPEL LANE
15TH MARCH 2011 AT 7.30 PM**

PRESENT: Cllr D Roberts (Chairman), Cllr M Bates, Cllr O'Regan, Cllr J Peacock,
Cllr M Sunderland, Cllr N Webb, Cllr L Wragg and Mrs J Wright (Clerk)

IN ATTENDANCE: Cllr Stone, Mr J Bottrill, Mr J Jackson, PCSO L Gardiner

		Actions
1.	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Apologies were received from Cllr Eades	
2.	DECLARATION OF INTEREST IN AGENDA ITEMS: No items were declared.	
3.	MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF 8TH FEBRUARY 2011: The minutes were agreed and signed as a true record.	
4.	MATTERS ARISING: Mr Roskilly had, at the last meeting, said he had spoken to the landowner of the Thriplow Triangle saying that once Circle Anglia had purchased their land, he had been informed that more land would be sold to the neighbouring properties at an inflated price. Circle Anglia have stated that they have no knowledge of this and in fact they need every inch of the land they are purchasing so this is incorrect information. Mr Blake at Circle Anglia said he was happy to confirm this with Mr Roskilly if necessary.	
5.	<p>COUNTY COUNCIL AFFAIRS: Cllr Stone was gave the following report:</p> <p><i>“Bus meeting</i> <i>Thanks to your Chairman for coming along to the first bus meeting last week. To my mind the event was well worth the effort. Parish councils got a fairly clear idea of the process of what happens when bus subsidies are withdrawn. They were given a view of what kind of alternatives could be put in place to keep people mobile and they could discover from the professionals the amount of work being done by the District Council, County Council and others to meet the challenge.</i></p> <p><i>As yet the 31 is unaffected but the 139 is withdrawn from 17th April. The next tranche of cuts will come in late October. Meanwhile the County has chosen to cut now and think later.</i></p> <p><i>I was surprised to hear how involved the District Council is in transport policy. Susan van de Ven, County Councillor for Melbourn and I held a meeting this morning with their Kathryn Hawkes, who has done an enormous amount of work on preparing the way for life without bus subsidies.</i></p> <p><i>Civil Parking Enforcement</i> <i>The District Council has agreed with Cambridgeshire’s plan for parking enforcement across the County to be operated by Civil Enforcement Officers rather than by the police. This already applies in Cambridge and has also been agreed by East Cambridgeshire. The next step is to apply to the Department for Transport to</i></p>	

introduce this next phase.

The County's cabinet took this decision this morning and I went to speak as local member. I raised a number of issues including the fact that outside consultants had proposed one Civil Enforcement Officer for the whole of South Cambridgeshire. This compares with six for East Cambridgeshire and 21 for Cambridge. I'm sure that the consultants were not only well meaning but also well paid.

The County had also noted that if parking enforcement wasn't properly managed it could undermine modal shift strategies. They want modal shift to sustainable forms of transport, which I think translates as getting car drivers onto buses. I pointed out that there was a flaw in the argument when the County was busy removing the very mode to which they wanted people to shift. Oh the joys of opposition!

Where does the money go?

*In last week's **First**, a magazine which is sent to all district, unitary and county councillors, there is a quote from the Local Government Information Unit saying, "A clearer relationship between local income, local spend and local outcomes would allow citizens to see more clearly where local government is or is not delivering for them and would re-energise local democracy."*

I had already tried this idea out on the County and met a brick wall. The information is available and I believe would make it more difficult for people to claim that they don't get their moneysworth from the council. I should be interested to know what you think.

Sawston and Linton Locality Partnership.

This new partnership met last Monday. I know that this doesn't affect Fowlmere but the same arrangements will be applied in the Melbourn Village College catchment area. The idea is to look after our local young people better so that they lead productive, happy, healthy lives and flourish to the best of their abilities.

I was horrified that all these excellent professionals, drawn from the County's youth service, heads of Village Colleges, Cambridgeshire Constabulary, the Health service, District and County councillors, charity bosses and all managed to create a miasma of buzzwords.

Once you have waded through the mire of Common Assessment Frameworks, Locality Allocation and Referral Meetings, Team Around the Child meetings, you will find that parish councils are to be invited to take a greater role in improving the lives of disadvantaged or disaffected young people. I shall be interested to see how parish councils react. No doubt more information and guidance will become available soon."

Cllr Roberts thanked Cllr Stone for his report and added that there would be a need for Parishes to consult their parishioners as to what the needs are of villagers when bus services are threatened. It's imperative in June that parishes know what the next level of cuts are, in order to set precept in for 2012-13. There may be mileage about joining Foxton in a scheme and there are other options such as community transport

	<p>which are available.</p> <p>PCSO Gardiner came along to the meeting and was pleased to report that there had been 3 clear months with regard to anti-social incidents and dwelling burglary in Fowlmere.</p> <p>Regarding the pot-holes in Mill Road, they have now been filled and it seems that the repairs are the final ones and not to be re-done. The PC will monitor the state of the repairs and are grateful to Cllr Stone's support in the media in pressing for them. Cllr Bates said the gutterings in Long Lane and the road towards Newton are not of good quality and will result in damage to cars and financial claims to the county.</p>	
6.	<p>UPDATE ON THE VILLAGE HALL:</p> <p>Cllr Bates attended the last meeting. An application has been made to SCDC regarding funding and that has been deferred by SCDC for the present, probably until April. The fundraising efforts continue to be successful, due to the considerable efforts of the fundraising team.</p>	
7.	<p>FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT POLICY:</p> <p>This is following a request from a member of the public. The Clerk contacted the SCDC legal expert on this matter and put together a policy. Following some research, Cllr Wragg suggested a charge of 15p per sheet, Cllr Bates seconded. All agreed.</p> <p>Cllr Wragg proposed the policy should be adopted by the Council, Cllr Sunderland seconded the motion and all agreed. The Clerk to put the policy on the web-site.</p>	Clerk
8.	<p>PLANNING COMMITTEE a) Minutes from 8th February 2011</p> <p>MINUTES OF A MEETING OF FOWLMERE PARISH COUNCIL PLANNING COMMITTEE HELD IN THE SCHOOL ROOM, URC, CHAPEL LANE, FOWLMERE ON 8TH FEBRUARY 2011 AT 7:15PM</p> <p>PRESENT: Cllr D Roberts (Chair), Cllr M Bates, Cllr O Regan, Cllr J Peacock and Mrs J Wright (Clerk)</p> <p>APOLOGIES: Cllr A Eades, Cllr M Sunderland, Cllr N Webb and Cllr L Wragg</p> <p>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.</p> <p>2. S/2116/10 First Floor Extension, including raising of the ridge height Ion Science, The Way, Fowlmere, Royston, Herts, SG8 7UJ Ion Science Cllr Roberts read out a letter from Mrs Young in Cambridge Road regarding the use of Green Lane for drivers working at Ion Science and how she believed this contravenes previous planning orders (drivers should access Ion Science via The Way only) and is dangerous to pedestrians crossing Green Lane.</p> <p>The Parish Council do not object to this amended application but they asked the Clerk to</p>	

ask SCDC to confirm where the access for Ion Science is supposed to be and if, as residents believe, is only via The Way then we would need that condition strictly applied and adhered to.

3. Other Matters and Updates

Other Matters and Updates *(for information only)*

There were no further matters for discussion.

The meeting closed at 7:20pm

a) Minutes from 1st March 2011

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF FOWLMERE PARISH COUNCIL PLANNING COMMITTEE HELD IN THE SCHOOL ROOM, URC, CHAPEL LANE, FOWLMERE ON 1ST MARCH 2011 AT 7:30PM

PRESENT: Cllr D Roberts (Chair), Cllr A Eades, Cllr O Regan, Cllr J Peacock, Cllr M Sunderland, Cllr L Wragg and Mrs J Wright (Clerk)

APOLOGIES: Cllr M Bates and Cllr N Webb

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. C/11/40/071

Application to undertake work on trees situated within a Conservation Area

St Mary Prospect, Rectory Lane, Fowlmere, Royston, Herts

Mr F Cattle – Agent

The Parish Council agreed that unless the Silver Birch and Indian Bean trees are diseased, dangerous or causing structural damage they should only be pruned / maintained. The leylandii can be removed if deemed necessary. All works to be undertaken outside of the nesting season.

3. C/11/40/070

Application to undertake work on trees situated within a Conservation Area

Welding Alloys, High Street, Fowlmere, Royston, Herts

Mr F Cattle – Agent

The Parish Council do not wish to see any trees removed that aren't diseased, dangerous or causing structural damage. These trees provide good screening against the industrial nature of the works from the High Street in the village (both visually and by reducing noise). They maintain the character and rural aspect and should only be minimally maintained.

4. Other Matters and Updates

	<p>Other Matters and Updates <i>(for information only)</i> There were no further matters for discussion. The meeting closed at 7:45pm</p> <p>Both sets of minutes were agreed and signed as a true and accurate record.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">*****</p> <p>b) AFFORDABLE HOUSING UPDATE IN FOWLMERE</p> <p>Cllr Roberts reported that the Consultation period at SCDC has now finished. She had a brief conversation this week with the planning contact for the application, Paul Derry, at SCDC and asked when it was likely to go to the Planning Committee at SCDC? The reply was that it was perhaps unnecessary to go to Full Committee as all parties were in general agreement. Cllr Roberts stressed that this may not be an ideal scenario as there are residents in Fowlmere who may perceive the process to not be above-board. Therefore, in order to avoid that, Cllr Roberts suggested that the PC contact SCDC and request that the application goes to Full Committee. This needs to be in writing, Clerk to write. It is a regrettable situation, as this will waste public money but it does ensure that no one can be under any illusion that things haven't been done properly. This will also ensure a site visit as part of the process too. Cllr Sunderland proposed to send a letter, Cllr O'Regan seconded and all agreed.</p> <p>Paul Derry reported that amendments will be made to the design, including reductions in the openings in the hedge towards Thriplow Road. Cllr Wragg requested that those openings are made with minimal damage to the hedge. The Clerk to go back to Paul Derry to ask when the PC will be getting the amendments, as they will wish to comment on them. They need to find out if they are for commenting on or viewing only?</p> <p>Cllr Roberts asked if a footpath had been included but the County Council couldn't make it a requirement due to the wide verges and long views but the PC are still hopeful it will be considered.</p> <p>Cllr Bates reported that vehicles are parked on the outside of their properties on the verge in order to deviate a course in-between – he wondered if this was a strategy by local residents to slow traffic along the Thriplow Road and reduce speeding?</p> <p>The meeting was then opened to members of the public and press</p> <p>Mr Bottrill reported that the speeding sign was not working in Pipers Close. The clerk will report it is not working to CCC Highways. Mr Bottrill added that even when working it was not a particularly useful speeding sign and one that shows your actual speed might be better.</p> <p>Mr Jackson said speeding is still a major problem at Appleacre Park. They would like to see the 30mph limit taken further out of the village. Cllr Bates said that it has been suggested before but it isn't the view of CCC Highways. PCSO's have been doing speed checks in the village so they are monitoring the situation. Clerk to ask that they do checks outside of Appleacre.</p> <p>Mr Jackson is alarmed to see an increase in the Council tax (a rise of £8.66 for a Band D average property, per annum) – how can the PC justify this? Cllr Roberts replied that the PC have looked at the precept very carefully and</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>
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	<p>have many ongoing responsibilities. All money is spent very carefully and the PC also do many extra things like the village alarm scheme, improvements to the Butts playing area and considerable, long-term tree work to protect the Round Moat. The County Council is suggesting it may soon be unable to provide some services and Parish Councils have been encouraged to take financial responsibility for these.</p> <p>Cllr Wragg added that the PC has generally under-spent in previous years. The PC has a responsibility also to the Village Hall which has been underinvested in over previous years too. The precept increase is in line with inflation, plus a provision for the Village Hall, in case it is needed.</p> <p>Cllr Roberts hopes that residents will appreciate that it costs money to keep the village in a good state of repair.</p>	
9.	<p>BURIAL BOARD: There was nothing to report this month. A payment had been received for a memorial stone for Arber and a previous cremation</p>	
10.	<p>TREES, GRASS AND HEDGES: Village Hall Fencing – A request was made for re-imburement for some fencing bordering the VH, although the PC did not request the work, which would have required the work to have been quoted for by several parties and been agreed by the PC in advance. Cllr Bates to investigate the responsibility. The Clerk to put in a holding e-mail to the resident.</p> <p>The three quotes regarding the work to the trees on the Butts will be taken to the next Finance meeting.</p> <p>Mr Newby of Top Close contacted the PC about some tree work he wishes to undertake opposite his house. He has the permission of the land-owners and SCDC but the PC agreed that Mr Newby should seek advice from SCDC as to whether a formal application to undertake works to trees needs to be submitted. If not, the actual land-owners will need to agree permission with SCDC before any work can commence.</p> <p>Cllr Bates reported that the Clerk is looking to obtain quotes for the programme of work in the main body of the Moat.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk (Agenda)</p> <p>Clerk</p>
11.	<p>FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES: Cllr O'Regan reported on this month's expenditures and the year has concluded within budget – there are no unexpected items this month.</p> <p>a) PAYE for Clerks Salary. This is now a requirement for Clerks and she will continue the registration process. The Clerks salary to be increased as planned from April 2011 to bring it into line with the CPALC recommendations.</p> <p>b) Youth Club (Melbourn) The Youth Club is looking for a donation of £300, which is in line with the attendance from Melbourn (other parishes pay a much higher contribution). They wish to improve their offering, not just simply cover costs. The Youth Club committee would like to welcome us to one of their group meetings. Cllr O'Regan agreed to attend their next meeting before the PC can commit to future support.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk / Cllr O'Regan</p>

12.	<p>CORRESPONDENCE: Regarding the Post Office, Cllr Roberts reported that 2 x 2hr slots are being proposed for the village, where a Post Office service comes to the village and requires only a venue in which to set up in. This is a minimal service but better than having none at all. The PO visited the village last week and three venues were approached in the village. Mr Jackson suggested approaching an additional venue with regard to hosting the service. The Clerk to pass on this to the PO but the PC wouldn't take further part in any further negotiations.</p> <p>Regarding a letter from a Solicitor about the S106 agreement for Cassander Close (due to the sale of Holly Cottage). He was requesting confirmation that the PC would never take on the public open space (currently owned by the Crown) but this is not something the PC could provide assurance about. The PC would be concerned that the land could fall into private ownership and could seek to prevent that happening in the future. The Clerk to reply.</p>	Clerk Clerk
13.	<p>ACTION LIST UPDATE: The action list was updated accordingly.</p> <p>The Clerk requested a date change for the June meeting from 21st June to 28th June 2011. This has been agreed by the URC.</p>	
14.	<p>OTHER MATTERS: Cllr Peacock reported a complaint about the land known as Crow's Parlour in Chapel Lane and had photos of broken glass and general building materials left unsecured in an area with poor security. Cllr Roberts said she would speak to the tenant renting the land in the hope that they would sort this out without seeking further advice and support from SCDC Environmental Health, as this is a real danger for children playing and getting onto the site, as responsibility lies with the tenant / landowner.</p> <p>The meeting closed at 10:00pm</p> <p>The date of the next meeting is 7:30pm Tuesday 19th April 2011 at the URC, Chapel Lane.</p>	Cllr Roberts