

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

PRESENT: Cllr D Roberts (Chairman), Cllr A Eades, Cllr O'Regan, Cllr J Peacock,
Cllr M Sunderland, Cllr N Webb, Mrs J Wright (Clerk)

IN ATTENDANCE: Cllr Tim Stone.

		Actions
1.	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Apologies were received from Cllr Bates and Cllr Wragg.	
2.	DECLARATION OF INTEREST IN AGENDA ITEMS: No items were declared.	
3.	MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF 19TH OCTOBER 2010: The minutes were agreed and signed as a true record. a) Change of date for December meeting. All Cllr's agreed to move the meeting to the week earlier – 14 th December 2010 as the 21 st was very close to Christmas. Clerk to check the URC is available for the meeting.	Clerk
4.	MATTERS ARISING: Item 8 – Cllr Roberts reported that half of the bulbs were planted in the Cemetery. The Vicar at the URC would be very happy to organise planting on the Chapel Lane Triangle. Clerk to take the bulbs to Mrs Shaw in Chapel Lane.	Clerk
5.	UPDATE ON THE VILLAGE HALL: Cllr Roberts opened discussion on the VH wish list regarding items which need to be purchased for the full renovation of the VH. SCDC will only give 35% towards any given project and a lot of the items on the list are dependent on other factors / involvement. It is a very difficult situation but the PC can't increase the precept by too much to fulfil their wishes but will still include a sum of money. It was agreed that the VH committee members come along to a PC meeting in the New Year for further discussion (Clerk to invite to January 2011 meeting). a) Village Hall Representative This item is deferred until the next meeting when Cllr Bates and Cllr Wragg can attend.	Clerk
6.	COUNTY COUNCIL AFFAIRS: Cllr Stone gave the following report: <i>“Local Enterprise Partnership</i> <i>Last time I reported on the proposal to create a Local Enterprise Partnership covering businesses and local authorities in Cambridgeshire, Peterborough and Rutland. Government has now agreed formation of the Greater Cambridge and Greater Peterborough Local Enterprise Partnership. The Partnership now has to find a role in steering the area without stepping on the toes of democratically elected bodies. The idea is that the LEP will take over the strategic role currently being played by the East of England Regional Development Agency, which is doomed.</i>	

At present there appears to be a great deal of politicking going on while people establish the pecking order.

Meanwhile the High Court has ruled that the Communities Secretary Eric Pickles acted unlawfully by scrapping regional planning strategies, notably for us the Regional Spatial Strategy.

The Secretary of State had tried to use existing legislation, designed to revoke Regional Strategies that had come into force, to terminate the whole of the Regional Strategy process. The Court held that the Secretary of State did not have the power to "...denude primary legislation, without having to seek the approval of Parliament for such a course..." The irony is that Pickles sought to bring to an end the Regional Strategies, which he is so keen to describe as undemocratic, in a way that totally ignored the proper democratic process for his own change.

The Department has already confirmed that the new Localism Bill will deal with the abolition of Regional Strategies. In the interim, the planning system is in an uncomfortable and uncertain hiatus. Draft Regional Strategies must once again be a material consideration in planning decisions, even though planning officers may argue their weight should be limited as they are clearly destined never to come into force.

The County's planners are in a bit of a quandary. All the more so because the East of England Regional Spatial Strategy had been agreed by all levels of government in the East of England and there is nothing to replace it. We shall just have to await the Localism Bill and the Local Enterprise Partnership showing some leadership. Alex Plant, Chief Executive of Cambridgeshire Horizons, has the task of bringing the LEP into life.

Addenbrooke's Access Road

The access road is causing a bit of anguish for users. The road from the Shelford Road to Addenbrooke's will serve the newly named settlement of Great Kneighton.

The County has not handled information flows very well but has now produced a list of Frequently Asked Questions which I have passed to parish clerks across the Division.

Streetlights

The County has decided to put its streetlights into the hands of a Private Finance Initiative, thanks to seed money from the government. The PFI will see lights maintained and replaced as necessary by an outside body.

I have already notified parish councils of this development because it will mean that the County will no longer be maintaining parish council owned streetlights. Parishes will shortly be getting a letter from the County outlining the options. Parishes are expected to be able to opt into maintenance by the Private Finance Initiative provider, who will also replace defective lamp standards at parish councils' expense. Parishes will have the option of either continuing to buy power from the County or, as at present, seek an alternative supplier.

I understand that some parishes have already received a letter from a maintenance contractor seeking the maintenance job. I would suggest that they might wish to await the County Council's letter before taking any decisions.

Parish Precepts

It now appears that the Localism Bill will exempt Parishes from the proposed legislation which

	<p>would have constrained increases in precepts. But it is likely that this will apply only to the year 2011/12.</p> <p>Some parish councils are planning quite high increases for next year so that they have a stronger base upon which to apply any future permitted increases.</p> <p>The Localism Bill is keenly awaited because, amongst other things, it will apparently allow councillors to be much more robust in championing pet projects without falling foul of rules on predisposition. It will also allow councillors to lobby fellow councillors. You may have seen a particularly unfortunate case of this in the local papers. Jury out on that one.</p> <p>School flashing lights I have been told that the wrongly phased school lights were adjusted last Friday.</p> <p>Duxford Imperial War Museum at Duxford – they gave their apologies for the delays during the last airshow. Also 35 acres of nearby field suffered a fire due to a model aircraft crashing. There is a development plan for the North side of the airport, this is in it's infancy. The American War Museum is being redeveloped and there is a plan for a hotel near Airspace 1.”</p> <p>Cllr Stone to be Item 2 on the agenda at the December meeting.</p> <p>The Clerk reported that a Fowlmere resident had complained about 6 new trees being planted at Burnaby on Thriplow Road, possibly obscuring visibility, on Highways land. Cllr Stone to investigate.</p> <p>The wall on the corner of Rectory Land and the High Street has been knocked down again. Cllr Roberts asked if Cllr Stone could hurry the ordered roadsign along in order to help prevent it happening again.</p>	<p>(Clerk)</p> <p>Cllr Stone</p> <p>Cllr Stone</p>
7.	<p>PLANNING COMMITTEE</p> <p>a) Minutes from 19th October and 2nd November 2010</p> <p>MINUTES OF A MEETING OF FOWLMERE PARISH COUNCIL PLANNING COMMITTEE HELD IN THE SCHOOL ROOM, URC, CHAPEL LANE, FOWLMERE ON 19TH OCTOBER 2010 AT 7:15PM</p> <p>PRESENT: Cllr D Roberts (Chair), Cllr J Peacock, Cllr M Sunderland, Cllr L Wragg and Mrs J Wright (Clerk)</p> <p>APOLOGIES: Cllr Bates, Cllr A Eades, Cllr O'Regan and Cllr Webb</p> <p>IN ATTENDANCE Mr and Mrs Barrett</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/1069/10/F – For information only – Permission Refused Extensions Warren Lodge, Fowlmere Road, Fowlmere, Royston, Herts</p>	

Ms Heidi Shelton

The Council noted the decision

- 3. S/1076/10/F – **For information only – Permission Granted**
Extension
3 New Farm Close, Fowlmere, Royston, Herts
Mr Roger Care

The Council noted the decision

- 4. S/0964/10/F – **For information only – Permission Granted**
Extension and Alteration
Sparrows Lodge, Green Lane, Fowlmere, Royston, Herts
Mr and Mrs Ramsden

The Council noted the decision

- 5. S/1677/10
Alterations and Extension
Pennwood, Long Lane, Fowlmere, Royston, Herts
Mr James Barrett

Cllr Roberts declared a personal interest due to living in Long Lane but not a prejudicial one as she doesn't know the house or the owners.

The PC has no objection to the application and therefore support it. It is an improvement to the present building and will marry in with other properties in the area. The appearance from the road will also be more agreeable

6. Other Matters and Updates

There is an additional meeting planned for Tuesday 2nd November regarding the Pipers Close Affordable Housing amended application.

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

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF FOWLMERE PARISH COUNCIL PLANNING COMMITTEE HELD IN THE DOROTHY PLUCK ROOM, ST MARY'S CHURCH, FOWLMERE ON 2ND NOVEMBER 2010 AT 7:30PM

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

APOLOGIES: Cllr Bates

IN ATTENDANCE Mr T Deans

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 Roberts declared a personal and prejudicial interest for item 3.

2. S/1236/10 – AMENDED APPLICATION

Nine Dwellings

**Land rear of Pipers Close, Off London Road, Fowlmere, Royston, Herts
Mr Tony Squires, Chartism Housing Association**

The Council discussed the application and their response is as submitted previously in August, with the addition of the following:

Fowlmere Parish Council will only deal with bone-fide Housing Associations, which this one does not appear to be and this amended application does not address any of the previous concerns raised by Fowlmere Parish Council which were as follows:

Fowlmere Parish Council **DO NOT** support this planning application and give the following two major reasons:

- The area is (a) within Green Belt land, and (b) outside the village envelope, and so is contrary to national planning policy and the local planning authority's policy.
- The proposed access junction has major visibility issues and possible ownership issues over the actual access road.

Other factors include:

- The applicant, to our knowledge, is not a **registered** Social Landlord.
- The design of the proposed dwellings is poor.
- Affected neighbours have previously raised concerns and objections to this development proposal, and one has made representations to the PC regarding possible flooding or subsidence if the access road was widened in the proposed location. We do not believe there is any local public support for this site.

To conclude, Fowlmere Parish Council is also well ahead in negotiations with a Registered Social Landlord about another, more suitable site within Fowlmere and would not wish to support this proposal in London Road.

3. S/1712/10

Proposed Amendment of Access for Planning Permission S/2268/07/F – Change of Use of Existing Building to B1 Industrial Use and Installation of Klargester

**Deans Farm, Shepreth Road, Fowlmere, Royston, SG8 7TG
Mr T Deans**

Cllr Roberts declared a personal and prejudicial interest in this item, due to Mr Deans being a close neighbour and ex-colleague on the Parish Council and left the room for the duration of the discussion and decision making.

Cllr Wragg proposed Cllr Peacock take the Chair, Cllr Sunderland seconded. All agreed and Cllr Peacock led the item.

If this application meets all SCDC Highways regulations, Fowlmere Parish Council supports keeping the access where it currently is. The PC would not wish to see any mature hedges and trees removed and they see no advantage to moving the access to a different location.

	<p>The Parish Council do not object to the installation of a Klargester septic tank as proposed.</p> <p>Cllr Roberts returned to the meeting</p> <p>4. Other Matters and Updates</p> <p>A Vice Chair would need to be elected at the next full PC meeting on 16th November. All Councillors to consider the position.</p> <p>There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8:05pm</p> <p style="text-align: center;">*****</p> <p>b) AFFORDABLE HOUSING UPDATE IN FOWLMERE Circle Anglia have stated that their planning application fee has now been paid to SCDC so we can now assume the application will now progress. They apologised for the delay. Once an application has been received by the Clerk, SCDC will only let the near neighbours know about the application. Cllr Roberts asked how the PC should approach letting the whole village know and it was agreed that we leaflet the whole village with the date of the planning meeting.</p> <p>c) VICE CHAIRMAN Cllr O'Regan proposed that Cllr Peacock become Vice-Chairman of Planning, Cllr Eades seconded. All agreed. Thanks were expressed to Cllr Peacock for accepting the role.</p> <p>d) POSSIBLE BROADBAND UPGRADE IN THE VILLAGE Cllr O'Regan and Cllr Sunderland didn't think Fowlmere would be able to apply as it is too small a village and it isn't possible to add two villages together. Cllr O'Regan to put it onto the FPC web-site. Clerk to get back to the Chairman of Thriplow PC with these concerns to see if it is worth progressing.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">The meeting was then opened to members of the public and press</p>	<p>Cllr O'Regan Clerk</p>
8.	<p>BURIAL BOARD: There have been two burials in the Cemetery this month from outside the village, Mr Halls of Newton and Mrs Arber of Saffron Walden.</p> <p>The PC have received a quote from Wetzl Construction for the work needed to the Chapel doors. Fowlmere Joinery have declined to quote as it is not their line of work. Cllr O'Regan and Cllr Webb to supply additional contacts so that three people have been approached for comparison quotes.</p>	<p>Cllr O'Regan & Cllr Webb</p>
9.	<p>TREES, GRASS AND HEDGES: A report has been received from Acacia trees re the work required to the trees on the Butts. The Clerk to check with SCDC to see if they need to inspect the site first, in case there any have TPO's. (Clerk to send a holding e-mail to Acacia and go to two other firms for competitive quotes.)</p> <p>Cllr Roberts to look at area in Savile Way which may need some maintenance.</p> <p>Following a letter from a resident in Ryecroft Lane, Alan Jackson and Steve Jones regarding reducing a Field Maple at the rear of their property on PC land (the PC having previously given permission at his own expense), the PC agreed to give</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Cllr Roberts</p> <p>Clerk</p>

	<p>permission for sympathetic pruning, out of nesting season, and no more than a 25% reduction. The Clerk to confirm in writing</p> <p>Steve Lester, resident in Savile Way has sent in information regarding the work he wishes to undertake in line with English Heritage to the trees in the Moat at the rear of his property. The situation he describes for his property is fine but the PC were a little uncertain regarding the comments about a neighbour at number 10 so the Clerk has been asked to seek clarification and if necessary, ask her to contact the PC directly.</p> <p>Following a letter from Alan Jackson regarding an old resident of Fowlmere, the PC didn't feel it very appropriate to contact their widow, as there are now mostly new people on the PC who didn't know the person in question but they felt it would be more appropriate for Mr Jackson to express his wishes and send a card directly. The Clerk to thank him.</p> <p>Gardencare is to be paid £40 for the removal of the tree branch blown down in the wind at the Cemetery. Thanks to Mr Dean for removing it to the side of the road.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>
10.	<p>FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES:</p> <p>a) 2011-2012 PRECEPT UPDATE</p> <p>All agreed the proposed precept so far, but need to check on the street lighting issue as reported by Cllr Stone.</p> <p>b) UPDATE ON PLAY EQUIPMENT</p> <p>The Chairman reported the see-saw was now installed at the Butts. It has been included on the insurance premium.</p> <p>It was suggested that the Clerk should be able to give the go-ahead for spending a small sum of money for emergencies ie paying for a tree blown down in the wind to be removed. A suggestion of £200 was made and will be discussed at the next meeting.</p>	Clerk
11.	<p>CORRESPONDENCE:</p> <p>There were no matters arising from the Correspondence List.</p>	
12.	<p>ACTION LIST UPDATE:</p> <p>The action list was updated accordingly.</p>	
13.	<p>OTHER MATTERS:</p> <p>Cllr Roberts thanked Cllr Sunderland for presenting the wreath on behalf of the PC at the Remembrance Service.</p> <p>The next meeting will be at 7:30pm on Tuesday 14th December 2010 at the URC in Chapel Lane.</p> <p>The meeting closed at 9:00pm</p>	