

MINUTES OF THE **MEETING OF FOWLMERE PARISH COUNCIL** HELD
IN THE SCHOOL ROOM, UNITED REFORMED CHURCH, CHAPEL LANE
8TH FEBRUARY 2011 AT 7.30 PM

PRESENT: Cllr D Roberts (Chairman), Cllr M Bates, Cllr O'Regan, Cllr J Peacock,
Mrs J Wright (Clerk)

IN ATTENDANCE: Cllr Stone, Mr Townend, Mr Roskilly

		Actions
1.	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Apologies were received from Cllr Eades, Cllr Sunderland, Cllr Webb and Cllr Wragg	
2.	DECLARATION OF INTEREST IN AGENDA ITEMS: No items were declared.	
3.	MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF 18TH JANUARY 2011: The minutes were agreed and signed as a true record.	
4.	MATTERS ARISING: There were no matters arising not covered in the agenda.	
5.	<p>COUNTY COUNCIL AFFAIRS: Cllr Stone gave the following report</p> <p>“County Budget <i>The County is to vote on its 2011/12 budget on 15th February. With increasing demands for social services and sharply reduced funding from Westminster there are bound to be serious cuts. Fowlmere will be particularly affected with a cut to bus subsidies.</i></p> <p><i>Cambridgeshire County Council intends to phase out all bus subsidies (£2.7M) completely over the next four years, starting with cuts of approximately 25% in year one. For Whittlesford this affects the 31 route, which benefits from an annual subsidy of £87,860. As yet we do not know when this service will lose its subsidy. But for the cuts to phase in without a massive application of the brakes at the end of the year it will be necessary to start cutting early.</i></p> <p><i>We shall therefore have to start thinking as soon as possible about what can be done to rescue public transport for those residents who rely on it. I have therefore arranged a meeting at 10.30 am on Wednesday 9th March at Whittlesford Highways depot to talk about what is likely to happen and the possible solutions. All six of the affected parish councils in the Duxford Division are invited. Paul Nelson from the County will be there as will Cambridgeshire ACRE. I am negotiating to get someone from Stagecoach and possibly someone who understands local transport options. The Imperial War Museum has also expressed an interest.</i></p> <p><i>Other areas which are affected include roads, where the maintenance budget is being cut and the roads are expected to deteriorate still further. Mike Cooper still does his best to have potholes mended. The libraries in Sawston and Great Shelford are on a list of those where volunteers will be looked for to keep services open. This is all going to be a great test of the concept of the Big Society</i></p>	

	<p><i>The Liberal Democrats have proposed an alternative budget, which as usual, goes through a scrutiny process to ensure that it makes sense. But if history is anything to go by the proposals will not stand a chance of success.</i></p> <p>Street Lights <i>The county has been very slow in letting parish councils know about the introduction of the streetlight Private Finance Initiative. I have written to all parish councils about the options and Mike Parker, Parish Clerk at Duxford has proposed details of what appears to be a cheaper alternative to the maintenance contract which Balfour Beattie is offering.</i></p> <p>Planning <i>I have received a number of messages about the proposal to build on the Thriplow Road Triangle. Most have been against. As Planning is a District Council matter I have responded only on those matters which the County will comment on as statutory consultee. David Lines and I had a look at the site and it seems that the County will want an extension of the 30 mph limit and possibly a footway to connect the site to the Thriplow Road footway.</i></p> <p><i>At the same time we had a look at the Lynch Lane parking problem. David Lines considers that the answer will be double yellow lines on each side of the approach to Lynch Lane. The cost would be in the region of £600 or so and he would like to hear from the parish council if that solution is acceptable. He is also apparently still in negotiations about the sign at the end of Rectory Lane.”</i></p> <p>Cllr Roberts asked Cllr Stone if there would need to be additional money spent on legal issues surrounding yellow-lines? Cllr Stone said no, the County now puts together adverts in local press, which used to account for the high advertising costs of traffic orders, so they are now greatly reduced. David Lines needs local residents to be surveyed to make sure that yellow lines are acceptable. Clerk to organise</p> <p>Cllr Roberts said the Parish couldn't contribute to boosting bus subsidies but perhaps a village volunteer group needs to be set up? Cllr Stone said the contract withdrawal will be a long drawn out process and has a meeting in March for discussing other viable options but there are no details yet.</p> <p>Cllr Roberts said that the Mill Road potholes are terrible and whilst the Clerk has reported them to CCC, please could Cllr Stone also chase progress.</p> <p>Cllr Roberts informed Cllr Stone that lots of e-mails have come in expressing positive views regarding the Thriplow Triangle as well as some of the negative ones he has received. Cllr Roberts wanted Cllr Stone to understand that the PC believe very truthfully that they have been very open with people about the process and the work to consult residents has been considerable and exhaustive. There have been many</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Cllr Stone</p>
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	<p>opportunities, at every meeting, special meetings, open sessions etc, for people to find out more, ask questions and raise concerns. Cllr Roberts said she took exception to unwarranted criticism saying that the PC has deliberately misled the public over any aspect of this application for Affordable Housing. Cllr Stone duly noted this.</p> <p>Regarding the Village Hall, Cllr Bates said the signs to the Village Hall are inadequate and the VH Committee will be writing to Cllr Stone to see if further signage can be arranged.</p> <p>Cllr Roberts gave a copy of a proposed to road layout change regarding the Thriplow Road and Cambridge Road junction from a local resident, Kevin Steinhardt, asking Cllr Stone to show it to his colleagues at the Highways Dept CCC.</p>	Cllr Stone
6.	<p>UPDATE ON THE VILLAGE HALL: Cllr Wragg attended his first meeting and is pursuing applications for grants, for several items such as replacement windows, new boiler, insulation etc.</p>	
7.	<p>PLANNING COMMITTEE</p> <p>a) Minutes from 1st February 2011</p> <p>MINUTES OF A MEETING OF FOWLMERE PARISH COUNCIL PLANNING COMMITTEE HELD IN THE CHAPEL AND THE SCHOOL ROOM, URC, CHAPEL LANE, FOWLMERE ON 1ST FEBRUARY 2011 AT 7:30PM</p> <p>PRESENT: Cllr D Roberts (Chair), Cllr M Bates, Cllr A Eades, Cllr J Peacock, Cllr M Sunderland, Cllr N Webb, Cllr L Wragg and Mrs J Wright (Clerk)</p> <p>APOLOGIES: Cllr E O'Regan</p> <p>IN ATTENDANCE: Estimated 60 residents of Fowlmere</p> <p>Declarations of interest (if any) Cllr Roberts declared that if an application is later placed before South Cambridgeshire District Council she will approach any new information afresh. There were no additional declarations of interest</p> <p>2. S/2247/10 Change of Use from Office (B1) to Residential Dwelling (C3) Graphic House, High Street, Fowlmere, Royston, Herts, SG8 7SU Mr John Clark, Ryecroft Data</p> <p>Cllr Wragg proposed and Cllr Bates seconded the proposal for recommendation and all agreed. The Parish Council recommended approval for this application and were pleased to see a reversal back to a domestic dwelling.</p> <p>3. S/1487/10 Ten Affordable Dwellings Land Adjacent to 4 Cambridge Road, Fowlmere, SG8 7QN</p>	

Mr Darren Blake, Circle Anglia Ltd

Cllr Roberts proposed a recess of about 10 minutes to allow members of the public time to view the plans which were in the adjacent hall. When all members of the public returned, Cllr Roberts introduced the application and explained the background and progress to date.

Cllr Roberts then read out all documentation received so far from members of the public regarding the application, both positive and negative.

The meeting was then opened to the public and ample opportunity was given for questions to be asked and comments to be made. Mr Neil Roskilly, Fowlmere Resident, wished to have it minuted that he objected to a 20 minute time limit set for this part of this meeting. Cllr Roberts explained that would be a minimum timeframe and in fact this part of the meeting ran for well over an hour. The meeting was then closed at 9:15pm although members of the public were welcome to stay and listen to the deliberations of the Parish Council.

Any issues raised were then addressed in the deliberations which followed by Council members and the following recommendation was made and submitted to South Cambridgeshire District Council.

Cllr Bates proposed and Cllr Peacock seconded that Fowlmere Parish Council support this application with the following conditions as stated. All Councillors were in agreement

Fowlmere Parish Council support the application made by Circle Anglia concerning land adjacent to 4 Cambridge Road but wish to see the following conditions met:

Exception Site - *There needs to be a clear understanding that this is an 'Exception Site,' the definition of which needs to be adhered to regarding the continuing nomination rights for Fowlmere residents and this must be in perpetuity.*

Hedging – *The hedging bordering Thriplow Road should be continuous, with no gaps for pedestrian access (and for putting bins out). All hedging should be maintained with minimum, sympathetic pruning, to tidy and revitalise it.*

Parking – *The proposed parking needs to be looked at again as the number of allocated parking spaces is inadequate and the layout (tandem spaces) will lead to under-usage. The perception otherwise is that parking will then overflow onto the Cambridge and Thriplow Roads which is undesirable. Further additional parking spaces need to be created.*

Footpaths – *Provision for a footpath should be made within the application, along Cambridge Road as this is an important through road in the village with fast moving traffic. The development will presumably be home to families with young children and it would be negligent not to include adequate footpaths into the village.*

Speeding – *An extension to the 30mph speed limit of the village would need to be made to accommodate the vehicular entrance to the development and ideally traffic calming measures*

would be very well received. This is especially important given there are two vehicular access points on Cambridge Road.

Design – The Council approve of the design and feel it is sympathetic and in keeping with the rest of the village. The Parish Council also approves of the look of the staggered terraced design bordering Thriplow Road.

Lighting – The lighting must be appropriate to the surrounding area, with a zero light spill. The use of ‘hoods’ or low level lighting could help to achieve this.

Wildlife – The Parish Council wish to see a condition that there are plenty of bat and bird boxes and also invertebrate habitats included on-site as this would support the local wildlife (bird boxes would need to be large enough to house barn owls) and this would help to raise the ecological score credits for the development.

Heating – It should be noted that there is no mains gas in Fowlmere. It is a recommendation that further investigation is made into group, sustainable heating options, making the development more ecological, whilst keeping running and maintenance costs down for the residents.

Solar Panels – The Parish Council understands this is only an option at this stage but they would like to see further investigation into integrated ‘green’ systems, such as the harvesting of grey water, in order to decrease surface run-off.

Bins - Regarding the issue of bins, the Parish Council suggest a shelter is constructed to house the bins where pedestrian access to the Thriplow Road will hopefully be restricted. There is ample room for refuse collectors to turn their vehicle in the proposed cul-de-sac, so all bins should be collected from there.

Other Matters and Updates

There being no other matters, the meeting closed at 10:00pm

Cllr Roberts reported that the decision to SCDC has been displayed on the Noticeboard. The whole set of minutes can now be displayed in their entirety. All agreed and the minutes were duly signed as a true record.

b) **AFFORDABLE HOUSING UPDATE IN FOWLMERE**

Cllr Roberts reported that the PC have a lot of e-mails, letters and a petition regarding the Thriplow Triangle, both for and against. Two letters were from Mr Rushton, resident in Thriplow Road and Cllr Roberts read these out where he suggested several sites to be available in the village for development. Cllr Roberts said that none of these were within the village envelope.

Cllr Bates added that the land around Lanacre is outside of the village envelope and whilst Mr Rogers was fortunate to have been able to develop his own property he was unlikely to achieve any further development on his land. Mr Glascott’s land had been discussed in the process but the decision was taken to proceed with the Thriplow Triangle site so was not progressed as an option at that stage. The Sheldrick family have not attempted to

advance any development within their land, which is again outside of the village framework and is classed an important countryside frontage. SCDC have previously stated that they would not develop land there. Cassander Close was the last piece of land within the village. The only large gardens are in Chapel Lane and are again classed protected village amenity land so there is nothing to be progressed there. Mr Ruston's points do not hold any validity and it's very late in the day to be raising such objections when the PC has consulted the villagers many times over the 2-3 years leading up to the present date.

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

Mr Townend made a comment about the parking problem on Thriplow Road and Cambridge Road, which is a real issue to him, being a close resident. He asked how far the yellow lines might extend as he's concerned it will just move the problem further up and would welcome input into the final decision on the length of the yellow lines. He also added that if the Thriplow Triangle development goes ahead then the problem could extend onto the Cambridge Road too.

Cllr Roberts reported how the local police had visited and viewed the problem parking but they cannot take any action unless there are yellow lines and as Cllr Stone had advised, the PC would fully consult the near neighbours regarding the yellow lines and welcome their input. Cllr Bates said CCC Highways would advise on the best length and concept as being the most appropriate.

Regarding the Thriplow Triangle, Mr Townend asked if there are any planned disabled parking spaces as he believes 5% need to be, which might furtheracerbate the parking problem if spaces on the site now need to also include these spaces. The Councillors couldn't recall any disabled spaces on the plans either but advised Mr Townend that SCDC planners would be aware of the relevant legislation and make sure it was adhered to. Mr Townend stressed how dangerous the blind corner is, with very inconsiderate parking by only a couple of irresponsible people.

Mr Roskilly said the PC were wrong to dismiss Mr Rushton's letters and suggested that the PC start conversations now with the other landowners. Cllr Roberts said the PC is not dismissing the letters but the land is not village land and the current application is under way now. The PC have had conversations about other parcels of land in previous years and feedback from SCDC has not proved fruitful. Cllr Roberts said that this application is now going forward and a decision will be made accordingly by SCDC.

Mr Roskilly said he believed that Circle Anglia is to offer a 5m buffer of land to the existing, bordering residents at an increased price which he thought unreasonable. Cllr Roberts reminded Mr Roskilly that the PC have had *no* dealings in the sale of the land and this is not something the PC were aware of and questioned Mr Roskilly on where he had heard that information. Cllr Roberts said that if the application goes through, it is *still* outside the village envelope and bordering land cannot be developed against planning policy.

Mr Roskilly still believes that further land will be sold. Cllr Roberts said that the PC simply cannot comment on a situation they know nothing about. They would not wish to see the rest of the triangle developed and reiterated that *any* landowner with land outside the envelope *can* apply for land to be considered to be taken within the envelope at *any* time with a view to

	<p>development. Mr Townsend asked if this issue could be added to the SCDC application response, Cllr Roberts said that the PC will take that into consideration.</p> <p>Mr Roskilly said that he doesn't feel that the planning process has been open and referred back to a previous conversation at a previous meeting. Cllr Roberts once again repeated that the PC had been diligent about their consultation.</p> <p>Mr Roskilly said he believes that it contravenes policy to build there. Cllr Roberts repeated that SCDC planning officers will ensure that a development does not breach any policies and they will judge it accordingly. The Officers are very well versed in policies and are the experts. Cllr Roberts informed Mr Roskilly of the process at SCDC regarding how an application is assessed.</p> <p>Mr Roskilly then asked if Cllr Roberts knows of any Parish Councillors who had friends or family on the waiting list at SCDC for one of the proposed Affordable Houses on the Thriplow Triangle? Cllr Roberts said the list at SCDC is not a public document and whilst knowing anecdotally of some residents who are expressing an interest in the homes, as a district councillor, Cllr Roberts has no part in obtaining people 'a house'.</p> <p>Mr Roskilly concluded by thanking the PC about suggesting the removal of the Thriplow Road pedestrian entrances. The meeting was closed to the public at 8:30pm</p>	PC
8.	<p>BURIAL BOARD: There was nothing to report this month. Cllr O'Regan kindly removed some fallen branches at the cemetery at the weekend.</p>	
9.	<p>TREES, GRASS AND HEDGES: Cllr Bates reported on the Round Moat. The map has been revised and paperwork has been received, so an application can now be made. The PC now need to look for quotes for some of the work in the moat (asking if the contractors will purchase any wood they take down, to dissipate costs.) Cllr Bates to speak to the Clerk about taking this further forward.</p> <p>A large tree at the end of Isons Close may need looking at but Cllr Roberts said it has been well maintained over the years and the PC will continue to do so.</p> <p>Cllr Roberts asked for Mr Lester's e-mail regarding trees in the Moat to be circulated for comment. Clerk to thank Mr Lester in the meantime.</p>	Cllr Bates / Clerk Clerk
10.	<p>FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES: a) Minutes from 18th January 2011</p> <p>Minutes of the meeting of Fowlmere Parish Council Finance and General Purposes Committee held in the School Room, URC, Chapel Lane, Fowlmere, Tuesday 18th January 2011 at 7:00pm.</p> <p>Present: Cllr O'Regan (Chair), Cllr M Bates, Cllr D Roberts, Cllr M Sunderland, Cllr N Webb, Cllr L Wragg and Mrs J Wright (Clerk).</p>	

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Peacock

2. Minutes of previous meeting/Matters Arising

The previous minutes of 12th October 2010 were agreed and signed.

Cllr Roberts and Cllr O'Regan to look at the trees at the mouth of John Close to see what needs to be done to tidy the area as Chris Wall is unable to undertake the work.

No official request has yet come from the friendship club for a donation to their annual lunch, this was previously discussed in the December PC meeting.

3. Review of income and expenditure

The Councillors were given an explanation of the accounts and there were no unexplained or unexpected items and they were within budget for the rest of the financial year – the only large amount to come is the cost of street lighting.

4. Precept

The 2011-2012 Precept of £30098.00 had been submitted and acknowledged.

5. Trees, Grass and Hedges

There was nothing new reported that won't be covered in the following main PC meeting. Cllr Sunderland asked what happens when a resident needs to cut back their hedges due to overhanging and the Clerk reported that we contact residents individually as necessary.

6. Future Projects

The See-saw had now been installed on the Butts, and the grant of £700 towards it has been received from SCDC.

7. Other Matters

Cllr Sunderland asked what happens when people leave their cars overhanging their driveways, obscuring the pavement. The Council could send a letter if necessary. Clerk to check with the local PCSO what happens in such a case.

Regarding the closure of the Post Office service at the Queens Head pub, the Clerk to contact the PO HQ with any ideas on continuing the service.

There were no other matters and the meeting closed at 7:30pm.

8. Date of next meeting

The date of the next Finance Meeting is to be Tuesday 19th April at 7:00pm
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The minutes were agreed as a true and accurate record and were signed accordingly. Cllr O'Regan said the trees opposite Johns Close seemed reasonable. Cllr Roberts will take a look.

