

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF FOWLMERE PARISH COUNCIL HELD
IN THE SCHOOL ROOM, UNITED REFORMED CHURCH, CHAPEL LANE
27TH MARCH 2012 AT 7.00 PM**

PRESENT: Cllr Deborah Roberts (Chairman), Cllr L Wragg, Cllr T Bearpark, Cllr J Bottrill, Cllr P Flynn, Cllr J Peacock, Cllr M Sunderland, Cllr N Webb and Mrs J Wright (Clerk)

IN ATTENDANCE: Ms Schulyer Newstead (SCDC), Mr Mike Sugden (Lovells), Ms Christine Steele (BPHA), Mr Jerry Jackson, resident

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| 1. | <p>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Apologies were received from Cllr O'Regan .</p> | |
| 2. | <p>DECLARATION OF INTEREST IN AGENDA ITEMS: No items were declared.</p> | |
| 3. | <p>AFFORDABLE HOUSING IN FOWLMERE: Schulyer Newstead from SCDC to speak</p> <p><i>Schulyer Newstead (Special Projects Housing Officer - SCDC) was accompanied by Mike Sugden (Builders - Lovells) and Christine Steele (Bedfordshire Pilgrims Housing Association).</i></p> <p>Cllr Roberts introduced everyone. It was reported that there has been a 12 month lapse in affordable housing programmes across the board nationally due to funding issues which has now been resolved. Circle Anglia have withdrawn from South Cambs and Bedfordshire Pilgrims are an established Housing Association, with funding available to progress the development as planned.</p> <p>FPC were very keen on the original designs and have been assured that they will remain. Mike Sugden has said they have no intentions of changing that - the next stage is Building Regulations.</p> <p>50% will be affordable housing and 50% shared ownership (part buy / part rent with 30 - 50% ownership). Orbit First Step will be the process to sign up for the shared ownership units and people sign up to the council list for the purely rental - affordable housing units. Cllr Roberts expressed concern that if the shared ownership units cannot be filled from Fowlmere residents then it will be open to people without a link to Fowlmere but, due to a misunderstanding in Barrington, this shouldn't be a problem and it should go to Fowlmere residents.</p> <p>Building on site has started for the archaeological dig - June / July being the preferred starting date for building. Releasing the houses will be agreed, preferably in 'blocks' and will be determined by site safety. Looking at completion this time next year. Completion on the actual sale of the land should be imminent.</p> <p>Section 106 contribution was previously agreed to be in lieu of public open space and was stated as an amount 'to be agreed' with the HA and the section 106 officer at SCDC - it doesn't directly involve the PC - this won't change</p> <p>The footpath into the village needs to be checked out but if it was agreed as a planning condition (which it is), it will be adhered to.</p> <p>The Millennium tree needs to be moved but its replacement location is as yet undecided.</p> <p>It is down to the Parish to name the road nearer the time.</p> | |

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| | <p>Cllr Bearpark would like the extension of the 30mph put on the next agenda for discussion</p> <p>The Parish Council broke for a Planning Meeting at 7:30pm and recommenced at 7:45pm.</p> | Clerk |
| 4. | <p>MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF 21ST FEBRUARY 2012: The minutes were agreed and signed as a true record.</p> | |
| 5. | <p>MATTERS ARISING: There were no matters arising</p> | |
| 6. | <p>COUNTY COUNCIL AFFAIRS: Cllr Stone was unable to attend the meeting but circulated the following report:</p> <p>"Highways <i>I have been following up outstanding matters and have met Brian Stinton and David Lines at Whittlesford Highways depot. For Fowlmere the two items I raised were:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ <i>Additional signage for the village hall. Highways are doing nothing about this until they hear more from the parish council</i> ◆ <i>Yellow lines around Lynch Lane. David Lines will take a further look and make positive suggestions. It seems that he had been awaiting news from the parish council but as I explained, he knows the problem, is a professional and should be able to propose a solution.</i> <p><i>Please let me know if there is any other highways matter where you would like some help.</i></p> <p>Buses <i>Cambridgeshire County Council's recent application to the Better Bus Area Fund resulted in Transport Minister Norman Baker's announcement last week that bid for £1.78 million has been successful. The whole purpose of this particular national fund is to improve bus transport in urban areas, though Norman Baker will shortly be making an announcement about further measures to enhance bus subsidies.</i></p> <p><i>There are to be new bus priority measures in Cambridge, a new school minibus drop-off/pick-up point at Trumpington Park and Ride, and a bollarded bus-only zone in the St Andrew's Street area in central Cambridge. The bid also contains some familiar and strongly made arguments about the success of modal shift in Cambridge city where people use buses and bicycles, but the relatively high level of private vehicle commuting in the rural districts around Cambridge where public transport is poor. Making bus travel more reliable is one of the aspirations of the bus priority measures which will help rural areas; if prospective passengers can count on their buses they will be more likely to use them and to rely on them. Whether or not to introduce new bus services, or to run commercially less profitable services in rural areas, is in the hands of bus operators who have businesses to run, and the county council which as a local authority has a duty to look after the needs of its residents.</i></p> <p>Superfast Broadband <i>Rather more positive news here. The County's Cabinet has now agreed the shape of all the advisory bodies and delivery bodies aka Governance. There is to be a Project Steering Group, a Project Board, a Project Team, a Working Group and a Delivery Group. These are essential structures, but as I said to Cabinet, the County shouldn't lose sight of the people</i></p> | |

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| | <p><i>who will actually be using superfast broadband. They need to be brought into the picture as soon as possible.</i></p> <p><i>One good sign for Fowlmere is that in the list of seven benefits, the local priorities of businesses and people working from home are highlighted in the first four. Meanwhile the project itself is moving ahead fast. Nevertheless it will be a fairly long process to complete the procurement and broadband infrastructure so it will be some time yet before the project team is able to talk about when there will be a tangible outcome to the project. However they are well on the way to launching their demand registration campaign. As part of that approach they are looking to recruit digital Champions to spread the word and support people signing up for superfast broadband. I am trying to see if we can arrange at least one public meeting locally.</i></p> <p><i>They are hoping to do a "soft launch" of the new Connecting Cambridgeshire website around Easter time and to go public with it in late April. I have confirmed that Digital Champions are unpaid. In view of the pressure being experienced by the project team I doubt that any meeting would take place before the "soft launch," so we're looking at the other side of Easter.</i></p> <p><i>One other good sign for Fowlmere is that the County is talking to Hertfordshire about areas in Cambridgeshire served by exchanges in that county. This is quite productive because the superfast broadband initiative comes about as part of government-led and partially government funded policy, so it pays for counties to co-operate.</i></p> <p>Protected Road Verges <i>Of the parishes in the Duxford Division with Protected Road Verges, Fowlmere has joined Ickleton, Babraham and Little Abington in agreeing to take over maintenance. Duxford has declined. I am still very concerned at the way the County seems to have devolved responsibility without budget and shall continue to harry the powers that be."</i></p> | |
| 7. | <p>PLANNING COMMITTEE There were no further items for discussion, following the planning meeting</p> <p>The Meeting was then opened to the members of the public and then closed.</p> | |
| 8. | <p>BURIAL BOARD:</p> <p>There was a burial for Mr Hill of Top Close this month and a couple of plot enquiries.</p> <p>Cllr Webb reported that there are several fallen branches in the cemetery. Cllr Roberts to speak to Roz at SCDC about the state of the trees but she is away that Roz has been away on sick-leave.</p> <p>Cllr Flynn has had a complaint over the smell of water in the watercourse between Ryecroft Lane and Chapel Lane. Cllr Roberts to take a look.</p> | <p>Cllr Roberts</p> <p>Cllr Roberts</p> |
| 9. | <p>TREES, GRASS AND HEDGES: The Cllr's agreed that the school could hold the Summer Fair on The Butts on Saturday 24th June 2012. Clerk to report back to the school.</p> | |
| 10. | <p>FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES:</p> | |

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| | The Clerk reported that the process for the Audit was now under way. A finance meeting will be held next month. | |
| 11. | CORRESPONDENCE The actions on the Correspondence list have been covered in the main agenda | |
| 12. | ACTION LIST UPDATE: The Action List was updated accordingly. | |
| 13. | <p>OTHER MATTERS:</p> <p>a) VILLAGE MEETING - 1ST MAY 2012 A reminder to prepare reports etc for the meeting - Clerk to send out official invitations</p> <p>b) BURGHLEY PARK INVITATION Following discussion, Cllrs Bottrill and Flynn would like to go - the Clerk to reply back on their behalf..</p> <p>A brief planning meeting is to be held on Monday 2nd April at 7:30pm</p> <p>The next meeting is 7:15pm (Finance Meeting) and 7:30pm (Main PC Meeting) on Tuesday 17th April 2012 at the Chapel, Chapel Lane.</p> <p>Cllr Roberts will not be able to make 15th May meeting and would like to move it to the following week on 22nd May, all agreed. Clerk to change date with the URC</p> <p>The meeting closed at 8:40pm</p> | <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> |