

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF FOWLMERE PARISH COUNCIL HELD
IN THE SCHOOL ROOM, UNITED REFORMED CHURCH, CHAPEL LANE
19TH FEBRUARY 2013 AT 7.30 PM**

PRESENT: Cllr D Roberts (Chairman), Cllr J Bottrill, Cllr P Flynn, Cllr J Peacock, Cllr L Wragg and Mrs J Wright (Clerk)

IN ATTENDANCE: Cllr Tim Stone, Mrs S Tokley, Mrs L Allen, Mr P Barker, Mr P Barker, Cllr D Thomas, Cllr J Ravenhill (both from Shepreth PC)

		Actions
1.	<p>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Bearpark, Cllr O'Regan, Cllr Sunderland and Cllr Webb.</p>	
2.	<p>DECLARATION OF INTEREST IN AGENDA ITEMS: No items were declared.</p>	
3.	<p>MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF 15TH JANUARY 2013: The minutes were agreed and signed as a true record.</p>	
4.	<p>MATTERS ARISING: There were no matters arising that aren't covered already on the agenda.</p> <p>Clerk to contact Greene King for a further update on the Queen's Head. The PC is pleased to see that the Swan has reopened and wish it very well. They will apparently be serving refreshments within a couple of weeks. Residents have been concerned about the state of the car park but Cllr Roberts said that it's probably a work in progress.</p> <p>A broken street-light has been reported in Ryecroft Lane and also outside the Swan - Cllr Bottrill has reported it.</p> <p>Cllr Roberts explained the situation re the Barker grave and all concerned are happy.</p>	Clerk
5.	<p>PLANNING COMMITTEE: a) Thriplow Triangle Cllr Roberts introduced the Cllr's from Shepreth and the situation regarding the increasing ratio of part/buy-part/rent properties for the Thriplow Triangle (to 50:50), whereas policy is 30% part buy/part rent. FPC has opposed this change - SCDC have refused to let FPC have any figures to support their changes. Shepreth PC have had a similar experience, as has Barrington PC. The Shepreth site has always been designated as an Exception site, for purely rental and yet they found out, almost by accident, that 50% have been planned. The Trumpington site has a proposed 200+ houses with Bedfordshire Pilgrims as the HA, the PC wondered what that proportion would be for that site?</p> <p>What can the two parishes do by joining forces? SCDC are the housing authority and have 'let down' Fowlmere and also misled the members of the SCDC Planning Committee alleging that Steeple Morden too was having a 4 out of 8 ratio of part buy / part rent, when in fact it is 2 out of 8).</p> <p>FPC want to know what are the reasons SCDC have for not sticking to policy? Also, the New Homes Bonus should be passed on to parishes and not held onto by SCDC.</p>	

<p>FPC have the draft Section 106 agreement for the Thriplow Triangle - the initial application, SCDC has 100% nomination rights but this decreases to 75% - so the HA can put in who they like. Cllr Wragg to write a letter with the changes Fowlmere would like to see made to the draft.</p> <p>Cllr Roberts recommended Shepreth get the go-ahead from their PC to have a joint approach to take this forward, with a set of pre-questions for SCDC to provide answers to. Schuyler Newstead, Head of Special Projects and a Senior Planner would need to be at the meeting. Shepreth meet 14th March but will try to call a meeting beforehand and arrange a joint meeting with Fowlmere.</p> <p>b) The Queen's Head, The Swan, The Chequers This was discussed previously in Matters Arising.</p> <p>c) Planning Minutes from 15th January 2013</p> <p style="text-align: center;">MINUTES OF A MEETING OF FOWLMERE PARISH COUNCIL PLANNING COMMITTEE HELD IN THE SCHOOL ROOM, URC, CHAPEL LANE, FOWLMERE ON TUESDAY 15TH JANUARY 2013 AT 7:15PM</p> <p>PRESENT: Cllr D Roberts (Chairman), Cllr J Bottrill, Cllr E O'Regan, Cllr M Sunderland, Cllr L Wragg and Mrs J Wright (Clerk)</p> <p>APOLOGIES: Cllr Bearpark, Cllr Flynn, Cllr Webb</p> <p>IN ATTENDANCE: .None</p> <p>Declarations of interest (if any)</p> <p>1. 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. C/11/40/029 Application for Tree Works 6 Savile Way, Fowlmere, SG8 7TU and adjoining Churchyard Mrs H Sanders</p> <p>The Parish Council have no objections as long as the tree officer at SCDC is in agreement.</p> <p>3. S/2148/12/FL - FOR INFORMATION ONLY - PERMISSION GRANTED Car Port Perks Close, 4 Chapel Lane, Fowlmere, SG8 7SA Mr Mike Maddin</p> <p>The Parish Council noted the decision (the stipulations that the PC would like to be included were not.)</p> <p>4. S/2038/12/FL and S/2038/12/LB - FOR INFORMATION ONLY - PERMISSION GRANTED</p>	<p>Cllr Wragg</p>
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	<p>Stainless Steel Boiler Flue; Garden Shed; Internal security gate on kitchen door. (All existing) Fowlmere House, High Street, Fowlmere, Royston, Cambridgeshire, SG8 7SU Dr George Follows</p> <p>The Parish Council noted the decision</p> <p>5. S/2106/12/FL - FOR INFORMATION ONLY - AMENDMENT Erection dwelling with associated works following demolition of existing outbuildings Land to the rear of, 80-86, Chapel Lane, Fowlmere, SG8 7SD Mr Stewart McGinty</p> <p>The Parish Council noted the decision.</p> <p>6. Other Matters and Updates Other Matters and Updates (<i>for information only</i>)The complaint made against Cllr Roberts by a local couple has been dismissed by SCDC. Cllr Wragg asked for the letter from SCDC to be shared with all members of the PC. Clerk to action.</p> <p>The meeting closed at 7:30pm</p> <p style="text-align: center;">*****</p> <p>The minutes were agreed as a true record and signed.</p>	
6.	<p>COUNTY COUNCIL AFFAIRS: Cllr Stone gave the following report:</p> <p>"Roads <i>County Highways is going through yet another restructuring, which will involve fewer people working locally. There are grave doubts as to how already over-stretched staff will be able to cope. Main point of contact will be Mike Cooper. We are losing Mick Oakman, who is retiring, and Brian Stinton, who is going to Shire Hall to look after major highway projects. David Lines will still be around but I am not sure exactly where and in what capacity.</i></p> <p><i>You may have noted that surface dressing applied last September has failed. The closest example to here is possibly on the Sawston bypass. Apparently the cause was a duff load of asphalt. The County's contractor will have to rectify the position but as yet there is no indication of when that will happen.</i></p> <p>Budget <i>I spent a frustrating day in the bear pit today. The Liberal Democrat alternative budget was rubbish as usual and the Conservative one was passed without amendment.</i></p> <p><i>The need for savings is the paramount theme because of much less money coming from Westminster and the ever-increasing cost of social care. Little by little any wriggle room and "nice to have" items are being eliminated. At least we have a commitment not to close any libraries.</i></p> <p><i>Some questions are whether the environment is a "nice to have" item and how to repay</i></p>	

increased borrowing to fund necessary items such as rebuilding roads.

Eric Pickles, the Communities Secretary, is not terribly popular with local councils. Having set a barrier of a 2% increase in council tax before councils go out for a referendum he is now threatening to "punish" councils who scrape in at 1.99%. The cost of running a referendum is very high and we know from surveys that people in Cambridgeshire overwhelmingly support increased council tax if they can see what the money goes on. The Conservatives will propose a 1.99% increase and it seems highly likely that the Liberal Democrats will support that – whatever their respective party headquarters may say.

Streetlights

There have been a number of complaints about the new Private Finance Initiative for upgrading the county's streetlights. Fortunately for Fowlmere, installation of the new lights is not due for some time. The contract stipulates that one in ten streetlights must go. Some parishes have objected. The County has now arranged that parishes may retain lights that would normally have been removed as long as they are prepared to take on responsibility for them. I have yet to find out how that would work because the District Council is unlikely to want to take them on and there is no mechanism in place for parishes to look after them themselves. Work in progress.

Mechanical Biological Treatment Plant

The wheel fell off the Terminator at Waterbeach so the County is sending thousands of tonnes of black bin waste directly to landfill. There seems to be no indication of when the plant will be back in operation. It would be helpful if people would continue their efforts to put as much appropriate recyclable material in the blue and green bins.

The 31 Bus

I've had a real fight on my hands trying to get any publicity about the revised 7A service into parish magazines. The new service is set to start on 18th March and the timetable isn't yet finalised. It took many meetings over many months even to agree a route, so I believe that consultations on the 31 should have started already. The subsidy is due to be withdrawn in September. The cabinet member responsible tells me that where a new service has not yet been agreed then the subsidy will continue to be paid for the old route to continue.

I asked today at full council whether the bus companies had been told this. The cabinet member has undertaken to check, which I take to mean that they haven't. The danger is that, with no information, they will just walk away from the contract.

Dottrell Hall

The wood waste is being removed and transferred to Bridgefoot. The County Council waste team has provided excellent service throughout and Mr Bouton is in regular contact monitoring the situation. County officers will be on site again this week.

May Elections

County Council elections are to be held on Thursday 2nd May. Having served two terms I shall be standing down. I have much enjoyed working for residents of the 10 villages in the Duxford Division and hope to remain an active citizen. But it's time for a younger person."

	<p>Cllr Roberts said FPC was very sad to hear Cllr's Stone's news. His interest in Fowlmere and attendance at Fowlmere meetings has been incredibly supportive and thanked him for all his help, advice and support.</p> <p>The Meeting was then opened to members of the public.</p> <p>Mrs Allen supported the PC's concerns over the ratio of part buy/part rent houses on the Affordable Housing scheme. There simply aren't enough Council House places in Fowlmere. The lack of amenities has had a real detrimental effect on the village.</p>	
7.	<p>BURIAL BOARD: a) Chapel Roof The quotes are underway for the work to be undertaken.</p>	
8.	<p>TREES, GRASS AND HEDGES: a) The Moat Bruce Hatton needs to re-inspect the trees. Cllr Wragg and Cllr O'Regan to confer about finances but if the budget is agreeable, all Cllr's agreed to the surveying. Clerk to contact Mr Hatton.</p> <p>b) Village Tree Survey This has been completed and the Clerk is awaiting the results.</p> <p>c) Tree cutting on verges at Burnaby, Thriplow Road The Clerk to reply to Mr Townend. FPC to request that, in lieu of the fact that the trees do not belong to him, to please make the PC aware of any problems regarding the trees that he is aware of. The letter he quoted simply demonstrates that CCC is not accepting ownership - it does not accept that he owns them or the occupant of his house has the right to act unilaterally in taking action on the trees.</p> <p>d) Agriplant - tree / hedge cutting in Ryecroft Lane This has been completed and residents are very pleased - a good job has been done.</p> <p>Cllr Wragg reported an email from Mr Ricketts, complaining about the protected verge cutting in Mill Road. Cllr Wragg to reply that the cost of collecting the cuttings is prohibitive but he would have the PC's blessing if he wished to get a volunteer group together (as long as the PC does not have to dispose of the dead strimmings.)</p> <p>e) Village MOT (incl Chris Wall's response) To defer until the next meeting. Chris Wall gave good and realistic advice on the potential maintenance of hanging baskets in the village.</p> <p>The Clerk to get two quotes for removing the fallen tree in Dovehouse Close, as Chris Wall has said it's too big a job for him to do safely.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Cllr Wragg</p> <p>(Clerk)</p> <p>Clerk</p>
9.	<p>FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES: a) Finance Minutes from 15 January 2013</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 15th January 2013 at 7:00pm.</p> <p>Present: Cllr O'Regan (Chair), Cllr J Bottrill, Cllr J Peacock, Cllr D Roberts, Cllr M Sunderland, Cllr L Wragg and Mrs J Wright</p>	

	<p>(Clerk).</p> <p>1. Apologies for absence Apologies were received from Cllr Bearpark</p> <p>2. Minutes of previous meeting/Matters Arising The previous minutes of 16th October 2012 had already been agreed and signed at a previous PC meeting.</p> <p>3. Review of income and expenditure. There were no unexpected items in the income and expenditure</p> <p>4. Precept The precept has been submitted and we are waiting to hear confirmation.</p> <p>5. Trees, Grass and Hedges Agriplant to meet with PC re protected verges - first week in Feb (not Wed). Could the High Street have some hanging baskets to brighten it up - Clerk to speak to Chris Wall (local businesses could sponsor them?)</p> <p>6. Future Projects It was suggested that the PC could invest in a lit Christmas tree next year? Other ideas have been a skate park at the village hall and adult outdoor gym equipment. It was suggested that the Councillors take a look around the village in a few weeks once the weather improves. There has been a request for a (green) dog litter bin on the grass triangle at the Thriplow Triangle. Clerk to get a price.</p> <p>7. Other Matters Cllr Wragg to take a further look at the insurance policy</p> <p>8. Date of next meeting There were no other matters and the meeting closed at 7:15pm. The date of the next meeting will be 16th April 2013 at 7:00pm, prior to the PC Meeting at the URC, Chapel Lane. ***** The minutes were agreed as a true record and signed.</p>	
10.	<p>CORRESPONDENCE The correspondence list was noted. Cllr Roberts had an email from Don Proctor - a Planning Consultant, asking Cllr Roberts to a meeting with regards to their interest in re-positioning Ion Science on the Poultry Meadow (Manor Farm). Cllr Roberts replied that it's outside the village envelope, with designated important frontage and as none of the sites have been taken up by SCDC, there is nothing to</p>	

	<p>be discussed from the FPC point of view. Cllr Roberts spoke to Matthew Hare at SCDC Planning and he said that they have pointed out to Ion Science that there are many obstacles to overcome, but think they may put in a planning application sometime in the future.</p> <p>Possible donation to Royston Community Transport to go on the next Finance Agenda</p>	Clerk
11.	<p>ACTION LIST UPDATE: The action list was updated accordingly.</p>	
12.	<p>OTHER MATTERS: a) Update on the Village Hall Cllr Wragg briefly updated the PC on developments at the VH.</p> <p>Cllr Peacock reported that there's a red car on the corner of Ryecroft Lane which has been left in a dangerous place, which she will keep an eye on and contact the Clerk if it needs to be reported.</p> <p>The meeting closed at 9:00pm</p>	Cllr Peacock