

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF FOWLMERE PARISH COUNCIL HELD
IN THE SCHOOL ROOM, UNITED REFORMED CHURCH, CHAPEL LANE
19TH APRIL 2011 AT 7.30 PM**

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Cllr Stone, Mr J Bottrill

		Actions
1.	<p>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Apologies were received from Cllr Webb. The Parish Council were saddened to hear that Cllr Eades (Vice Chairman) had resigned due to increased work commitments, he will be missed as being a great asset to the Parish Council. Clerk to write to Cllr Eades and congratulate him on his promotion and hope he is able to rejoin the PC at a later date.</p>	Clerk
2.	<p>DECLARATION OF INTEREST IN AGENDA ITEMS: No items were declared.</p>	
3.	<p>MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF 15TH MARCH 2011: The minutes were agreed and signed as a true record.</p>	
4.	<p>MATTERS ARISING: Clerk to check the FOI act is now on the web-site.</p> <p>The latest update on the Thriplow Triangle is that the application is going to the May meeting at SCDC (11th). A members of the public can speak for, against, a member of the PC and the County Councillor.</p> <p>Cllr Roberts thanked Cllr Stone for taking up some of the concerns re a footpath and the County Council Highways have now confirmed for it to be a condition of approval given. The issue of increasing the 30mph zone would perhaps be better tackling after as it cannot be linked to planning consent and then the case will be stronger.</p> <p>Mr Pymer (Fowlmere resident) has offered to speak on behalf of people in favour of the development. Clerk to let Mr Pymers know he only has a three minute slot and were in agreement to let him have access to the documentation he requested.</p> <p>The Post Office preferred option is to use the URC but the rent required doesn't make it viable. The PO would like the PC to ask if they would consider a lower charge as this is a much needed community benefit. They would like to visit again on 13th May. Clerk to write a letter to Carol Pearl at the URC to say the PC support this idea, is there any way they could reduce their rent, this is a very positive thing for the whole community? A forward commitment could make this a more desirable option, ie a six month plus contract?</p> <p>Crows Parlour – Cllr Roberts reported about contact she has had with the tenant about the state of the land and the broken gate. Cllr Roberts hoped it would be solved amicably or else SCDC would need to get involved. The tenant hadn't progressed with any clearance and SCDC are now involved and a lot has since been cleared.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>
5.	<p>COUNTY COUNCIL AFFAIRS: Cllr Stone was gave the following report:</p> <p><i>"After last month's meeting in Whittlesford I have been continuing to investigate solutions for</i></p>	

<p><i>local transport. That has involved a meeting with South Cambs District Council, whose involvement in community transport is much greater than I had previously thought.</i></p> <p><i>The situation is that the County already makes £220,000 available to help community transport across Cambridgeshire. This year there will be another £120,000 added and next year a further £100,000, to make £440,000 in all. The additional £220,000 is quite modest compared with the current bus subsidy of £2.7million, which is to disappear in stages over four years.</i></p> <p><i>There is also a one-off payment of £258,000 which the County will get from central government as “pump priming.” The County has calculated that over £33million of public money is spent on moving people around Cambridgeshire and believes that some of that could be rationalised.</i></p> <p><i>It is entirely clear that the County expects parish councils to make the running on this. I am therefore very careful not to propose more than tentative solutions. Any decisions will be yours.</i></p> <p><i>An alternative to a bus service would be to operate the 31 service as community transport. In that case the passengers would no longer be able to use their bus passes and would have to pay a fare to the operator. That fare would be subsidised by the County so that it would be 50% of what the operator would have charged.</i></p> <p><i>The County has engaged with partners in a Cambridgeshire Future Transport project. This is behind closed doors, which leads to a certain amount of frustration. It is expected to report in mid May. I think it would be helpful to have some ideas to propose as soon as that report is out. While the County has made it quite clear that it expects communities to come forward with their own ideas and money, it seems pretty obvious that there is at least a small pot of community transport money available and it would be sensible to bid for that earlier rather than later.</i></p> <p><i>At present I am agitating to get some news out of the Cambridgeshire Future Transport. Please let me know if you have any particular concerns you think I should be addressing.</i></p> <p>Village Hall signage <i>I have received a request from Sylvia Bates for improved signage for the village hall. As ever this will have to be paid for by someone other than the County Council and agreed by the local community, which in this case I believe should be the parish council. I have already written to your clerk giving approximate prices. Please contact David Lines direct if you wish to proceed.</i></p> <p>Thriplow Triangle development. <i>I have sent your clerk the response from County Highways about footpaths from the new development as well as an explanation as to why the County cannot insist on moving the 30mph limit as part of the planning condition. I believe this is all I can do for now and hope that the District Council Planning Committee will pay due regard to the County’s views.</i></p> <p>Junction of High Street, Thriplow Road and Cambridge Road <i>I should have told you last month that I took Mr Steinhardt’s proposal to Cambridgeshire Highways. They were interested in the proposal but of course said that they didn’t have the £100,000 implementation would cost. The cost is particularly high because the current highway standards would require lighting at the junction.</i></p> <p><i>The engineers also thought that there would be a danger of exchanging one problem for</i></p>	<p>(Clerk)</p> <p>Cllr Stone</p>
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	<p><i>another as drivers coming from the Thriplow direction would be inclined to drive much faster than they currently do. They consider that the best solution to the current parking problem is double yellow lines – of course paid for by the Parish Council.”</i></p> <p>Cllr Roberts said there are elderly residents especially in the village who are very anxious that they are going to be ‘stranded’ and rely on the buses for shopping and generally getting out and about. Cllr Roberts has tried to allay fears and has said alternatives would be sought, there is real concern but thanks Cllr Stone for his continued efforts.</p> <p>Cllr Roberts said that regarding the issue of Village Hall signage, this should be taken to the next Finance Committee meeting for decision. The VH are seeking quotes re parking bays and also reinforcing the one-way system by writing on the road (Clerk to pass that discussion to Alan Corbridge).</p> <p>Cllr Roberts said there used to be a ‘SLOW’ sign on the road at Chrishall Grange but the road has been resurfaced and it hasn’t been repainted and it needs to be reinstated. Cllr Stone to take that up.</p>	
6.	<p>UPDATE ON THE VILLAGE HALL:</p> <p>a) Fencing</p> <p>Cllr Wragg attended the latest committee meeting, things are looking good, fundraising has been very successful and bookings have increased. Cllr Bates reported that the VH applied to SCDC and have been offered £3000 towards a £26,000 project – further funding is still being sought to make up some of that shortfall. Cllr Roberts thanked both for their contribution and wished the VH every continued success following all their hard work.</p>	
7.	<p>PLANNING COMMITTEE</p> <p>a) Minutes from 15th March and 5th April 2011</p> <p>MINUTES OF A MEETING OF FOWLMERE PARISH COUNCIL PLANNING COMMITTEE HELD IN THE SCHOOL ROOM, URC, CHAPEL LANE, FOWLMERE ON 15TH MARCH 2011 AT 7:15PM</p> <p>PRESENT: Cllr D Roberts (Chair), Cllr M Bates, Cllr O Regan, Cllr J Peacock, Cllr M Sunderland, Cllr N Webb, Cllr L Wragg and Mrs J Wright (Clerk)</p> <p>APOLOGIES: Cllr A Eades</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/0355/11 Conversion of Garage to Games / Play Room Pavillion End, rectory Lane, Fowlmere, Royston, Herts Mr and Mrs Chris and Jenny Neild</p> <p>The PC has no objections to this application but would wish to see a condition that the garage cannot be separated and sold as an independent dwelling at any point in the future</p>	

3. S/2116/10 – **Amendment for Information Only**
 First Floor Extension, including raising of the ridge height
Ion Science, The Way, Fowlmere, Royston, Herts
Ion Science
 The Parish Council noted this amendment.

4. **Other Matters and Updates**
 Other Matters and Updates (*for information only*)
 There were no further matters for discussion.
 The meeting closed at 7:25pm

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF FOWLMERE PARISH COUNCIL PLANNING
 COMMITTEE HELD IN THE SCHOOL ROOM, URC, CHAPEL LANE, FOWLMERE
 ON 5TH APRIL 2011 AT 7:30PM**

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

APOLOGIES: Cllr Bates, Cllr Peacock and about 20 members of the public

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 O'Regan declared an interest in item 4 due to recently joining the South
 Cambridgeshire Housing List. Cllr O'Regan left the room at 19:40

2. S/2247/10 – **For Information Only – PERMISSION GRANTED**
 Change of Use from Office (B1) to Residential Dwelling
Graphic House, High Street, Fowlmere, Royston, SG8 7SU
Mr John Clark, Ryecroft Data

The Parish Council noted the decision

3. S/2116/10 – **For Information Only – PERMISSION GRANTED**
 First Floor Extension, Including Raising the Ridge Height
Ion Science, The Way, Fowlmere, Royston, SG8 7UJ
Ion Science

The Parish Council noted the decision.

4. S/1487/10
 Ten Affordable Dwellings
Land Adjacent to 4 Cambridge Road, Fowlmere, SG8 7QN
Mr Darren Blake, Circle Anglia Ltd

Cllr Roberts introduced the amendments – the design amendments seemed minimal
 and didn't cause concern but there are other areas which need addressing. Cllr
 Roberts opened the meeting to the public at 19:42 and discussion followed
 concerning issues which the public didn't feel had been adequately addressed. The
 summary of this discussion and that which followed between the Parish Councillors is
 as follows and has been sent to South Cambs District Council:

Fowlmere Parish Council submitted their original comments regarding this application in early February 2011. The Parish Council have since seen the amendments and wish to stress that they still feel strongly that all their points are adhered to. In particular the following areas need to be resolved:

1. Public Footpath in Cambridge Road

No public footpath has been added to the verge along the Cambridge Road. Although this may not be a legal condition of Highways, there is incredibly strong public feeling about the safety aspects concerned with children especially walking in the road towards Fowlmere. Creating a public footpath is a must and it will also act as a deterrent to prevent people using the wide verges in Cambridge Road for parking.

2. 30mph Limit in Cambridge Road

There doesn't appear to be mentioned an extension of the 30mph limit in the Cambridge Road to encompass the entrance to the development. Once again, for safety reasons, this really must be put in place, ideally with traffic calming measures.

The Parish Council will seek the support of their local County Councillor on both these matters.

3. Gaps in hedging in Thriplow Road

The gaps in the hedging have been reduced to two but the Parish Council want these to be removed altogether and another solution reached for the bins in the centre terraced houses – perhaps a pathway behind all the houses allowing rear access from the gardens for residents to take their bins around to the front of the houses on collection day? There is no verge in Thriplow Road to house the bins and this could cause an obstruction in the road.

4. Street Lighting

The Parish Council need clarification and a specification, that there will be additional street lighting in the Cambridge Road at the mouth of the new road. All lighting, within the new development and externally of it should not produce light spillage.

5. Sewerage System

As part of the SCDC planning process, Anglia Water will be required in their deliberations to consider the past history in Fowlmere of wet winters, where water has had to be tankered away - are the drainage and sewerage systems proposed adequate?.

6. Heating

The Parish Council would seek clarification on the type of heating systems to be used and would wish to see the most ecological solution as possible.

Following questioning over whether there will be further development on the Thriplow Triangle, Cllr Roberts reiterated that this application stands on its own right; it is outside the village envelope, as is the rest of the field (not the green belt). It is in private ownership and to the knowledge of the PC there are no plans to further develop but the land owners are open at any point to apply against the Local Development Plan for their land to be considered, as is *anyone* in a similar situation.

Cllr Roberts also explained how she had requested this application is taken to the SCDC Planning Committee and not simply passed on Delegation (this is the legitimate way to approach an application where SCDC and the local Parish Council are in general agreement, as is the case with this application.) Cllr Roberts did this in order for Fowlmere Parish Council to be seen as being scrupulously fair during the entire process.

Cllr O'Regan returned to the room at 8:30pm

5. S/0503/11
Detached Garden Room
2 East Barn, Chrishall Grange Road, Fowlmere, Royston, SG8 7NT
Mr M Sykes

The Parish Council have no objections to this application as it's a modest building which won't be out of keeping with the existing property.

6. S/0446/11
Single Storey Extension to Side and Rear of Dwelling
Robin Cottage, Long Lane, Fowlmere, Royston, Herts, SG8 7TA
Mr and Mrs James and Fiona Kidd

The Parish Council have no objections to this application. It is a natural progression for the house and should not impact on any neighbouring properties.

7. S/0374/11
Installation of a Domestic Heating Oil Storage Tank at the Front of the Property and Erection of a Slated Wooden Screen
66 Chapel Lane, Fowlmere, Royston, SG8 7SD
Mr Robert Cullen

The Parish Council have no objections to this application but do require it to be adequately screened

8. S/0462/11
Construction of a Kiosk to House a Booster Pump on the Clean Water Network with an Access Track Within the Existing Cambridge Water Company Site and an Additional Parking Space for Maintenance Visits
Fowlmere Pumping Station, Chrishall Road, Fowlmere, Cambs
Mr Martin Styles, Cambridge Water Company

The Parish Council have no objections to this application, if this is a necessary addition to the site, it will not impact on any properties.

9. S/0521/11
Erection of Dwelling
Land West of The Way, Fowlmere, Royston, Herts, SG8 7QS
C/O Cheffins

This application has been made in line with item 10 on the agenda. It is in a conservation area and also the flood plain. Development within the Conservation area is supposed to enhance the area, and this application does not appear to do so. Cllr Roberts has argued that this should be submitted as an application with item 10 and it's seems like a deliberate ploy as this will avoid any affordable housing being part of the development, which isn't the case as it

all falls under the curtilage of one area.

The removal of trees is an unpleasant way to introduce the application (the trees didn't have TPO's on them so unfortunately SCDC couldn't refuse their removal as their specimen was not such that they could grant TPO's). The trees provided good screening and the PC had said they didn't want to see them removed unless diseased.

Comments included dimensions from the end of properties to the site being exaggerated and inaccurate; vehicular and pedestrian access and associated safety issues; trucks being moved on site overnight and parked long term in The Way, not in the parking area; major loss of amenity for many of the neighbouring houses as the proposed house is immense and would dominate the existing properties; the 'passive' house description is deemed to be a red herring and the proposed building materials are out of keeping. One resident reported that a SCDC Planning Officer had already visited the site and spent some time there.

The change of levels also has a great impact. The removal of the trees now means houses on the High Street can see the factory car park. The rising site is crucial in this application - the upper floor windows are picture windows ie are too large. There is an existing Chestnut Tree which the application states will provide some screening but this tree is diseased and may need some major reduction work so will provide nothing of the sort. Residents nearby have had assurances in writing that the site is to remain as a 'buffer' between housing and the factory and wouldn't be developed.

The response from the Parish Council to be submitted to SCDC is as follows:

Fowlmere Parish Council strongly refuse this application. The comments here should be noted alongside the other application S/0526/11 (The Nurseries).

The proposed property is far too large, will be detrimental to the area, is completely unsympathetic to the surroundings and will have a terribly overbearing effect on all adjacent properties. The application will make a completely different 'feel' to the housing on the High Street

The property is in a Conservation Area and is also in the flood plain.

The Parish Council also strongly object to the recent removal of trees on the site which provided good screening, both visually and audibly for the neighbouring properties. If this application is refused, Fowlmere Parish Council will insist that the landowner replaces the screening through re-landscaping the site.

This site is unsuitable for a dwelling because it is situated along the entrance road to *the* major factory site in Fowlmere. The quality of life for anybody living in this property would be extremely low, looking at a factory, with associated noise and traffic – it would have considerable environmental health issues for the inhabitants of the house.

Finally, the separate application made by the same agent on the same factory site(S/0526/11) has caused the Parish Council to presume that this is a device of the landowner to avoid the obligations of providing Affordable Housing within an

application of 2 or more dwellings and feel this must be addressed by SCDC.

10. S/0526/11

Erection of Two Dwellings

The Nurseries, The Way, Fowlmere, Royston, Herts, SG8 7QS

C/O Cheffins

Comments from residents include that the factory has grown considerably in 20 years and various applications have been made and refused in past years, these have little bearing on the current busy factory which now operates. This application has similar issues to item 9 (S/0521/11). This site is, again, very close to neighbouring properties and also has a car park abutting the site. The noise and light implications would be real issues for the inhabitants of the proposed dwellings, again, reducing the quality of life and increasing environmental health issues. The two houses have an overbearing nature and once again, trees have been unnecessarily removed. The houses are not in keeping with local properties and as the site is *adjacent* to the conservation area, this still has an impact on the design.

The response from the Parish Council to be submitted to SCDC is as follows:

Fowlmere Parish Council strongly refuse this application. The comments here should be noted alongside the other application S/0521/11 (Land West of The Way).

In this particular area the Parish Council considers that huge vandalism has occurred which is completely thoughtless towards the residents, has impacted hugely on them and is deplorable. The screening the trees provided, both visually and audibly has been stripped away, leaving the neighbouring properties completely exposed. If this application is refused, Fowlmere Parish Council will insist that the landowner replaces the screening through re-landscaping the site.

The proposed properties are far too large, will be detrimental to the area, are completely unsympathetic to the surroundings and will have a terribly overbearing effect on all adjacent properties. The application will make a completely different 'feel' to the housing on the High Street.

The fact that the properties are adjacent to the Conservation Area boundary means that design is of key importance and these properties do not meet that standard.

This site is unsuitable for private dwellings because it is situated along the entrance road to *the* major factory site in Fowlmere. The quality of life for anybody living in these properties would be extremely low, looking at a factory, with associated noise and traffic – it would have considerable environmental health issues for the inhabitants of the houses. There is also concern that there is existing asbestos in the pathways on the site and residents would contest the claim in the report that the land is not contaminated.

Finally, the separate application made by the same agent on the same factory site(S/0521/11) has caused the Parish Council to presume that this is a device of the landowner to avoid the obligations of providing Affordable Housing within an application of 2 or more dwellings and feel this must be addressed by SCDC.

	<p>Cllr Roberts intends that if this application is not refused on 'delegation', then she will insist it goes to SCDC Planning Committee and a site visit is made, including viewing the photographic evidence from residents.</p> <p>11. Other Matters and Updates Other Matters and Updates <i>(for information only)</i></p> <p>There were no further matters for discussion. The meeting closed at 9:30pm</p> <p style="text-align: center;">*****</p> <p>b) AFFORDABLE HOUSING UPDATE IN FOWLMERE This was covered earlier in the agenda. The PC has supplied Mr Roskilly with the information he requested regarding his request under the Freedom of Information Act, following the Clerk seeing legal advice from SCDC – over 106 pages of photo-copying. Mr Roskilly is disputing the paperwork sent but the Clerk has sent further information saying the case is now presumed closed.</p> <p>The meeting was then opened to members of the public and press</p>	
8.	<p>BURIAL BOARD: There was an enquiry this week and a visit will be made next week.</p>	
9.	<p>TREES, GRASS AND HEDGES:</p> <p>a) Butts Trees This item was discussed in the Finance Meeting previously</p> <p>b) Crows Parlour, Chapel Lane This item was also discussed in the Finance Meeting</p> <p>Cllr Bates reported that a resident in High Street, junction with Ryecroft Lane has complained about a tree shedding small cones and is causing a hazard to pedestrians. Cllr Bates raised it with SCDC who suggested that PC form a view about it. Cllr Roberts to take a look (Carl Drummond, Milestone House, High Street)</p> <p>Cllr Wragg also reminded the PC that the trees opposite the end of Johns Close need attention and this should be brought back to the next meeting.</p>	<p>Cllr Roberts</p> <p>Cllr Roberts and Cllr O'Regan</p>
10.	<p>FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES:</p> <p>a) Adoption of Accounts The Cllr O'Regan to propose, Cllr Roberts to second and all agreed.</p> <p>b) Feedback from the Finance Meeting There was nothing further to report</p> <p>c) Update on the Post office This has already been reported on.</p> <p>d) Village Meeting Invitations have been sent out inviting people to the Village Meeting</p>	

11.	<p>CORRESPONDENCE: Following the request from Mr J Jackson, The Post Office were asked if it would be possible for a service to be reinstated but run externally, in the Village Stores again but this would not be possible and this has been reported back to Mr J Jackson and Mr Warnes.</p> <p>Clerk to report back to Mr Jackson about the 2 speeding checks done by Appleacre.</p> <p>Heydon Grange Windfarm have requested attendance at a meeting about this but it was made after the agenda had been confirmed. Cllr Roberts asked if Cllr's would like a presentation about the Windfarm but the PC would be an official consultee. If they are having a further meeting, a PC representative could attend, it was agreed this was the best approach. The PC maintains an official stance of neutrality. Clerk to approach.</p>	Clerk Clerk
12.	<p>ACTION LIST UPDATE: The action list was updated accordingly.</p> <p>Residents now need to be surveyed about Yellow Lines at the Thriplow Triangle.</p>	Clerk
13.	<p>OTHER MATTERS: Cllr Roberts announced that Cllr Bates would now be stepping down from the Parish Council- his vast experience, quiet good humour has been invaluable and he will be sorely missed. He is greatly respected and his presence and helpfulness will also be missed. The PC hope that his health greatly improves. Cllr Bates thanked everyone for their kind words and said the recent co-optees have been a breath of fresh air and it's been a pleasure to work with them. The insertion of new blood has been very positive. He wishes the Council of 2011 every success and he'll be keeping an eye on the notice board! Cllr Bates would always be made welcome on the Parish Council in the future.</p> <p>The Clerk to advertise the three positions on the Parish Council after May 5th.</p> <p>The meeting closed at 8:45pm</p> <p>The next meeting is the Annual Village Meeting, to be held at 7:30pm on Tuesday 3rd May 2011 at The Dorothy Pluck Room, St Mary's Church. All villagers are welcome to attend</p> <p>The date of the next PC Meeting is 7:30pm Tuesday 17th May 2011 at the URC, Chapel Lane.</p>	Clerk