

MINUTES OF THE **MEETING OF FOWLMERE PARISH COUNCIL** HELD  
IN THE SCHOOL ROOM, UNITED REFORMED CHURCH, CHAPEL LANE  
**18<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2011 AT 7.30 PM**

PRESENT: Cllr D Roberts (Chairman), Cllr J Bottrill, Cllr P Flynn, Cllr M Sunderland, Cllr N Webb, Cllr Wragg and Mrs J Wright (Clerk)

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr N Flynn - resident

		<b>Actions</b>
1.	<p><b>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:</b> Apologies were received from Cllr O'Regan and Cllr Peacock.</p>	
2.	<p><b>DECLARATION OF INTEREST IN AGENDA ITEMS:</b> No items were declared.</p>	
3.	<p><b>MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF 20<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2011:</b> The minutes were agreed and signed as a true record.</p> <p>Addendum to Agenda - The minutes from 5<sup>th</sup> October were also agreed and signed as a true record.</p>	
4.	<p><b>MATTERS ARISING:</b> There were no matters arising which were not covered in the agenda.</p> <p>Cllr Roberts updated on Crows Parlour in Chapel Lane. Cllr Roberts has been informed by a local resident that things have been moved on site but is not 'in use' again. The local planning officer has told Cllr Roberts that they are in negotiations with the landowner who wants to put one dwelling on the site, probably as a single storey but there isn't a formal application in yet.</p>	
5.	<p><b>COUNTY COUNCIL AFFAIRS:</b> Cllr Stone circulated the following report:</p> <p><b><i>“Street Lighting</i></b> <i>We now have improving clarity on street lighting after Paul Quigley wrote to all parish councils, as he had promised me. We now await a firm decision from South Cambs but meanwhile it is clear that parish councils do not have to insure “their” lights. Please let me know if there is anything further I can do to help.</i></p> <p><b><i>Buses</i></b> <i>I am encouraging everyone with an interest in buses to complete the County's questionnaire. Responses have to be sent in by 9<sup>th</sup> December. I have a quantity of paper questionnaires but the County would prefer to receive them by internet on:</i> <b><u><a href="http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/busreview">www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/busreview</a></u></b></p> <p><i>The County wants to get a new pilot up and running in the Duxford area by Christmas. Although it might not directly affect Fowlmere, you might like to hear about it because it might serve as a template for what the County is trying to achieve. The idea is that a minibus would be provided and branded by the County, leaving the operator to use the minibus for other purposes throughout the day. The theory is that in the very early morning and later evening the minibus could be used to ferry commuters to and from a station. It would be used as a school bus at school times During the middle of the day it could be used to take people to their destination of choice – possibly supermarkets or Trumpington Park &amp; Ride.</i></p> <p><i>In the case of the Duxford area all this would happen before the Citi7 subsidy is withdrawn</i></p>	

*and therefore would not meet the needs of many of the Citi7's current passengers. That would be another hurdle when subsidies are withdrawn. So if something similar were tried in Fowlmere it would not be a substitute for the 31.*

*The rules for running public service transport are very complex. The theory seems to be that the minibus franchise would not be a bus, so those with bus passes would have to pay, but it wouldn't be Community Transport either, so the County wouldn't subsidise 50% of the fare. But the County does seem to want a say in the fare structure. Then, of course, there is the matter of finding potential franchisees. As I see it they will have to be people already in the public transport business.*

### **Development plans**

*It is clear from the District Council's map that there are far too many sites locally for any natural local demand. The now defunct East of England Plan was for some 18,000 houses to be built, of which sites for at least 10,000 have been identified. The "Call for Sites" elicited 270 further sites with an estimated 70,000 houses. Some of these sites have already been rejected – either through the planning process or through local outcry.*

*After your meeting of 5<sup>th</sup> October you will undoubtedly be well on top of the situation and I should imagine your District Councillor will have some fairly forceful responses. I am happy to give any help I can.*

### **Wind Farms**

*Although it doesn't affect Fowlmere directly you may like to know that the County had proposed that no wind farms should be allowed on its own County Farms estates.*

*Cambridgeshire County Council's 35,000 acres (13,500 ha) with 250 farm tenants is the largest in England and Wales. The Estate provides important financial returns for the County Council. It is important as the first rung on the ladder for new entrants to farming, for protecting biodiversity, and providing leisure opportunities in the countryside.*

*The Estate's rent roll is £2.4m. Since 1990 more than £40m has been raised through the judicious sale of surplus property. The money raised is used to pay for Council services and to keep the Council tax low. Tenants have complained that this blanket rejection is perverse, in terms both of carbon reduction and loss of revenue. It is estimated that the County, which already owns a wind farm, could generate £900,000 a year from renewable wind energy.*

*The Liberal Democrats have forced a re-think of the policy: success has been fairly modest: the County has now lifted the blanket ban but says it prefers small individual turbines rather than larger arrays. Our view is that planning applications should be allowed to come forward and approved or rejected according to perfectly satisfactory planning rules, which have seen far more applications being rejected than have been approved. You can be sure that I shall continue to oppose any wind farms in our area which could have a negative effect on the operations of the Imperial War Museum.*

### **Protected Road Verges**

*You will recall that this year the County has dealt a blow to our countryside by withdrawing its special cutting regime for its Protected Road Verges. I put a motion to Full Council today*

	<p><i>asking the County to maintain its Protected Road Verges according to the protocol already agreed with the Wildlife Trust. I quite expected it to be defeated – and it was. The figleaf of an excuse was that the County is already consulting the Wildlife Trust and it was too early to come to a conclusion. That was poppycock because the protocol already exists and all the County is trying to do is weasel out of it. I knew from the Wildlife Trust that this was happening and they are just trying to rescue what they can from a very unfortunate situation.</i></p> <p><b>Cambridge Road/Thriplow Road</b>  <i>David Lines seems to think all is going on satisfactorily. I should like your confirmation that he is right. Also on the subject of the Village Hall signs.”</i></p> <p>Cllr Roberts informed Cllr Stone that the shop in Fowlmere was to unfortunately close at the weekend, which will affect many residents in the village, particularly the elderly, who rely on it for prescriptions amongst other things.</p> <p>Cllr Sunderland asked who is responsible for signage at Flint Cross – Cllr Stone advised it was the County Council – apparently the signs on the islands in the middle of the road are often flattened.</p>	
6.	<p><b>UPDATE ON THE VILLAGE HALL:</b>  Cllr Flynn reported that the fundraising at the Village Hall is going well and the quiz night raised over £1000. The new kitchen is working well and looks very smart.</p>	
7.	<p><b>PLANNING COMMITTEE</b>  <b>a) Minutes from 20<sup>th</sup> September 2011</b></p> <p><b>MINUTES OF A MEETING OF FOWLMERE PARISH COUNCIL PLANNING COMMITTEE HELD IN THE SCHOOL ROOM, URC, CHAPEL LANE, FOWLMERE ON 20<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2011 AT 7:15PM</b></p> <p>PRESENT: Cllr D Roberts (Chair), Cllr J Bottrill, Cllr P Flynn, Cllr E O'Regan, Cllr J Peacock, Cllr M Sunderland, Cllr N Webb and Mrs J Wright (Clerk)</p> <p>APOLOGIES: Cllr L Wragg.</p> <p>IN ATTENDANCE Mr Michael Bates</p> <p><b>1. Declarations of interest (if any)</b>  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><b>2. S/1043/11</b>  Outline Planning application for 9 affordable dwellings  <b>Land to the rear of Piper's Close, Fowlmere, Cambs, SG8 7RX</b>  <b>Chartism Housing.</b></p> <p>The Parish Council have noted this application. The view of Fowlmere Parish Council remains the same, for a very strong refusal. The Parish Council understands that the Village Hall trustees share the same opinion.</p> <p><b>3. C/11/40/029</b></p>	

Application to undertake work on trees situated within a CONSERVATION AREA  
**Selby Cottages, Rectory Lane, Fowlmere, Cambs**  
**Mr Bryden**

The Parish Council will take the advice of the Tree Officer at South Cambs District Council on this application.

**4. S/1043/11 For information only – (Submission of Habitat & Protected Species Scoping Survey Rpt)**

Outline Planning application for 9 affordable dwellings  
**Land to the rear of Piper’s Close, Fowlmere, Cambs, SG8 7RX**  
**Chartism Housing**

The Parish Council noted the amendment.

**5. S/1359/11 For information Only – Permission Granted**

Alterations to toilet area – Block and relocate door opening and replace fixtures  
**Fowlmere Primary School, Butts Lane, Fowlmere, Royston, Cambs, SG8 7SL**  
**Fowlmere Primary School**

The Parish Council noted the decision

**6. S/1375/11 For information Only – Permission Granted**

Single Storey Extension  
**2 Aldous Court, Fowlmere, Royston, Cambs, SG8 7WA**  
**Mr & Mrs Christopher / Jessica McQuoid**

The Parish Council noted the decision.

**7. Other Matters and Updates**

Other Matters and Updates (*for information only*)  
There were no further matters for discussion.

The meeting closed at 7:25pm

The minutes were agreed as a correct record and were signed accordingly

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**b) Strategic Planning in Fowlmere – Update**

The leaflets regarding the strategic planning proposals in Fowlmere were delivered to every household in the village (and also contained information about the threatened bus service in the village). There haven’t been too many queries as of yet about the strategic planning but several residents have asked for paper copies of the bus questionnaire which the Clerk will supply once she receives a supply from SCDC.

**The Meeting was then opened to the members of the public**

CLr Roberts updated Mr Flynn on the situation with his driveway in Piper’s Close. She reported that she has spoken to Geoff Clark at SCDC who was aware of the situation with Mr Flynn’s driveway but there is unfortunately no money available at the Council to undertake the work Mr Flynn requires. If Mr Flynn is willing to pay for the job himself and thinks the



	<p>were any issues to take up. Nothing was specified.</p> <p>Cllr Wragg also mentioned that 2012 is the Queen's Jubilee year and is there anything the PC would like to do? It was agreed to put it on the next agenda for some further thought.</p>	Clerk
12.	<p><b>ACTION LIST UPDATE:</b> The Action List was updated accordingly</p>	
13.	<p><b>OTHER MATTERS:</b></p> <p><b>a) Items for Finance and Burial Board Meeting Agendas</b> The agendas were completed and would be circulated next week.</p> <p><b>b) Remembrance Service</b> Cllr Roberts reminded the Councillors of the arrangements regarding the Remembrance Service on 13<sup>th</sup> November. The PC has made their annual donation of £50 to the Royal British Legion, which includes payment for a wreath to be presented at the service.</p> <p>Cllr Roberts reported that the shop closing is a real blow to the village especially regarding prescriptions – is there any way we can support this initiative? Several Councillors offered to help deliver prescriptions but thought the surgeries may not allow this. The Clerk was asked to phone Melbourn/Harston surgeries and seek an alternative to delivering prescriptions</p> <p>The meeting closed at 8:45pm</p>	Clerk