

MINUTES OF THE **MEETING OF FOWLMERE PARISH COUNCIL** HELD
IN THE SCHOOL ROOM, UNITED REFORMED CHURCH, CHAPEL LANE
21ST FEBRUARY 2012 AT 7.30 PM

PRESENT: Cllr D Roberts (Chairman), Cllr L Wragg (Vice-Chairman), Cllr J Bottrill, Cllr P Flynn, Cllr E O'Regan, Cllr J Peacock, Cllr M Sunderland, Cllr T Bearpark and Mrs J Wright (Clerk)

IN ATTENDANCE: Cllr Tim Stone, Mr Michael Bates

		Actions
1.	<p>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Apologies were received from Cllr N Webb</p>	
2.	<p>DECLARATION OF INTEREST IN AGENDA ITEMS: No items were declared.</p>	
3.	<p>NEW COUNCILLOR - DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE Cllr Tony Bearpark accepted the terms of office and the appropriate paperwork was signed and witnessed.</p> <p>Cllr Roberts asked if both Cllr Stone and Mr Bates could speak about their individual items on the agenda before others, as they both had to leave the meeting early. The Cllr's agreed and Cllr Stone proceeded.</p>	
6.	<p>COUNTY COUNCIL AFFAIRS: Cllr Stone gave the following report:</p> <p>"Buses <i>The County's budget for 2012/13 plans for a continuing programme of removing the remaining £2.5 million of bus subsidies and putting in £1.5 million to support community transport. People are still contacting me to say that all bus services have been cancelled. This is not the case. No change will be made to current subsidy arrangements until September. On Friday we should hear which routes will lose their subsidy in September.</i></p> <p><i>From the outset we have been crying out for proper local consultation and eventually this may happen. The County was going to hand deliver a questionnaire to every household in the eleven villages but has now run out of money. So I am asking editors of parish magazines if they can help. That has been offered for Fowlmere and Thriplow, so I am now trying to ensure that distributors get the surveys in time. Anyone interested in giving their opinion should be encouraged to participate in the consultation on "what comes next." The initial consultation received 16% of all its responses from our area, which represents just over 1% of the county's population.</i></p> <p>Minor Traffic Improvements <i>I have now been appointed to the panel of County Councillors which will choose which traffic improvements will go ahead in South Cambridgeshire. From the draft budget it seems that the total "pot" will be only £50,000 and it seems certain that the County's contribution to any individual project will be limited to £5,000. Our alternative budget had increased the headline number to £100,000 but that proposal was defeated today.</i></p> <p>Superfast Broadband <i>Superfast broadband is getting closer. Both main parties on the county council are committed and the capital expenditure should be passed when the budget goes to full council on 21st February.</i></p>	

The first step is to present a business case to Broadband Development UK to ensure that the earmarked £6.75 million can be drawn down in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. The business case is to be submitted by the end of this month. From March to about May the County will be attempting to prioritise roll-out of superfast broadband. The objective here is firstly to encourage people to want to use superfast broadband. If enough of them can be identified in particular areas then the broadband suppliers may be willing to take a commercial decision to provide it. That saves having to use taxpayers' money.

The County will then have to prioritise where it will spend money on those areas judged not to be commercial. I shall be on the case to ensure that it is done properly. To my mind it is essential to prioritise places where people are currently unable to run businesses or work from home efficiently because of inadequate broadband speeds.

Once that set of objectives has been met the County will meet suppliers to work out procurement, which will involve sequencing areas to receive superfast broadband. Timing of that is not entirely clear but the whole operation is being treated as a priority.

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Just as a reminder, current broadband speeds in each area can be checked by inputting a telephone number and postcode at these websites:

<http://www.samknows.com>

<http://www.thinkbroadband.com>

<http://www.mybroadbandspeed.co.uk;>

or BT.Com checker at

<http://www.productsandservices.bt.com/consumerProducts/displayTopic.do?topicId=25795>

There is now also Broadband information the Cambridgeshire County Council website. You can go directly to:

<http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/business/economicandcommunitydev/ecodevelopment/broadband/default.htm>

You can access the Frequently Asked Questions section there.

Hanley Grange and SHLAA

You will have seen that Hanley Grange is back on the map for the District Council's Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment. It may not have a direct impact on Fowlmere but the indirect impact could be serious. Although the County has much less input into planning than it did, it is still a statutory consultee and has a wealth of experience. Talking to officers, they see no reason why the County would not continue to oppose the new Hanley Grange, should it get over the first set of hurdles placed by the District Council.

There is another similar threat in Uttlesford, where a 6,400 house site is proposed for Stump Cross. District Planners are obliged to place these sites on their list if they fit government imposed criteria. The concern about the Great Chesterford development is that it is supported by a pressure group from

	<p><i>Saffron Walden which forms part of the Saffron Walden Neighbourhood Planning Group.</i></p> <p><i>I attended an exhibition at Great Chesterford a fortnight ago. Visitors were asked to put green or red stickers on a map of possible local developments. The Stump Cross development was a sea of red.</i></p> <p><i>I have warned the County Council of this threat and they are now in contact with Uttlesford District Council. My understanding is that South Cambridgeshire District Council is also talking to them.</i></p> <p><i>Cllr Stone asked County what is being done about Protected Verges, it is a 'county' responsibility. Verges on the main roads may not apparently be looked after by Parish Councils due to health and safety risks but it's all very unclear at present. Fowlmere Parish Council have taken on maintaining the Fowlmere Protected Verges and new signage to indicate the verges has been installed by SCDC..</i></p> <p><i>Cllr Wragg has said that one of the reasons for a supposed supporting of the Great Chesterford proposal is so that it avoids further houses being built in Saffron Walden and will be built therefore on the proposed site away from the town."</i></p>	
10.	<p>TREES, GRASS AND HEDGES: a) UPDATE ON THE MOAT</p> <p>Mr Michael Bates, who is co-ordinating the finding work on the Moat, kindly attended the meeting to update the Parish council on progress.</p> <p>Mr Bates reported that the process has been underway for some time. English Heritage supported the original survey which has led to the engagement of a consultant to fill out the funding forms which has been recovered as part of the process. FPC is applying to the Government (Natural England) for a Higher Level Stewardship Agreement. Paperwork has been received back but the amount of funding available is not as high as originally hoped for - a total of £3775.50. The agreement means FPC have to undertake the work recommended in the original report but this will not be possible in its entirety with that level of finance, especially given the breakdown. It is an expectation that a working party is formed to allow residents to undertake some of the lower-level work which has H&S implications. There is unlikely to be any further offer. The paperwork needs to be signed by the end of February, to start payment in March. The breakdown is as follows: Up to £2500 of the grant is to be for an information noticeboard - entitled 'special projects' with an agreed format with English heritage and Natural England. £400 for professional help with an implementation plan is also included, for example to set up a public meeting. £387.50 for tree removal. £43 for tree surgery (minor) £445 for tree surgery (major) - all to be completed by 2015.</p> <p>Mr Bates concluded by asking if the Parish Council wishes to enter into this agreement which doesn't appear to address any of the issues the PC needs funding for, ie major tree work. Mr Bates is very disappointed with the outcome of the offer and its limitations.</p> <p>Cllr Roberts said the ramifications are onerous if the PC accepts the offer due to the conditions set, especially as the expectation is to include volunteer work. The PC should ask how responsibilities for the Moat can be transferred to English Heritage as it is not viable for the Parish Council to progress. If the PC cannot maintain the Moat, the area would need to be closed to the public. The PC simply cannot afford the programme of work specified and they would need to take advice from their insurance company as to the way forward if the trees aren't maintained in line with the recommendations. Mr Bates will ask the question via David Kenney.</p> <p>Cllr Sunderland asked if English Heritage would maintain the area properly and would it still be accessible to the public?</p> <p>Cllr Roberts asked that we speak to the Insurance company to determine liability (as custodians of a Scheduled Ancient Monument which English heritage has the legal authority to protect it.) Can Mr</p>	

	<p>Bates extend the timescale? SCDC may be able to help - Cllr Roberts will ask if they can be divested back to English Heritage?</p> <p>Cllr Wragg said that had the money been the other way around, the PC may have accepted, rather than the majority of the funding going towards a new sign.</p> <p>The Cllr's agreed that Mr Bates can formally sign to say the PC do not accept the agreement as it stands.</p> <p>The Clerk to keep all Cllr's and Mr Bates informed of the outcome at SCDC and the insurance company.</p> <p>The PC would like to minute their continued thanks to Mr Bates for his continued hard work and efforts in securing funding.</p> <p>Cllr Roberts added that the plans were underway to finalise the commemorative plaque on a tree on the Butts to thank Mr Bates for his past Chairmanship.</p> <p>The Cllr's are in agreement that the two sycamores could be removed at Sexton's cottage and that they could be replaced with two lilacs. The Clerk to contact the residents.</p> <p>The land outside Jackson's Way doesn't belong to the PC and residents would need to contact the family for work to be done.</p> <p>The Clerk to write back to Mr and Mrs Price with the unfavourable news from English Heritage which is not encouraging and report back that the PC are seeking further advice.</p> <p>Re churned up grass in Johns Close, on the edge of the green, Cllr Roberts said she would pay a visit to make sure that any remedial work is undertaken.</p>	<p>Cllr Roberts</p> <p>All (Clerk)</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Cllr Roberts</p>
4.	<p>MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF 17TH JANUARY 2012: The minutes were agreed and signed as a true record.</p> <p>The tree on the corner of Ryecroft Lane is being looked at by SCDC and the PC awaits their decision.</p>	
5.	<p>MATTERS ARISING: a) STANDARDS COMMITTEE NEWSLETTER</p> <p>Cllr Roberts said the FPC will need to put into place their own 'rules' but agreed that there should be a universal set for Parish Councils to sign up to. The 'Standards Board' no longer exists and FPC need to consider the rules suggested by SCDC or write our own ie the Nolan Principals of Life, which could be left open to interpretation.</p> <p>Cllr Wragg said that it would seem sensible to assess the SCDC Standards once they are published. All agreed that this seemed the best way forward.</p>	
7.	<p>UPDATE ON THE VILLAGE HALL:</p> <p>Fundraising is still progressing and the money from SCDC has been taken up for the double glazing.</p> <p>It was agreed to put this as an agenda item once a quarter as the emergency recovery stage is now behind the Village Hall and finances are healthy.</p>	
8.	<p>PLANNING COMMITTEE a) PLANNING MINUTES FROM 7TH and 13TH FEBRUARY 2012</p>	

MINUTES OF A **MEETING OF FOWLMERE PARISH COUNCIL PLANNING COMMITTEE** HELD IN THE DOROTHY PLUCK ROOM, ST MARY'S CHURCH, FOWLMERE ON **7TH FEBRUARY 2012 AT 7:30PM**

PRESENT: Cllr D Roberts (Chair), Cllr J Bottrill, Cllr P Flynn, Cllr E O'Regan, Cllr J Peacock and Mrs J Wright (Clerk)

APOLOGIES: Cllr Sunderland, Cllr Webb and Cllr Wragg

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.

2. S/2521/11

Proposed conversion of building (B1 use) to poultry, pet and equestrian store

Deans Farm, Shepreth Road, Fowlmere, SG8 7TG

T Deans.

Cllr Roberts introduced this application and suggested that the PC wait and assess the application when a full planning committee could be available. More information is needed before this application can be properly assessed. The Parish Council agreed to this. A further meeting to be held on Monday 13th February - the Clerk to book a suitable venue.

3. S/0019/12FL

Enlargement of single storey rear extension and erection of detached double garage to front of property

22 Pipers Close, Fowlmere, SG8 7RX

Mr Jim Roberts

The Parish Council support this application but would not wish the garage to be used for any domestic purposes and this needs to be a condition of any planning approval.

4. S/2351/11 For information only – **PERMISSION GRANTED**

Removal and Variation for condition 2 and 8 to allow for the insertion of rooflights

Springfields, Fowlmere Road, Melbourn, SG8 6EZ

Mrs Maxine Blythe

The Parish Council noted the decision

5. Other Matters and Updates

Other Matters and Updates *(for information only)*

There has been notice of an appeal by Chartism Housing for the land at the rear of Pipers Close, this has been brought about because SCDC have not yet determined their opinion. The representations of the PC will be submitted as part of the appeal process.

Re the Thriplow Triangle - Circle Anglia have withdrawn from the process and another builder and housing association (Bedfordshire Pilgrims) are interested and hope to take it forward. Cllr Roberts spoke to SCDC and sought agreement from the PC to write to Shula Newstead at SCDC and ask for

her written confirmation of the way forward and more details re the starting dates etc. All agreed.

Cllr Flynn asked about the new shed in the rear of 22 Chapel Lane, to ask if this requires planning permission as she has received a couple of queries about it - the Clerk to check with SCDC.

The bushes by the ditch in Chapel Lane also need work to reduce the pavement overhang. Cllr Roberts to take a look to determine where ownership lies.

The meeting closed at 8:05pm

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF FOWLMERE PARISH COUNCIL PLANNING COMMITTEE
HELD IN THE DOROTHY PLUCK ROOM, ST MARY'S CHURCH, FOWLMERE ON 13TH
FEBRUARY 2012 AT 7:30PM**

PRESENT: Cllr D Roberts (Chair), Cllr J Bottrill, Cllr P Flynn, Cllr E O'Regan, Cllr J Peacock, Cllr Sunderland, Cllr Webb, Cllr Wragg and Mrs J Wright (Clerk)

APOLOGIES: There were no apologies for absence

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr Tony and Mrs Christine Deans, Mr Dan Smith

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 Roberts reported how she had sought advice from SCDC re personal and prejudicial interest for Item 2. SCDC have agreed that Cllr Roberts is able to fully participate in discussion and decision re Item 2, having explained her position regarding the near neighbouring applicants - they cannot see or hear the site and they do not socialise with the applicants, they are just known to each other. Cllr Roberts has withdrawn from previous discussions regarding this site but wanted to seek advice from SCDC that this is not actually necessary and has been over-cautious for previous applications. Cllr Roberts sought verbal advice from David Lord (Legal Officer), Fiona McMillan (Monitoring Officer) and Holly Adams (Clerk to Standards Committee) before this conclusion that Cllr Roberts could attend, was reached. This advice was received in writing and copies sent to the Clerk.

2. S/2521/11

Proposed conversion of building (B1 use) to poultry, pet and equestrian store

Deans Farm, Shepreth Road, Fowlmere, SG8 7TG

T Deans.

The Parish Council considered this application in detail and viewed the plans, and a ballot was taken, the result being 3 votes in favour and 5 against the application. The Parish Council therefore recommends refusal of the application.

	<p>The Parish Council is very concerned about setting a precedent for introducing new retail use which is already provided for in the local vicinity. There are concerns over the building becoming a retail facility, including the proposed 7 day per week opening, and the increased traffic use associated with that - there will inevitably be a much greater effect on traffic movement entering and leaving the site and concerns were expressed at the meeting that these could potentially be dangerous, given the nature of the road and difficulty in seeing the entrance when approaching from the direction of the A10.</p> <p>The application does not appear to comply with policies which relate to land outside the village envelope. Policies for land outside village envelopes seek to restrain development other than in exceptional circumstances or when there is a proven local unmet need. The PC view is that neither is applicable for this application. Given that this is only part of a much larger area of land the PC is very concerned that any approval at this time will inevitably lead to other similar applications which, given that this will set a precedent, would be very difficult, if not impossible to resist</p> <p>The goods intended to be sold will need to be brought in to the establishment, rather than selling only goods produced on the associated farm. It is likely that the intended new business will adversely affect the viability of existing local businesses which are selling very similar goods. If South Cambridgeshire District Council is not in agreement with the recommendation of Fowlmere Parish Council, Fowlmere Parish Council would want the application referred to the Planning Committee for decision, including a site visit.</p> <p>3. S/1043/11/0 FOR INFORMATION ONLY - NOTICE OF AN APPEAL Outline Planning Application for 9 Affordable Dwellings Land to rear of Pipers Close, Fowlmere, SG8 7RX Chartism Housing</p> <p>The Parish Council noted the appeal</p> <p>4. Other Matters and Updates Other Matters and Updates (<i>for information only</i>)</p> <p>The meeting closed at 8:25pm</p> <p>The minutes were agreed and signed as a true record</p> <p style="text-align: center;">*****</p> <p>b) AFFORDABLE HOUSING IN FOWLMERE</p> <p>Following the official response back from SCDC about the site, concern was raised over whether building could start before a Registered Social Landlord was in place. FPC would not be happy with this. A RSL needs to be committed and acceptable to SCDC and FPC before work starts. The Clerk to reply back to Mrs Newstead at SCDC and ask this question.</p> <p>The Meeting was then opened to the members of the public and then closed.</p>	Clerk
9.	<p>BURIAL BOARD: The Chapel key saga continues as the current firm have lost the original key but the Clerk is chasing</p>	Clerk

	progress.	
11.	<p>FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES: Clerk to claim the funding from SCDC re roundabout.</p> <p>The next Finance meeting will be at 7:00pm on Tuesday 20th March, prior to the PC meeting.</p> <p>The Cllr's agreed that The Clerk is to have an inflational rise from 1st April 2012.</p>	Clerk
12.	<p>CORRESPONDENCE: Further to the Correspondence List a letter was received and read to the meeting from Bianca Wetzi re a concern over planning process.</p> <p>Clerk to change postal mailing address for CAPALC</p>	Clerk
13.	<p>ACTION LIST UPDATE: The Action List was updated accordingly.</p>	
14.	<p>OTHER MATTERS: The date of the next meeting is Tuesday 20th March 2012 at 7:30pm at the URC, with the Finance Meeting at 7:00pm beforehand.</p> <p>The meeting closed at 9:20pm</p>	