

Teversham Parish Council

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 19th May 2008 at
Teversham Primary School

Present: Chairman Simon Martin, Vice Chairman Ian Oxford. Parish Councillors: Caroline Hunt, David Kelleway, Denise Kelleway, Michael Nicholson, Ros Thulborn, Nick Tucker and Lup Yau. County Councillor Robert Turner, Mick Read, Head teacher, Cllr R Manning (Leader SCDC), Mr S Hills SCDC and Anita Goddard SCDC and 16 parishioners. There were no apologies.

After a brief welcome and introduction by the Chairman of the Parish Council the meeting opened.

1. Police

Despite assuring us a representative would be attending the meeting, the Police notified the Parish Council at short notice that they were unable to attend. Instead a report had been issued, from which the Chairman read. It was noted that no report was available for Foxgloves and the statistics were for the old village. Cllr Oxford explained about the work done by the Neighbourhood Panel and confirmed when the next meeting is due to be held. The Chairman thanked Ian for attending the meetings.

2. Chairman's Report

Cllr Martin gave a detailed report on the work carried out by the Parish Council in the last twelve months. He reported on the decision by the County Council not to re-locate the Milton Waste Water Treatment Plant to Honey Hill and the new proposals by the District Council to alter the boundary of our parish. The Parish Council's achievements were reported and included the replacement rocking horse at the recreation ground on the High Street, new fencing at Foxgloves and the repairs to the Pavilion. He also gave an update with progress on the proposed village hall and informed parishioners about the new website.

Parishioners were then given the opportunity to ask questions.

One parishioner asked if the Youth Group would be able to have a link on the website and another if Teversham Terriers could. Cllr Martin agreed that it would be possible to provide a link for the Youth Group and that one for Teversham Terriers was already live.

3. Matters Arising

i. Land Maintenance Issues at Foxgloves

Stephen Hills and Anita Goddard from SCDC were introduced and Mr Hills addressed the meeting. He outlined the ownership issues with the estate and the effect this had had on maintenance over the years. Drastic works were needed to clear the overgrown shrubs. Parishioners complained that the works had been too severe and their privacy had been compromised. Mr Hills confirmed that there was no policy in place to compensate people who felt they had to install new fencing. He confirmed that the stumps would be ground out where appropriate and work was ongoing to clear the debris left behind. He also confirmed that bare areas would be re-seeded and new planting would take place in some areas. He confirmed that feedback would continue to be monitored and a map showing who was responsible for which bits

of land is currently being drawn up. Cllr Martin asked for a copy to be forwarded to the Parish Council as soon as it was available.

Cllr Martin asked for clarification of when the works were to be signed off. Anita explained that due to the extra planting and re-seeding extra costs were being sought and a timescale would be confirmed from the contractor.

Parishioners also raised questions regarding why the works were carried out whilst birds were nesting and complained that they had been unable to speak with anyone at SCDC whilst the works were ongoing.

ii. Proposed Boundary Review

Cllr R Manning addressed the meeting. He gave an overview of the proposed review, explaining that other areas as well as Teversham Foxgloves were affected. He confirmed that the proposed changes to the boundary had been drawn up in conjunction with the City Council. He said that if SCDC did not agree, the City might go for a hostile bid, giving SCDC no control over what they asked for. Following the recent meeting it had been agreed that parishioners should be given the opportunity to comment on changes, prior to SCDC agreeing the changes. These would be distributed shortly with a SAE to each household affected. Cllr Martin asked when the questionnaire could be expected as he thought it was already running over schedule. A lively discussion followed and the Parish Council confirmed that they are opposed to the changes.

District Cllr Hunt said she would represent the majority depending on the outcome of the questionnaire. However, she did have grave concerns about the boundary change going through Marshall's Airport. If Cambridge East were built, Teversham would have no say in the planning process.

4. Financial Statement

Copies of the Income and Expenditure (subject to audit) were circulated and noted. The Clerk gave a brief overview. One question was asked regarding the Recycling Credits. District Cllr Hunt confirmed that we no longer received credits, however grants were now given for community projects. The Parish Council would be applying for one should the building of the proposed Village Hall proceed.

5. Parish Reports

i. Teversham School

Mr Read addressed the meeting, for the last time as Head of Teversham Primary School as he is retiring at the end of the Summer Term. He gave an informative report about various activities and achievements including the results of a recent Ofsted Inspection. He also explained that Marshall's had become a Patron of the school for the next three years. He kindly extended an invitation to everyone to attend his leaving party later in the year. Mr Read was thanked by the Parish Council and the rest of the meeting for his contribution to the school over many years.

ii. Teversham Terriers

Trevor Ball congratulated all of the teams for a very successful season and expressed how delighted he was with the conduct of all of the team members for their conduct on and off of the pitch. Several outings had taken place and the players and their supporters were looking forward to the end of season barbecue and presentation to be held at the school at the end of June. He explained that the Under 7's had been awarded a grant to help establish the new team over the next four years. The Parish Council thanked Trevor for his hard work and concluded that the Club was a valuable asset to the village.

iii. Teversham Youth Group

After a short introduction the group presented a series of short films they had made, using the Multi Media Van. These were well received by the audience. Cllrs thanked Brigid Malone for all of her hard work with the group which is going from strength to strength. Everyone felt that this group is a great asset to our village.

6. Report from South Cambridgeshire District Councillor Caroline Hunt

South Cambridgeshire District Councillor Hunt reported that she had served on both the Planning and Standards Committee and represented SCDC on the board of trustees at The Farmland Museum Denny Abbey. She also reported on the Proposed Boundary changes and on the Cambridge East development. District Councillor Hunt went on to inform the meeting about the proposed transfer of council owned homes to a housing society and the great news that work had started on the Airey houses in the village. Three independent surveys had voted South Cambridgeshire amongst the best places to live in the UK and SCDC Council tax is the 13th lowest in the UK.

District Councillor Hunt was asked what the loss of revenue would be to the District Council if the proposed boundary review were adopted. She could not answer this question, but Cllr Manning confirmed that these calculations had not been done, but it was thought the District Council would not be much worse off.

7. Report from Cambridgeshire County Councillor Robert Turner

County Councillor Turner also reported on Cambridge East and the triumph of the decision of the County Council not to re-locate the Sewage works at Milton to Honey Hill. He gave an interesting update on the proposals made by the County Council to tackle congestion and the progress of the guided bus way. However, results published recently saw 62% of all respondents against the proposals for congestion charging.

The question was asked if Marshall's would relocate. County Councillor Turner confirmed that at this time no decision had been made. Marshall's continue to be a huge local employer and a good neighbour. He also thanked Brigid Malone for her work with the Youth Group.

The Parish Council thanked both District Councillor Hunt and County Councillor Turner for their efforts.

8. Open Forum

One question was raised regarding the village hall and how much it would cost. Cllr Martin explained that costs would be sought as soon as the Parish Council knew if the planning

application submitted had gained approval. The Parish Council could also start to apply for grants at this stage. It was envisaged that further consultation would be made with the parish prior to any commencement of building work.

Another person asked if the public were allowed to speak at the planning committee meeting. District Cllr Hunt confirmed that one person could speak for and one against for 3 minutes.

The meeting closed at 9.25pm