

IXWORTH AND IXWORTH THORPE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Ixworth & Ixworth Thorpe Parish Council meeting held at Ixworth Village Hall on 13th July 2016 at 7:30pm

Present: Cllr Ben Lord (Chairman) Cllrs David Reeve, Nick Laughton, Roy McFruin, Pam Shelton, Trevor Anderson and Ben Birrell.

Also Present: Mandy Adlington (Parish Clerk), C Cllr Joanna Spicer MBE, B Cllr John Griffiths MBE and 5 members of the public.

1. Apologies for Absence

Cllr Wilson – Holiday – accepted.

2. Declarations of Interest

Cllrs Laughton & McFruin – Ixworth Village Hall – item 13.

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

It was agreed by all present the Chairman sign the minutes as a true record of the meetings held on 8th June 2016.

4. Public Forum

Mr Sharpe reported the following;

Mr Sharpe had met with the residents of Thistledown Drive about the overgrown trees in the area known as 'The Pit'. Mr Sharpe strongly agreed that something needed to be done about the current state of the trees and the adverse effect they are having on the residents concerned. Mr Sharpe has suggested to residents that they make a planning application to pollard the trees rather than cutting them down, this might appeal more to the planning inspectors at St Edmundsbury Borough Council. Mr Sharpe strongly urged the Parish Council to have no objection if and when this application is put before them for their comments.

B Cllr Griffiths stated he would support any application.

It was agreed to try to arrange a meeting, via B Cllr Griffiths with St Eds tree officer, to visit Ixworth to discuss various tree issues.

Rachel Waite requested if any further information had been obtained about speeding in Ixworth after the Annual Parish meeting. The Chairman replied that as yet no further correspondence had been received.

5. Report from County Councillor Joanna Spicer MBE

C Cllr Spicer reported the following;

- **Stow Road/Mulley's Roundabout –**
- C Cllr Spicer felt that this whole area needed a package put in place to cover the various issues highlighted recently. Some of the issues that have been highlighted recently are speeding, parked cars on verges, the overgrown roundabout, the road condition. C Cllr Spicer suggested arranging a meeting with S.C.C., Parish Council and perhaps a couple of residents to arrange a comprehensive plan for the area. It was agreed that the Chairman, Cllr Laughton and the Clerk would attend the meeting once arranged. All previous suggestions could be looked at fully such as sponsorship of the roundabout by a local business.
- **Matthew Hancock MP**
- The recent visit and meeting with Ixworth's MP had gone very well. Amongst the issues discussed was the lack of recreation, walks in and around the village and future housing developments. The meeting was a good opportunity to talk up Ixworth in its entirety highlighting its many good points.
- **St Mary's Footpath**
- St Mary's footpath would be resurfaced soon now that it had been established a faculty was not required.
- **5 Arm Roundabout Application**
- Suffolk County Council Highways Department had no objections to the 5 arm roundabout access to the Crown Lane housing development

6. Report from Borough Councillor John Griffiths

B Cllr Griffiths reported that he had attended many meetings recently to discuss the devolution opportunity for East Anglia. A public consultation was in progress and urged the Parish Council to take part in the consultation.

7. Mulley's Roundabout

This item was covered in item in C Cllr's Spicer's report. However, the Chairman passed on strong comments about the condition of the roundabout the Parish Council had received from a resident.

8. Neighbourhood Plan

The Chairman explained that it had been resolved in the February meeting that the Parish Council would co-ordinate the creation of a new Neighbourhood Plan to supersede the Parish Plan that was last done in 2005. This had been presented to the residents during the Annual Parish Meeting in June. A discussion took place about the Neighbourhood Plan. It was resolved that the Chairman could begin liaising with St Edmundsbury Borough Council to formally submit an application to designate the Neighbourhood Plan boundary in line with the existing Parish Council boundary. This should take 4/6 weeks to be processed and once confirmed, it was then agreed for the Ixworth Neighbourhood Plan Forum to be formed, chaired by the Parish Council Chairman along with 2-3 Councillors as well as encouraging others interested in participating in this forum to also join in.

B Cllr Griffiths offered his support to this project.

9. Planning

DC/16/1331 – two storey side extension – 2 Peasecroft Road, Ixworth –

No objection

DC/16/1353 – fell 1no Beech tree and 1no Conifer tree, Stockacre House, Thetford Road –

No objection

10. Planning Other

The Chairman explained that the planning application for a five spur roundabout, for access to the new Crown Lane development, had not yet been decided or withdrawn. It was agreed that the Chairman contact St Edmundsbury Borough Council to request that they determine this application as soon as possible. The five spur roundabout is the preferred option of the Parish Council and in light of the new comments from Suffolk County Council Highways Department the Parish Council strongly urge the planning department to approve the application.

11. Accounts

The following accounts were agreed for payment;

Chq No 1023/1024	Wages	£1175.06
Chq No 1025	G Palastanga	£33.00
Chq No 1026	Rickinghall PC	£100.00
Chq No 1028	A J Wheelie Bin Cleaning	£20.00
Chq No 1029	Anglian Tree Solutions	£960.00
Chq No 1030	St Edmundsbury BC	£751.91
Chq No 1031	Ixworth VH	£163.75

The RFO was authorised to transfer £3000 by on-line transfer from the reserve account to the community account.

12. Parish Council Vacancy

The Council had been informed by St Edmundsbury Borough Election Officer that an election had not been called. The Parish Council were given permission to co-opt a new member. It was agreed to place an article in the next Ixworth magazine for interested parties to contact the Chairman or Clerk for further information. It was agreed to add to the August agenda to discuss further as to how the new member would be selected if more than one person applied.

13. Ixworth Village Hall

The Chairman advised members that it was resolved in an earlier meeting in May 2014 that he could investigate the possibilities of a concept where there would be a coin-operated lock, automating the opening/closing of the public toilet at the village hall which would alleviate the need for a volunteer to open/lock the facility which happens irregularly. The Chairman has now obtained some further information and it was resolved to open dialogue with the Village Hall to discuss if this was a viable solution to look at.

14. Ixworth Cemetery

The Chairman reported that he had not yet obtained quotes for the tree work needed in the Cemetery. Quotes would be obtained in the coming months. Concerns were raised about people parking on the grass in front of graves. After a discussion it was agreed to look into erecting a small fence to stop this happening. The Clerk was instructed to obtain a quote.

After a discussion it was agreed to advertise for a caretaker for the Cemetery. The Chairman and the Clerk would work together to compile a job specification.

It was agreed to contact the owners of the land behind the Cemetery to start negotiations to acquire that land for the next section of the Cemetery.

A letter of complaint had been received, it was agreed that this would be dealt with by the Chairman as it was a staffing issue.

15. Ixworth Village Sign

Concerns had been raised by a resident about the condition of the village sign, the cobbled area and the condition of the bench in the area. It was agreed that Cllr Laughton would arrange a meeting with Cllr Wilson to look at the area and advise the Council on any work that would need to be completed to enhance the area.

16. Correspondence

- **St Eds** – Neighbourhood Plan
- **St Eds** – Rural 2031 – Ixworth Pages
- **Ben/John** – Neighbourhood Plan Info
- **Glyn French** – Hempyard Bridge
- **SALC** – Road Investment Strategy
- **Matt Dee** – Special Officer Recruitment
- **St Eds** – Launch of Planning Service
- **Matthew Hancock** – PC Meeting
- **Carol Springham** – Village Sign/Priory Wall
- **St Eds** – Big Lottery Fund
- **Steve Wilson** – Monthly Report
- **Matthew Hancock** – Mobile Coverage
- **SNT BSE** – Update

Mrs Springham's concerns about the village sign had been addressed in item 14. It was agreed that the condition of the Priory wall needed to be looked at immediately. It was agreed that Cllr Lord and Cllr Laughton contact C Cllr Spicer to arrange a meeting as soon as possible to ascertain if anything could be done to avoid an accident.

17. Chairman's Report

The Chairman reported that he had been honoured to accept an invitation from the Chairman of Ixworth & District Royal British Legion to lay a wreath on behalf of the village commemorating the centenary of the beginning of the Battle of the Somme on Friday 1 July which was well attended by residents. The Chairman reported that he now had access to the Fire Station conference room if needed for any additional meetings. Cllr Lord stated that as C Cllr Spicer reported the meeting with Matthew Hancock went very well and was very productive. However, the Chairman stated he was very concerned that a meeting arranged by C Cllr Spicer, to which the Parish Council had been invited, a Councillor felt it was suitable to invite a member of the public. A lengthy discussion took place about matters of confidentiality and Councillors roles and responsibilities.

18. Clerks Report

The Clerk reported the following;

- **St Mary's Clock** – Cllr Reeve and the Clerk would be meeting before the next meeting to discuss
- **Ixworth Village Hall** – An anti social questionnaire had been received –the Clerk was instructed to complete the questionnaire
- **Charles Arnold –Local Council Administration** – The Clerk was given permission to order the new updated book

19. Councillors Reports

Cllr Shelton wished to highlight the overgrown hedges and verges in Thetford Road. The Clerk reported that she had reported it and was instructed to pass this concern to C Cllr Spicer.

Cllr Reeve informed members that the street cleaner had visited the village yesterday. Unfortunately, there were many parked cars so only a small proportion of the street was cleaned. Cllr Reeve wondered if it was possible to be informed when the cleaner would be visiting so residents could be informed.

Cllr McFruin enquired as to whom he needed to speak to about the dog bin in Commister Lane. The members replied that that bin was emptied by St Edmundsbury Borough Council and Cllr McFruin would need to contact them with his concerns.

Cllr Laughton requested if The Wildlife Group looking after Robins Copse could purchase some new tools. It was agreed that they could purchase tools up to the value of £150 from Tripp Batt in Stanton.

20. Date of the Next Meeting

The date of the next was confirmed as 10th August 2016 in Ixworth Village Hall at 7.30pm.

With no further business the meeting closed at 10pm.

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Signed

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Date