

IXWORTH AND IXWORTH THORPE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Ixworth & Ixworth Thorpe Parish Council meeting held at Manor Farm, Ixworth Thorpe on 13th February 2013 at 7:30pm

Present: Cllr Teresa Plummer (Chairman) Cllr Ben Lord (Vice-Chairman) Cllrs David Reeve, Sophia Wilson, Nick Laughton, Roy McFruin, Pam Shelton and Richard Courtnell.

Also Present: Mandy Adlington (Parish Clerk), C Cllr Joanna Spicer, B Cllr John Griffiths MBE

1. Apologies for Absence

Cllr Trevor Anderson

2. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Ben Lord declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 12.

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

It was resolved that the Chairman sign the minutes of the previous meeting held on 9th January 2013 as a true record of that meeting.

4. Matters Arising from Minutes

None.

Meeting adjourned

5. Public Forum

No members of the public were present.

6. Report from Local Police Officer

PCSO Will Pardoe introduced PCSO Jade Morton as the new PCSO for Ixworth. A lengthy discussion took place about the following points;

- Parking on double yellow lines in the High Street
- Parking in the bus stops
- Dummy cameras on property to deter thieves
- Fly tipping

7. Report from County Councillor Joanna Spicer

C Cllr Spicer confirmed the £1000 grant for Peacock Rise parking improvements and the £1000 grant for Ixworth Thorpe village sign had been approved. C Cllr also confirmed that she had awarded a grant of £1000 to Ixworth Village Hall.

C Cllr Spicer also stated that Suffolk County Council was hoping to freeze Council tax in the coming year. Suffolk County Council is currently working to a three year plan to save 140 million pounds.

8. Report from Borough Councillor John Griffiths MBE

B Cllr Griffiths informed members that he had attended a meeting today and St Edmundsbury were also hoping to freeze Council tax again, this would be the third consecutive year.

The Government would altering allowances to residents on benefits which may effect the money they receive to pay for Council tax, St Edmundsbury are hoping to put in place various schemes to help reduce the effect these reductions in allowances may have on their

residents. St Edmundsbury Borough Council are finding it harder and harder to save money without cutting services to residents but so far with schemes, such as sharing services with other Councils, they were managing to make saving without losing vital services for residents.

Meeting reconvened

9. Ixworth Schools

C Cllr Spicer reported that the planning application for Ixworth Primary School had been approved. Cllr Plummer stated that she had attended the planning committee meeting and had informed the committee of the Parish Councils concerns about the traffic in Crown Lane. Cllr Lord also attended the meeting as a spectator. Cllr Plummer stated that the Parish Council needed to raise their concerns about traffic problems in Crown at every available opportunity. Cllr Plummer and Cllr Lord had also met with the Head Teacher of Ixworth Primary School to discuss these concerns, and have come to the conclusion that we are all concerned about the safety aspects of this area of the village.

10. Planning Applications

SE/13/0069 – Use of existing shed as dog grooming parlour – White House, Thetford Road, Ixworth **No objection**

SE/13/0135 –Erection of (i) single storey pitched roof side and rear extensions (ii) single storey garage and (iii) and conversion of roof space to living accommodation with dormer window (revised scheme previously approved under SE/12/1033/HHCA) **No objection**

11. Determined Applications

SE/12/1636 – Little Barn, High Street, Ixworth **Granted**
SE/12/1547 – 27 Chalk Lane, Ixworth **Granted**
SE/12/1489 – The Fish Shop, Thetford Road **Granted**

12. Correspondence

The following correspondence had been received;

- Angela Weigh – East of England (Defibrillator project)
- St Eds – Parish Council Precept
- Brandon Lewis Public Sector Show
- Suffolk Care UK – Update
- Suffolk Age UK – Happy New Year
- Mr Andy Osman – Concerns over field next to middle school
- Mr Ben Lord – website clarification
- Mr Steve Wilson – monthly report

After discussing fully the letters from Mr Lord and Mr Osman the Clerk was instructed to write to both residents stating the Parish Councils position.

The Clerk was also instructed to arrange a meeting with Angela Weigh to discuss further defibrillators within Ixworth. Cllrs Lord and Wilson would also attend this meeting.

13. Peacock Rise

Cllr Lord informed members that hopefully the project would start on 18th March and be completed approximately two weeks later. Havebury have agreed to write to residents once the start date is finalised. Cllr Lord requested that a small opening ceremony be arranged, this was agreed by all.

14. Future Projects with the Parish

The following projects were suggested by Councillors for future consideration:

- Refurbish all the benches within the Parish
- Hedging at the Play Area
- Smarten up triangle grass area near the play area
- Hold yearly assessments with employees
- Produce an annual booklet about the Parish
- Footbridge over the by-pass
- Hand rail on the steps at Stow Road
- A projector for Parish Council meetings

Cllr Lord stated that he had found information of a grant scheme that may be able to assist in getting a footbridge installed over the by-pass. It was agreed by all present that Cllr Lord find further information. It was also agreed that as their was a limited time scale for this grant Cllr Lord could arrange a meeting with the organisation offering this grant before the next Parish Council meeting. Cllr Plummer and C Cllr Spicer were also to attend this meeting. In answer to Cllr McFruin suggestion of an annual booklet, similar to the one that Clare Parish Council produce, there was a discussion regarding the different budgets that the two Councils have. Cllr Plummer stated that the Rural Initiative Project might be starting again and one of the outcomes of this may be a new Parish Plan. Communication through the magazine is felt to still be the best method available, and is the most cost effective.

15. Councillors Roles

The Clerk handed all members leaflets highlighting the roles and responsibilities with the Council.

A heated discussion took place over the decision to move the February meeting from Ixworth Village Hall to Manor Farm. The village hall booking clerk had been informed by a Councillor that the meeting could be moved without first consulting with the Clerk. Cllr Wilson requested that the Councillor concerned apologise to the Clerk for once again disrespecting the position of Clerk. Cllr McFruin apologised. It was once again reiterated that individual Councillors are not legally allowed to make decisions on behalf of the Parish Council. All enquiries, correspondence and documents relevant to any projects are to be passed to the Clerk.

16. Accounts

The following accounts were agreed for payment;

Chq No's 695/696	Wages	£998.73
Chq No 697	Ixworth Village Hall	£336.00
Chq No 698	Ixworth Village Stores	£50.00
Chq No 699	N Laughton (play area)	£27.58
Chq No 700	East Anglian Air Ambulance	£100.00
PWLB	Direct Debit	£3116.90

The RFO was authorised to transfer £4500 by on-line transfer from the reserve account to the community account.

17. Chairman’s Report

The Chairman reported that whilst out walking her dogs she noticed that the bin for disposal of dog mess, on the corner of Peddars Close and Thetford Road was missing. The Clerk was instructed to contact St Edmundsbury Borough Council to see if they had removed it. It was agreed to hold the Councillors dinner evening on the 15th March at The Pykkerell.

18. Clerk’s Report

The Clerk handed out the new Councillors contact list which now includes Richard Courtnell and the list of dates for next years meetings.

19. Councillor’s Reports

Cllr Reeve reported that he had arranged the sale of the items in his farm for 26th October and the Parish Council would need to decide before the end of September if the items stores in his yard were to be included in the sale. Cllr Reeve agreed to make a list of everything the Parish Council. Has stores and bring it to the next meeting.

Cllr Shelton requested that an extra grit bin be installed in Coddington Way. It was agreed by all present that this issue needed further investigation. During the very icy weather it has been highlighted that some areas of the village do not have sufficient access to grit, but the County Council may will only fill so many bins free of charge. There was a discussion to look at purchasing a manual grit spreader that could be used by Steve as required, that he could fill with grit from the council filled bins already in the village.

Cllr Shelton also reported the residents had highlighted their concerns to her with reference to pot holes around the village especially in Stow Road.

Cllr Laughton read the monthly report from Steve Wilson.

Cllr McFruin wished to thank John Sharpe for his article in the village magazine. Cllr McFruin also handed out copies of the Good Councillor Guide.

Cllr Lord requested if the Clerk had received a copy of the Bowls Club Lease from the Village Hall Management Committee. The Clerk informed members that a copy had not yet been received, Cllr Laughton stated he would chase this matter with the committee.

20. Date of the Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting will be 13th March at 7.30pm in Ixworth Village Hall.

With no further business the meeting closed at 9.55pm.

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Signed

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Date