

IXWORTH AND IXWORTH THORPE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Ixworth & Ixworth Thorpe Parish Council meeting held at Ixworth Village Hall on 14th October 2009 at 7:30pm

Present: Cllr Teresa Plummer (Chairman) Cllr John Sharpe (Vice-Chairman) Cllrs David Reeve, Sophia Wilson, Cathy Goodson, Roy McFruin, Pam Shelton, and Nick Laughton.

Also Present: Mandy Adlington (Parish Clerk), B Cllr John Griffiths, PCSO Bob Bailey and five members of the public.

1. Apologies for Absence

Cllr Alison Fairgrieve

2. Declarations of Interest

Cllr David Reeve item 12

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting

It was resolved that the Chairman sign the minutes of the previous meetings (September 9th & 28th 2009) as a true record of that meeting.

Meeting Adjourned

4. Report of Local Police Officer

Inspector Jayne Hertzog offered her apologies for being unable to attend. PCSO Bob Bailey presented the following report.

There have been 5 crimes in the past month and are as follows;

One theft of milk

Two criminal damage

One cycle theft

One depositing of litter

PDSO Bailey also wanted to highlight some rogue traders operating in this area. They are very nasty individuals that usually prey on the elderly and vulnerable and are very insistent in their methods. If anyone feels they are a target please contact the Police straightaway. They have been using newish vans, most having logos on them. If they ask for you to check their ID using an 088 number, don't, this is a ploy.

PDSO Bailey stressed if anyone had any concerns please do not hesitate to contact the Safe Neighbourhood Team. Contact details are stedsruralnorth.snt@suffolk.pnn.police.uk or telephone 01284 774100.

5. Report of County Councillor Joanna Spicer

1. Rumble strips

I have now seen the highway officer concerned with this and he has apologised to me and to you for not consulting us.

What is proposed (and the reason you know about it was for the temporary order of a 30mph speed limit) is as

follows :

The rumble strips approaching the "top" roundabout on the A1088 are to be replaced with dummy ones (NOT removed). This follows some complaints in the summer from residents of Thistledown Drive. On investigation it seems that (like the earlier issue near Micklemere estate) they are closer to houses than the legal guidance.

2. High Street, Parking

Confusion and problems - but hopefully a way forward. There are 2 sets of significant formal "objections" which means that in any event it will have to go to a formal committee in Jan before work can be done.

Some objections relate to the proposed double yellow lines in Stow Road and just outside Cllr Reeve's house. I have indicated that I support the proposals there - but it would be helpful if the Parish Council also carried on supporting these proposals. It will still be subject to committee approval.

The other more complicated area is the High Street and proposed bus stops. As I explained there is in fact no legal or formal requirement to consult on a bus stop position as there is with no waiting restrictions - but it seemed helpful to link it all in together. The proposal on the south side is clearly controversial and unpopular and in fact means the loss of parking places

What I have discussed with officers and hope you will agree is a way forward

- Proposed new no waiting restrictions supported

- Bus stop on north side of road (near church) is supported and marked up accordingly (no loss of parking – in fact one extra place)

- Proposed marked up bus stop on South side cancelled (although it remains a bus stop as at present)

- Meeting to be held with public transport manager and the Parish Council (not part of parking review) to consider options to re-locate that bus stop to nearer the Pykkerell at a later date.

I hope this means the yellow line changes can proceed (subject to the committee considering the objections) and that we can get a bus stop solution that means those plagued by problems already will have an easier time and a new bus stop located in a part of High Street, which is any way double yellow lines]

3. Riverside Path

I am told work on kissing gates etc all done - please confirm. Claire now offering to set up meeting re: leaflets and signs (she is about to return to west)

4. Path from church to Commister Lane

Being considered by members next week for next years programme - I am making it my No. 1 priority for my patch for next year and only sorry that because of how it was described and not being invited to the various meetings I did not understand the problem.

Cllr Spicer's report was discussed fully and the Clerk was instructed to relate the following points to C Cllr Spicer:

1. The Council are happy about the situation with the rumble strips.

2. The Council after much consideration are willing to drop the new proposed bus stop from the south side of the High Street (village hall side). The Parish Council wish to proceed with all the other new yellow lines already approved at Parish Council level.
3. The kissing gates have been installed but the other proposed work such as the path being cleared have not yet been completed.
4. The Parish Council wish this to be completed as soon as possible as the path in places is very uneven.

6. Report of Borough Councillor John Griffiths

B Cllr Griffiths reported that Rwanda Olympic Team had selected Bury St Edmunds as their training site for the 2012 Olympics.

B Cllr Griffiths also reported that the changes in the way Parish Grants towards the yearly precept may still change and that Ixworth may be one of the three Parishes that stand to lose the most.

Cllr Laughton requested a tour of West Suffolk House; B Cllr Griffiths said he would gladly sort this out and liaise with the Clerk for a suitable date.

7. Public Forum

Mr Dacey of 18 High Street expressed his thanks that the Parish Council had supported the suggestion of C Cllr Spicer to cancel the new proposed bus stop on the south side of the High Street. Mr Dacey also wanted to highlight to the Council what a social nuisance people could be, whilst waiting for a bus at this area in the High Street. Mr Dacey wished the Parish Council to consider this when looking at other areas of the village for the bus to stop.

Mr Stan Murkin also spoke on the problem of buses stopping, Mr Murkin was mostly concerned about the bus stopping outside of the Greyhound.

The Chairman thanked them for their comments.

Meeting Reconvened

8. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

Cllr Sharpe wished to know if the £750 was for payment of a website, the Clerk explained that this was know a grant from section 137 of the budget. Cllr Sharpe also wished to know if a reply about the latest LDF plans had been sent in, the Chairman confirmed it had and copies of the reply would be distributed to all members.

9. Accounts

The following accounts were agreed for payment;

Wages	£881.46
John Welton (St Mary's Flood Lights)	£ 94.30
Ixworth Village Hall (meeting room)	£ 39.00
BDO (external Audit)	£460.00
Ixworth Village Hall (toilet)	£150.00
David Thrower	£ 70.00

The Clerk reported that BDO, the external auditors, had sent back this years final report and that there were no issues to be addressed.

10. Planning Applications

SE/09/1216 – Ixworth Fish & Chip Shop – **No objection**

SE/09/: - Ixworth Fire Station – **No objection**

11. Determined Applications

None

12. Permissive Footpath

Cllr Reeve reported that the kissing gate had been installed but the path down the incline had not been cleared or levelled. It was agreed to once again try to contact Claire Dickson to push this matter along.

13. Play Area

The Clerk reported that the initial answer from the lottery fund for a large grant had been declined but they would suggest other avenues within lottery funding which may be suitable. The application for Suffolk Play Builder would be sent by the end of the month.

14. Robins Copse

The members discussed a letter that had received from Mr Roberts with reference to trees at Robins Copse. Cllr Sharpe suggested writing to Mr Roberts thanking him for highlighting his concerns, all agreed and the Clerk was instructed to do this. The situation of the trees was then discussed further and it was decided to call another tree surgeon for another quote for any work that may be needed. It was also decided that a quote needed to be sought for an annual maintenance contract for inspection of trees on Parish land. It was agreed by all and the clerk was instructed to contact Anglian Tree Solutions.

15. Correspondence

The Clerk reported that 8 items of correspondence had been received in the previous month which were - **St Eds** – Parish Council Conference, **Sam Morley** – Donation request, **Dent Security** – CCTV inspection, **Blackbourne Centre** – Donation request, **S.C.C.** – Speed restrictions (rumble strips), **Bury Leisure Centre** – Swimming opportunities, **East of England** – East of England Plan and **SALC** – Invitation to AGM.

16. Chairman's Report

The Chairman informed the members that the new pay rates for Clerks, for the year 2009/10, had been received and proposed the clerk receive her back pay due from April. This was agreed by all. The Chairman suggested that the Council get in touch with the owner of the grave that had been damaged the previous night.

17. Clerks Report

At a previous meeting Steve (village cleaner) had requested a notice that he could put through residents doors that have overgrown hedges etc. The Clerk read aloud a suggested notice, members agreed that this notice was ok and gave permission for Steve to have copies to use at his discretion. The Clerk reported that an email had been received from Havebury Housing concerning their village walkabout. Havebury would be meeting at the Fire Station on Wednesday 21st Oct at 10am any all were welcome.

The Clerk distributed copies of the submission to St Edmundsbury Council about the recent statement of the Local Development Framework.

18. Village Cleaning Operative

It was agreed by all to give Steve a 2% pay rise this year. The clerk/RFO was instructed to start this rate with immediate effect.

19. Councillors Reports

Cllr Wilson wished to know if any further developments had been made on the cobbled area in the High Street. As no further progress had been made Cllr Wilson and Cllr Laughton volunteered to take on this project. It was agreed they would bring to December’s meeting a report with ideas and funding for the other members of the Council to consider.

Cllr Wilson and B Cllr Griffiths also volunteered to look into the grass area at Ixworth Thorpe and report back to the meeting in November with a similar report.

Cllr Laughton wished to discuss Twinning and it was suggested that he find as much information as he could and report back to the Council in February.

Cllr Shelton was concerned with the missing bin from outside the butchers.

Cllr Goodson was concerned about the fly tipping at the bins in the village hall car park, Cllr Shelton reported that the Village Hall Management Committee had this matter in hand.

Cllr McFruin reported that the Abbey Close sign was missing as well as the bridleway sign pointing towards Hempyard Bridge.

Cllr Sharpe reported the following, hinges on the grit bin in Stow Rd are broken, the footpath sign from New Rd to Stow Rd had been knocked down, the northern boundary of the cemetery could not be cut properly, graves at the cemetery needed to be levelled up and down, phone in Stow Rd still not repaired, the Relief in Need had still not been contacted and would we see in the Borough were running the ‘free trees scheme’ this year. Cllr Sharpe also wished that the Council have some way of ensuring contracts are completed and that a certain Councillor sign the invoices to agree that the work has been completed satisfactorily. It was suggested that this perhaps was not acceptable as the Council worked as a corporate body rather than as individuals. The Chairman adjourned the meeting so that Mr Dacey could speak, he suggested having a document that could be signed by the company and the Council once the work had been completed satisfactorily. The Chairman then reconvened the meeting.

20. Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting is 11th November 2009.

With no further business the meeting was closed at 9.45 pm

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Signed

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Date