

IXWORTH AND IXWORTH THORPE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Ixworth & Ixworth Thorpe Parish Council meeting held at Ixworth Village Hall on 14th July 2010 at 7:30pm

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

Also Present: Mandy Adlington (Parish Clerk), C Cllr Joanna Spicer, B Cllr John Griffiths, PC Simon Collins, Chief Inspector Martin Barnes-Smith, Rev Garbett and six members of the public.

1. Apologies for Absence

Cllrs Reeve and Wilson.

2. Declarations of Interest

None.

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting

It was resolved that the Chairman sign the minutes of the previous meetings (June 9th 2010) as a true record of that meeting.

4. Matters Arising from Previous Meeting

None.

Meeting adjourned

5. Public Forum

The members of the public present were in attendance for various items including the play area, St Mary's Church and the Village Hall. No comments were made at this stage and the Chairman stated she may or may not adjourn the meeting at a later stage for their comments.

6. Report from County Councillor Joanna Spicer

CC Cllr Spicer reported that the schools review programme was being postponed until the spring. An option for having a High School for ages 11-16 yrs would be in the next consultation stage and the proposal to move the Primary School was still to be discussed. C Cllr Spicer is hoping to have some community meetings to gauge what the local community's opinions are.

C Cllr Spicer reported that she had attended the presentation on the Crown Lane development that was held in the Village Hall prior to the Parish Council meeting. C Cllr Spicer hoped that Suffolk County would be able to make a response and hoped that St Edmundsbury would take their time to produce the master plan. The Parish Council were also encouraged to make comments at each stage. The Chairman explained that she has attended the meeting and 40% would be social housing. The Chairman was however concerned that in previous consultations 70 house was mentioned for the site and that now seems to have increased to 90 houses. B Cllr John Griffiths explained that the presentation had been held by Bidwells and once the master plan had been produced, the Borough would look at it before going to the planning stage. Once this stage had been reached, another consultation would happen. The planning stage would be the most detailed section to comment on, especially concerns about 90 rather than 70 houses.

7. Report from Borough Councillor John Griffiths

B Cllr Griffiths reported that due to the new Government spending plans most finance issues with the Borough were up in the air until the Government clearly set out their plans.

B Cllr Griffiths also wished to inform the Parish Council that the Local Development Framework had not folded but there may be changes over the next few months.

B Cllr has spoken to Richard Coombes and he feels that the area near Street Farm Lane that was once proposed for the pocket park may be suitable for the scout hut but is not owned by the Borough Council. It was suggested contacting Suffolk County Council to establish ownership. It was suggested that perhaps the hut could be built in the Village Hall area.

8. Report from Local Police Officer

Pc Collins presented this months report – see attached.

Chief Inspector Martin Barnes Smith also wanted to report that the hours Ixworth police station opened are to be altered, changing perhaps to 3 days a week for 2 hours a day. Inspector Jane Hertzog would be consulting with the community and then decide the new opening times. It was suggested that perhaps the station be open an evening in the week would be useful.

Meeting reconvened

9. Permissive Footpath

C Cllr Spicer reported that the work for the footpath was on the list of jobs for the youth offending team. Cllr McFruin reported that he had started work on new wording for the footpath leaflet. C Cllr Spicer suggested a meeting with all interested parties to discuss what was actually needed for the leaflets and notice boards, this was agreed and C Cllr Spicer stated she would arrange a time and place.

10. Commister Lane/High Street Junction

The clerk reported that she had received back several replies. Cllr McFruin also handed the clerk replies during the meeting. It was decided to discuss this further at the August meeting so the Clerk would be able to compile all replies into a report.

11. Accounts

The following accounts were approved for payment;

Chq No's 460/461	Wages	£833.75
Chq No 462	G Palastanga (pots)	£27.20
Chq No 463	Suffolk County Council (shelter)	£6039.67
Chq No 464	Soc Loc Council Clerks	£106.00
Chq No 465	Dent Security Systems	£88.13

It was approved to transfer £4500 from the reserve account to the community account to cover these payments.

12. Planning Applications

SE/10/0731 – Erection of conservatory to rear elevation – 25 Fordham Place, Ixworth, IP31 2GJ

No Objection

SE/10/0782 – Change of use from Office to dwelling and a single storey extension – Adj The Willows, Stow Rd, Ixworth, IP31 2HZ

No Objection

SE/ 10/0781 – Erection of pitched roof to single storey addition – 48 High St, Ixworth, IP31 2HJ **No Objection**

SE/100782 – Listed building application – Internal and external alterations in accordance with attached 'Condition Survey Report and Proposed Repairs' – 48 High St, Ixworth, IP31 2HJ **No Objection**

13. Determined Applications

SE/10/0505 – (i) erection of two storey detached dwelling (ii) construction of new driveway and turning area – Sidshell, Crown Lane, Ixworth IP31 2EH **Refused**

SE/10/0599 – Erection of single storey front extension – 17 Coddington Way, Ixworth, IP31 2ET - **Granted**

14. Cobbled Area in High Street

The Clerk reported that she had been sent a copy of an email via Cllr Wilson from Martin Riches of Suffolk County Council. The email stated that due to budget cuts they would not be able to make any contribution to the scheme other than staff time to consider a specification and cost for the work. Cllr Laughton stated that C Cllr Spicer had agreed to contribute £1000 from her locality budget towards the scheme. C Cllr Spicer requested the Parish Council put this request in writing, the Clerk was instructed to do so.

15. Play Area

The Chairman adjourned the meeting so that Mrs Morrow from Saddlers Yard could speak. Mrs Morrow wished the Council to know that she still felt very strongly that her concerns were not being taken into account when discussing the play area. There had been many incidents over the past few days of noisy and disruptive behaviour in the play area and she was concerned that this would increase with the new play area. The residents did contact the Police after a number of evenings. The Chairman stated that it was felt by the Council and the designers of the play area that the older children would not sit in the area designed for children under eight. It was felt that they would sit in the area designed for eight and over, this area had been moved following her concerns at a previous consultation to behind the Pykkerell car park. The Chairman also stated that funding had not yet been secured and final items of equipment and plans would not be finalised until funding was in place. Mrs Morrow then left the meeting.

The Chairman reconvened the meeting. The Clerk reported that an email had been received from Suffolk Playbuilder stating that they were waiting to here about availability of funding but hopefully would be in a position to give a final decision within the next few weeks. £44000 had been applied from Suffolk Playbuilder to fund the area for older children.

16. St Mary's Church

The Chairman reported that the meeting between Rev Garbett and his wardens and the Parish Council representatives held on 24th June 2010 had gone quite well. A faculty had been sought and approved for the footpath from Commister Lane through the Churchyard to the High St. This work would be completed in July or the beginning of August.

The Chairman adjourned the meeting so that Rev Garbett could speak. Rev Garbett explained that baffles had to be fitted to the church tower so that funding could be sought for refurbishment of the bells. However, he agreed that the tone of the bells is slightly different to the previous tone. A discussion was held about whether it would be possible to remove the baffles to see if any complaints were received. Rev Garbett agreed to get back to the Parish Council once the Parochial Parish Council had met to discuss this item. Rev Garbett stressed he wanted to keep the village informed about what was happening with the Church.

The Chairman reconvened the meeting. Rev Garbett left the meeting. A further discussion was held whether at this point in time the Parish Council should continue to fund such things as the clock servicing and repairs. It was agreed by all members that at this present time no further expenditure should be spent on St Mary's Church at this time.

17. Robin's Copse

Cllr Sharpe reported that he had a quote of £150 to erect the sign that Mr Jolly had kindly made for Robin's Copse. It was agreed by all that this quote should be accepted and Cllr Sharpe was to speak to Mr Bishop to arrange the work to be completed.

18. Correspondence

The clerk reported that nine pieces of correspondence had been received in the previous month. St Edmundsbury Borough Council would like thoughts on any changes to the Parish Council, for instance, number of Councillors and Parish boundaries, PCSO Jonathan Burke emailed to inform the Parish Council that he would be holding a week of activities in New Rd in August and Mike Whybro emailed concerned about the pathways in the village. Also, received were four items from Suffolk County Council and two items from St Edmundsbury Borough Council. The correspondence envelope needs to be passed from Councillor to Councillor quickly and then returned to the Clerk ASAP.

19. The Chairman's Report

The Chairman reported that earlier in the week whilst she was driving out of the village a drain in Stow Rd appeared blocked and the smell was awful. When arriving at work she reported it to Anglian Water, Anglian Water did come and unblock it but raised the point that drains that end of Stow Rd were not the responsibility of Anglian Water. It was suggested that the Parish Council confirm this information to be correct or incorrect.

The Chairman reported that she had attended the AGM of the Village Hall Management Committee but unfortunately during this meeting a new treasurer was unable to be found. As the Management Committee could not continue without a treasurer the committee folded and the responsibility of the Village Hall came back to the Parish Council as Custodian Trustees. It was suggested by the Chairman that before the Parish Council tries to form a new committee a few projects need to be completed to help improve the hall so that hopefully new volunteers would be encouraged to come along and help form a new committee. Projects could include redecoration, the canopy to be fitted in the main hall, the bar area ceiling leak to be sorted, to look at the constitution, a maintenance programme to be put into place and perhaps the refurbishment of the kitchen. Cllr Sharpe suggested that a working party be formed to examine all aspects of the village hall and draw up a list of all projects that will need to be completed. All members agreed that this was a good idea and agreed to put the village hall onto the August agenda to discuss in more detail. The Chairman suggested that in the meantime that the cleaner be given a petty cash of £100 to buy supplies such as toilet rolls and that Steve Wilson have his hours increased by 2 hours per week to keep the areas around the village hall tidy, this was agreed by all.

20. Clerks Report

The clerk reported that she had received an application from a resident under the freedom of information act with reference to Robin's Copse. The Clerk, under this law had 20 days to give the information requested, information requested was 10 yrs minutes, ownership of Robin's Copse, the latest tree survey and the Parish Council insurance liability.

21. Councillors Reports

Cllr Shelton reported that Crown Lane had finally been resurfaced.

Cllr Goodson would request that Steve increase his hours by 2 hours per week to cover the village hall area.

Cllr Sharpe reported that he had been looking at the leaf blower that belongs to the Parish Council. Cllr Sharpe felt there were two items missing, the tube and bag, but would speak to Cllr Reeve and then report back to the Clerk so that she could inform Steve Wilson.

22. Date of the Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting will be 11th August 2010 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall.

With no further business the meeting closed at 10.25pm.

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Signed

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Date