

IXWORTH AND IXWORTH THORPE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Ixworth & Ixworth Thorpe Parish Council meeting held at Ixworth Village Hall on 8th December 2010 at 7:30pm

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

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

1. Apologies for Absence

Cllr Goodson.

2. Declarations of Interest

None.

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

An Alteration was made to a member of the public who spoke at the previous meeting from Mr Bailey to Mr Davison. Once alteration was made it was resolved that the Chairman sign the minutes of the previous meetings (November 10th 2010) as a true record of that meeting.

4. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

The Clerk wished to highlight that in previous minutes Mr Morley's comments had been misinterpreted with reference to the play area. Mr Morley had in fact stated that he welcomed the new equipment but was unhappy with the positioning of the swing and lack of contact with local residents.

Meeting Adjourned

5. Public Forum

Mr Lord wished to ask if the letter with reference to parking in Peacock Rise had been completed and also wished to highlight that parking in Thistledown Drive had also been a problem on an evening when the School had a function.

Mr Mackintosh wished to highlight his concerns with the new play equipment, Mr Mackintosh stated he had attended the October and November meeting to inform the members of his concerns such as anti-social behaviour, invasion of privacy and the devaluation of his property. Mr Mackintosh stated there were daily events of noise and anti-social behaviour happening and urged the Parish Council to seek a resolution to this problem. Mr Mackintosh wished to state he did not want the piece of equipment removed as it was a benefit to the children of the village but only wished to have the swing moved to a new site. Mr Mackintosh presented the members with a picture suggesting a new site for the swing. Mr Mackintosh also wanted to pass on concerns of a Mr Joseph who was unable to attend this meeting. Mr Roper also wished to highlight his concerns over the new equipment also stating the anti-social behaviour and noise concerns, which he feels the members have been made aware of before. Mr Roper stated that when he googled this item of equipment there had been numerous reports of trouble and Thetford Town Council were moving there swing due to complaints of noise. The Clerk reported she thought the swing was being altered for other reasons.

B Cllr John Griffiths urged both parties to try to resolve this situation, the equipment had now been installed but each party should continue to communicate to resolve this problem.

6. Report from Local Police officer

No Report.

7. Report from County Councillor Joanna Spicer

C Cllr Spicer reported that she had attended the Community Tasking Meeting at Stanton on the 8th September and urged the Parish Council to send a member along to meetings in the future to highlight any issues Ixworth may have.

C Cllr Spicer also highlighted that Havebury housing would be holding their quarterly walk around Ixworth on Tuesday 14th December at 11.30am.

C Cllr requested if care homes in Suffolk could be added to the January agenda and urged the Parish Council to send their views into the current consultation running until 24th January 2011, this was agreed to by all members present.

C Cllr Spicer also informed the members that Suffolk County Council would most likely be looking into divesting the running of libraries in the near future and would like this item to be included on January and maybe February's agenda, this was agreed by all members present. The cobbled area in the High Street will be tidied in the near future but the bad weather and the gritting of roads etc had taken priority over other projects that Suffolk highways needed to complete.

The permissive footpath was also hit by the bad weather but hopefully a new date for clearance would be arranged soon.

C Cllr also presented the Council with the suggested plan for a disabled parking bay in the High Street.

8. Report from Borough Councillor John Griffiths

B Cllr Griffiths wished to thank all those members who attended the Parish Council Conference recently.

B Cllr Griffiths reported that the parking charges in Bury St Edmunds would be increasing.

B Cllr Griffiths wished to highlight that The Apex the new entertainment venue was doing very well and have had some very successful events.

B Cllr Griffiths also wanted to once again highlight that the Crown Lane Development was moving along and urged the Parish Council to always send their views at each stage of the consultation.

Meeting Reconvened

9. Cobbled Area in the High Street

As already reported by C Cllr Spicer the cobbled area had not yet been tidied and the members requested C Cllr Spicer keep pressing for this work to be completed.

10. Accounts

It was agreed to pay the following accounts:

Chq No's 500/501	Wages	£860.05
Chq No 502	H M Rev Customs	£402.81
Chq No 503	BDO	£511.13
Chq No 504	Dent Sec Systems	£104.58
Chq No 505	RBL (wreath)	£25
Chq No 506	RBL (band)	£75
Chq No 507	Chilton Office supplies	£178.11

Chq No 508	A Adlington (clerks expenses)	£141.63
Chq No 509	A Fairgrieve (mileage)	£10
Chq No 510	Zurich Insurance	£300.37

It was proposed by Cllr Wilson and seconded by Cllr Laughton that Steve Wilson's annual wage increase be 2 ½ %, this was agreed by all.

The Clerk reported that the report from BDO had been received with reference to the external audit. The Clerk reported that BDO had highlighted that if in future the members may need to increase their indemnity amount if the balance at the end of year goes above £100,000.

After some final amendments to the draft budget for 2011/12 it was agreed to set the budget at £50,000, this amount has not increased from 2010/11.

11. Planning Applications

- SE/10/1497** – Replacement timber gates to driveway – Orchard Cottage, 66 High Street, Ixworth **No Objection**
- SE/10/1494 – TCA10/2039** – (i) Fell seven Poplar trees (ii) Coppice six Ash trees saving one decent specimen as standard (iii) Coppice three Sycamore trees, one Hawthorn tree and Privet – The Watermill, Thetford Rd, Ixworth **No Objection**

12. Determined Applications

- TPO 2010(509)** – One Sycamore – 33 Crown Crescent, Ixworth
- TPO 2010 (510)** – One Walnut – 3 Saddlers Yard, Ixworth
- TPO45** – Fell one Horse Chestnut tree, Lammas Field, The Paddock, Ixworth, IP21 2HG (altered to crown lift) **Granted**

13. Play Area

The Clerk reported the latest Lottery and Havebury applications had been sent for funding of the toddlers area.

After some discussion and alterations to a draft letter that had been previously distributed, prior to this meeting, to the Council members, it was proposed by Cllr Wilson and seconded by Cllr Shelton that this letter is sent to all residents who have recently written to the Council with concerns over the positioning of the new play equipment.

14. Correspondence

Fifteen items of correspondence had been received this month, 4 from SALC, 5 from St Edmundsbury, 1 from Cllr McFruin, 1 from Ixworth Library, 1 from an insurance company and 3 from residents of Crown Crescent with concerns over the play area. It had been previously agreed in item 13 to respond to the residents of Crown Crescent.

15. Chairman's Report

The Chairman wanted to highlight her concerns over the insurance issues with residents using the grit bins and urged all members if they were aware of residents using the grit bins to contact the Clerk with their names so that they would be covered by Suffolk County Insurance. Whilst on this subject Cllr Sharpe asked if it was possible to have three more grit bins installed in the village, suggested places would be Coddington Way, the bottom of Street Farm Lane and the top of Micklesmere. The Clerk was instructed to consult with Suffolk highways department to ascertain if they would be willing to fill three more bins before making a final decision.

16. Clerks Report

The Clerk reported that the letter for Peacock Rise and Peasecroft road had been composed and would be delivered in the next few days.

The Clerk also reported the burial had taken place for the gentleman who had recently purchased two plots.

The Clerk had also looked into the cost of purchasing a letter box to have installed in the village hall for residents to place letters for the Parish Council, the boxes range from £20 to £60 so the clerk would bring a final selection to another meeting. Permission would also have to be sought from the Village Hall Management Committee to install the box.

17. Parish Council Conference

The four members that attended reported that they had found the meeting to be very enjoyable and the workshops very interesting.

18. Councillors Reports

Cllr Laughton reported he was still very concerned about residents parking on the grass verge at the Junction of Commister Lane and The Paddocks. Cllr Laughton offered to ascertain the name of the residents parking there so that perhaps a letter could be sent in the future highlighting the Parish Councils concerns.

Cllr Shelton wished to highlight that a grit bin was needed for Coddington Way as the road and paths were dangerous to walk and drive on.

Cllr Reeve reported that the Play and Learn group had spoken to him about the slippery path leading to the play and learn centre.

Cllr McFruin requested that he could book and attend a Councillor two day training course at SALC, it was agreed to discuss this at the January meeting.

19. Ixworth Village Hall

Cllr Sharpe reported that a new committee had been formed and the Committee were in the process of informing the Charity Commission. The Committee had instructed the electrician to carry out all repairs needed on the electrical system but the CCTV would need a new separate circuit board. The members agreed to pay for this as the CCTV came under the responsibility of the Parish Council.

Cllr Sharpe reported that the committee was currently meeting every two weeks and were looking into improving the heating, the kitchen, car parking, the hiring agreements and employing a new cleaner. Cllr Sharpe agreed to report monthly to the Parish Council whilst all these improvements are made. Cllr Laughton agreed to be the nominee for the Parish Council on the Village Hall Committee.

20. Date of the Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting will be 12th January 2011.

With no further business the meeting closed at 10.15pm

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Signed

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Date