

IXWORTH AND IXWORTH THORPE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Ixworth & Ixworth Thorpe Parish Council meeting held at Ixworth Village Hall on 9th February 2011 at 7:30pm

Present: Cllr Teresa Plummer (Chairman) Cllr John Sharpe (Vice-Chairman) Cllrs Sophia Wilson, 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, PCSO Pardoe and seven members of the public.

1. Apologies for Absence

Cllr Reeve.

2. Declarations of Interest

Cllrs Sharpe, Laughton, McFruin and Fairgrieve for item 16 – Village Hall.

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Cllr Sharpe wanted confirmation that the page numbers of January's minutes started at page 422. The Chairman confirmed the first page number was 422. With no further changes it was resolved that the Chairman sign the minutes of the previous meetings (January 12th 2011) as a true record of that meeting.

4. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

Cllr Goodson requested if the Council had had any reply from the land owner with reference to the condition of the footpath near Hempyard Bridge which had been mentioned at the previous meeting. The Clerk confirmed that a letter had been sent, but no reply had been received. It was decided to write a formal letter to the Rights of Way Officer of Suffolk County Council requesting what action they were taking over all the complaints that had been received by the Parish Council and the County Council.

Meeting Adjourned

5. Public Forum

Mr Mackintosh requested if any further developments had been made over moving the large swing in the play area. The Clerk stated that the Parish Council had received a letter from the Village Hall Management Committee informing the Council that it would be considered at their next meeting but as yet no response had been received from Playdale Ltd. The Chairman stated that the decision would not be made until at least the next meeting when all responses had been received. Cllr Sharpe asked if the play area was inspected on a regular basis by the Borough Council play officer and had he ever highlighted the large swing as a safety concern, as this was one of the issues residents had with this piece of equipment. The clerk reported that the latest play equipment inspection had been received this week, the inspection that had taken place on 10.01.2011 and had only highlighted the condition of the small elephant, no other safety issues were raised.

Three other members of the public stated they were attending to listen to the discussion about Ixworth Library.

6. Report from Local Police Officer

See attached.

7. Report from County Councillor Joanna Spicer

C Cllr Spicer reported the Library consultation had been launched and would run until the end of April. C Cllr Spicer wishes to keep Ixworth library open which could perhaps be run by a local community group. Suffolk County Council would put in formal funding agreements in place to pay local community groups and hopefully the funding would last 3, 4 or 5 years. The changes will not take place until at least April next year so there will be time to put forward community proposals to Suffolk County Council. C Cllr Spicer stated that she had arranged a meeting on 16th February 2011 with members of various community groups, someone from Suffolk County Council and Diane from the library to discuss a way forward. C Cllr Spicer also reported that the consultation on closing Suffolk Care Homes had closed but there had been discussions of keeping Ixworth Court a place for care of the elderly. C Cllr Spicer wished to highlight that St Edmundsbury Borough Council had been very helpful on this matter.

C Cllr Spicer reported that the youth offending team had been unable to clear the permissive footpath so Claire Dickson was now getting quotes for the work to be completed and Suffolk County Council would meet these costs.

C Cllr reported that the consultation of Suffolk schools had also been deferred.

C Cllr Spicer reported that bus route 338 and 304 had been reprieved from the latest cuts and route 315 that passes through Ixworth Thorpe was still being looked into.

8. Report from Borough Councillor John Griffiths MBE

B Cllr Griffiths reported that the budget papers had been finalised and would be going to Cabinet in the near future. B Cllr Griffiths felt that there may be small reductions in grants that the Council award. However, savings had been made across the board, but the Borough had anticipated the cuts well and had prepared well for when they came, though near year may be a lot tougher.

B Cllr Griffiths reported that the house in the High Street having major renovation work hopefully would be finished by the end of March.

Meeting Reconvened

9. St Edmundsbury Rural Action Plan

The questionnaire and report had been passed prior to the meeting to all Councillors to read and fill in. It was decided to pass all questionnaires to the clerk who would consolidate the answers and send the Parish Council response.

10. Suffolk Libraries

This item was reported on in item 7.

11. Planning Applications

SE/11/0014 – Erection of single storey rear extension – 20 Coddington Way, Ixworth, IP31 2ET. **No Objection**

SE/11/0081 – Insertion of dormer window to front elevation – Lynton House, Ixworth Thorpe, IP31 1QP **No Objection**

SE/11/0092 – Fell one Sycamore tree and eight Leylandii trees – 37 High Street, Ixworth, and IP31 2HJ **No Objection**

SE/11/0089 - Erection of two storey detached dwelling and construction of new driveway and turning area – Sidshell, Crown Lane, Ixworth, IP31 2EH

Objection – Traffic entering onto already congested Crown Lane

12. Determined Applications

TCA10/2048 – 30% crown reduction on Walnut tree – The Greyhound, High Street, Ixworth, IP31 2HJ **Granted**
SE/10/1497 –Replacement timber gates – Orchard Cottage, 66 High Street, Ixworth - **Refused**

13. Correspondence

Ten items of correspondence had been received this month, 4 from St Eds, 2 from Suffolk County Council, 1 from Matthew Hancock, 1 from the VH Management Committee, 1 from Age Concern and 1 from Michael Hendry from Bidwells. It was agreed to meet with Michael Hendry of Bidwells on 21st February 2011 at 7pm. It was agreed to contact Simon Pickering to enquire the amount of funding that would be needed for the 'Wos Up' project.

14. Accounts

It was agreed to pay the following accounts;

Chq No's 518/519	Wages	£866.69
Chq No 520	Ixworth Village Hall (Play Area/Outside Toilet/Room rental)	£234.00
Chq No 521	Dent Security Systems (CCTV)	£613.20
Chq No 522	SALC (Training)	£18.00
Chq No 523	A C Webb (CCTV)	£212.98
Direct Debit	PWLB (Village Hall)	£3116.90

15. Play Area

As reported earlier the Council is still waiting to hear back from Playdale Ltd and the Village Hall Management Committee, so a decision about moving the large swing will be deferred to the March meeting, if all replies have been received by then.

The Clerk reported that the St Edmundsbury play area inspection highlighted the small elephant needed repair or removal. It was agreed to once again approach Ray Woods to remove this piece of equipment. The clerk also reported that the lottery is still reviewing the recent application.

16. Ixworth Village Hall

Cllr Sharpe read a report compiled by an independent member of the Village Hall Management Committee who has no connections to the Parish Council.

It was agreed to invite this member to the March meeting to present another report to the Parish Council in the section where the meeting is adjourned.

Cllr McFruiin reported that the canopy from the village gates would be installed in the village hall in the near future.

17. Chairman's Report

The chairman reported that she had attended, with the clerk, a technical briefing on Suffolk County Councils Strategic Divestment. Many issues were covered but the library consultation was discussed the most. The Chairman had been advised at this meeting that there may well be no funding from Suffolk County Council for a community group to run the library and the funding may fall to the Parish Council. It was suggested at this meeting that the Parish Council show an interest in taking over the running of Ixworth library as soon as possible so that resources, such as financial information, could be available to members to

help formulate a creditable proposal to take to Suffolk County Council. The Chairman distributed a report she had compiled with facts and figures and also a suggested article to be entered in the village magazine. It was agreed by all to send this article to the village magazine and include in the article the date agreed for a public meeting for residents to come along and express their views. The date agreed is the Wednesday 16th March at 7pm in the village hall. The Chairman reported that she would be attending the meeting that C Cllr Spicer had organised to discuss this topic. The Chairman also wanted to highlight her concern over the flint wall on the development in Stow Road, the wall seems to be getting smaller even though the planning stated it had to be retained. It was suggested to write to St Edmundsbury Borough Council once again to highlight the Parish Councils concerns.

18. Clerk’s Report

The Clerk reported that she had sent off the survey about cleaning streets after she had received comments from Steve Wilson. Also, the clerk reported that she would be making packs for after the election in May containing such things as standing orders, code of conducts, financial rules, dates of meetings and various other items, the clerk requested permission to enter an advertisement for members of the public to put themselves forward for election to the Parish Council, this was agreed by all.

The Clerk also wished to confirm the date for this years Annual Parish Meeting, this was confirmed as Wednesday 20th April 2011.

The clerk also requested permission to compile some protocols for the Council to work with, protocols for grant funding for instance, this was agreed by all.

The clerk was instructed to approach Bob Bishop again to refurbish the village notice boards.

19. Councillors Reports

Cllr Fairgrieve was concerned about the condition of the notice boards.

Cllr Shelton was concerned about the amount of dog fouling along Crown Lane, Scot Road and Commister Lane.

Cllr McFruin wished to highlight that the bridle way sign leading to Hemyard Bridge has still not been replaced.

Cllr Goodson that a lady resident had fallen over some raised studs when crossing Beeches Close in Thetford Road.

Cllr Sharpe enquired if it was possible to speak with Havebury Housing to get the hedge cut along Stow Road.

20. Date of the Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting will be 9th March 2011 at 7.30pm in the village hall.

With no further business the meeting closed at 10.10pm.

.....
Signed

.....
Date