

IXWORTH AND IXWORTH THORPE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Ixworth & Ixworth Thorpe Parish Council meeting held at Ixworth Village Hall on 14th March 2012 at 7:30pm

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

Also Present: Mandy Adlington (Parish Clerk), C Cllr Joanna Spicer & three members of the public.

1. Apologies for Absence

Cllrs N Plummer & N Laughton.

2. Declarations of Interest

None.

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

It was resolved that the Chairman sign the minutes of the previous meeting held on 8th February 2012 as a true record of that meeting.

4. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

None.

Meeting adjourned

5. Public Forum

Members of the public present wished to highlight their concerns that a memorial tree to an Ixworth fire fighter had been cut down before the planning application for alterations on Ixworth Fire station had been discussed or approved.

C Cllr Joanna Spicer wished to convey her sincere and heartfelt apologies to the family of the fireman concerned, the Parish Council and the residents of Ixworth for this upsetting incident.

C Cllr Joanna Spicer then gave the following report;

- The tree in question had been cut down prematurely
- Suffolk County Council had visited the family of the fireman concerned to apologise and to seek a way forward to resolve this issue
- Suffolk County Council would replace the tree with a mature tree, and with full consultation with the family find a suitable location to replant the new tree
- Suffolk County Council will arrange a re-dedication service for the fireman
- C Cllr Spicer stated she would liaise with the investigation into how this incident happened

Mr Sharpe made two suggestions for a replacement trees and added his concerns that Suffolk County Council had cut down this tree without planning permission.

C Cllr Spicer once again offered her sincere apologies that this incident had happened. C Cllr Spicer then left the meeting for a prior engagement.

Jeanette Channing-Pearce requested a grant from the Parish Council to help fund the Queens Jubilee celebrations in June. The members stated they would discuss this application in item 11 of this meeting.

6. Report from Local Police Officer

No report.

7. Report from County Councillor Joanna Spicer

No further report.

Meeting reconvened

8. Planning Applications

SE/0191/FULCA – Change of use from Police station section to 2 no. dwellings – Police Station, High Street, Ixworth, IP31 2HN	No objection
SE/12 – Install Solar Panels – Ixworth Primary School, Crown Lane, Ixworth	No objection
SE/12/0254 – Fell one Leyland Cypress tree – Torrella, 1 Beeches Close, IP31 2EW	No objection
SE/12 – Internal refurbishment and single storey extension – Fire station, High Street, Ixworth, IP31 2HN	No objection

A discussion was then held on the Parish Councils response to the unfortunate incident of the tree being cut down prematurely. Cllr Wilson proposed and was seconded by Cllr T Plummer that no formal letter of complaint should be sent to Suffolk County Council, but it should be mentioned in the planning application response that the Parish Council were disappointed that this incident had happened. A vote was taken and the proposal, with five votes for and two against was carried. It was also resolved to let Suffolk County Council liaise with the family to resolve the situation. Cllr Lord wished it to be registered that he voted against the proposal.

9. Determined Applications

SE/11/1531 – Oak Barn, Stow Road -	Granted
SE/11/1473 – The Beeches, High Street -	Granted

10. Correspondence

Thirteen items of correspondence had been received this month;

- 4 from St Edmundsbury
- 4 from SALC/NALC
- 2 from Suffolk Police
- 1 from Ixworth & Stanton Free School Group
- 1 from Mr John Sharpe
- 1 from Ixworth Middle School

It was resolved to reply to the Free School group inviting them to give a talk at the Annual Parish Meeting on 18th April 2012.

It was resolved to reply to Ixworth Middle school to discuss suggestions on planting a memorial tree and installing a bench to celebrate the Queens Diamond Jubilee.

11. Accounts

The following payments were agreed for payment;

Chq No's 613/614	Wages	£964.83
Chq No 615	H M Rev & Customs	£370.58
Chq No 616	Anglian Water	£32.25
Chq No 617	Memorial Benches UK	£529.95
Chq No 618	Viking Stationary	£138.73
Chq No 619	Ixworth Village Hall	£326.00
Chq No 620	D Thrower	£2240
Chq No 621	Suffolk Acre	£25.00
Chq No 622	S Wilson	£221.00
Chq No 623	A Adlington	£97.13

The RFO was authorised to transfer £4200 by on-line transfer from the reserve account to the community account.

The Annual Review of the Financial Internal Controls was carried out. It was agreed that the current fidelity guarantee was sufficient at £100.000.

The request for a grant for the jubilee celebrations was discussed and it was resolved to grant £400 at this time. It was also suggested that rather than using this amount to pay for signage for the road closure the Jubilee committee could consider using the village hall playing field rather than the High Street. The clerk was instructed to inform Mrs Channing-Pearce of the members' decision.

12. Grass Cutting Contract

The clerk informed the members that three quotes had been received for the grass cutting contract.

- Quote 1 - £4000 for 3 years
- Quote 2 - £5275 for 2 yrs
- Quote 3 – 4725 for 1 yr

It was resolved to accept quote 1 and the clerk was instructed to write and accept the quote from the company concerned.

13. Play Area

This item is to be included on the April agenda for further discussion by which time a reply may have been received from Ixworth Middle School.

14. Peacock Rise

Cllr Lord reported that he had received the final plan from Suffolk County Council and the grant application for funding would be sent to Havebury in the next two days.

15. Cobbled Area

Cllr Wilson confirmed the new bench had been installed and the new tree had also been planted. The clerk was instructed to contact Suffolk County Council to report a few loose cobbles within the area.

16. Ixworth Thorpe Village Sign

Cllr Wilson reported that she had ordered the sign and the company concerned were currently working on a design to present to the members. Unfortunately, the process will take up to 6 months. The clerk confirmed that a grant for funding was to be sent to St Edmundsbury Borough Council.

17. Chairman's Report

The Chairman confirmed that she had attended the Better Broadband for Suffolk conference on 9th March. The Chairman gave the following report;

March is the Critical Month.

The Consultation paper has been issued and our comments will be welcomed – Closing date 31 March.

MORE IMPORTANTLY the companies bidding will increase their bids and bid against each other if we show the demand is high.

Currently 7,500 people and businesses have registered, we need 15,000 to get good submissions.

Please ensure you have registered all your business and personal e-mail addresses and your families – and your employees....

Please also send this e-mail to your contacts particularly in rural Suffolk so that we can demonstrate how keen Suffolk are for excellent broadband.

The survey link is on www.suffolk.gov.uk/broadband.

18. Clerk Report

The clerk reported the following;

- The Annual Parish Meeting is to be held on 18th April 2012 in Ixworth village hall
- The litter on the by-pass had been reported to S.C.C.
- The neighbourhood planning event is to be held at Stanton on 29th March at 6pm
- Top soil for the new cemetery and chalk clearance would be £480 – this was agreed by all members

The clerk also reminded members that the response to the Rural Vision 2031 needed to be completed by 30th April 2012. The item would be on the April agenda for discussion. The clerk reported that she had received an update from Steve Wilson. Steve wished to highlight two issues, since the snow there had been a massive increase in the amount of dog mess on the pavements within the village and the tetrapak recycling bin at the village hall was always full.

19. Councillors Reports

Cllr Lord requested that the cemetery be added to the April agenda to discuss the cemetery fencing.

Cllr Shelton also wished to comment on the dog fouling problem.

Cllr Reeve reported that the church was still deciding on whether to colour the floodlights for the Jubilee and Olympics. Cllr Reeve also reported that he had attended the Rural Vision 2031 drop in session and the plans still showed no access onto Crown Lane. Cllr Anderson enquired about who owns the old fire station at the bottom of the High street. Cllr McFruin reported that some testing had been completed on the High St in preparation for the High street resurfacing.

20. Date of Next Meeting

Ixworth Thorpe Annual Parish Meeting on 11th April at 7pm at Manor Farm, Ixworth Thorpe followed by April Parish meeting at 7.30pm.

With no further business the meeting closed at 9.40pm

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Signed

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Date