

IXWORTH AND IXWORTH THORPE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting of Ixworth & Ixworth Thorpe Parish Council held at Ixworth Village Hall on 9th May 2012 at 7:30pm

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

Also Present: Mandy Adlington (Parish Clerk), C Cllr Joanna Spicer and one member of the public.

1. Election of Chairman

Cllr T Plummer and Cllr B Lord were nominated to be Chairman for the next year.

The result was as follows: Cllr T Plummer five votes, Cllr B Lord four votes. Cllr T Plummer was duly elected as Chairman and signed a Declaration of Acceptance of Office. It was resolved to elect Cllr B Lord as Vice-Chairman for the next year.

2. Apologies for Absence

B Cllr J Griffiths MBE offered his apologies for not being able to attend.

3. Declarations of Interest

None.

4. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

It was resolved that the Chairman sign the minutes of the previous meeting held on 11th April 2012 as a true record of that meeting.

5. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

None.

Meeting Adjourned

6. Public Forum

No comment was made by the member of the public present.

7. Report from Local Police Officer

No report.

8. Report from County Councillor Joanna Spicer

C Cllr Spicer informed the members that The Seckford Foundation would be holding two meetings to inform parents of the progress of The Free School in Ixworth. The two meetings are scheduled for Tuesday 15th May at Blackbourne Middle School and Wednesday 16th May at Ixworth Middle School, both meetings will be held at 7pm and members are invited to attend.

C Cllr Spicer also reported she was working towards re-instatement of the permissive footpath over the land at the pumping station.

Suffolk County Council had now also started turning some street lights off overnight and this project would be reviewed at the end of the year.

9. Report from Borough Councillor John Griffiths MBE

No report as B Cllr Griffiths had sent his apologies.

Meeting Reconvened

10. Planning Applications

SE/12/0544/TPO – (i) fell four Silver Birch trees and one Conifer tree (ii) reduce height of two Conifer trees to 2 metres – Lammas Fields, The Paddock, Ixworth IP31 2HG **No objection**

SE/12/0421 – Erection of open sided porch to front door **No objection**

SE/12/0413/LBCA –Replacement and enlargement of windows – The Round House, Thetford Road, Ixworth, IP31 2HB **No objection**

11. Determined Applications

SE/0191/FULCA – Change of use from Police station section to 2no dwellings
Police Station, High Street, Ixworth, IP31 2HN

Granted

SE/12/0374 – Re-pollard one Willow tree to previous pollard points – Commister House, Commister Lane, Ixworth, IP31 2HE

No objection

12. Correspondence

Five items of correspondence were received;

Havebury Housing – Estate Walkabout Report

St Eds – Precept Payment Confirmation

St Eds – New Standards Provision

Thurston Community College – Re-organisation Update

St Eds – Rural Profiling Project

13. Accounts

It was resolved to make the following payments;

Chq No's 629/630	Wages	£1030.11
Chq No 631	Running IMP (Jubilee)	£531.79
Chq No 632	RBA Solutions (Internal Audit)	£264.00
Chq No 633	A Adlington (postage)	£107.16

The RFO was authorised to transfer £1500 by on-line transfer from the reserve account to the community account.

The internal auditor reported verbally to the RFO that there were no issues to report in the accounts dated 1st April 2011 to 31st March 2012.

After reviewing the figures in Section 1, the Accounting Statement of the Annual Return, for year ending 31st March 2012 it was resolved that these figures were correct. It was resolved that the Chairman and Clerk could sign this section of the form.

After reviewing Section 2, the Annual Governance Statement of the Annual Return, for year ending 31st March 2012 it was resolved that the Council had ensured there is a sound system of internal control. It was resolved that the Chairman and Clerk could sign this section of the form.

14. Riverside Footpath Leaflet

Cllr McFruin reported that the meeting with David Falk on 2nd May had gone very well. A few minor adjustments had been made to the text of the leaflet which David Falk had now taken away and would use to construct the leaflet. The next meeting would take place on 13th June 2012 and hopefully David Falk would have a draft of the leaflet to show all members for approval.

15. Parish Council Conference

Cllr Shelton reported that the PC Conference had been very interesting and various topics had been discussed such as Suffolk Libraries, Rural Vision 2031, Suffolk Local Broadband and a very interesting talk from members of Clare Parish Council.

16. Ixworth Cemetery

Cllr Lord reported that the meeting of members at the cemetery on Tuesday 23rd April had gone very well and presented the members with a list of work that needed completing. It was resolved for Cllr Lord to seek quotes to remove the internal fence between the two sections and to remove the stumps within that area to ease grass cutting etc. Other areas to be looked at will be refurbishment of the benches within the cemetery and overhanging trees damaging the gravestones.

17. Play Area

Cllrs Wilson and Laughton reported that they had visited the play area and felt at present the grass area as you enter from the car should be left to grow this summer. However, they suggested that perhaps a picnic bench could be installed and some further hedging or bushes around the edge. It was agreed to seek the cost of a new picnic bench. It was also suggested that the Clerk approach the grass cutting contractor about cutting in front of the play area fence.

Cllrs Wilson and Laughton also reported the cobbled area in the High Street needed weeding and Steve Wilson had agreed to put some weed killer down. It had also been agreed that there was no need for some edging to be installed around the base of the newly planted cherry tree.

18. Neighbourhood Planning

This item was deferred to another meeting.

19. Rural Profiling Project

Cllr T Plummer reported that she had received a questionnaire that the Rural Profiling Project wished to send to all Ixworth residents. Cllr T Plummer stressed that she thought this was a very worthwhile project to take part in and that Suffolk Acre would print all questionnaires and compile all the answers to produce a report. It was agreed by all present that the Chairman could continue with this project.

20. Website

The clerk stated that the One Suffolk website would be changing soon and a new website would need constructing which would require a lot of work and extra hours. It was suggested that the PC use and help run the Ixworth Village website that had been set up by Cllr Lord with a donation from the PC. It was agreed by all and Cllr Lord and the clerk would arrange a meeting to discuss access to the site.

21. Chairman’s Report

Cllr T Plummer reported that further to Cllr Shelton’s report mentioning Clare Parish Council, she felt that the PC needed to communicate with the parishioners on a more regular basis. The article about parking in Stow Road by a resident that mentioned the Parish Council was discussed and it was agreed that the Chairman write an article for the May edition of the magazine. It was also agreed that a regular quarterly report be submitted informing residents of the Parish Council’s activities.

22. Clerk’s Report

The clerk reported the following;

A litter pick still needed to be organised

The notice board for near the village hall needed to be ordered once permission had been obtained from S.C.C. to install it on their land

Yellow lines still needed to be removed from Thetford Road and an ‘H Box’ installed

The Diamond Jubilee Oak tree was still at Mr Sharpe’s house

Cllr Wilson stated she had contacted a company to remove the stump from the village green in Ixworth Thorpe and would arrange for the Diamond Jubilee Oak tree to be collected from Mr Sharpe and planted once the stump was removed.

23. Councillors Reports

Cllr Lord reported that the grant funding meeting had been postponed until Tuesday 22nd May at 6.15pm. Havebury Housing had also removed the untaxed red van previously mentioned in the walk around report. Cllr Shelton wished to highlight again that she felt the fence behind the toddler play area was unsafe, Cllr Laughton agreed to speak with the contractor who installed the fence.

Cllr Reeve reported that he and Cllr Laughton had attended a Suffolk Wildlife meeting. Suffolk Wildlife would be carrying out a Swift survey which is of interest to Ixworth as there are Swifts within the Church area and Reeve Farm. Cllr Reeve also reported there are grants available for Wildlife projects and passed information to the clerk.

Cllr Wilson reported she was still waiting for a design for the village sign in Ixworth Thorpe.

Cllr Laughton reported he would be contacting Suffolk Wildlife for advice about Robins Copse. Cllr Laughton also gave a small report from Steve Wilson – Mr Wilson stated that at present dog mess was not a great problem, he had strimmed various areas and had been working on clearing back overgrown vegetation.

Cllr McFruin stated he was still very concerned about all the vehicles parking on the verge near Mulleys garage. It was agreed to mention this once again to the highways department.

24. Date of the Next Meeting

13th June at 7.30pm in Ixworth Village Hall

With no further business the meeting closed at 9.40pm

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Signed

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Date