

IXWORTH AND IXWORTH THORPE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Ixworth & Ixworth Thorpe Parish Council meeting held at Ixworth Village Hall on 12th February 2014 at 7:30pm

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

Also Present: Mandy Adlington (Parish Clerk), C Cllr Joanna Spicer, B Cllr John Griffiths MBE & one member of the public

1. Apologies for Absence

None.

2. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Lord declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 17.

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

It was resolved that the Chairman sign the minutes as a true record of the meeting held on 8th January 2014.

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes

None.

Meeting Adjourned

5. Public Forum

No comments were made.

6. Report from Local Police Officer

The following report was received via email;

Crime Statistics for the Parish to 11/02/2014

There have been 2 crimes of interest in the Parish since the last meeting:

- Theft from conveyance not a motor vehicle, Ixworth 02-03/02/14, fuel cap and fuel taken from a digger.
- Criminal damage vehicle under £5000, Ixworth 1740-1840 05/02/2012 rear nearside window of a small car has been smashed whilst parked unattended in a built up area.

A discussion took place about various traffic problems within the village. The Clerk was instructed to request the Police attend the next meeting to discuss these issues further. It was discussed that the Police had not attended a meeting since February 2013 and had not attended the Annual Parish Meeting either. C Cllr Spicer stated she would look into this matter on behalf of the Parish Council.

7. Report from County Councillor Joanna Spicer

C Cllr Spicer reported that she had been approached by the Village Hall Management Committee requesting a grant towards the cost of replacing the heating system. C Cllr Spicer had agreed to grant £1000 from her locality budget.

C Cllr Spicer also reported that during the recent bad weather Suffolk County Council had been very busy with various road closures within the County. Obviously, the County Council's priority currently was dealing with situations that may mean a danger to life.

8. Report from Borough Councillor John Griffiths MBE

B Cllr Griffiths was pleased to announce that St Edmundsbury Borough Council were once again freezing Council Tax.

B Cllr Griffiths wished to highlight that as St Edmundsbury are still committed to helping Parish Councils, they will be phasing out the Parish Council grant over a period of four years rather than in one year.

B Cllr Griffiths also highlighted the recent bad weather and the damage that it had caused to many roads such as the A1088 through Ixworth Thorpe.

Meeting Reconvened

9. Rural Vision 2031

The Chairman and C Cllr Spicer reported that they had both attended the Rural 2031 Planning Inspectors Panel on the previous day.

The Chairman explained it had been a very interested and long day but she and C Cllr Spicer had highlighted all the concerns discussed at the January meeting.

10. Planning Applications

DC/14/0076 – Reduce overhanging branches by up to 3 metres – Woodland adjacent to 98 High St, Ixworth

No objection

DC/14/0098 – Fell and crown reduce various trees – Ramsden, 3 Beeches Close, Ixworth

No objection

DC/14/0171 – Fell 3 Leylandi, prune one mature Bramley Apple tree -1 Beeches Close, Ixworth

No objection

11. Determined Applications

DC/13/0712 - 4 Beeches Close, Ixworth

Approved

SE/13/0604 – Fordhams Garage, Ixworth

Approved

12. Accounts

The following accounts were agreed for payment;

Chq No's 788/789	Wages	£1048.67
Chq No 790	Notice Board Company	£385.20
Chq No 791	Key	£336.00
Chq No 792	P A Brown Electrical	£324.00
Chq No 793	D Thrower	£310.00
Chq No	T Plummer	£25.35
PWLB by Direct Debit (03/03/2014)		£3116.90

The RFO was authorised to transfer £5250 by on-line transfer from the reserve account to the community account.

13. Ixworth Village Hall

The Chairman reported that the Council had received the final draft of the Library Lease. It was agreed by all present that the Council's Solicitor check all is correct.

14. Play Area

Cllr Wilson reported that a report from The Funding Drs with ideas for funding phase three of the play area. Many of the suggested funding opportunities were not suitable for this project. Cllr Wilson proposed that the £16,000 needed for this project be taken from the Parish Council recreational reserves. This was carried. Cllr Wilson would contact Wicksteed to get a more formal plan drawn up.

15. Crown Lane

Cllr Plummer stated an email had been received from the Headteacher at Crown Lane Primary School about traffic problems. The Headteacher had spoken with the local Police who stated the Parish Council would need to apply for 'No Parking' signs. The clerk was instructed to contact Suffolk County Council highways department and the local Police to ascertain the procedure for obtaining the relevant signs.

16. Ixworth Cemetery/St Mary's Church

Cllr Courtneil reported he had received a quote for removing the branches of the large tree overhanging the new piece of the Cemetery. The quote was for £180 + VAT. It was agreed by all present to accept this quote and Cllr Courtneil was instructed to contact the company concerned to get the work completed as soon as possible. Cllr Courtneil also reported that the work in St Mary's churchyard was completed but there were one or two trees that had been missed on the original specification. Cllr Courtneil volunteered to get a quote for this work to bring to the next meeting.

17. Correspondence

The following correspondence had been received;

Suffolk Police – latest updates

British Red Cross – thank you for donation

Highways Agency – road closure

Arthrope Appeal – request for a donation

Mr Butcher – concerns about parking and traffic in Thetford Road

It was agreed by all present to grant £100 to the Arthrope Appeal (West Suffolk Hospital). The clerk was also instructed to write to Mr Butcher stating traffic problems had been reported to Police and Suffolk County Council highways department.

18. Robins Copse

Cllr Laughton gave members a list of proposed jobs that need completing in Robins Copse. Cllr Laughton proposed hiring a tree shredder at a cost of £130. This was agreed by all present.

19. Chairman's Report

The Chairman reported that the meeting with the planning inspector had been very useful for the Parish Council to express their views especially about the problems around Crown Lane.

The Chairman also reported the flats in Thetford Road were nearly finished but the window sills still needed painting. It was suggested that this is mentioned at the next Havebury Housing walkabout.

20. Clerk's Report

The Clerk reported the following;

Grit bins – two new bins had been delivered and would need installing

De-fib – Lease had been returned

Annual Parish Meeting – date confirmed as 16th April 2014

Highways – various issues were still outstanding

Village Tattoo – Road closure would need 3 months notice

21. Councillors Reports

Cllr McFruin informed members he had reported two broken street light s in Commister Lane.

Cllr Laughton read Steve Wilson monthly report. Cllr Laughton also requested that Ixworth Village Hall be included on the March agenda.

22. Date of the Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as 12th March 2014 at 7.30pm in Ixworth Village Hall.

With no further business the meeting closed at 9.55pm

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Signed

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Date