

IXWORTH AND IXWORTH THORPE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Ixworth & Ixworth Thorpe Parish Council meeting held at Ixworth Village Hall on 17th July 2013 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) & six members of the public.

1. Apologies for Absence

Cllr Laughton sent his apologies that he would be attending the meeting slightly late. Cllr Laughton arrived at 8.10pm.

2. Declarations of Interest

No declarations were made.

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

It was resolved that the Chairman sign the minutes of the previous two meetings held on 12th & 18th June 2013 as a true record of those meetings.

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes

Cllr Lord asked if the representative from the Co-Op who attended the meeting held on 18th June 2013 should have declared an interest as he is the Chairman of Stanton Parish Council. The Clerk confirmed that he did not have to declare an interest.

Meeting Adjourned

5. Public Forum

Mr Adrian Chapman, the proprietor of Ixworth Stores, requested if he could direct two questions to two Councillors. This was agreed by all present.

Mr Chapman asked Cllr Plummer why she had had a meeting with the two representatives from the Co-op in a separate room prior to the meeting on the 18th June 2013.

Cllr Plummer stated she had left the room prior to the meeting as the two gentlemen had requested if they could display boards during the meeting, and she wished to view them to see if they were suitable. Also, whilst speaking with them she asked if they were happy to reply to questions from the floor, this was to help ascertain the format of the meeting.

Mr Chapman asked Cllr McFruin why he had said to members of his staff that he had voted to have no objection to the application as he had been directed to do so by a higher authority. Cllr McFruin stated he did not wish to make a comment at this time.

Mr Hunt from 'Friends of Ixworth Library' once again thanked the Parish Council for their kind grant of £350. Mr Hunt passed the draft copy of a leaflet explained the services available within Ixworth Library for the Councillors view. The Parish Council thought the leaflet was very good. The Clerk requested Mr Hunt formally write a letter fro F.O.I.L. requesting the £350 grant, Mr Hunt replied he would send that once the headed paper had formally been agreed by the committee.

6. Report from Local Police Officer

No report.

7. Report from Borough Councillor John Griffiths

The following report had been received via email along with B Cllr Griffiths apologies for not being able to attend the meeting;

I regret I am unable to join you this evening having accepted an engagement at West Suffolk College this evening, before I realised that you had changed the date of your meeting from last week. I hope this finds you all well.

I attach a St Edmundsbury Borough Council internal briefing report regarding proposed changes in funding for Parish and Town Councils which I think is self explanatory..... Not great news perhaps for anyone, but it is intended to give Parish Councils as much help and certainty (and advance warning) as possible in the light of continuing national government cuts.

Co-op in Ixworth

As you must know, there continues to be a plethora of comments (both for and against) to this application. Not all of them appear to be up to speed with the events so far, process or the current situation which - to the best of my understanding anyway - is as follows;-

The application is still being considered by the planning department at St Edmundsbury. While the Parish Councils' "no objection" has been noted and will (as always) be taken into strong consideration, there are a number of other issues and matters still being looked into, discussed, and further information sought etc. - including highways, environmental health and other matters, and an objection from the Environment Agency. No initial recommendation/report to the Ward Councillor (me!) has therefore yet been forthcoming though I have already advised the planners that, whatever the officer recommendation, I will almost certainly - and not least because of the very strong interest and local feeling, both for and against, that has arisen following this application - be requesting that the application is referred for determination to the Full Development Control Committee at St Edmundsbury. While it is impossible at this stage to know how events will develop in this respect, I am advised that this is unlikely to take place before early September.

Vision 2031

I hope you will make, and encourage others to make, any recommendations/comments that you wish to the final draft.....which WILL be considered both by St Edmundsbury and ultimately the Planning Inspector. In this regard however, may I repeat that this is NOT a detailed planning application but more of a "vision" and an aspiration. So, for example, regarding Crown Lane and the possible housing development nearby (and where incidentally discussions re various possibilities re. access from the A1088 etc. are underway/ongoing), should there be a desire for a different form of access with either one or two way access onto Crown Lane, this can be addressed either through an amendment to the Masterplan, or with a planning application with supporting evidence etc. to explain/justify any departure from the Masterplan. Nothing is ever certain, and guarantees are never wise, but that is at least my understanding of the position.

Finally, with regard to the Ixworth Thorpe sign, I am delighted to see a new one has been installed.

With best wishes to you all,

8. Report from County Councillor Joanna Spicer

No report.

Meeting Reconvened

9. Planning Applications

Fordham's – The Clerk stated that there seemed to be a misunderstanding of the Parish Councils role in this application. The Parish Council are not the planning authority and did not pass the application on 18th June 2013. The Parish Council had been requested by St Edmundsbury Borough Council (the planning authority) to view the application and state whether they had an objection or no objection to this application. Advice had been sought from The Suffolk Association of Local Councils, who had given the members a list of what can and cannot be objected to when considering a planning application. After many views from the floor and a discussion between the members it was agreed that there were no planning reasons to object to this application. The decision to approve or disapprove this application now rested with the planning authority, St Edmundsbury Borough Council.

The Clerk also reported on the petition that had been received at the meeting held on 18th June 2013. The Clerk stated that both shops had wonderful support from many people with 1579 people signing the petition. However, the Parish Council had to look at support from Ixworth residents. Once the names and signatures that lived outside Ixworth and duplicate names were taken off there were approximately 795 signatures left. The Clerk stated that she had left on any signature, name or any reference to Ixworth. The approximate figure of residents in Ixworth is 2400 so this was approximately one third of Ixworth residents. The Clerk stated she was not a qualified statistician so all figures were approximate and she had not looked at the survey to disregard the wonderful support that the shops had received.

A heated discussion amongst the Councillors followed on Cllr McFruin inappropriate remarks about the vote on the Fordham's planning application.

- SE/13/0778** – Fell four Lime trees – Sunnyside, Commister Lane, Ixworth **No objection**
- SE/13/0654** – Erection of single storey extension, 4 Beeches Close, Ixworth **No objection**
- SE/13/0850** – TCA13/2470 Fell one Horse Chestnut tree – Round House, Thetford Road **No objection**

10. Determined Applications

- SE/13/0352** – Land at the former Police station, High St, Ixworth **Withdrawn**

11. Ixworth Cemetery

Cllr Courtnell reported the following;

- Refurbishment of both gates had started
- Resurfacing of the roadways would be completed by the end of the week
- Refurbishment of the two standpipes had been completed

- David Froud & Bob Bishop were now helping keep the Cemetery tidy
- A new bin was being sought from St Eds
- The new notice board would be fitted once it arrived

The Clerk reported that she had received a letter requesting that one of the trees in The Churchyard was overhanging her garden and causing damage. Also the grass cutting contractor had requested that the trees within the Churchyard be trimmed as they were having trouble getting the grass cutter under them. The Clerk was instructed to get quotes for this work to be completed.

12. PC Equipment at Dover Farm

A list had been previously distributed to all members. It was agreed that only the spare floodlight for St Mary's be kept and permission was given to Mr David Reeve to place all other items in his yard sale.

13. Correspondence

The following correspondence had been received;

- **Steve Wilson** – latest report
- **Suffolk Police** – latest crime report & neighbourhood watch details
- **June Whitton** – concerns about Churchyard tree
- **James Firth** – employment land in Ixworth
- **G Hunt** – thanks for Parish Council grant to Ixworth Library
- **St Eds** – response to a Freedom of Information request regarding Fordham's

Letters & emails were also received from the following regarding the Fordham's planning application;

Sonia Holleyman, Joan Smith, Karen & Kevin Roberts, Residents of Coltsfoot Close, Joanne Linton and Alison Fairgrieve.

The Clerk was instructed to reply to the above residents with regard to the Fordham's planning application stating the minutes of the meeting would be available to view at www.ixworthandixworththorpe.onesuffolk.net

14. Accounts

The following accounts were agreed for payment:

Chq No's 737/738	Wages	£1032.95
Chq No 739	Suffolk Accident Rescue Service	£100.00
Chq No 740	Clarks of Walsham	£42.13
Chq No 741	Ixworth Village Hall	£521.00
Chq No 742	Greenbarnes Ltd	£431.40
Chq No 743	BDO LLP	£360.00
Chq No 744	Friends of Ixworth Library	£350

The RFO was authorised to transfer £1800 by on-line transfer from the reserve account to the community account.

15. Rural Vision 2031

The Clerk was instructed to send the following points in reply to the current consultation:

- The Free School has now been determined
- Clarification that the Footbridge mentioned crossing the A1088 is to go ahead
- That there is no longer a dentist within Ixworth
- Ixworth does have a nature reserve – Robin's Copse
- There is a large play area within Ixworth
- Infrastructure requirements – Parking a Doctors surgery inadequate, More public transport need, no reference to Police/Fire station now under one roof
- Two nursing homes in Ixworth – The Beeches & Ixworth Court (closing in 2016)
- There are no tennis courts with Ixworth
- Indoor bowls held every Tuesday

The Clerk was also instructed to once again mention that the Parish Council would like the Masterplan altered with reference to Crown Lane. When or if the new developments go ahead the Parish Council would an access from Crown Lane to the Walsham roundabout to help reduce traffic in Crown Lane. The Parish Council understand that this may only be one way traffic in or out of Crown Lane.

16. Play Area

The Clerk stated that a meeting had been held between Wicksteed and the working party from the Parish Council. The quote for Phase Three of the play area was £14,000. This was to install 6 or 7 pieces of adult exercise equipment. It was resolved to go ahead with this project and to seek funding. Cllr Lord requested that it be recorded in the minutes that he voted against this project.

Wicksteed would recommend the Parish Council to the 'The Funding Doctors' who assist groups ascertain funding for their community projects, Wicksteed would pay for this service. Cllr Wilson explained that it had been suggested the new equipment be installed on the grass area on the right hand side of the playing fields as you enter from the car park, rather than the small triangle piece of ground next to the toddler area. The Clerk would communicate with the Village Hall Management Committee.

17. Ixworth Thorpe Sign

Cllr Wilson reported that the sign was finished and installed. The new sign had been installed in the same location as the previous sign.

The official opening date was provisionally agreed for 21st August at 6pm. This is to be confirmed at a later meeting.

18. Defibrillator at Ixworth Village Hall

The Clerk informed members that a licence for the installation had been received from the Co-op. It was resolved that the Clerk and Chairman sign the licence. It was suggested that a representative of the Village Hall Management Committee should also sign the licence.

19. Chairman's Report

No report.

20. Clerk's Report

The Clerk reported the following matters were still outstanding and she would keep chasing the relevant authorities;

- Bridle Way signs
- Thetford Road sign
- Various Highway issues
- Play area (bark and safety matting)
- Roundabout near Mulleys

21. Councillors Reports

Cllr Wilson requested if the Clerk had found out who empties the bin in Ixworth Thorpe, the Clerk stated she was waiting to hear back from St Edmundsbury Borough Council.

Cllr Lord requested that Peacock Rise be added to the September Agenda, this was agreed by all present. Cllr Lord also requested if the refurbishment of the seats within the village could also be added to the agenda, this was agreed by all present. Cllr Shelton volunteered to work with Cllr Lord on this project.

Cllr Loughton read the report received from Steve Wilson.

Cllr McFruin reported that several residents had complained about the overgrown verges on the edges of Mulleys roundabout. A resident had also reported that the verge in front of the Council Houses in Stow Road was becoming very overgrown and soil was seeping onto the path.

22. Date of the next Meeting

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as 14th August 2013 at 7.30pm in Ixworth Village Hall. It was confirmed that this would be only a Planning and Finance meeting.

With no further business the meeting closed at 9.50pm

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Signed

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Date