

IXWORTH AND IXWORTH THORPE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Ixworth & Ixworth Thorpe Parish Council meeting held at Ixworth Village Hall on 9th March 2016 at 7:30pm

Present: Cllrs Sophia Wilson, Roy McFruin, Pam Shelton, Ben Lord, Trevor Anderson and Ben Birrell.

Also Present: Mandy Adlington (Parish Clerk), C Cllr Joanna Spicer MBE and two members of the public. As Cllr Courtnell was absent from the meeting it was resolved that Cllr Ben Lord take the seat as Chairman for the meeting.

1. Apologies for Absence

Cllrs Richard Courtnell, Nick Laughton and David Reeve. Apologies accepted by all members present.

2. Declarations of Interest

None.

3. Minutes of the Last Meeting

After a small adjustment for a spelling mistake, it was agreed by all present the Chairman sign the minutes as a true record of the meeting held on 10th February 2016.

4. Matters Arising from the Previous Meeting.

No matters were raised.

5. Public forum

Mr John Sharpe wished to highlight the following;

- **St Mary's Churchyard** – As a planning application was being discussed to remove one tree and cut back another Mr Sharpe wished to know if the Church were now taking over the maintenance of the Churchyard from the Parish Council. In the application it stated the Church had a faculty over the trees and had permission to remove any trees. The Chairman stated that this was being looked into at present.
- **Handrails on steps in Stow Road** – Mr Sharpe was pleased the handrails had been finally fitted.
- **Precept** – Mr Sharpe requested why, in times when other Councils were economising and not increasing Council tax, the Parish Council had increased its Council tax to residents. The Chairman stated that once again St Edmundsbury Borough Council had reduced the grant given to the Parish Council by nearly £4000 which is why it looked as if the Parish Council had increased the Council tax for residents. C Cllr Spicer stated that other local Councils had increased their Council tax.

6. Report from County Councillor Joanna Spicer MBE

C Cllr Spicer gave the following report;

- **Speeding in Ixworth Thorpe** – Flashing 'Slow Down' cannot be permanently situated in a 40mph zone. However, as mentioned in February Suffolk County Council have purchased some mobile signs. C Cllr has requested these mobile signs be deployed on a regular basis in Ixworth Thorpe. It was agreed the signs should be placed at the entrance to the village.
- **Crown Lane Development** – C Cllr Spicer informed members that she and B Cllr Griffiths had completed a joint response to the appeal from Persimmon over the application for a ghost island not being granted. However, Persimmon has completed an application for a 5 arm roundabout to give access to the new development.
- **Hempyard Bridge** – The Bridge has been inspected by a Suffolk County Council engineer who concluded the ridge was in need of repair. Suffolk County Council would, over the next few days, restrict access to the bridge by erecting barriers so only a small path over the bridge would remain. All vehicular access would not be allowed and the bridle way would be suspended. C Cllr Spicer suggested a meeting be held with all relevant parties. It was resolved that C Cllr Spicer would arrange this meeting and speak with relevant parties.

Cllr Lord wished to highlight to C Cllr Spicer that Thetford Road was flooded. C Cllr Spicer reported several roads were flooded in Suffolk due to the sudden rainfall in the last day or two.

7. Report from Local Police Officer

The following report was received via email;

Firstly the SNT would like to thank the Chairman, the Council and the community for their continued support.

Crime Statistics for the Parish:

I am pleased to report there have been no crimes of interest since the last meeting. Not a crime as such, but a 14 year old lad from the village did have his bicycle seized for a 24 hour period after repeated requests by Officers to get some lights on his bike which went unheeded

Other areas-

Dwelling burglary continues to be an issue in the surrounding villages but none in Ixworth, it does not mean that we must be complacent however, and householders are urged to take appropriate measures to secure their properties/possessions in case offenders start paying attention here.

News

Following the recent Suffolk Local Policing Review, policing in Suffolk is to be redesigned to meet the demands of today and the challenges of the future.

A series of changes to the Constabulary's policing model have been agreed, which will help deliver significant savings required by government, whilst improving the efficiency of its services.

Key changes from April 2016 are:

- A re-designed county policing map, with 9 localities each led by an Inspector
- A reduction in the number of Safer Neighbourhood Teams from 29 to 18, located according to demand
- A revised workforce mix ensuring that the right mix of multi-skilled, warranted police officers, along with community-focussed PCSOs are retained. This will involve a reduction in posts from local policing of 59 PCSO posts (166 to 107*) and 23 officer posts
- Re-defined roles for Safer Neighbourhood Teams, which will work with partners to deliver local solutions to local problems, focussing on early intervention and prevention.
- A reduction in police station front counters with three remaining open in Ipswich, Bury St Edmunds and Lowestoft to reflect the demand they face
- Improved processes for the investigation of crime - crime is becoming more complex and more costly to investigate so teams are being realigned and processes are being streamlined to ensure that resources are used in the most effective way to provide the most efficient service to victims and witnesses.
- Emergency response officers will continue to deal with the most urgent calls for service.
- Investment in priority areas where demand has increased, including the investigation of crime affecting vulnerable people

What does this mean for your local SNT?

St Edmundsbury Rural North SNT will be merged with our colleagues in Bury St Edmunds, to become Bury St Edmunds SNT. We will no longer be based from Ixworth Police Station, and the Ixworth Front Desk, currently open on a Monday, Wednesday and Friday morning will be closed. The police office in the Fire Station building will however be retained for police to utilise, as we will continue to work in the rural community.

You may also see some changes to staff on your SNT due to redeployment, although the final redeployments have not yet been finalised.

The SNT'S will be refocused to deal primarily with:

- Community Engagement – to undertake focused community engagement activities, helping communities feel safer.
- Demand Management – to work with partners to reduce demand on our services, focusing on early intervention.
- Vulnerability and safeguarding – to protect vulnerable members of the communities and victims
- Crime Reduction – to work with partners to prevent crime and ASB, promoting awareness and expertise of preventative measures; to deliver local solutions to local problems.

PCSO'S will no longer be working after 6pm, so we will not be able to routinely attend Parish Council meetings. We do want to maintain our links with you, and work together, so I urge you to contact us by telephone or email to discuss matters as and when they arise.

You will still be able to contact us on 101, asking for the Bury St Edmunds SNT. The St Eds North SNT email address will also still be monitored, and you will be advised of any changes.

Bury St Edmunds will have a new locality Inspector Matt Dee, who will be hosting a presentation evening for our partners to attend to find out more about these changes, and to answer any questions. This event will be held at the Morton Hall Community Centre, Bury St Edmunds on Wednesday 30th March 2016, from 1900 hrs and you are invited to attend.

Please follow us on twitter **@StEdsPolice** and Instagram **@suffolkpolice**

For non-urgent matters dial 101
or email: stedsruralnorth.snt@suffolk.pnn.police.uk

If you believe a crime is in progress dial 999

8. Planning

DC/16/0130 – Replacement Driveway Gates – Orchard Cottage, 66 High Street, Ixworth	No objection
DC/16/0260 – Remove one Hornbeam, Reduce crown by 50% one Apple tree	Objection
DC/16/0266 – Remove large lower lateral limb to main trunk of one Horse Chestnut overhanging garden of 9 Abbey Close – 5 Beeches Close, Ixworth	No objection
DC/16/0265 – Conversion of redundant pumping station to form 2 no. dwellings – Ixworth Pumping Station, Baileypool Lane, Ixworth	No objection
DC/16/0289 – (i) single storey extension to front elevation (ii) construction of greenhouse – Shalom, The Paddock, Ixworth	No objection
DC/16/0316 – Fell one Yew tree & remove two crossing limbs on one Sycamore tree – The Coach House, 39a High Street, Ixworth	No objection
DC/16/0357 – Remove one Cherry tree – 5 Abbey Close, Ixworth	No objection

It was agreed to hold a further planning meeting on 23rd March to discuss application that had been received after the agenda for this meeting had been published.

9. Accounts

The following accounts were agreed for payment;

Chq No 992/982993	Wages	£1046.03
Chq No 994	H M Rev & Customs	£353.34
Chq No 995	Anglian Water	£14.57
Chq No 996	TOP Garden Services	£912.50
Chq No 997	Ixworth Village Hall	£158.75
Chq No 998	Cancelled Chq	£0.00
Chq No 999	Playdale Playgrounds	£3602.10
Chq No 1000	A Adlington	£97.25

The RFO was authorised to transfer £5500 by on-line transfer from the reserve account to the community account.

10. Ixworth Cemetery

The Clerk requested that this item be postponed until the Summer. It was agreed by all present to discuss this again in the Summer.

11. Queens 90th Birthday Celebrations

It was resolved that Cllr Lord write an article for the magazine requesting if any volunteers would be willing to organise an event to celebrate this Royal Event.

12. Standing Orders/Financial Orders

It was resolved a small working party consisting of the Clerk, Cllr Wilson, Cllr Lord and the Chairman meet to discuss updating the Standing and Financial Orders and report back to members at a later date.

13. Correspondence

The following was received;

St Eds – Brown Bin charge

John Griffiths – Parishes & Towns Review

St Eds Planning – Parish Council Survey

John Griffiths – Fit Villages

SALC – War Memorials

Inspector Matt Dee – Invitation to Briefing (Monday 30th March 7pm Moreton Hall Community Centre)

St Eds – Parish Council Conference (Stanton Village Hall, Monday 11th April at 6pm)

Joanna Spicer/John Griffiths – Ghost Island Appeal Response

Sophie Waggett – Persimmon – Means of Access

Suffolk Police – Meeting Report (9th March 2016)

Jean Mills – Litter on A143 Informed Joanna

SALC – Highways Matters

Steve Wilson – Monthly Update

Joanna Spicer – Hempyard Bridge (earlier in meeting)

It was resolved to respond to the following:

The Clerk to fill in the Parish Council Planning Survey, Cllrs to inform the Clerk if they wish to attend the PC Conference at Stanton, pass to C Cllr Spicer Jean Mills concerns about the litter on the by-pass. It was also resolved to write the Diocese responsible for St Mary's Church seeking clarification on responsibilities within the Churchyard.

14. Clerk's Report

The clerk reported the following;

- **Parish Council Website** – The website is being updated and the Clerk requested if photographs of Councillors could be included. This was agreed by all present.
- **Parish Plan** – It was resolved to request that Community Action Suffolk give a presentation to Councillors regarding completing a new Parish Plan.

Outstanding Issues

- **St Mary's Clock** – Arranging a meeting with David to compile a specification for the refurbishment so quotes can be obtained
- **Notice Board Scott Road** – Very unstable – in need of securing
- **Burial Books** – Ordering from another supplier
- **Adopt a Kiosk** – Reply received – requested to adopt – will need permission from St Eds, could take up to 90 days

Mobile Phone – As requested the Clerk sought advice about the Parish Council having a mobile phone. It was suggested that a pay as you go would not be suitable so a contract would be needed as itemised billing would be needed. After a discussion it was agreed not to take this matter further.

15. Councillors Reports

Cllr Lord reported that the Free School Official Opening Evening had been very enjoyable with Cllrs Courtnell, Lord, Birrell, Laughton and Anderson in attendance. Cllr Lord stated that he and Cllr Courtnell had been invited to the Gala Dinner, however, Cllr Lord stated he had been invited as Mr Lord rather than a Councillor.

Cllr Lord also reported that the Fire Station common room was now available to book for meetings with no charge to non profit or charitable organisations. Cllr Lord would look into further and sent information to the Clerk.

Cllr Wilson requested that a new bin be placed outside the Church in Ixworth Thorpe and that it be emptied by St Edmundsbury Borough Council. It was agreed by all present and the Clerk was instructed to contact St Edmundsbury Borough Council for further information.

Cllr McFruin and Anderson both highlighted the pot holes on the A143 near Mulley’s roundabout.

16. Date of the Next Meetings

It was agreed that the next meeting would be held on 23rd March at 7pm (planning only) and the next full Council meeting would be held on 13th April at 7.30pm. Both meetings would be held in Ixworth Village Hall.

With no further business the meeting closed at 9.20pm

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Signed

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Date