

IXWORTH AND IXWORTH THORPE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Ixworth & Ixworth Thorpe Parish Council meeting held at Ixworth Village Hall on 9th September 2015 at 7:30pm

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

Also Present: Mandy Adlington (Parish Clerk), C Cllr Joanna Spicer MBE, B Cllr John Griffiths MBE and 6 members of the public.

1. Apologies for Absence

An apology was received from Cllr Anderson due to work commitments, Cllr Anderson's apology was accepted by all members present.

2. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Laughton declared a pecuniary interest in item 12, planning application DC/15/1730.

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

It was agreed by all present that the Chairman sign the minutes as a true record of the previous meeting held on 12th August 2015.

4. Report from County Councillor Joanna Spicer MBE

C Cllr Spicer reported that she had attended the parade in Bury St Edmunds to celebrate Queen Elizabeth II reign on the throne. Queen Elizabeth II has now sat on the Throne longer than any other Monarch in this County's history.

C Cllr Spicer gave further reports in items 8 & 9.

5. Report from Borough Councillor John Griffiths

B Cllr Griffiths also reported that he had attended the Queen Elizabeth II Celebration Parade.

B Cllr Griffiths also made comments in item 8.

6. Report from Local Police Officer

The following report was received via email and read to members by the Chairman:

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

Your dedicated officer is PCSO 3268 Claire Teakle.

Crime Statistics for the Parish:

Burglary other building –Street Farm Lane 13th-14th August

Overnight entry has been gained to insecure garage and power tools and motocross bikes stolen from within.

Section 5 – Cause harassment, alarm and distress – Village hall 7th September

Police were called to reports of a group of youths causing a disturbance at the village hall – the suspect has repeatedly sworn in earshot of members of the public despite being warned numerous times by officers, resulting in the suspect being arrested. Suspect has been given a caution.

Community Speed Watch

We have only received responses from two members of the public who would like to take part in community speed watch. The village will need a minimum of 6 volunteers to get up and running – if anyone is interested but would like to know more or ask any questions, please get in contact with PCSO 3268 Teakle via 101 or via the email address at the bottom of the report.

News

Burglaries:

There has been a recent increase in homes that are temporarily unoccupied (owners on holiday) being burgled. Please ask your residents to be vigilant for suspicious vehicles or people in the area particularly if they are paying attention to houses where the occupants are away.

Anyone who is due to go away should make arrangements for their property to be regularly checked during their absence. Ensure access gates and garages/outbuildings are secured when leaving and consider additional security measures such as lights/radios on timer switches, neighbours leaving their car on the driveway, dustbins put away and mail cleared from view.

Do not make it easy to identify empty properties.

Hare coursing appears to have started earlier this year, we have had a couple of incidents so can we please ask you to keep your eyes peeled a call in if you see anything suspicious!

You can now also follow us on twitter @StEdsPolice

For non-urgent matters dial 101

or email: stedsruralnorth.snt@suffolk.pnn.police.uk

If you believe a crime is in progress dial 999

7. Public Forum

Mrs Bunnage explained the reason for planning application DC/15/1611 was to provide an annexe for her brother-in-law.

Anita Haines requested that the members approve her application to reserve three burial plots at Ixworth Cemetery.

8. Crown Lane Development

C Cllr Spicer made the following report on the West Suffolk Development Control Committee meeting held on 3rd September 2015. The application discussed was DC/15/0873 - the application was to give access to the Crown Lane Development via a ghost island on A1088.

The Parish Council, B Cllr Griffiths, C Cllr Spicer and residents had objected to this application on the grounds of safety, traffic problems and that the Crown Lane Masterplan adopted by St Edmundsbury Borough Council in 2010 has stated that increasing the roundabout near the site to a five spur roundabout would give the access to the development.

C Cllr Spicer reported that she, B Cllr Griffiths and Mr Ben Lord (as a resident) had spoken in their allotted three minutes highlighting their, and residents, concerns. C Cllr Spicer reported that after a lengthy discussion the Development Control Committee had deferred the decision to a later date.

A lengthy discussion then took place as to what action was required next.

The following was agreed by all present:

- A representative from the Parish Council would be able to attend West Suffolk Development Control Committee when this application was discussed again
- The Clerk would write again a list of objections from the Parish Council about this application
- Persimmon would be requested to postpone a revised application
- St Edmundsbury Borough Council consider revisiting the Crown Lane Masterplan

C Cllr Spicer and B Cllr Griffiths stated that they agreed with the above actions.

9. Highway Issues

C Cllr Spicer reported on the following items discussed when she, Claire Dickson (S.C.C.) and members of the Parish Council met to discuss highway issues concerning Ixworth, these problems that had been raised over the last months.

Thistledown Drive Overgrown Hedge - C Cllr Spicer would contact the residents who complained to let them know what Suffolk County Council were in the process of doing to resolve this issue

Stow Road Water Drainage – Claire Dickson was still enquiring about drainage along this road as there are no drains between Mulley's roundabout and the High Street – causing flooding at various points along the road

Steps from New Road to Stow Road – It had been agreed that Suffolk County Council would install a handrail to assist residents to walk down the steps safely

Verge along Stow Road – The verge in front of the hedge just before the telephone box had overgrown onto the footpath, this would be cleared back to give better access for pedestrians to walk along (members thought this already had been completed). S.C.C. confirmed they owned this piece of land

Cobbled Area Near Village Sign – S.C.C. confirmed they owned this piece of land

Pavements in Ixworth High Street – The pavements would be repaired this year and resurfaced next year

C Cllr Spicer reported that the A143 would be closed overnight for repairs in the near future.

Cllr Wilson requested that C Cllr Spicer look into when the pavements in Ixworth Thorpe would be resurfaced, it had been inferred that once the road had been resurfaced the pavements would then be done, C Cllr Spicer stated she would look into this for the Council.

The grass area near Mulley's roundabout, where cars are often parked for sale, was also discussed and it was agreed that telephone numbers would be passed to S.C.C. so the people selling them could be contacted to have them removed.

It was agreed by all present that this area and the cobbled area would be put on the October agenda to discuss further.

10. Ixworth Cemetery

The Clerk reported that an application for reservation of three plots had been made by Mrs Haines. The Chairman and Mrs Haines, with another member of her family, had met with the Chairman and Clerk to discuss the area where the plots could be reserved. It was agreed by all present that permission could be granted for the reservation.

It was confirmed that the Council had Delegated the Power over Burials and memorials in the Cemetery to the Clerk. However, it was agreed that the Clerk would report to the Councils anything unusual.

11. Waste/Grit Bins

Steve Wilson had requested that two bins within the Parish be replaced. It was agreed by all present that these bins could be purchased and installed.

The Clerk reported that some of the grit bins may also need replacing, it was agreed by all present for the Clerk to check which grit bins and report back to the Council.

12. Planning Applications

DC/15/1451 - Amenity area adjacent to 6 & 7 Peddars Close, Ixworth – Communal refuse bin **No Objection**

DC/15/1452 – Amenity area adjacent to 31 Peddars Close, Ixworth – Communal refuse bin **No Objection**

DC/15/1560 – Single storey front porch extension – 42 Street Farm Lane, Ixworth **No Objection**

DC/15/1611 – Single storey rear extension to provide self contained annexe – 1 Scott Road, Ixworth **No Objection**

DC/15/1354 – Part two storey and part single storey extensions – The Beeches, High St, Ixworth **Deferred**

DC/15/1699 – Various tree work – Lammas Field, The Paddock, Ixworth **No Objection**

Cllr Laughton left the room whilst this item was discussed having declared a pecuniary interest

DC/15/1730 – Remove 5no Thuya bushes - Shalom, Commister Lane, Ixworth **No Objection**

13. Accounts

The following accounts were agreed for payment;

Chq No 940/941	Wages	£1064.77
Chq No 942	H M Rev & Customs	£396.03
Chq No 943	Anglian Water	£20.50
Chq No 944	Ixworth Village Hall	£168.75
Chq No 946	A J Wheelie Bin Cleaning	£10.00
Chq No 946	A Adlington	£111.89

The RFO was authorised to transfer £1000 by on-line transfer from the reserve account to the community account.

14. Speeding in Ixworth Thorpe

Cllr Wilson requested that this item be moved to a future agenda when more information was available to discuss. This was agreed by all members present.

15. St Mary's Church

A letter had been received from a resident concerning an article in the Ixworth Magazine about ownership and responsibility of St Mary's Churchyard. After a lengthy discussion it was agreed that the Chairman could approach Rev Garbett to discuss further and seek clarification on who has responsibility, the Parish Council or St Mary's Church Council.

16. Christmas Tree for Ixworth High Street

The Clerk was given permission to order the Christmas tree for the High Street and arrange with Paul Brown the electrician to install the lights.

17. Planning

The Clerk informed members of the rules for having a planning committee, it was decided that this would be discussed again at the October meeting when members had time to review the option before making a decision.

18. Correspondence

The following correspondence was received;

- **Suffolk Police** – 4 Weekly roundups
- **Mr & Mrs Corbett** – Overgrown Trees
- **Steve Wilson** – August report
- **John Sharp** – St Mary's Churchyard
- **S.C.C.** – Road closure
- **Joanna Spicer** – Highways/Persimmon email
- **Tom Berry** – Public Footpaths
- **Mr Whybro** – Overgrown hedge in Thistledown Drive
- **Kirsty Downes** – Parish Council Conference (12.10.15)
- **Havebury Housing** – Ixworth Vision Day

It has already been agreed that C Cllr Spicer contact Mr Whybro. The Clerk was instructed to contact Mr Sharp.

19. Councillor Roles and Responsibilities

The Clerk reported that previously Councillors had designated roles with the Council for such things as staffing and the emergency plan. The Clerk distributed a current list and asked for further suggestions. It was agreed by all present to discuss this again in October.

20. Chairman's Report

Cllr Courtnell reported to members that he had attended RAF Honington's Annual Cocktail Party on behalf of the Parish Council. Also, he and Cllr Shelton had attended a SALC refresher course on planning. This training session had been very informative.

21. Clerk's Report

The Clerk reported the following;

St Mary's Clock – Arranging a meeting with David to compile a specification for the refurbishment so quotes can be obtained

Adopt a Kiosk – No reply as yet from BT with further information

Shared Training – Confirmed for Cllrs Wilson, Shelton, Courtnell, Laughton & the Clerk

The Clerk also explained that next year the Parish Council will have to implement the offer of a pension to anyone in their employment. The Clerk requested if she could have permission to contact someone more qualified in dealing with this issue. It was agreed by all present.

22. Councillor Reports

Cllr Lord requested if an agenda item could be added to a future agenda to discuss the trees within the cemetery, especially the trees between the old and new sections. This was agreed by all present

Cllr Wilson enquired if the newly installed hedge in the play area had been cleared of weeds. Cllr Courtneil informed Cllr Wilson that the clearance had been completed.

Cllr Birrell reported that the Wildlife Group looking after Robins Copse was having trouble with resident dumping rubbish over their fence into Robins Copse. It was agreed by all present to write to the house concerned.

23. Date of the Next Meeting

It was agreed the date of the next meeting would be 14th October 2015 at 7.30pm in Ixworth Village Hall.

With no further business the meeting closed at 9.30pm

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Signed

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Date