

## **IXWORTH AND IXWORTH THORPE PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of Ixworth & Ixworth Thorpe Parish Council meeting held at Ixworth Village Hall on 14<sup>th</sup> September 2016 at 7:30pm

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

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

### **1. Apologies for Absence**

No apologies were received as all members present.

### **2. Declarations**

No declarations were made.

### **3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

It was agreed by all present the Chairman sign the minutes as a true record of the meetings held on 10<sup>th</sup> August and 7<sup>th</sup> September 2016.

### **4. Public Forum**

Mr Simon Butler-Finbow from Pigeon Investment Management attended to inform members on possible development of the land past the grain store in Bardwell Road. Mr Butler-Finbow explained that his company worked closely with communities, especially if the community was in the process of compiling a neighbourhood plan. Pigeon were actively seeking views of what the local community wanted within their Parish. The development was still in the very early stages but his company wanted to keep in touch with the Parish and Parish Council as the development progressed. Mr Butler-Finbow explained that they had recently worked very successfully with Hopton Parish Council on various matters within the village.

The Chairman explained that the Council were still in the early stages of the Neighbourhood Plan but would welcome help as and when needed.

Mr Sharpe explained that the previous planning application discussed (tree work in Crown Crescent) had been very difficult to offer his opinion as the plans received and the plans on St Edmundsbury Borough Councils website were quite different. After speaking with the planning officer concerned Mr Sharpe had passed his comments to the Clerk. The Clerk confirmed those comments had been passed to the planning officer.

Volunteers from the Speedwatch group attended to inform members on the progress of the group. Members were concerned things were progressing a bit slow and wanted confirmation equipment had been or was in the process of being purchased. The Clerk explained an email had been received from PCSO Ken Ruston requesting the Parish Council do not purchase anything at present until all the formalities had been completed by the Police.

A discussion was held about speeding along Stow Road. C Cllr Spicer stated she was still looking into other options that may be available to assist in slowing traffic in that area.

Members of the public present also raised their concerns about the condition of Mulley's roundabout and voiced their dismay at the condition and it was not a very welcoming entrance to the village

### **5. Report from County Councillor Joanna Spicer MBE**

C Cllr Spicer reported that the survey of Hempyard Bridge had been completed. The repairs needed were very extensive and costly. A few issues had been raised by the inspection that needed immediate attention, such as ivy removal, which Suffolk County Council would look into completing. C Cllr Spicer stated she would report at a further meeting about the repairs as and when she had further information.

C Cllr also reported that the footpath in the High Street, near the shop, was to be repaired soon and Stow Road was to be resurfaced also.

## **6. Report from Borough Councillor John Griffiths MBE**

B Cllr Griffiths stated that if the Chairman and residents wished to meet to discuss the trees overhanging properties in Thistledown Drive wished him to arrange a meeting with the planning Officers he may be able to organise. However, the Officers would need to know exactly what was required of them before he could arrange the meeting. It was suggested that the residents be contacted to discuss this matter further and then contact B Cllr Griffiths.

B Cllr Griffiths urges members and residents to apply for a grant from his Locality Budget as he still had funds available to grant in this financial year

## **7. Mulley's Roundabout**

C Cllr Spicer stated that the roundabout would indeed need to be looked at as a separate issue to the other issues in that area. C Cllr Spicer was in the process of arranging a meeting with Guy Smith on site to discuss further. The Chairman reported that another complaint had been received again this month about the condition.

## **8. Neighbourhood Plan**

The Chairman reported that he had sent the initial application to St Edmundsbury Borough Council. The Chairman would report at a further meeting when any further information is available.

## **9. Planning**

**DC/16/1863** – 1no. Copper Birch-reduce overextended limbs in the upper canopy by up to 1.5 metres, crown lift over the road side to 5.4 metres and prune back lower limbs to clear houses by 2 metres – Hill House, High Street, Ixworth.

**No Objection**

**DC/16/1999** – Removal of public telephone box, High Street, Ixworth

**No Objection**

## **10. Councillor Conduct**

The Clerk highlighted that once again she had concerns about the conduct of a Councillor. It had been reported that possible sensitive and confidential information had been printed and shown to residents in a public house. Cllr McFruin was named as the Councillor concerned.

Members then discussed their concerns to Cllr McFruin about his recent conduct and highlighted issues below;

- Poor judgement when discussing issues in public houses
- Contacting County & Borough Councillors without permission or disclosure to the Parish Council
- Bringing the Parish Council into disrepute with inappropriate behaviour
- Confidentiality indiscretions concerning staffing issues
- Persistent lack of information retention

Cllr McFruin apologised if he had caused any problems and agreed that he would attend a training course in the future. The Clerk was instructed to contact SALC to arrange.

## **11. Accounts**

The following accounts were agreed for payment;

Chq No 1038/1039	Wages	£1100.37
Chq No 1041	SALC	£73.60
Chq No 1042	Ixworth Village Hall	£168.75
Chq No 1043	Anglian Water	£18.10
Chq No 1044	TOP Garden Services	£512.50
Chq No 1045	St Eds BC	£36.40
Chq No 1046	H M Rev & Customs	£327.80
Chq No 1047	A Adlington	£90.00

The RFO was authorised to transfer £2000 by on-line transfer from the reserve account to the community account.

## **12. Parish Council Vacancy**

The Clerk reported that five applicants had come forward showing an interest in becoming a Parish Council. As previously agreed a small interview panel was established. Cllrs Lord, Laughton, Birrell and Shelton would make up the interview panel. Interviews would be conducted on either 30<sup>th</sup> September or 7<sup>th</sup> October 2016 at Ixworth fire Station. The Clerk was instructed to liaise with the applicants to arrange date and times.

The interview panel would then supply other members with their impressions on each candidate and a vote would be taken at the October meeting as to who to offer the opportunity of becoming a Councillor

### **13. Ixworth Cemetery**

The Clerk reported that she had finished writing the application for a caretaker for the Cemetery and hopefully it would appear in the next magazine.

The Chairman stated he would look into getting quotes and advise about the tree work that is required in the Cemetery and present to members at a future meeting.

### **14. Ixworth Village Sign**

Cllr Wilson reported that she had obtained the following quotes to refurbish the village sign in Ixworth;

£1075.70 – to refurbish the sign

£595.00 - to replace the post and brackets (if needed)

It was resolved to accept the quotes above and Cllr Wilson stated she would contact the company to inform them to carry out the work required.

### **15. Correspondence**

The following correspondence was received in August & September;

- **Debbie Scott** – Overgrown Pavement Thetford Road
- **Andy Osman** – Thanks
- **St Eds – Pc Conference** – 14.11.2016 at Newmarket
- **UK Power Networks** – ‘105’ telephone number
- **John Rowe** – Hempyard Bridge
- **Elizabeth Sharpe** – Stow Road – overgrown hedges
- **John Sharpe** – Mulleys Roundabout
- **Steve Wilson** – Hedges 1<sup>ST</sup> Edmunds Close/monthly report x 2
- **Steve Wilson** – Monthly Report
- **Correspondence Report** – Mrs Cross
- **Joanna Spicer**- Email for Meeting (Aug)
- **Stephen Mann (VH)** – CCTV Upgrade
- **Police Commissioner** – Meeting Invite
- **Jean Clarke** – Copy of email to Freeschool
- **Joanna Spicer** – response to Cllr McFruin’s email
- **Suffolk Highways** – Robins Copse
- **S.C.C.** – Temp Road Closures – Stow Road, Bardwell Road, High Street
- **Suffolk Police** – Speeding in Ixworth

### **16. Chairman’s Report**

The Chairman reported that he had attended Mrs Mary Parr’s memorial service. The Chairman had also met with the Chairman of the Village Hall Committee, as agreed by Council, to discuss the possibility of a coin operated door being fitted on the outside toilet. Mr Mann, the Village Hall Chairman would take the information to the village Hall Committee and reply to the Parish Council when the Committee had discussed and made a decision.

The chairman had also contacted Persimmon about the planning application for a 5 arm roundabout for access to the new development in Crown Lane.

### **17. Clerk’s Report**

The Clerk reported that it was that time of year again to order the Christmas tree. It was agreed by all present for the Clerk to contact Rougham Farm to order the tree and Mr Paul Brown to install the lights.

### **18. Councillors Report’s**

Cllr Birrell had been approached as to why there was not to be an election for the Councillor vacancy. The Clerk explained that ten members of the electorate had not approached the Electoral Officer requesting an election. As an election had not been requested, the Electoral Officer had given the Parish Council permission to advertise and co-opt a new member.

Cllr Birrell reported that branches were once again overhanging Saddlers Yard, Cllr Birrell volunteered to cut them back so residents could pass safely. All members agreed to Cllr Birrell carrying out this work.  
Cllr Shelton reported that residents were concerned that the bus sometimes stopped across the entrance of the village hall car park.  
Cllr Laughton read Steve Wilson's monthly report. Cllr Laughton also reported that some damage to Robin's Copse had taken place.  
Cllr Anderson stated that concerns had been raised about the amount of parking in the High Street.

**19. Date of the Next Meeting**

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as 12<sup>th</sup> October 2016 at 7.30pm in Ixworth Village Hall

With no further business the meeting closed at 9.35pm

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Signed

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Date