

IXWORTH AND IXWORTH THORPE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Ixworth & Ixworth Thorpe Parish Council meeting held at Ixworth Village Hall on 10th August 2016 at 7:30pm

Present: Cllr Ben Lord (Chairman) Cllrs David Reeve, Roy McFruin, Pam Shelton and Trevor Anderson.

Also Present: Mandy Adlington (Parish Clerk) and three members of the public

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Wilson, Cllr Birrell and Cllr Laughton.

2. Declarations of Interest

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 13th July 2016.

4. Public Forum

A representative from the Speedwatch group attended to update the Council on its progress. So far the group had 9 members who had filled in all the forms and they were going to be given to PCSO Ken Ruston. The next stage was finding viable spots and purchasing equipment. PCSO Ruston would contact the Parish Council to discuss the purchasing of the equipment.

Mr Paul Cook Ixworth Association wished to highlight his disappointment in the Parish Council not adopting Mulleys roundabout as the current condition was terrible and not a good advertisement for Ixworth. Mr Cook stated that in his capacity on behalf of Ixworth Association, funding could be offered if needed for a project to improve the area. The Chairman explained that the Parish Council were unable to adopt the roundabout and had agreed not to adopt the grass area next to Micklesmere Drive. The roundabout was the responsibility of Suffolk County Council and C Cllr Spicer was looking at a plan to improve the whole of this area.

5. Report from County Councillor Joanna Spicer MBE

C Cllr Spicer sent her apologies for not being able to attend the meeting and sent an email report with the following;

Stow Road/Mulley's Roundabout– Obviously this area is causing great concerns at present. I have suggested a meeting to discuss various issues in this area. I will arrange a meeting to discuss an action plan for the area on my return.

6. Report from Borough Councillor John Griffiths MBE

B Cllr Griffiths sent his apologies for not being able to attend this evenings meeting.

7. Mulley's Roundabout

The Chairman reported that a complaint had been received, via a telephone call to the Clerk, from a resident about the condition of the roundabout after the recent cut that Suffolk County Council had carried out. The Chairman had telephoned the resident concerned to explain that this issue is of concern to the Parish Council as well and that it had been reported many times. It was explained, as mentioned in C Cllr Spicer's report that a meeting is to be arranged to draw up an action plan to improve the whole of this area. It was resolved that C Cllr Spicer and Suffolk County Council be lobbied again to resolve this issue quickly. It was agreed for the Chairman to contact C Cllr Spicer again with the residents and the Parish Councils concerns.

8. Neighbourhood Plan

The Chairman informed members that he had obtained the relevant forms to start the process of completing a Neighbourhood Plan. It was resolved that the Chairman and Clerk would meet to complete the forms and return to St Edmundsbury Borough Council.

9. Planning

DC/16/1539 – Reduce crown by 15 metres – 1no Oak tree – 6 Crown Crescent, Ixworth

It was resolved to seek the advice of the Parish Council tree officer and submit his recommendation

10. Accounts

It was agreed to pay the following accounts;

Chq No 1032/1033	Wages	£1122.85
Chq No 1034	A J Wheelie Bin Cleaning	£10.00
Chq No 1035	Ixworth Village Hall	£182.50
Chq No 1036	St Eds BC	£36.40
Chq No 1037	BDO LLP	£360.00

The RFO was authorised to transfer £1500 by on-line transfer from the reserve account to the community account.

11. Parish Council Vacancy

As previously reported St Edmundsbury Electoral Officer informed the Parish Council that no election would be held for the vacancy on the Parish Council. Permission was given to co-opt a new member. The Clerk reported that so far four people had written to the Council to show an interest in being considered for the vacancy. It was resolved that a small committee of two or three members would invite the candidates along for an interview. The small committee would then pass on their recommendations to all members at the next full Council meeting. However, the Council members would not have to follow the committee's recommendation when voting. The members sitting on the committee would be decided at the September meeting along with the date and time of the interviews.

12. Ixworth Cemetery

The Clerk reported that the Council had received an enquiry from Thurlow & Son about the fees due for a burial in the Cemetery. The deceased concerned was born in Ixworth but had not lived in Ixworth for over 12 years. Thurlow & Son requested confirmation that the fee would be in line with the current fee schedule as the person concerned was a non parishioner. After a sensitive discussion, it was resolved to follow the agreed fee schedule. The Clerk was instructed to inform Thurlow & Son.

A resident had complained about the condition of the Cemetery especially after the grass had been cut. It was agreed that the Clerk and Chairman arrange a meeting with the current contractor to discuss concerns raised

13. Ixworth Village Sign

The Clerk reported that Cllrs Wilson and Laughton have started work on this project. It was agreed to add to the September agenda.

14. Chairman's Report

The Chairman reported the following;

The Priory Wall – As agreed previously the Chairman and Cllr Laughton had viewed the Priory wall as a complaint had been received suggesting the wall was about to collapse. C Cllr Spicer was contacted to view the wall, and C Cllr Spicer advised that this fell under the jurisdiction of St Edmundsbury Borough Council and B Cllr Griffiths arranged for temporary barriers to be positioned.

Overgrown Trees in Thistledown Drive – The Chairman had contacted B Cllr Griffiths to arrange a meeting on site with residents, the Borough tree officer and the Parish Council as agreed at the last meeting. Unfortunately, B Cllr Griffiths thought the residents were going to contact St Edmundsbury Borough Council with a planning application, which he stated he would support. The Chairman would contact B Cllr Griffiths again to once again try to arrange a meeting with all concerned parties as resolved in the July meeting.

Ixworth Village Hall – As agreed the Chairman had written to the Chairman of Ixworth Village Hall to suggest installing a coin operated lock on the outside toilet. The Chairman had had a reply that his suggestion would be discussed at the next meeting.

Section 106 – The Chairman stated that this had been discussed previously but there had been no follow-up of the issue. The Chairman would look into further and report back at a future meeting.

Devolution Survey – The Chairman urged all members to complete the devolution survey on the St Edmundsbury Borough website.

15. Councillors Reports

Cllr Shelton wished to highlight the overgrown hedges and verges within the village, especially Thetford Road and Saddlers Yard.

Cllr Lord read a letter from St Edmundsbury Borough Council about the 5 arm roundabout application (access to the new Crown Lane Development). It was agreed that the Chairman write to Persimmon to request that they send the relevant information to St Edmundsbury Borough Council so that this application could be then considered. It was resolved to inform Persimmon that the 5 arm roundabout access is the preferred option for the Parish Council.

16. Date of the Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as 14th September at 7.30pm in Ixworth Village Hall.

To resolve that, pursuant to the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960, the press and public be excluded for the remaining items of business on the grounds that publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by the reason of the confidential nature of the business to be discussed

17. Staff Issues

Staff Issues were discussed.

With no further business the meeting closed at 8.45pm.

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