

IXWORTH AND IXWORTH THORPE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Ixworth & Ixworth Thorpe Parish Council meeting held at Ixworth Village Hall on 9th December 2009 at 7:30pm

Present: Cllr Teresa Plummer (Chairman) Cllr John Sharpe (Vice-Chairman) Cllrs David Reeve, Sophia Wilson, Cathy Goodson, Roy McFruin, Pam Shelton, and Nick Laughton.

Also Present: Mandy Adlington (Parish Clerk), PC Tina Fairness and three members of the public.

1. Apologies for Absence

Cllr Fairgrieve

2. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Laughton item 16

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

It was resolved that the Chairman sign the minutes of the previous meetings (November 11th 2009) as a true record of that meeting.

Meeting Adjourned

4. Report of Local Police Officer

PC Fairness reported that there had been three crimes reported during the past month:

An incident involving a dangerous dog, a common assault and a theft.

PC Fairness also requested if it was possible for a young offender spend time with the Parish Council cleaner litter picking as a punishment. It was agreed by all that this would be possible and Cllr Goodson volunteered to arrange this with Steve Wilson.

5. Report of County Councillor Joanna Spicer

No report

6. Report of Borough Councillor John Griffiths

No report

7. Public Forum

One of the members of the public present wished to comment on item 13, the Village Hall. This member explained that she was a serving member of the Village Hall Management Committee and wanted to highlight that even though the Management Committee were having some difficulties, such as not having a Secretary, she felt that the Village Hall should be kept open as it is a vital village amenity. Also she wanted to stress that those who were attending committee meetings were working very hard.

Meeting Reconvened

8. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

Cllr Laughton reported that the Cobbled area in the High Street was in fact Suffolk County Council land. Cllr Laughton also reported that Cllr Wilson and he would be meeting Charlie Mitson from S.C.C. to discuss any work that is required. Also, Cllr Laughton felt that perhaps it would be possible to make this item a community project as he had been approached by members of the public offering their assistance.

Cllr Laughton gave an update on Robins Copse. Cllr Laughton showed members some designs from the school for the display boards. It was decided to enclose them with this month's correspondence envelope and the members to highlight which design they preferred. It was also reported that the new gate had now been fitted.

9. Accounts

The following account were agreed for payment;

D Thrower	£2300
Hayward Horological Ltd	£3000
RJB Maintenance (Robins Copse)	£150
Rougham Estate (Christmas tree)	£ 230
Wages	£ 824.70
HM Rev & Customs	£ 389.29
Ixworth Village Hall (toilet)	£ 150
Clerks Expenses	£ 116.91
Nigel Swallow (Peddars bench) (July 08)	£78.84

10. Precept for 2010/2011

After discussing all budget items it was resolved to request £50,000 as the precept figure for 2010/2011.

11. Planning Applications

TCA09/1846 – Beech tree – 30% crown thin, Stockacre House, Thetford Road, Ixworth – **No objection**

SE/09/1440 – erection of (i) single storey front extension (ii) car port, Sunnyside, Commister Lane, Ixworth – **No objection**

SE/09/ - Proposed footpath for access to pre-school – Ixworth Middle School – **No objection**

12. Determined Applications

SE/09/1216 – Ixworth Fish & Chip Shop, Thetford Road – **Granted**

13. Ixworth Village Hall

Cllr Shelton, as the Chairman of the Ixworth Village Hall Management Committee, reported that the committee was currently running without a Secretary, but wanted to stress that the Village Hall Committee was still running. Cllr Shelton reported that some people were interested in joining the committee and they had a volunteer that would take over the booking secretary if needed. Cllr Shelton asked members for any ideas that would assist in obtaining more committee members.

Cllr Sharpe suggested talking to people face to face rather than an article in the Village Magazine.

Cllr Laughton suggested a mail shot may attract volunteers and suggested also personalising the letter as well.

Cllr McFruin said it was disappointing that groups did not send representatives along and perhaps they needed to be reminded of their commitment to supply a representative. Cllr Wilson suggested assigning a group a project that needed completing around the Village Hall.

Cllr Goodson suggested as well as asking for a volunteer for a Secretary it should be stressed that other help is also needed.

Cllr Shelton thanked all for their suggestions and would report again to the Parish Council again in February.

14. Ixworth Relief in Need

As the names put forward at a previous Parish Council meeting were unable to commit to the Charity it was resolved for the Clerk to place a small article in the Village Magazine. The article would explain briefly what the commitment would entail and request if anyone would be interested in putting their name forward to be nominated by the Parish Council to sit on the Ixworth Relief in Need Charity.

15. Ixworth Thorpe Grass Area

Cllr Wilson reported that Charlie Mitson of Suffolk County Council would be sending someone to look at the trees on the grass area.

Cllr Wilson wished to know if there had been any further developments on getting a new bus shelter for Ixworth Thorpe. The Clerk reported that she had received an application pack from Suffolk County Council, but the application process may take time and the Parish Council still may have to contribute towards the cost. Cllr Wilson stressed that the residents of Ixworth Thorpe needed a bus stop as soon as possible. Cllr Wilson proposed that the Parish Council install a bus stop immediately up to a cost of £3500, this proposal was carried. Cllr Wilson and the Clerk were instructed to move this matter forward as soon as possible.

16. Grass Area in Commister Lane

Cllr Laughton declared a personal interest in this item due to the fact the area is adjacent to his own property. Cllr Wilson reported that Charlie Mitson was willing to install wooden bollards around the grass area, at no cost to the Parish Council, so that cars would be unable to park on the grass. As the Parish Council have over the years received many complaints about cars in this area, it proposed and carried, to contact Charlie Mitson and instruct him to carry out the necessary work.

17. Correspondence

The following three items of correspondence had been received since the last meeting; **Suffolk Acre** – Kick Start to Business, **Salc** – Boundary Committee and **Steve Shaw** – Empowering Local Councils.

18. Chairman's Report

The Chairman stressed the importance of not giving out fellow Councillors email addresses to unknown sources.

19. Clerks Report

The Clerk reported that she was still chasing St Edmundsbury about the dumped tyres and the replacement bins. It was also reported that Bob Bishop would be looking at the notice boards in the New Year. The Parish Council had not received any further correspondence from BT with reference to the phone boxes being removed.

20. Councillors Report

Cllr McFruin reported that a resident had complained to him about the condition of the pavement outside old Mulleys garage in the High Street.

Cllr Goodson reported that Steve Wilson was concerned about the number of leaflets being stapled to lamp posts.

Cllr Sharpe reported that the hedge along Stow Rd in front of the Council houses needed trimming. Cllr Sharpe also was concerned about some of the points raised in the Boundary Committee statement.

21. Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting will be 13th January 2010 (planning and finance only)

With no further business the meeting closed at 9.35pm

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Signed

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Date