

ISLEHAM PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH MEETING HELD MONDAY 28th APRIL 2014

Those present:- Chairman Cllr D Beckett, The Clerk,
16 Parishioners (including councillors)
Gillian Leeper

Apologies: Vanessa Bruyneel-Smith; Clive Patterson; C Cllr James Palmer;

THE PARISH MEETING MAY BY LAW DISCUSS ALL PARISH AFFAIRS AND PASS RESOLUTIONS ABOUT THEM.

If you are on the electoral role for Isleham you are invited to take part.

1. Chairman's Introduction and Report

Good evening ladies and gentlemen; Welcome to Isleham Annual Parish Meeting which may by law discuss all parish affairs and pass resolutions about them. If you are on the electoral role for Isleham you are invited to take part.

The items included on tonight's agenda are:

1. Chairman's Introduction and Report
2. Minutes of the last meeting
3. To Consider Sale of the land adjacent to JJ Lodge
4. Dial-A-Ride Presentation by Gillian Leeper
5. Reports from Local Interest Groups
6. Treasurers Reports
Annual Return 2013
Dunstall Charity
Lady Maynard Charity
Deborah Fletcher Charity
Fen or Fifty
Lady Peyton Charity (Optional)
7. Dunstall Apprentice Grant
8. Opportunity for Questions from Members of the Public

We have come to the end of what has been a very exciting year for the parish council and I would like to express my thanks to the councillors for their support and the hard work they have put in during the year, giving freely of their time.

We sit here now in the building which is the fruition of 7 years of hard work by both parish councillors and volunteers from the village. There is much to be proud of in having this magnificent building and beautiful recreation ground which are the envy of many of the surrounding villages. We look forward now to the multiple uses to which the building will be put which are to the benefit of the parishioners of this village, as a community hub and sports facility. I'd like to say special thanks at this point to our Clerk Mrs Bayliss and Clive Patterson and Russell Milne who have overseen the building of the Centre on the parish council's behalf.

As well as the work on the Centre we have had business as usual; one item that keeps recurring is dog fouling which appears to be worse during the dark winter nights. Please continue to report this problem to the dog warden.

Upkeep and maintenance of the Cemetery continues, and it has been kept in pristine condition and our thanks go to Mr Wilding for his hard work.

The recreation ground and MUGA continue to be well used and maintained by Mr Sheldrick to a high standard and our thanks go to him also for his hard work.

Inconsiderate parking in the village which causes problems for other road users is a problem and we would ask parishioners to be mindful of this particularly at the junction of Beck Road and the Causeway and also outside the new Post Office in Church Street.

Our thanks go once again to Mr Mayall for his work in collecting litter from around the village.

Our allotments continue to flourish and increase in popularity and the new community orchard is taking shape nicely.

Finally my thanks go to the parish clerk for keeping me in order and for the hard work she has put in and for helping the village be a real community. And I hope that she is enjoying her new office.

2. Approval of Last Meetings Minutes

It was proposed by Pauline Wilkes and seconded by Angela Wells that the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held Monday 29th April 2013 are approved.

ALL IN FAVOUR

3. Dial-a-Ride Presentation

Gillian Leeper from Ely and Soham Dial-a-Ride (ESDAR) addressed the meeting about the difficulties faced by the charity following funding cuts by the County Council which were agreed in February 2014.

Following the vote, members of the board met to discuss the future work of the charity and the decision was made to carry on with all the services for a further year, whilst at the same time using the time to review and find improvements to the service. These include looking at how they might work with the NHS and approaching local businesses for sponsorship.

The service made 53,000 runs last year from October 2012 - September 2013.

There are currently 29 people registered with the service in Isleham although it seems that most of these only use the bus on a Thursday to go shopping in Ely and are not aware they can book it at other times. 13 people travelled on the excursion programme. A 'bus buddies' scheme is to be launched therefore there is a need for volunteers to come forward to help with this.

The question was raised whether ESDAR have the capacity to make a difference to the public transport situation? Unfortunately they are unable to offer a timetabled service and can only operate in certain geographical areas. Community transport operates under permit 19 which enables them to transport their members or those the charity exists to help without the need for a PSV license. Section 19 permit vehicles cannot be used to carry members of the general public.

4. Reports from Local Interest Groups

The Clerk wrote this year to most of the village interest groups asking if they would like to submit a report to this meeting.

Reports were given by the Nature Reserve/Pond Working Group; Orchard Working Group; Skate Park Group; The Gala Committee; Pound Lane Free Church; The web-site administrator; the Cubs and the Isleham Society.

The Chairman thanked all those who took part and stated that this part of the meeting is a tribute to the village.

5. To Consider Sale of Land Adjacent to Lugger Bank

An application has been received from the owner of JJ Lodge to purchase a small area of land adjacent to their property. A number of points were raised for and against the proposal including protection of wildlife; upkeep of the ditch; and unwanted future development of the site.

It was proposed by Richard Radcliffe and seconded by Lionel Neal that the meeting is willing for the land to be sold subject to the parish council putting on the appropriate covenants to safeguard the village and the surrounding area.

11 in favour

1 against

MOTION CARRIED

6. Treasurers Reports

- a. It was proposed by Pauline Wilkes and seconded by Richard Radcliffe that the audited financial statement for the year ended March 31st 2013 as presented by the Clerk is approved.

ALL IN FAVOUR

The accounts for the Dunstall Charity were presented to the meeting by the Clerk.

It was proposed by Pauline Wilkes and seconded by Jeanette Malkin that the Dunstall Charity Accounts showing a balance of £10,845.46 for the year ended 31st March 2013 are approved.

ALL IN FAVOUR

The accounts for the Lady Maynard's & Others charity were presented to the meeting by Mr Derrick Beckett.

It was proposed by Paul Chaplin and seconded by Bob Mitchell that the Lady Maynard's and Others Charity Accounts showing a balance of £40,347.74 for the year ended 31st December 2013 are approved.

ALL IN FAVOUR

The accounts for the Deborah Fletcher charity were presented to the meeting by Mrs Hazel Thompson.

It was proposed by Bob Mitchell and seconded by Glenda Preece that the Deborah Fletcher Charity Accounts showing a balance £227.15 for the year ended 31st December 2013 are approved.

ALL IN FAVOUR

The Fen or Fifty accounts were presented to the meeting by Mr Derrick Beckett.

It was proposed by Paul Chaplin and seconded by Pauline Wilkes that the Fen or Fifty accounts showing a balance of £8,092.73 for the year ended 28th February 2013 are approved.

ALL IN FAVOUR

The Lady Peyton's Charity Accounts were not presented at this meeting.

7. Dunstall Apprentice Grant

It was proposed by Pauline Wilkes and seconded by Hazel Thompson that the Dunstall Apprentice Grant is left at the same rate.

ALL IN FAVOUR

A notice will be put in the Isleham Informer advertising the fact that the grant is still available.

8. **Questions from Members of the Public**

Limestone Close Residents asked if a sign could be put up showing that the road is a cul-de-sac as lorries and other vehicles are turning in the close.

Parking at the top of Limestone Close is still a problem. The council will contact the police again.

Mr Flatt commented that there has been no change in parking on the Priory. Mrs Malkin suggested that the council contact Manchetts of Burwell.

Mr Alistair Burn commented on the dangers of access to the nature reserve, and asked for the parish council's support on an application to highways for a sign from the Fordham direction.

Mrs Pauline Wilkes asked if it would be possible for the Council to revisit having 'gateways' into the village on Fordham Road and Station Road to help slow the traffic.

Mr Radcliffe mentioned that access over the footbridge at the Marina is very difficult because of the bollards and asked if the Council could write to the Environment Agency with regards to disabled access.

The Rev Mike Banyard asked if a bench could be placed outside the new community centre in memory of Graham Wells to look over the recreation ground. The chairman asked him to write a letter to the parish council.

It was asked if further consideration could be given to planting trees in the new cemetery. Although there had been some resistance to this in the past because of potential problems with tree roots, would it be possible to see if there was some way to overcome that objection? The matter would need to be re-considered by the Parish Council.

The Chairman thanked all the parishioners for attending and participating.

Meeting closed at 8.50pm