

ISLEHAM PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE PARISH MEETING HELD MONDAY 16th MAY 2016

Those present:- Chairman Cllr D Beckett, The Clerk,
15 Parishioners and 1 non-resident (including councillors)
Apologies: Mrs V Bruyneel-Smith;

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.** Vacancy for Parishioner Councillor
- 3.** Minutes of the Last Meeting
- 4.** Reports from Local Interest Groups
- 5.** Treasurers Reports
Annual Return 2015
Dunstall Charity
Lady Maynard Charity
Deborah Fletcher Charity
Fen or Fifty
Lady Peyton Charity (Optional)
- 6.** Dunstall Apprentice Grant
- 7.** Opportunity for Questions from Members of the Public

Another year has come and gone with a new council being elected last May. As you can see the community centre continues to be well used with more events taking place. The new stage curtains have opened more opportunities for stage and drama and the Phoenix Players are hoping to make more use of it. The recreation ground continues to be well used and some of you may have seen the hoards descending on it yesterday. One hundred and sixty four teams met to play in the Youth Football Tournament.

We have now got the sockets in the ground for cricket netting posts. This should protect car park vehicle's from stray cricket balls. One of the next projects we would like to start, when funds are available, is to tarmac the car park. The skate park opened this year and is very well used by the young people.

Sadly, there continues to be an issue with those who abuse the centre and recreation ground with their mindless vandalism. These facilities are for the whole village. Please could you all urge people to show respect when using them.

The allotments continue to be well used, as is the orchard which is beginning to mature.

The cemeteries are well tended by Mr Tim Wilding and are often complemented regarding their pristine condition. As is the recreation ground tended, by Mr Ray Sheldrick. Our thanks go out to both of them for the work that they do.

Mr Ed Mayall continues to litter pick for us. Many thanks to him. We also extend our gratitude to Mrs Glenda Preece and Mrs Jeanette Malkin for arranging a litter pick around the village. Ours thanks also to the parishioners who helped the ladies in this endeavour.

All of these things continue to make Isleham an attractive village to live, and for our children to grow up in.

I would like to thank my fellow Councillors for all their hard work and to making these things possible.

I also thank Mrs Diane Bayliss for her work as Parish Clerk. Unfortunately she has been ill for the last 6 months but will return soon.

Finally, an especial thanks to Mrs Jeanette Borderick for standing in as temporary clerk, For all the hard work she has done. Thus ensuring that we continue to function as we should.

2. **Vacancy for Parish Councillor**

The Chairman advised the assembled group that there is a vacancy for a Councillor.

2a **County Councillors Report-James Palmer 2015/2016**

The Last 12 months have seen more frustrations at the County Council. Whilst I am delighted that Cllr Schumann and I have been able to secure funding for the expansion of Fordham Primary School, the slow progress of work on the Ely Bypass has been frustrating.

I have continued to lobby with some success for the instatement of a roundabout on the A142 at Soham, close to East Fen Drove turning, and expect to see that come to fruition within the next 12 months.

As always at Shire Hall, one has to be patient and it does feel at times as if those who live outside the City/South Cambs area are feeding on scraps. However, I will continue to be a strong voice for my division and work towards making sure we get the infrastructure this area needs. Whilst lobbying continually for Soham Railway Station, I am also making sure that increased frequency of trains at Kennett is also on the radar both at County and Network Rail.

I am proud that there are school places for all in the Soham and Fordham Village area and as you would expect, talks are ongoing with regard to making sure that there are ample places in the future too. Whilst many primary schools are becoming academies, the responsibility for improving places still lies with the County Council.

Back to the Ely Bypass, and a recent meeting at Westminster confirmed the government's financial support for the scheme which is now out for tender with completion expected at the end of 2017.

Finance continues to be an issue for the County with the situation of no overall control. Meaning that no-one has taken command and restructured the Council. This means the organisation plods along much to the detriment of those it supports. Perhaps devolution will provide a solution to the County Council's problems. The next 12 months are likely to see changes in the structure of the local government, there is much that can be achieved but this will depend on the vision of those involved.

Derrick Beckett asked the assembled parishioner if they had any questions-None raised.

3. Approval of the Minutes of the Last Meeting

It was proposed by Richard Radcliffe and seconded by Glenda Preece that the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held Monday 16th March 2015 are approved.

ALL IN FAVOUR

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 Jean Winters (Limestone Close Residents); Margaret Davies (WI and Isleham Gala); Doreen Spiers (Book Club); Mr Vernon Place (Isleham Society); Martin Wells (High Street Chapel).

Derrick Beckett gave report on Your Body, on behalf of Penny Bowers.

Derrick Beckett thanked all local groups for their reports.

5. Treasurers Reports

- a. The audited financial statement for the year ended March 31st 2015 was presented to the meeting by the Chairman.

The accounts for the Dunstall Charity, showing a balance of £12,127.86 for the year ended 31st March 2015, were presented to the meeting by The Chairman.

The accounts for the Lady Maynard's Charity, showing a balance of £1679.32. (£33,000 invested), were presented to the meeting by Mr Les Wightman.

Derrick Beckett advised that the charity can help people in financial need.

The accounts for the Deborah Fletcher Charity, showing a balance of £391.10, were presented to the meeting by Mrs Glenda Preece.

The Fen or Fifty accounts, showing a balance of £4243.00, were presented to the meeting by Mr Bob Mitchell.

The Lady Peyton's Charity accounts were not presented at this meeting. The accounts are on the charity commission website.

Isleham Charity Partnership provide Isleham Residents who are over 65 with vouchers to spend in local shops.

It was proposed by Richard Radcliffe and seconded by Glenda Preece that the treasurer's reports are accepted and approved by the meeting.

ALL IN FAVOUR

6. Dunstall Apprentice Grant

Dunstall Apprentice Grant remains at £250.00.

Jeanette Malkin requested that the availability of the grant is advertised more.

Richard Radcliffe proposed that the Trustee's review the object of the charity. Les Wightman seconded.

To be ratified at next Parish Council meeting.

ALL IN FAVOUR

7. Questions from Members of the Public

Pauline Wilkes asked about the condition of the recreation ground after it was used for the Football Festival. Derrick Beckett advised that it had stood up to the extra use very well and is in good condition.

Jeanette Malkin has requested that the next annual meeting is advertised differently in order to attract a bigger audience.

It will need to be discussed how to generate more interest.

The Chairman thanked all the parishioners for attending and making the meeting interesting and informative.

Meeting closed at 8.40pm.