

# ISLEHAM PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF THE PARISH MEETING HELD MONDAY 27<sup>th</sup> March 2017

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

Apologies: Mr Richard Radcliffe Mrs Glenda Preece, Mrs Vanessa 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, thank you for coming.

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 2016  
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

Chairman's Report:

"The last year has seen quite a few changes within the council, with Diane Bayliss The parish clerk's return to work and then subsequently her resignation. We advertised for a new clerk and had a very strong field of applicants from which our current clerk Richard Liddington was chosen and started work in November. Also we were joined by Marie Bowker who filled the vacancy as a Parish Councillor in May 2016. The recreation ground continues to be very well used with youth football, cricket, men's football and other keep fit activities taking place. We hope to make a start very soon on the building of a store for the sports clubs and our tractor. Once again one of the projects we would like to start when funds become available, is to tarmac the car park. The skate park, MUGA and play areas are well used and The Beeches is going from strength to strength. Sadly there continues to be those who want to abuse these facilities by their mindless vandalism, around the centre and the recreation field. These are facilities for the whole village and could you urge people to show respect when using them. Also if anyone sees drugs being used would they please contact the police. The allotments continue to be well used and also the orchard which is beginning to mature. There are still some vacant allotments. Our cemeteries are tended very well by Mr Tim Wilding and is quite often a source of compliments as to their pristine condition as is the recreation ground by Mr Ray Sheldrick and our thanks go to both of them for the work that they do. Mr Jacob Mayall has taken on the role of village litter picker, many thanks to him and also to the band of Parishioners who helped with the litter pick arranged by Mrs Malkin. All of these things continue to make Isleham and attractive village to live in and for our children to grow up

in. In the next few years we face the possibility of significant development in the village and the challenges and benefits that it will bring. I would like to thank my fellow councillors for all the hard work that they have put in to make this all possible especially with the extra work load changing clerks has made. I would like to thank Mr Richard Liddington for his work as Parish Clerk and the way that he has embraced the job.”

2. **Approval of the Minutes of the Last Meeting**

It was proposed by Mr Les Wightman and seconded by Mr Paul Chaplin that the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held Monday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2016 are approved.

ALL IN FAVOUR

3. **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 A similar posting was also made on the Isleham News Facebook page.

Reports were given by :

- Friends of Isleham Nature Reserve: Mr Stacey
  - Work has continued this last year on improving the railway nature reserve, the pond, the wash, Station Road wood and the community orchard.
  - Gratitude was expressed to the Parish Council for their financial support.
  - A successful Apple festival day was held in October.
- The Gala committee – Mrs L Alderson (read by Mr R. Liddington):
  - This year’s gala is taking place on 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2017.
  - Storage of equipment is a problem and the committee would appreciate the opportunity to use the new tractor store.
- The Women’s Institute – Mrs P. Wilkes:
  - Members continue to meet on 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month.
  - There has been a wide range of speakers.
  - Members have enjoyed a number of seasonal meals as well as a summer outing.
  - Members have been active in the village including the tending of the flower beds on the corner of Pound Lane.
  - New members are welcome.
- IYFC – Mr M Caffarelli (read by Mr R. Liddington)
  - 25 youth football teams are now in place
  - Good relationships exist between IYFC, Isleham Parish Council (IPC) and The Beeches.
  - IYFC, are particularly grateful for all the support offered by IPC and The Beeches and in particular for the work of Mr R Sheldrick in maintaining such excellent playing fields.
  - IYFC look forward to working with IPC on a number of future projects.

Derrick Beckett thanked all local groups for their reports.

4. **Treasurers Reports**

- a. The audited financial statement for the year ended March 31<sup>st</sup> 2016 was presented to the meeting by the Chairman.

The accounts for the Dunstall Charity, showing a balance of £12,772.35 for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016, were presented to the meeting by The Chairman.

The accounts for the Lady Maynard's Charity, showing a balance of £1069.45 were presented to the meeting by Mr Les Wightman. Income is gained from allotment and farm rents and investments. Contact the charity of you know of any local families / individuals in need.

The accounts for the Deborah Fletcher Charity, for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2016, showing a balance of £4386.14 were presented to the meeting by The Clerk

The Fen or Fifty accounts, showing a balance of £16,486, were presented to the meeting by Mr Bob Mitchell. Their income comes from the rental of 50 acres of farm land. The charity has helped support one particular individual this year with the purchase of an ipad.

The Lady Peyton accounts were presented by Mr P Chaplin and shows a balance of £222,849. Income for this charity comes from the rental of four Alms houses and a small parcel of land. Appreciation was expressed to Mr F Pearce for his work as treasurer. A conditions survey has been undertaken and funding allocated to undertake repairs/improvements over a 30 year period

The Isleham Charity Partnership (Lady Maynard, Deborah Fletcher and Fen & Fifty charities) continue to provide Isleham Residents who are over 65 with vouchers to spend in the CO-OP store and Thompson farms. The school is happy to accept any unused vouchers

It was proposed by Mr B Mitchell and seconded by Mrs P Wilkes that the treasurer's reports are accepted and approved by the meeting.

ALL IN FAVOUR

5. **Dunstall Apprentice Grant**

The chairman referenced the availability of the Dunstall grant to provide financial support for young residents who are embarking on either an apprenticeship or practical university course. Requests can be made with the Parish Clerk.

It was proposed by Mr P Chaplin and seconded by Mrs P Wilkes that the Dunstall grant be increased from £250 to £300 pa.

ALL IN FAVOUR

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

A question was raised as to whether the Parish Council were aware that the Staploe Medical centre are to discontinue the medication collection arrangements with the CO-OP. It was stated that the Parish Council are aware of these changes and that they will be discussing this further at the council meeting on the 3<sup>rd</sup> April.

The issue of a possible 3G pitch on the recreation ground was raised. An opinion was expressed that other (non football) options should be explored for any further development of the recreation field and that the council should ensure that residents are consulted on the proposals for a 3G pitch. It was explained that this project is still very much in its infancy but that consultation would be undertaken once any details are in place.

Concern was expressed at the potential impact of the current Local Plan and other planning applications on the character of the village. The chairman identified some of the key political factors surrounding planning applications which allow possible development on; agricultural land, beyond recognised village boundaries and the 2015 local plan. In short there is enormous central government pressure on ECDC to build an extra 1200 houses. The outcome from the recent ECDC consultation on the Local Plan is likely to be announced in September / October

The chairman was asked to clarify the criteria for the inclusion of affordable housing within any new housing development. It was clarified that where developments contain nine or more dwellings, then between 30% and 40% should be deemed 'affordable', as defined by central government. It was also stated that The Lady Payton Charity are likely to be building some rental houses as part of the Local Plan and that a covenant can be placed on such a development to prioritise access to local individuals / families.

The need for improvements to the infrastructure of the village were referenced. These included:

- A pathway /cycle route to Fordham. This was deemed necessary to ensure pedestrian and cyclist safety and to enable access to bus services. It was suggested that the parish council pursue this project via ECDC community infrastructure list as well as via possible contributions from Bloor homes, should the development of ISL-H4 go ahead.
- The reduction or demolition of the railway bridge to help reduce the risks of accidents to vehicles accessing either the nature reserve or lorry park. It was suggested that the Parish Council raise this issue with ECDC Local Plan working party.
- The speed limit within the village be reduced to 20mph. It was noted that the limited number of accidents within the village would make any reduction unlikely but that the first step might be to establish a local team of Speed Watch volunteers to provide hard data of the speed of vehicles travelling through the village.

The possible dangers caused by cellar grills on footpaths was raised. This will be added to the agenda for the April Parish Council meeting.

Concern was raised at the perceived over development proposed for the former Patterson's stores. It was stated that IPC have registered their concerns at this planning application

The meeting closed at 8.50pm.