

# ISLEHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Mr Richard Liddington The Beeches, 32 Mill Street, Isleham, Ely, Cambs. CB7 5RY  
Email: islehampc@gmail.com  
Chairman: Mr Derrick Beckett

## MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD

**6<sup>th</sup> March 2017**  
**AT THE BEECHES**

**Those Present;** - Cllr Beckett (DB); Cllr Mrs J Malkin (JM); Cllr Mitchell (BM); Cllr Patterson (CP); Cllr Mrs G Preece (GP); Cllr P Wilkes (PW); Cllr Mrs Bowker (MB); Cllr Wightman (LW); Cllr Radcliffe (RR); Cllr Mrs V Bruyneel-Smith (VBS); Cllr Chaplin (PC)

Members 11

Quorum 4

Clerk Richard Liddington (RL)

Parishioners 36

The meeting opened at 7.15pm

### **16-17/236 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

**P Action**

LGA 1972s95.  
Cllr Shumman.

### **16-17/237 COUNCILLORS DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

- (a) Existence & Nature with regard to items on the agenda.  
Members of the Council are subject to the Local Authorities (Model Code of Conduct) Order 2012 (Standing Orders section 7 C & D).

DB declared his interest in item 16-17/254

### **16-17/238 OPEN FORUM FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (15mins)**

- (a) Following councillors approval, DB stated that opportunities for public participation regarding specific planning applications would be allowed as part of 16-17/254
- (b) The question was raised whether the sale of agricultural land on Prickwillow Rd might result in a future housing development.  
DB stated that there is no known application for change of use for this land.  
7.20pm - VBS arrived
- (c) The following questions and comments were made regarding the Local Plan for Isleham:
- Concern was expressed by two residents over their perceived lack of advertising by IPC of the recent consultation of the Local Plan.  
DB & RL commented that although it had not been advertised on the Parish notice boards it had been advertised extensively in various communal places around the village as well as being successfully promoted via the Isleham News Facebook page.
  - Is it known who is paying for the ongoing surveys of ISL/H4?  
DB stated that this wasn't known but assumed to be either the current landowners or Bloor Homes, who the council believe to have the option to develop the land
  - Will further public consultation take place?  
DB stated that further consultations will take place late summer and that this would involve the opportunity for individual representations to be made.
  - How much will ECDC take into account the numerous planning applications that are being made when making a decision on the possible development of ISL/H4.  
DB stated that this would be considered but re-iterated that it is important that all concerned residents continue to express their views at future consultations
  - Do councillors consider Isleham to be a large village as defined in the plan?  
Although the number of residents would deem us to be a large village, councillors agree that the infrastructure doesn't have the capacity to be identified as a large village.
  - It was stated that a recent development of 80 houses in Soham had yielded just 4 'affordable houses'.

DB read out the Parish Councils responses to the consultation process (see Feb mins)  
 It was almost universally felt that ECDC simply ignore the views of IPC on planning matters. DB reiterated that central government determine much of the legislation around planning and that should applications be refused and subsequently appealed against, then ECDC would have to pay the costs of the appeal.

**16-17/239** It was proposed by PW and seconded by PC that the minutes of the meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> February 2017 are approved and signed by the Chairman.

CARRIED

**16-17/240 MATTERS ARISING/CLERKS REPORT**

(a) See appendix 1.

**16-17/241 POLICE MATTERS**

- (a)
  - There had been an attempted Ram Raid on the co-op on the night of 7.2.17
  - Hare Coursing had been reported to have taken place on 18.2.17. Residents were reminded to ring 999 should they see such activity.
  - Drug paraphernalia had been found on the recreation field and reported to the police.
  - It was proposed by RR and seconded by MB that Isleham Parish Council explore the opportunity and liabilities of employing a joint PCSO with Fordham Parish Council. Clerk

**16-17/242 COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT & BUSINESS**

(a) DB reported that The Princess of Wales hospital would remain open as a minor injuries unit.

**16-17/243 RECREATION GROUND MATTERS**

- (a) Recreation Ground Report.  
 Three trees have been planted to replace those felled due to disease earlier this year. Approval has been given for Mr Sheldrick to organise a service of the recreation ground mower.
- (b) It was proposed by RR and seconded by GP that we accept the tender from KIT buildings / Autey for the construction of a tractor shed at a combined cost of £18,338  
 CARRIED LW
- (c) It was agreed to explore options for extending the current CCTV network to include the MUGA and skate park. It was believed that this might help to deter the drug taking (16-17/241) as well as the illegitimate use of the MUGA. CP
- (d) It was proposed by PW and seconded by LW that we allow part of the recreation field to be used for a small travelling funfair at the end of May at a charge of £300. Clerk

**16-17/244 PLAY AREA/SKATEPARK/MUGA MATTERS**

- (a) Play area / Skatepark / MUGA report: Clerk
  - IYFC have agreed to being invoiced for their use of the MUGA on a monthly basis. Other users are less willing to adopt this model so will continue to PAYU
  - We are experiencing continuing problems with trespassers entering and using the MUGA, overriding the light timer, with the lights then remaining on all night. It was agreed that we would investigate installing a second master timer switch.
- (b) It was agreed that we would approve the hiring of the MUGA for an external, children's Multi-Sports activities provider. This will take place each Wednesday between 5.00pm-6.00pm in the first instance. Clerk
- (c) It was agreed that we would consider introducing a sliding scale of charges for the use of the MUGA and recreational facilities. Clerk  
 Clerk to organise a Finance working party meeting to consider further.

**16-17/245 CEMETERY & CHURCHYARD MATTERS**

(a) It was proposed by PW and seconded by LW that Mr Wilding be authorised to hire a pressure washer to clean the cemetery footpaths. TW

- (b) It was proposed by PW and seconded by LW that Mr Wilding be allowed to purchase a 3 in 1 hedge/shrub cutting tool at an approx cost of £280 TW
- (c) It was agreed that we would pursue the commercial cutting of the hedges at the far end of the cemetery. Clerk

**16-17/246 ICA REPORT/THE BEECHES**

- (a) - Minutes of the recent meeting between the community centre and ICA had been previously distributed.  
 - The main hall is now being used on a regular basis to show films. Please see <http://www.thebeechesisleham.co.u> for dates and times of forthcoming films.
- (b) It was proposed by RR and seconded by PW that Mr Paul Greenwood be authorised to 'rake' the gravel on the Beeches car park at a cost of £100. Clerk
- (c) It was agreed that ICA be allowed to advertise their events in both The Beeches and Pound Lane parish notice boards.
- (d) CP and RL are pursuing the purchase and authorisation from Balfour Beatty of tourist direction signs to The Beeches. Clerk
- (e) It was proposed by RR and seconded by CP that the remedial work to The Beeches lightning protection system, identified in The Sentinel report dated 6.1.17 be undertaken. Clerk
- (f) PC advised councillors that it is now possible to purchase batteries which will store excess energy from the solar panels. This could then be used to power the Beeches and is significantly more cost effective than selling the unused electricity back to the grid. PC to explore the feasibility further. PC
- (g) MB raised the need for the daily monitoring and maintenance of the village defibrillator, i.e. the pads have a limited life span. RL to check whether the responsibility rests with IPC or ICA and to then explore training options. RL /MB

**16-17/247 MONTHLY FINANCIAL MATTERS**

- (a) It was proposed by RR and seconded by MB that the Pay Accounts for March 2017 are approved.
- (b) It was proposed by RR and seconded by PW that the Bank Reconciliation for February be accepted.

**16-17/248 HIGHWAYS/FOOTPATH MATTERS**

- (a) It was stated that:
- A new pot hole at the junction of The Causeway and Sun Street has been reported to ECDC
  - Work to repair the potholes at the Fourways junction on Beck Road had been approved by SCC , although no date for the repairs had been given.
  - The pedestrian crossing outside The Beeches had been repainted.
- (b) It was agreed to pursue a grant from the War Memorial Trust to repair the surrounding walls of the village cenotaph. RL / CP
- I It was noted that the 2017-18 grass cutting contract shows a 2% increase on the current year.
- (d) It was proposed by GP and seconded by BM that an extra dog waste bin be installed next to the gate on the Big Wash. RL

**16-17/249 PARISH COUNCIL POLICY UPDATES AND REVIEW**

- (a) It was decided to defer consideration of the proposed new financial regulations document until the April meeting.

**16-17/250 CORRESPONDENCE/MATTERS FOR INFORMATION ONLY**

- (a) A letter identifying problematic speeding along the Waterside has been received. The clerk reported that this matter had been discussed with the PCSO but not felt to be a priority for police action.

- (b) A letter of complaint from residents in Limestone Close to Sanctuary Housing regarding delays to essential repairs had been copied to the Parish Council. The particular resident was asked to inform both the Parish and ECDC of any further problems.

**16-17/251 ALLOTMENT MATTERS**

- (a) Just two rents remain outstanding.

**16-17/252 ORCHARD MATTERS**

- (a) Nil report.

**16-17/253 WASH MATTERS**

- (a)
- The area around the footpath gate has been cleared away and tree bark placed on the ground.
  - Anne Noble and Tony Weston talked about the detrimental impact that the low water levels are having, particularly on the Avocett birds. Resolving the problem is likely to involve the diversion of water from the river and / or ground works. This matter to be further discussed at the next Wash Association meeting which is due to take place on 9<sup>th</sup> March.

**16-17/254 PLANNING MATTERS**

DB reiterated that he would not comment on planning matters.

**Planning Applications**

17/00089 /FUL Convert existing outbuilding to annexe 17 Mill Street Isleham. Mr G Beamon.

No objection.

17/00099/FUL Construction of 4 bedroomed detached dwelling and garage. Land adj 56 West St Isleham. Mr Clarke.

No objection.

17/00190/FUL Single storey rear extension. 84 The Causeway Isleham. Mr J Bird.

No objection.

16/00216/FUL Proposed six houses with cart lodges. 15 Pound Lane Isleham. Mrs W Davies.

The archaeology report was noted. Objections remain the same as those submitted in March and June 2016

Cllr Beckett left the room

17/00222/FUL Development of 3 No three bedroomed bungalows. Site between Houghtons Lane and East Fen Rd Isleham. Mr J Waters

A number of public comments were made regarding this application and are reflected in the following objections:

Objection on the grounds:

1. The plans are inaccurate:

- the plots appear to be incorrectly positioned when compared against the OS map
- they do not include the existing clunch barn (IPC are trying to retain these character features of our village)
- doesn't reflect the need to remove the existing hedgerow
- exaggerates the size of the road
- don't identify the electricity pylons which are believed to have a detrimental effect on humans

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Clerk

2. The application is outside of the village's development envelope and takes no account of the proposed Local Plan.
3. Houghton's Lane is no more than a simple, single track, agricultural farm roadway. It is already in a very poor condition, does not include any street lighting and therefore simply not fit for the additional traffic resulting from this proposed development.
4. The houses are not aesthetically interesting.
5. The proposed development does not meet current housing demands. There are sufficient houses within this style and price bracket already for sale within the village.
6. Approval of any houses on this particular site would almost certainly result in further applications being made.
7. This would have a detrimental effect on the local, natural environment.
8. The development doesn't protect the amenities and services of the neighbouring properties .
9. The development would overlook existing houses to the south and therefore result in a loss of privacy.

17/00223/FUL Development of 2 No three bedroomed bungalows. Site between Houghtons Lane and East Fen Rd Isleham. Mr J Waters

A number of public comments were made regarding this application and are reflected in the following objections:

Objection on grounds:

1. The application is outside of the village's development envelope and takes no account of the proposed Local Plan.
2. East Fen Road is already in a very poor condition, includes limited street lighting and therefore simply not fit for the additional traffic resulting from this proposed development.
3. The houses are not aesthetically interesting.
4. The proposed development does not meet current housing demands. There are sufficient houses within this style & price bracket already for sale within the village.
5. Approval of any houses on this particular site would almost certainly result in further applications being made.
6. This would have a detrimental effect on the local, natural environment.
7. The development doesn't protect the amenities and services of the neighbouring properties i.e. many of the existing, surrounding properties require septic tanks. Such a development would place increased strain on those houses connected to mains sewerage.
9. The development would overlook existing houses to the north and therefore result in a loss of privacy.

Cllr Beckett returned to the room

17/00227/FUL Proposed rear extension and internal alterations. 8 Maltings Lane Isleham. Mr & Mrs Dixon.  
No Objection

17/00217/FUL Demolition of the former Patterson's store building and erection of 7 dwellings with associated works. 10 Mill Street Isleham. Mr P Sleightholme.

A number of public comments were made regarding this application and are reflected in the following objections:

Objection on grounds:

1. The proposed demolition of this historic building, which is within our conservation area is clearly against the National Policy framework and would have a detrimental effect on the character of our village. (The previous owner was

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- recently and repeatedly informed that any development of the site would have to retain the existing shop building – what’s changed?)
2. It is not a designated site within the Local Plan.
  3. We would deem seven houses to be a significant over development of this site.
  4. We do not believe that the development of this site should exceed the footprint of the existing building.
  5. The area is surrounded by green space. Such a development would have a detrimental effect on the local wildlife. We also remain extremely disappointed that permission was given by ECDC to remove the existing trees (which are within our conservation zone) without any consultation with either this council or affected residents.
  6. We do not believe the existing traffic report to be accurate. Mill Street is already an extremely busy road. Further vehicle access, particularly down a very narrow roadway would compound this problem.
  7. The council are committed to retaining buildings and walls made from clunch. We can only assume from the plans that the existing clunch barn would be demolished to make way for site No 7.
  8. We do not believe that the bat report is accurate. There are at least 15 known bats registered in the adjacent road.
  9. The design of the houses, particularly those for sites 1-4 are not aesthetically interesting.
  10. The design report is inaccurate. Not all the surrounding properties are two story. The houses proposed for sites 6&7 would directly overlook a single story house (9a Mill St) not to mention the houses in Limestone close which are built at a significantly lower ground level.
  11. The development doesn’t protect the amenities and services of the neighbouring properties. The infrastructure and utilities in our village are already over stretched.

17/00255/OUT Outline application for single storey dwelling along with associated parking, access and site works. Site adjacent to 3 Hall Barn Road Isleham. Mr & Mrs R Clarke

No objection. Councillors were asked to note however that the farm adjacent to this proposed development does generate a significant amount of noise particular from their agricultural machinery.

#### **Planning Approvals**

- 16/01572/FUL Proposed two storey side extension & cart lodge 49 Pound Lane Isleham Mr & Mrs Easton.
- 16/01668/ARN Conversion of change of use of agricultural storage unit into a 3 bedroom dwelling using existing footprint. Beck Road Isleham Mr J Waters.
- 16/01148/FUL Retrospective planning permission for erection of shed.

#### **Planning Refusals**

- 16/00457/FUL New 4 bed dwelling land adj 22 Little London Isleham Mr R Turner.

#### **Other Planning Matters**

- TPO/00042/TPO Tree works. 54 West Street Isleham. Mr P Hedger.

**16-17/255**

(a)

#### **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Monday 27<sup>th</sup> March Annual Parish meeting

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2017

Monday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2017

Clerk / DB

**16-17/256**

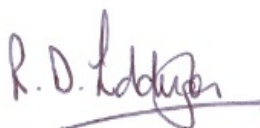
#### **AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING**

- *Finance policy*

*Any business and payments, to be considered at Parish Council meeting must be delivered to the Clerk for inclusion on the agenda at least 7 days prior to the meeting.*

## Appendix 1 March Actions

Agenda No	Action Point	Responsible	Comments on Progress
	Complete minutes.	Clerk	Completed & draft emailed to councillors 13.3.17
241	Explore the opportunity and liabilities of employing a joint PCSO with Fordham Parish Council.	Clerk	13.3.17 Fordham clerk emailed re further talks 20.3.17 Answerphone message left with Fordham Chair
243	Award contract for tractor shed.	LW	10.3.17 Cheque issued for £6012.62
	Explore options for extending the current CCTV network to include MUGA and skate park.	CP	
	Contact travelling funfair.	Clerk	10.3.17 Conversation held. Agreed for 4 <sup>th</sup> to 10 <sup>th</sup> June 2017. Prelim visit arranged for 21.3.17 (subsequently cancelled). To be rearranged
244	Explore secondary light switch for MUGA.	Clerk	10.3.17 S Downey contacted re site visit. Await cost
	Contact multi sports provider.	Clerk	10.3.17 Conversation held. To be followed up with approved charges
	Finance working party meeting to consider further.	Clerk	13.3.17 Doodle poll issued re meeting date 20.3.17 Meeting held – agenda item 16/17- 268(c)
245	Pressure wash cemetery footpaths.	TW	
	Purchase 3:1 cutting tool	TW	17.3.17 Item purchased
	Organise commercial cutting of cemetery hedge.	Clerk	21.3.17 site visit from Zion landscapes. Await tender.
246	Organise gravel racking of Beeches car park	Clerk	13.3.17 Paul Greenwood emailed with instruction to proceed – to be undertaken during quiet period
	Pursue directional signs to The Beeches	Clerk	20.3.17 Proposals emailed to Balfour Beatty
	Organise remedial works to lightening protection	Clerk	13.3.17 – commissioned via email
	Pursue solar batteries	LW	
	Clarify responsibility & training for defibrillator.	Clerk	20.3.17 Contacted supplier. Item purchased 16.3.16 Pads good for two years / batteries for 5 years. No further checks / servicing required at this point
248	Pursue grant for war memorial wall.	Clerk	20.3.17 Email sent to councillors re proposed wall
	Contact Veolia re dog bin on the Wash	Clerk	13.3.17 Map and request emailed to Veolia 17.3.17 Bin ordered /24.3.17 Bin received 24.3.17 Instructed ECDC to install
254	Respond to planning applications	Clerk	7.3.17 Submitted by email
Other actions			
	Limestone close potholes		13.3.17 reported to ECDC ref 00264355
	Cemetery fence damaged as a result of storm Doris		Await confirmation from solicitors re ownership / responsibility for the fence
	Annual Parish meeting		
	Bloor homes meeting		



Appendix 2

# ISLEHAM PARISH COUNCIL TO PAY ACCOUNTS March 6th 2017

Cheque No;	Payee	Item	Net	VAT	Total	Power
<u>Payments made since the last meeting</u>						
BACS	Staff	February Salaries	£1,566.80	£0.00	£1,566.80	LGA 1972 s112
Direct debit	BT	Phone services	£97.88	£19.58	£117.46	
<u>Payments for Tonight's meeting:</u>						
300298	Post Office Counters (HMRC)	Tax & NI	£43.74	£0.00	£43.74	LGA 1972 s 112
300299	City of Ely	Playground maintenance exam	£95.00	£19.00	£114.00	LGA 1972 s50
300300	Lisa Alderson	Adobe license for The Informer (Feb edition)	£22.23	£4.45	£26.68	LGA 1972 s142
300301	CT Elwood	Tractor storage	£220.00	£0.00	£220.00	LGA 1972 s214
	CT Elwood	Tractor diesel	£233.14	£11.66	£244.80	LGA 1972 s214
300302	Veolia	Hire Easi-bin	£184.76	£36.95	£221.71	Local Authorities Cemeteries Orders 1977 & 1986 Open Spaces Act 1906ss9 & 10
300303	Branwell Electrical Company	Damaged lighting bollard	£119.80	£23.96	£143.76	LG misc provisions act 1976s 19(d)
300304	Greenwood Tree Surgery	Fell recreation field trees	£1,650	£330	£1,980	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss9 &10 LGA 1972 s214
300305	Jane Sheldrick	Payroll	£19.67	£3.93	£23.60	LGA 1972 s 112
300306	void					
300307	G&J Peck Ltd	Service & various parts for tractor	£534.26	£106.86	£641.12	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss9 &10 LGA 1972 s214
300308	Cambridgeshire ACRE	Membership	£43.20	£10.80	£54.00	LG Finance Act 1992 s50
300309	Viking Direct	Duplicating paper	£28.18	£5.64	£33.82	
300310	Anglian Water	Water charges (recreation ground)	£25.50	£0.00	£25.50	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss9 &10



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Grand Total>>>	£4,883.58	£573.41	£5,456.99
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