

**ISLEHAM PARISH COUNCIL**

**Clerk: Mrs Diane Bayliss**

**Chairman: Mr Derrick Beckett**

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD**

**MONDAY 7<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2013**

**IN THE VILLAGE HALL**

**Those Present;-** Cllr Beckett (DB); Cllr Mrs Wilkes (PW); Cllr Patterson; (CP) Cllr Mrs Malkin (JM); Cllr Mrs H Thompson (HT); Cllr Mitchell (BM); Cllr Neal (LN); Cllr Radcliffe (RR); Cllr Bruyneel-Smith (VBS); Clerk: Mrs D Bayliss

Members 11 Quorum 4

9 Parishioners

County Councillor Powley

Stewart Patience

Alistair Burn & Barry Holmes

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**12-13/203 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

**1**

Cllr Paul Chaplin has given apologies for the next 4 months; Cllr Mrs R Thompson; C Cllr Palmer;

It was proposed by PW and seconded by RR that the Council appoint CP to chair the meeting if the chairman should have to leave the meeting because of a sore throat.

**12-13/204 COUNCILLORS DECLARATION OF INTEREST for items on agenda**

None

**12-13/205 OPEN FORUM FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (15mins)**

Mr Ellwood asked how much profit the Gala Festival made.

Mr R Sheldrick commented that he had still not had a clear answer as to where the mat had gone from the recreation ground and that the matter should be referred to the police if it is not found. He also asked why there had been a private meeting where members of the public were refused entry before the last Parish Council meeting. The Chairman replied that the YFC requested a private meeting with the PC and the Council obliged them. Finally Mr Sheldrick commented that following the last meeting the stakes around the cricket square had all been bent double.

Mr C Sheldrick informed the council that a rift had been caused in the football club as members of the team had marked out a pitch which he did not agree to.

Mrs L Clarke asked whether the council had definitely got all the funding in place for the community centre.

Mr Alberry-King mentioned that there had only been a very small response to the vision for Isleham survey carried out by ECDC. He expressed his opinion that the Isleham Vision should not only refer to housing but should tackle some of the deeper issues in the village.

**12-13/206 PRESENTATION BY VOLUNTEERS FROM NATURE RESERVE AND ORCHARD**

Alastair Burn and Barry Holmes gave a short presentation on the work of the Friends of Isleham Nature Reserves.

The Isleham railway Local Nature Reserve is an important local amenity. Together with the adjacent Environmental Stewardship land it provides a valuable habitat for wildlife and an area which is extensively used by walkers. The Friends of Isleham Nature Reserves group has a Memorandum of Agreement with Cambridgeshire County Council to manage the reserve (aiming to restore some more extensive areas of open, botanically rich habitat) and to encourage others to use and enjoy it. The group has a small grant from the County Council which is being used to pay for some site management.

The Friends group organises events on the reserve during the summer, especially for local children's groups. Group members are involved in the management of other sites in and around Isleham including the community orchard project, the village pond, Isleham Wash and the Station Road wood.

The Parish Council was told about the group's plans to develop a circular walk which aims to take in a number of important areas for wildlife and archaeological interest, centred around the railway reserve. The Parish Council acknowledged the importance of the reserve

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for the local community. It welcomed the work of the group and expressed support for the aims of proposed circular walk. The PC requested that they be kept informed of the group's work and the next steps in the proposal for the circular walk.

VBS arrived at 7.37pm

Jeanette Malkin reported that work on the Orchard continues to progress well. There are several varieties of tree and the cost of each tree is £30.

A planting day is to be held on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> January at the Orchard (weather permitting). Sponsors can plant their own trees if they wish.

**ISLEHAM VISION**

Two further sites have been included in the Isleham Vision. These are land in Pound Lane which the council approved and Mr Ellwood's land in Church Lane which the council did not approve.

Stewart Patience, Forward Planner from ECDC attended the meeting and provided the councillors with the formal draft wording for the two sites.

The draft consultation will take place in February and will last for 6 weeks. In answer to Mr Alberry-King's question part of the formal consultation is not just about housing but community service facilities and community infrastructure. Mr Patience welcomed any comments tonight from councillors on either the description or policy. The Councillors agreed that they would wish to retain and enhance existing planting and trees on the Church Lane site.

There were no comments regarding the site on Pound Lane.

**12-13/207 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING HELD 3<sup>rd</sup> DECEMBER 2012**

It was proposed by PW and seconded by RR that the minutes of the meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> December are approved and signed.

CARRIED

**12-13/208 MATTERS ARISING/CLERKS REPORT (*for information only*)**

- Grit Bin moved – thank you letter from Mr Challis

**12-13/209 TO APPOINT CHARITY TRUSTEE**

- a) It was proposed by PW and seconded by HT that is Cllr Bob Mitchell appointed as a charity trustee to the Fen or Fifty Charity.

CARRIED

The list of parishioners who are eligible for the Christmas vouchers needs updating as there are a number of people in the village who are eligible but who have not received the vouchers. The charity can only allocate as people apply; It was suggested that there should be a bit more information about applying for the charity vouchers, possibly in the Informer.

It was also suggested that there should be a review on the age at which the parishioners become eligible. (Currently 60 for women and 65 for men). These comments will be passed onto the charities.

**12-13/210 POLICE MATTERS**

- a) The next meeting of the Neighbourhood Panel will be on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2013 at Soham Village College at 7pm. Councillors and members of the public were encouraged to attend.

**12-13/211 RECREATION GROUND MATTERS**

- a) It was proposed by RR and seconded by LN that a maintenance plan (required by the Football Foundation) is prepared in accordance with recommendations brought by the Recreation Ground Working Party to fertilise, seed and verti-drain the recreation ground as well as a grass cutting schedule.

CARRIED

The Recreation Ground Grass cutting contract is due for renewal in February. It was agreed that this will be drawn up by the Clerk and offered to Mr R Sheldrick.

It was agreed that the Kick-wall & Shelter should be moved to the tree line between the original recreation ground and the extension. The shelter will go near where the ash has been removed.

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It was proposed by CP and seconded by LN that the council purchase two new trees, one to be placed on each corner of the new part of the recreation ground. It was agreed that JM would source these.

JM

CARRIED

DB/  
Clerk

The Council agreed to approach Mitchell & Mayle to see if they can suggest anything regarding temporary toilets for the recreation ground.

- b) i. An email has been received from Adrian Sheldrick of the cricket club notifying the council that the stakes around the cricket square had been bent over.
- ii. The MUGA has been swept and re-sanded and a report has been received from Peter Knight of Bury Turfcare stating that there are a number of issues of concern about the health and safety which need to be addressed. A quotation will be sought from Peter Knight for the work he recommends and a second opinion and price will also be sought from another company.

Clerk

- c) It was proposed by RR and seconded by LN that the Council do not allow Jigsaw Cambridgeshire Archaeology to carry out a geophysical survey on the recreation ground during July as it would intrude on an integral part of the cricket outfield.

Clerk

7 in favour  
2 against

CARRIED

- d) The clerk will source prices for surfaces for the kick-wall and bring them back to the next meeting.

Clerk

- e) The Council is still looking into the possibilities for an equipment store.

**12-13/212 VILLAGE HALL REPORT**

- a) The Children's Centre has stopped using the hall for the tea and toast group on a Thursday because of the state of the ceiling.

**12-13/213 ICA REPORT**

- a) A deeper hole than expected has been left because of the Archaeology carried out; there will be extra costs involved but these should be covered by contingency. No costs have been received yet.

Murfitts are due to start on site on 28<sup>th</sup> January.

- b) Leon Russell of Mildenhall Monumentals has offered to donate a commemorative plaque for the New Community Centre when it opens. This information will be passed to the architect so that it can be included in the project plans.

**12-13/214 CEMETERY & CHURCHYARD MATTERS**

It has been reported that some of the graves on the right hand side of the cemetery have sunk. This is due to the amount of heavy rain we have had and the graves will be refilled with soil as soon as the weather permits.

Artificial Flowers and vases are still being taken from the cemetery; this will be reported at the Neighbourhood Panel Meeting and mentioned in the Informer.

- a) It was proposed by PW and seconded by CP that the purchase of exclusive right of burial is approved for Geoff Hannah (CR)

CARRIED

**12-13/215 COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT & BUSINESS**

- a) The County Council are currently working out their budgets for the forthcoming financial year. They have received a grant allocation from central government which again is not sufficient and there are strict regulations in place about how much council tax can be raised. £40m worth of savings were made during the last financial year and a further £30m are to be made next year. Reductions in expenditure will affect every department in the CC. However there are limits by which expenditure can be reduced. Where possible services are being shared with adjoining local authorities particularly Northamptonshire. There have been reductions in staffing levels and a number of senior staff have gone leaving an increased number of empty offices.

The budget will be approved at the February meeting.

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- b) The District Council are also currently looking at their budgets for the forthcoming financial year.
- i. ECDC has announced that it has been successful in its £5million grant application to Central Government to improve recycling services.
  - ii. Car Parking Consultation - Notification has been received that ECDC are inviting the public to give their opinions on how a car parking scheme will operate in Ely. The survey can be carried out online or a paper copy can be requested.

**12-13/216 MONTHLY FINANCIAL MATTERS**

- a) It was proposed by RR and seconded by PW that the December Bank Reconciliation is approved. Noted
- CARRIED
- b) It was proposed by RR and seconded by PW that the January Accounts are approved and paid. Clerk
- Salaries £2631.26  
Tax & NI £899.38  
Other Expenditure £25,627.17  
Petty Cash £53.44  
Total: £29,211.25
- CARRIED
- The cheques were signed by Cllr R Radcliffe and Cllr C Patterson
- c) It was proposed by PW and seconded by HT that the Council approve the extra 10 hours undertaken by the clerk during December as approved by the chair and vice-chair. CARRIED
- d) It was proposed by RR and seconded by CP that the Council leave the precept as previously agreed. CARRIED

**12-13/217 HIGHWAYS/FOOTPATH MATTERS (brought forward)**

- a) Clerk
- i. An email has been received from Gavin Wiseman at the County Council informing them of the footpath bids that he has submitted for approval in Isleham. As yet none of these has been put forward to be carried out. The Council asked C Cllr Powley if he would take this back to the County Council as the paths are in very poor condition and there is a substantial elderly population in the village.
  - ii. Repairing pot holes is on-going.
  - iii. HT asked if the two dips by the bridge on the Prickwillow Road could be levelled as cars are travelling on the wrong side of the road to avoid them.

**12-13/218 CORRESPONDENCE/MATTERS FOR INFORMATION ONLY**

- a) Weekly Highlights are being sent to Councillors by email. Noted
- b) A letter & accounts have been received from Staploe Transport Association however the Council expressed their concerns that they had not been properly notified about the ending of the service; that charges to allow the service could have been implemented sooner. The Council don't feel enough of a fight was put up to keep the service and still require further information; How many Isleham residents used the service in the last three months? Why was a decision to charge for the service not taken earlier? Clerk
- c) The CAPALC has been distributed to all Councillors Noted
- d) Thank you letter from MAGPAS Noted
- e) Dial-a-Ride AGM Noted

**12-13/219 PLANNING MATTERS**

- a) Clerk
- Planning Applications
- 12/01028/FUL Proposed alterations and conversion of existing clunch barn for ancillary accommodation at 41 Mill Street, Isleham for Mr A George – The Council had no objections to the proposal as long as there is sufficient off road parking.
- 12/01029/LBC Proposed alterations and conversion of existing clunch barn for ancillary accommodation at 41 Mill Street, Isleham for Mr A George – no objection.

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- b) Planning Approvals  
12/00831/FUM Application to replace extant planning permission 09/00475/FUM for demolition of existing village and pavilion to provide new single storey community centre with play area, vehicular drop off point and associated parking. Relocation of all-weather football pitch and column lighting, kick wall and cricket nets for Isleham Parish Council. 12/00752/FUL Modification of existing barn, modification of existing shed, change of use at Chalk Farm, Temple Road, Isleham for Mr Brian Prince  
12/00825/FUL Demolition of existing house and construction of two bedroom chalet with double garage at 34 Prickwillow Road, Isleham for Mr D Butler
- c) Other Planning Matters  
i. Approval has been received from ECDC for tree works on the Recreation Ground to fell the Ash.  
ii. Community Infrastructure Levy

Noted

Noted

**12-13/220 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

- a) 4<sup>th</sup> February 2013

**12-13/221 AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING**

*No matters were raised for inclusion in the agenda for the next meeting. DB reminded Councillors to notify the Clerk of any business and payments at least 7 days before the next meeting.*

- a) There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.42pm

- 1) LGA 1972 s85
- 2) Dec of Interest Parish Councils (Model Code of Conduct) Order 2012
- 3) Minutes LGA 1972 Sch 12, para 41(2)

**Signed:** .....

**Chairman**

**Date:** .....