

ISLEHAM PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH MEETING HELD MONDAY 22nd MARCH 2010

Those present:- Chairman Cllr D Beckett, The Clerk, Cllr Earl, Cllr Carter, Cllr Mrs Hobbs, Cllr Mrs R Thompson, Cllr Mrs Malkin, Cllr Mrs Wilkes,
County Councillor Powley,
15 Parishioners
Apologies: Cllr Neal, Cllr Garbett, Cllr Baines, Cllr Mrs R Thompson,
County Councillor Palmer

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

I. **Approval of Last Meetings Minutes**

It was proposed by Mrs Wilkes and seconded by Mrs Hobbs that the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held Monday 20th April 2009 are approved following an amendment to the figure for the Lady Maynard's Charity accounts being changed from £1017.62 to £8352

ALL IN FAVOUR

II. **Comments/Questions from members of the public**

Mrs Pope would like to be kept informed about any developments with the sale of telephone boxes.

Mr Alberry-King asked why the Council tax was being paid to Thaxted. The chairman explained that a move was made 3-4 years ago forming a partnership with Forest Heath & Breckland who then formed a company to take over their own tax affairs rather than have an outside company do the work for them.

Mr Challis asked if the situation with plastic bottle collections could be clarified and the chairman confirmed that they will cease from Friday 26th which means Isleham has had its last plastic bottle collection. The Clerk will put posters up in the village for parishioner's information.

It was proposed by a member of the Lady Peyton's Charity committee that the District Council are approached about bringing the allotment land owned by the charity into the development envelope as they have been approached several times about selling more land for affordable housing development and they feel that the village would benefit financially if they were able to sell some of the land at the full market value.

The Chairman pointed out that the Charity do not need approval to take this matter forward however they were keen to hear the views of the village on this matter.

There were a number of reservations about this proposal within the meeting parishioner's are keen for more affordable homes but not for more development in general as they feel the infrastructure of the village is not sufficient.

III. **Treasurers Reports**

It was proposed by Cllr Mrs Wilkes and seconded by Carter that the audited financial statement for the year ended March 31st 2009 as presented by the Clerk is approved.

ALL IN FAVOUR

It was proposed by Cllr Earl and seconded by Cllr Mrs Hobbs that the Dunstall Charity

Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2009 are approved.

ALL IN FAVOUR

The Fen or Fifty accounts were presented to the meeting by the clerk in the absence of Cllr Baines.

It was proposed by Mrs Howe and seconded by Cllr Mrs Malkin that accounts for the year ended 28th February 2010 are approved.

ALL IN FAVOUR

The accounts for the Lady Maynard's & Others charity were presented to the meeting by Cllr Earl who pointed out that he had not received the information for the final quarter so the figures did not represent the final figure for the year.

It was proposed by Cllr Mrs Hobbs and seconded by Cllr Carter that the Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2009 are approved.

ALL IN FAVOUR

The accounts for the Deborah Fletcher charity were presented to the meeting by Cllr Carter.

It was proposed by Cllr Mrs Wilkes and seconded by Cllr Earl that the Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2009 are approved.

ALL IN FAVOUR

The Lady Peyton's Charity Accounts were not presented at the meeting; anyone who wishes to can look at them on the Charity Commission website.

IV. Dunstall Apprentice Grant

It was proposed by Peter Flatt and seconded by Cllr Mrs Wilkes that the Dunstall Apprentice Grant remains at £220 for the ensuing year.

ALL IN FAVOUR

V. Parish Council Reports:

a. Waste Core Strategy Report

Cllr Baines reported that the 'Waste Core Strategy' document shows that there is to be a development at Wicken to remove 1.5 million tonnes of limestone from near Wicken Fen which may cause a drainage problem in the future.

The other area which may be of some concern is Snailwell where it is planned to 'build' a Metals Recycling Site which will be as big as the current industrial centre.

b. Allotment Report

The Parish Council are responsible for the Dunstall and Three Tree Allotment sites and Mrs R Thompson brought a report outlining plans for a publicity campaign to be carried out this year and also the possibility of forming an allotment association for the village which would be open to tenants of all the allotment sites. The working party have undertaken to hold two allotment inspections per year and there will be a prize for the best kept allotment to be presented at Gala Day.

VI. Police Report

A report was submitted by PCSO Barbara Neill outlining the main areas of concern identified in the village over the last year. These included speeding, anti-social behaviour and parking problems at the school. Surgeries are being held on Thursday afternoons at 3.30pm however a member of the public is yet to attend one.

VII. ICA Report

The Parish Council have secured grant funding from WREN Waste Recycling Group of £50,000 towards the cost of moving and renewing the AWSA.

Planning permission for the new centre has been received.

Following the resignation of Philip Aspland as Chairman of the management of ICA has been under close scrutiny and a way forward has been worked out where the Chairmen of the various committees will form a management group to oversee the progress of the Centre and thankfully Philip has agreed to be part of this management group. Currently we are working on the specifications and drawings for the Centre to enable us to go out to tender for the work, also we are having to evaluate who we use as an architect as Darren Heffer has left the Johns Practice. Fundraising events are planned for April when there will be a community yard sale and also in the summer a 3 day event is planned around Gala Day. New people are joining the committees but there is always room for more so if you are interested please contact Philip, Derrick or Diane.

VIII. Reports from various interest groups

The Clerk wrote this year to all of the village interest groups asking if they would like to submit a report to this meeting and I am pleased to say that a number of reports have been received and there are also a several representatives here to give a verbal report:

- a. The Isleham Twinning Association sent a report (read out by the Clerk) outlining the events that took place during 2009 and informing us that since January this year they have been encouraging a liaison between the schools of the two villages.
- b. A report was received from the Isleham Art Group; this was read to the meeting by Cllr Mrs Hobbs, the group was only formed last year and they are hoping for new members when the group becomes better known.
- c. A report was received from Fred Preece of the Gala Committee and was read to the meeting by Cllr Earl. The Gala Committee expressed their thanks to the Parish Council for their continued support of the Gala Day.
- d. Adrian Sheldrick attended the meeting and gave a report on the activities of the Cricket Club during 2009 and a promising season for 2010.
- e. Robin Grant has run the parish website for the last 8 years - it was the desire of the meeting that a letter is sent to him thanking him for all the work he has put into it during this period of time. The site was recently taken over by Clive Patterson who sent a report about the current status of the website; this was read out by the Chairman who also proposed a note of thanks to Clive for his efforts in improving the site and making it more user friendly.
- f. Ed Mayall attended the meeting to give an update on the Isleham Informer it was good to hear that the publication is being used by Netherhall in their media studies department.
- g. Janice Pope brought a very lively report on the activities of the WI during 2009. The group meets monthly in the village hall apart from June when they always have an outing.
- h. Vernon Place gave an interesting report on the current activities of the Isleham Society and mentioned the need for volunteers to help with the community archive web site.
- i. A report was received from the Busy Bees toddler group and was read to the meeting by Cllr Mrs Wilkes. The group has been active over the last year although the future of it is uncertain as they will need new leaders in September.
- j. A report was received from the Pound Lane Free Church outlining their activities during 2009 and welcoming all to their free coffee mornings. The report was read to the meeting by Cllr Mrs Malkin.
- k. Dan Hardingham attended the meeting on behalf of the youth football club and was very enthusiastic about the number of youngsters who currently attend and the prospect of up

25% more joining this coming year.

The Chairman thanked all those who brought or sent reports to the meeting and also said how much he appreciated all those who give time to running these groups for the benefit of the village.

IX. Soham Vision

Soham Vision is here; the consultation period ends on 31st March and there are a number of books and response forms that can be taken away and returned to ECDC.

The biggest advantage for Isleham will be the eastern gateway - a roundabout on the bypass connecting East Fen Drove and Hasse Road with one new road into Soham making it far more accessible to Isleham Residents. A number of improvements are planned for the High Street making it more attractive to visitors.

Talks ongoing with network rail about upgrading the railway between Soham & Ely and it is hoped that there will be a positive outcome from these.

X. Chairman's Report

- The Parish Plan has been completed and will be presented to the LSP on 10th May
- The Recreation Ground has had a lot of use and as a PC we are trying to maintain it which means it needs reseeding (had a consultant look at the grass), spraying and fertilising regularly would like to record a vote of thanks to Ray Sheldrick for all his hard work to keep the recreation ground in good condition.
- The Village Hall is still well used and has been maintained by David Green - thanks to him
- Thanks to Arthur for looking after the play area
- Potholes have been reported and repaired as quickly as has been practical owing to the weather conditions currently working on parts of Prickwillow Road
- The new section of the cemetery has now been started and was consecrated on 5th February (Bishop of Huntingdon) my thanks go to Sid Cox for his hard work in keeping the cemetery in such good condition
- The dog bins were installed last April as planned although there still seems to be a number of dog owners who are not clearing up after their pets
- The Informer continues to be published 6 times a year and this could not be done without a reliable team of volunteers producing and delivering so again I wish to thank them for all their hard work.
- As we reported earlier work on the New Community Centre continues to progress and once again I am indebted to Philip for all his efforts and also those of his team of willing volunteers
- Work has been carried out on the Nature Reserve on the Fordham Road and more is planned to be carried out in April
- I wish to express my gratitude to the Councillors for all their hard work over the past year.
- My thanks also go to Diane for all her hard work as the clerk, keeping us all on the straight and narrow and for her dedication and service to the village.

The meeting closed at 9.01pm