

# IXWORTH & IXWORTH THORPE PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman: Councillor Ben Lord  
Clerk: Claire Usher  
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## Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2026

### At Ixworth Village Hall

**Councillors Present:** Ben Lord (Chairman), Terry Lilley, Sam Linton, Stephen Mann, Tony Molloy, Kate Rees and John Rowe

**Others in attendance:** Claire Usher (Clerk) and County Councillor Joanna Spicer and 1 member of the public.

The Chairman opened the meeting informing Councillors that John Sharpe has sadly passed away on Boxing Day following a short illness. He had been a Parish Councillor from 1979 – 2011, 32 years. He had also served as Chairman of the Parish Council. When he stepped down in 2011 he became the Parish Council's Tree Warden until only a few years ago. There was a minute silence to remember John.

140126/01     **Apologies for absence:** No apologies.

140126/02     **Declarations of Interest (DoI):** None.

**Dispensation:** Councillors noted no requests had been received and none were requested at the meeting.

140126/03     **Resignation:** West Suffolk Council had confirmed that no requests for an election to fill the vacancy on the Parish Council had been received following Clare Black's resignation within the timescale, therefore the Council will be able to fill the vacancy by co-option. Cllr Lord would place an item in the Ixworth magazine highlighting the two vacancies. It was also agreed that a Co-option policy be prepared for the next meeting.

140126/04     **Minutes of previous meeting:** All Councillors resolved to accept the minutes of the Parish Council meetings held on 10<sup>th</sup> December 2025 as a true reflection of the decisions made and authorised Cllr Lord to sign the minutes.

#### **Public Forum:**

140126/05     A member of the public highlighted the recent developments concerning Pakenham Fen and Sizewell C and the proposed lorry movements on the A143. He had been in contact with Sizewell C.

140126/06     **County Councillor Report:** County Cllr Joanna Spicer gave her tribute to John Sharpe who had been a Parish Councillor during her time as a County Councillor. Cllr Spicer

was very keen to see a meeting with Sizewell C regarding Pakenham Fen and felt that representatives from both Ixworth Parish Council and Pakenham Parish Council and Roger Spiller from Green Ixworth, should be invited to attend but to be led by Pakenham Parish Council.

Cllr Spicer was in conversations with Suffolk County Council to continue to add pressure for the need of a safe crossing over A143 in connection with the planning applications in the village, and the problem that still exists with the future parking of the school buses on Bardwell Road. The No Parking bond will just move the problems elsewhere. Cllr Lord confirmed that he was also writing to SCC and WSC as requested at the last Parish Council meeting highlighting the concerns the Parish Council has following approval of the planning permission at Land West of Bardwell Road.

As regards Devolution, a decision from the Government regarding future elections is forthcoming.

**District Councillor Report:** District Cllr John Griffiths was not in attendance.

**Planning:**

140126/07 Councillors noted that no planning applications had been made to the local District Council relating to Ixworth since the last parish council meeting.

Councillors noted that no planning decision had been made by the local District Council.

**Finance:**

140126/08 All Councillors confirmed receipt of the finance report for the period ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2025.

140126/09 **Bank Reconciliation** – Councillors received a bank reconciliation report prepared by the Clerk, the Community Account as of 31<sup>st</sup> December 2025 £908.58, the Business Account as of 31<sup>st</sup> December 2025 £91,789.18, total £92,697.76.

140126/10 **Receipts:** The Clerk confirmed that no receipts had been received.

140126/11 **Payments:** All Councillors resolved to approve the following gross payments by internet banking confirming a full schedule, supported by invoices and receipts, had been received prior to the meeting:

	Payee	Details	£
140126/12	Claire Usher	Clerks Wage	1077.98
140126/13	R Pye	Caretaker Cemetery	164.90
140126/14	HMRC	PAYE	45.87
140126/15	Jiggens Trust	Room Hire	35.70
140126/16	Clarks of Walsham	Goods for Cemetery	45.26
140126/17	Jose Mendez Acosta	Cemetery Maintenance	783.74
140126/18	Trevor Brown	Professional Charges	300.00
140126/19	CloudyIT	IT	114.32

140126/20	Claire Usher	Expenses	41.28
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140126/21 **Internal Audit:** All Councillors noted the interim internal audit that had been carried out by Trevor Brown. It was proposed by Cllr Rees and seconded by Cllr Linton that Trevor Brown be appointed as the Council's Internal Auditor for the end of year accounts 2025/26.

140126/22 **Ixworth Youth Junction – Application for financial support:**

This item was a request for funding on behalf of the Jiggins Trust, and the Clerk advised Cllr Mann to declare an interest as he is a Trustee of the Jiggins Trust and there was a conflict of interest as he too was a Parish Councillor and that he should leave the meeting. Cllr Mann was not happy to leave the meeting and questioned why as he believed he was a resident of the village and should remain. The Clerk explained again to Cllr Mann why he was being asked to leave in that he was not a resident when sitting in a meeting as a Councillor. Cllr Mann left the meeting whilst the discussion took place.

Councillors were concerned that the request for funding would be a large proportion of the Council's precept and whilst the Parish Council fully supports providing activities for the youth of the village, Councillors felt that further discussions with the Jiggins Trust would be appropriate to find the best way forward to support this. Cllr Rowe confirmed he would not support any financial assistance to the Jiggins Trust until all outstanding financial matters had been addressed and resolved. The Clerk was requested to contact the Jiggins Trust and arrange a meeting. It was agreed that Cllr Lord, Cllr Rees, Cllr Linton and Cllr Rowe be appointed to attend the meeting.

**Governance:**

140126/23 **IT Policy:** The Clerk had prepared the 1<sup>st</sup> draft of a new IT Policy. This was a policy that all Parish Councils were required to adopt. Councillors felt that a distinction needed to be included separating personal email addresses from the .gov.uk email addresses and some areas needed amending especially around social media.

140126/24 **Outstanding Actions and Clerks Report:** All Councillors had received a copy of the report prior to the meeting. The Clerk gave an update on the items still outstanding.

140126/25 **Health & Safety Update:** There were no issues to report.

140126/26 **Pakenham Fen:** Following the update provided by County Cllr Spicer regarding the proposed plans for Pakenham Fen, all Councillors agreed that a meeting with Sizewell C would be extremely beneficial but felt that the meeting should be led by Pakenham Parish Council. It was agreed to nominate Cllr Rees and Cllr Lilley to attend the meeting representing Ixworth & Ixworth Parish Council. County Cllr Spicer would also like to attend the meeting with Roger Spiller, Green Ixworth.

140126/27 **West Suffolk Traffic & Speeding Group:** The Clerk reported that this group was inviting a representative from the Parish Council to join them. It was felt, that at this time, the Parish Council would decline the offer.

- 140126/28      **Bin Emptying:** The Clerk reported that West Suffolk Council had reported that some of the bins in the village should be upgraded to larger bins. West Suffolk Council felt that if they were not upgraded then a second weekly bin collection would be necessary, but they had no capacity to include a second collection at the present time. The Clerk will await the list of bins that needed to be upgraded from West Suffolk Council.
  
- 140126/29      **Chairman’s Report:** Cllr Lord reported that he had recently seen from the local press how an application for 160 properties in Rougham promoted by the same applicant as the Langridge were approved by the Development Control Committee at West Suffolk Council. This was more than 30% the number of houses allocated in the Local Plan and gave rise to questioning what the purpose of a local plan is if the allocated housing quantity is to be ignored at the discretion of planning officers. Cllr Lord felt this is something we should pay close attention to given the large numbers requested for the Persimmon site that is grossly in excess of the local plan’s allocation.
  
- 140126/30      **Councillor’s Reports:** There were no items to report.
  
- 140126/31      **Correspondence:** There were no items to report. All correspondence had been circulated prior to the meeting.
  
- 140126/32      **Any other Council business for information to be noted or for inclusion in a future agenda:** IT Policy
  
- 140126/33      All Councillors noted that the next meeting of the Parish Meeting will be at 7.30pm on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2026 at the Village Hall.
  
- 140126/34      The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.00pm

Signed .....

Date .....