

IXWORTH AND IXWORTH THORPE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Ixworth & Ixworth Thorpe Parish Council meeting held at Ixworth Village Hall on 10th April 2019 at 7:30pm

Present: Cllr Ben Lord (Chairman) Cllrs David Reeve, Nick Laughton, Pam Shelton, Trevor Anderson, Terry Lilley and John Rowe

Also Present: Mandy Adlington (Parish Clerk), C Cllr Joanna Spicer MBE, D Cllr John Griffiths MBE and several members of the public

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs Wilson and Birrell.

2. Declarations of Interest

No declarations were made.

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

It was agreed by all present the Chairman sign the minutes as a true record of the meeting held on 13th March 2019.

4. Public Forum

Several residents made the following comments about planning application DC/19/0117;

- Area of proposed development states this is not a flood plain but residents showed photo evidence of this area being flooded. The river near the development is never dredged so the excess water floods onto the proposed development.
- Residents reported that roman remains were found, and are still there, on the site
- It was felt that access to the development was unsafe
- The area concerned is designated green belt land
- It was also felt this was over development of the area

The Chairman urged residents to raise their comments and concerns to West Suffolk Council and District Councillor John Griffiths.

Residents also made comment on the following issues;

- A request to have information of which Council is responsible for which areas within the village
- The resident expressed his disappointment that recently some trees had been cut within the village. Trees are important to air quality and the look of the village
- Pavements within the village are very uneven and patched, making walking and using wheelchairs, pushchairs and mobility scooters on them very dangerous
- Dropped kerbs within the village are unsuitable

Mrs Susan Spiller introduced herself as the new History Recorder for Ixworth.

5. Neighbourhood Plan

The Chairman read the following report received from the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group:

Drop-in events were held at the Village Hall on 16th and 23rd March. These were well attended by residents of all ages and provided a great deal of information. Many local issues were raised and the level of support for each opinion was roughly gauged by people adding stickers to wall-mounted lists. This formed the basis for the subsequent workshops. Many of the issues raised were not within the scope of the Neighbourhood Plan but will be passed on to interested parties

Our consultant held a workshop event on 2nd April at which residents worked in groups to add detail to issues relevant to the Neighbourhood Plan. There was a very enthusiastic response to this and the consultant took away a great deal of feedback for analysis. Further engagement with younger residents is needed and an appropriate method is being investigated.

The content of the questionnaire for the Local Housing Needs Survey has been agreed with Community Action Suffolk, as has the covering letter which will accompany it. The survey will be delivered to households on 1st/2nd June with a completion date of 17th June. Matthew Hancock's office has agreed to a mailshot to the Parish but not until after the local elections. A suggested text has been forwarded for a pre-Housing Survey mailing

A wash-up event is being planned for Saturday 18th May at which residents will be shown the input received so far. The location for this is yet to be decided but the Library has proven to be a very pleasant place at which to gather. The NPWG will make its wash-up displays and Group members available for the Annual Parish Meeting on 22nd May

Tessa Stonehouse has submitted a reconciliation report to Groundwork UK who issued the grant for last year. Once this has been signed off, she will be submitting a new application for a grant going forward.

6. Hempyard Bridge

C Cllr Spicer reported that she had no further information on the progress of this project. C Cllr Spicer stated that S.C.C. seemed unwilling to pass on the latest inspection report for the Parish Council to view. After a discussion it was resolved that Cllrs Lord and Rowe would meet to pursue this issue with the possibility of using the following tools to get this project moving;

- A Freedom of Information request for a copy of the report and the specification for the work needed to be carried out
- Writing to the Leader and Chief Executive of Suffolk County Council (SCC)
- Contacting West Suffolk Conservation Officer to request an enforcement notice to be issued for repairs to be carried out as the bridge is a listed structure
- Contact the press to publicise the continuing lack of repairs by S.C.C.

7. Report from County Councillor Joanna Spicer MBE

C Cllr Spicer reported the following;

- **Highways issues** - the priority sign at the traffic calming in the High Street will now be repaired urgently. Other items on the list that the Parish Council passed to her were also being looked at, such as flooding in Thetford Road and Stow Road
- **Yellow Lines** – the cost of installing yellow lines on the junction of Thetford Road and Peasecroft Road would be over £4000. It was suggested this cost would have to be met by the Parish Council. After a discussion where it was agreed that even if the Parish Council were willing to meet this cost then, as with other areas of the village, enforcement would unlikely be delivered. It was agreed for C Cllr Spicer to speak with the S.C.C. engineer to get the white lines repainted
- **Verge Cutting** – the A143 verge would be cut twice this year week beginning 13th June and week beginning 5th August. C roads around Ixworth would have one cut in week beginning 3rd June
- **Street Farm Lane & Chalk Lane roundabouts** – the two small roundabouts are not official roundabouts and it was not S.C.C. that painted the small arrows on the one in Street Farm Lane. C Cllr Spicer suggested placing a small article in the magazine asking residents in these areas if they wish to have arrows added to the Chalk Lane roundabout and any other suggestions they may have that may improve the area, such as the large bush on the roundabout being trimmed. This was agreed by all present
- **Ixworth Free School** – Access to the Community Centre at the Free School had not been gained and hopefully over the coming months, with the help of the VH Management Committee there are hopes it will be used again for Community activities

The Chairman reported that he had been sent an email from a concerned resident about a camper van and other parked cars along Thistledown Drive, near the Army Cadet Hut which was causing problems to the residents. C Cllr Spicer stated she would go and view the area.

8. Report from District Councillor John Griffiths MBE

D Cllr Griffiths reported the following;

- **Vertas Planning Application** – this application is still ongoing but hopefully there would be further information in May or June
- **Crown Lane Development Planning Application** – an amended application for the first section of this development may be made in the next week or so
- **Election 2019** – D Cllr Griffiths congratulated all members who had been re-elected in the 2019 Parish election

9. Planning

DC/19/0333 – Single storey detached annexe – The Willows, Stow Road, Ixworth – **No objection**

DC/19/0214 – (i) single storey side/rear extension (ii) conversion of outbuilding into studio – Ixworth Mill, Thetford Road, Ixworth **No objection**

DC/19/0215 – (i) demolish brick surround walls to external seating area at the South end of the house (ii) single storey extension attached to the South end of the house (iii) rebuild a derelict section of boundary wall and attach it to the South east corner of the utility room (iv) conversion and alterations to the outbuilding to create studio/office (v) all other works as listed in Heritage Statement – Ixworth Mill, Thetford Road, Ixworth

No objection

DC/19/0232 – 1no Oak framed garden room – 2 Riverview, Stow Road, Ixworth

No objection

DC/19/0117 – 4no dwellings and associated garages (following demolition of outbuildings) – Riverside Paddocks, Stow Road, Ixworth – Dover Farm Development Ltd

Objection

10. Accounts

The following accounts were agreed for payment;

Chq No 1315, 1316	Wages	£1284.06
Chq No 1317	West Suffolk Council	£153.92
Chq No 1318	Information Commissioner	£40.00
Chq No 1319	Ixworth VH	£218.93
Chq No 1320	SALC	£734.15
Chq No 1321	Conisbee	£718.42
Chq No 1322	Navigus Planning (NPWG)	£2280.00
Chq No 1323	A Adlington (Speedwatch)	£27.60
Direct Debit Nest Pensions		£27.99

The RFO (Responsible Finance Officer) was authorised to transfer £4000 by on-line transfer from the reserve account to the community account.

11. Ixworth Cemetery

A quote to install further wooden posts along the new road was received for £1030 + VAT. It was agreed by all present to accept this quote. The Clerk was instructed to contact the contractor to arrange a start date.

Cllr Lord reported that as agreed previously he had contacted Marcus Hopkins to secure the next section of the Cemetery.

Cllr Lilley reported the tap near the front gates of the Cemetery did not seem to be working. Cllr Lilley stated he would obtain a quote to repair the tap to discuss at the June meeting.

The Clerk stated the fence surrounding the bins was falling apart. It was agreed by all present that the Clerk could go ahead and replace or repair up to a cost of £400.

12. Play Area

After recent play area inspections by West Suffolk Council several issues had been raised. The Clerk had obtained a quote for all issues raised to be repaired. A quote for £4675 had been received and it was agreed by all present to accept this quote. The Clerk was instructed to contact the contractor to arrange a start date as soon as possible ready for the summer season.

13. Parish Election 2019

The Clerk confirmed that there were uncontested elections for the Parishes of Ixworth and Ixworth Thorpe. The following were elected for Ixworth – B Lord, B Birrell, J Rowe, N Laughton, D Reeve, P Shelton and T Lilley S Wilson was elected for Ixworth Thorpe.

After the election there will be a vacancy for Ixworth. Co-option to fill the vacancy would be discussed at the May meeting.

14. Correspondence

The following correspondence was received:

- **C Cllr Spicer** – Yellow Lines Ixworth
- **Matt Hancock** – Post Office
- **Pigeon** – Suggested Meeting Dates
- **Post Office** – Volunteer Needed
- **Steve Wilson** – Cemetery Bins
- **Resident** – Concerns about Traffic in High Street
- **Healthwatch Suffolk**
- **NPWG** – Email about Drop in session
- **NPWG** – Agenda
- **Resident** – Café in High Street (passed to VH Committee)
- **Suffolk Local History Council** – Recorder Volunteer
- **Steve Wilson** – Monthly Report
- **West Suffolk Council** – Planning Newsletter
- **NPWG** – Monthly Report

Cllr Shelton volunteered to be the contact point for the Post Office and the Clerk was instructed to pass her details to the Post Office.

It was agreed to meet with Pigeon on 15th May 2019.

15. Chairman's Report

The Chairman reported he had attended the Free School for the official opening of the Multi Use Games Area and was pleased at what a nice job they had done.

The Chairman suggested having a Vice-Chairman. A discussion was held, and it was agreed to postpone this decision until the Standing Orders are reviewed in the coming months.

It was also suggested the Annual Parish Meeting is moved to Tuesday 21st May at 7pm in Ixworth Free School, rather than Wednesday 22nd May as previously agreed. The Chairman stated he would place an article in the magazine advertising this meeting.

16. Clerk's Report

The Clerk reported the following;

- **Church Lights** – the electrician had repaired the spotlights in Ixworth Cemetery and now that a key had been obtained he would visit Ixworth Thorpe Church to repair the faulty light
- **St Mary's Churchyard** – a meeting had yet to be arranged for discussions about who is responsible for work in a closed Churchyard. The Clerk felt it would be best to wait until the new Vicar was in place and the Clerk was obtaining further information from West Suffolk
- **On-going Items** – the Clerk was still looking into the following - .gov.uk email addresses for Councillors, review of Standing Orders and Financial Orders and paperless working (planning)

17. Councillor's Reports

Cllr Shelton reported the mobile Post Office van was very popular.

Cllr Rowe requested if the Clerk could enquire as to why Ixworth has only eight Councillors when other smaller Parishes has more.

Cllr Reeve stated that many residents were upset at losing the Café now as well as the Post Office and were worried that all facilities within the village were disappearing.

Cllr Laughton read Steve Wilson's monthly report. Cllr Laughton also informed members that the Robin's Cope Wildlife Group hoped to have their first session of the year within this month.

Cllr Lord thanked Cllr Anderson for all his hard work over the last eight years for the Parish Council. All members also offered their thanks.

18. Date of the Next Meeting

It was confirmed the date of the next meeting would be 8th May 2019 at 7.30 pm in Ixworth Village Hall. This meeting will be the Annual Parish Council Meeting.

With no further business the meeting closed at 9.45pm.

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Signed

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Date