

IXWORTH AND IXWORTH THORPE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Ixworth & Ixworth Thorpe Parish Council meeting held at Ixworth Village Hall on 13th February 2019 at 7:30pm

Present: Cllr Ben Lord (Chairman) Cllrs David Reeve, Sophia Wilson, Pam Shelton, Trevor Anderson and John Rowe

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

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs Laughton, Birrell and Lilley – apologies were accepted by all present.

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 9th January 2019.

4. Public Forum

The Chairman of the Village Hall Management Committee enquired if there had been any progress on transferring the playing land from the Parish Council to the Village Hall. The Clerk stated the current Solicitors were extremely slow and requested if another Solicitor could be contacted. It was agreed by all present to speed this item up the Clerk could contact another Solicitor. The Clerk was also instructed to write to the current Solicitors expressing disappointment in their help with this issue.

5. Neighbourhood Plan

The Chairman of the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group (NPWG) gave the following report on recent progress to members;

- **New Clerk** – The new clerk was getting up to speed with progress on the plan so far
- **Questionnaire** – The number of responses from the initial questionnaire had been disappointing but over the next few months there would be more public engagement with drop in sessions and leaflet distribution.
- **Housing Need Study & Site Allocations** – The Chairman requested members approve the NPWG proposal to carry out a housing needs study and site allocations. It had been recommended by the NPWG consultant and advised by local planning officers. Information gained in these studies would help obtain the evidence needed to produce the neighbourhood plan

A very lengthy and detailed discussion was held on the advantages and disadvantages of carrying out a housing needs study and site allocation. It was resolved to accept the NPWG recommendation to carry out the housing needs study and site allocation.

Cllr Lord urged the NPWG to accept the offer from Matthew Hancock MP to circulate one mailshot of information to residents free of charge.

It was agreed for the Clerk to contact a member of the NPWG to discuss adding information to the Parish Council's website.

6. Hempyard Bridge

C Cllr Spicer reported that she had received an email from Mark Stevens to inform her that the repairs to the bridge were being considered in a the financial year.

Cllr Rowe reported another large chunk had fallen off the bridge and, if not repaired soon, more damage would occur. Cllr Rowe urged C Cllr Spicer to bring back to the members a final decision on whether the bridge will or will not be repaired. Cllr Rowe requested if the technical specifications could be given to the Parish Council so they could approach another Suffolk County Council approved contractor to obtain another quote to present to Suffolk County Council. The specification had been requested previously but not been supplied. A request under the Freedom of Information for this information would be discussed at a future meeting if the information was not forthcoming.

7. Report from County Councillor Joanna Spicer MBE

C Cllr Spicer reported the following;

- **School Transport** – C Cllr Spicer reported the new school transport scheme would come into effect in September. Parents would receive letters on 1st March stating which school their child had been allocated and on 2nd March they would receive another letter stating their transport arrangements
- **Highway Issues** – C Cllr Spicer reported she would be meeting with a highways officer in Ixworth to discuss the outstanding highway issues in the Parish. C Cllr Spicer requested if the Clerk could email her an updated list. The Clerk was instructed to email the list the next morning, ready for the meeting
- **Mulley's Roundabout** – C Cllr Spicer enquired if the Parish council had contacted Marketing Force to discuss the possible sponsorship of Mulley's roundabout. The Chairman stated he would contact them to arrange a meeting

8. Report from Borough Councillor John Griffiths MBE

B Cllr Griffiths sent his apologies for not being able to attend the meeting.

9. Planning

No planning applications had been received for consideration this month.

10. Accounts

The following accounts were agreed for payment;

Chq No 1296, 1297	Wages	£1246.07
Chq No 1298	St Eds BC	£37.70
Chq No 1299	Viking	£169.89
Chq No 1300	Ixworth Village Hall	£170.13
Chq No 1301	Tuddenham Press (NP)	£584.40
Chq No 1302	M J Nunn Surfacing	£7556.92
Direct Debit Nest Pensions		£15.83

The RFO (Responsible Finance Officer) was authorised to transfer £9500 by on-line transfer from the reserve account to the community account.

It was agreed the RFO could purchase, at a cost of £49, a program to run the Parish Council's pay role.

11. Correspondence

- **NPWG – Various items – discussed in item 5**
- **SCC** – Ixworth Thorpe Blocked Drain Report
- **Kim Barnes-Clark** (West Suffolk) Introduction
- **Message from Cllr Midway-White** (West Suffolk) – Cabinet Member for Housing x 2
- **Post Office** – Mobile Van Delay
- **Police Connect** – Counterfeit Notes
- **S.C.C.** Temporary Traffic Order
- **West Suffolk** – Housing Register Press Release
- **M Hancock MP** – Ixworth Post Office
- **S. Wilson** – January Report
- **Joanna Spicer** – Footpath in Ixworth
- **Ben Lord** – Crown Lane Development
- **John Griffiths** – Crown Lane Development
- **Post Office** – Ixworth Post Services
- **Pigeon** – Meeting Request
- **Resident** – Litter Bin Request
- **Resident** – Broken signs
- **Terry Lilley** – Residents' concerns on trees near the Fire Station
- **Friends of IPS** – Grant Discussion

It was agreed to get a quote for a new litter bin near the permissive footpath at Mulley's garage. It was agreed to grant £150 to Friends of IPS for the science week. It was agreed to pass on the details of the broken sign to

C Cllr Spicer. It was agreed to pass on the details of the residents' concerns on the trees near the Fire Station to St Edmundsbury Borough Council. The Clerk was instructed to approach Pigeon to request a detailed brief on what they wish to discuss with the Parish Council before a meeting is arranged.

12. Election 2019

The Clerk reported she had attended a training session on the forthcoming Council election. The date for the election is Thursday 2nd May 2019. The Notice of Election will be displayed from 22nd March. Nomination papers for anyone wishing to be elected need to be handed in to St Edmundsbury Borough Council by 4pm on 3rd April 2019.

The Clerk was instructed to place an article in the Village magazine informing residents on how to become a Parish Councillor.

13. Ixworth Cemetery

The Clerk informed members the new extended road with a new turning circle had been completed. It was agreed that Cllr Anderson would obtain a quote to extend the wooden poles along the new road. The posts are required to stop vehicles parking of the burial ground.

14. Chairman's Report

The Chairman reported he had attended the Memorial Service for Mr David Cross. The Chairman reported he had spoken with the Cross family and no other footpath had ever been along Thetford Road.

15. Clerk's Report

The Clerk reported the following;

- **Play Area** – the rotten poles on the larger climbing frame and the jungle walker were being replaced in week beginning 18th February 2019. Once the poles had been replaced the other issues such replacing bark and levelling matting could then be carried out
- **.gov.uk email and website** – this item is more complicated than first appeared, so this item is still ongoing
- **St Mary's and All Saints Churches** – a meeting to discuss issues still needed to be arranged
- **Annual Parish Meeting** – It was agreed to hold the meeting on Wednesday 22nd May 2019 – venue to be confirmed

16. Councillor Reports

Cllr Anderson stated he would be taking down the lights from the tree in the High Street and would store them until needed again in December. It was agreed to enquire if St Edmundsbury Borough Council own the tree as it needs trimming.

Cllr Reeve reported that the Walnut trees in St Mary's Churchyard needed work. It was agreed to obtain a quote and discuss further once a meeting had been arranged with a member of the Church Council.

Cllr Wilson enquired if any update was available on the footpath sign. The Clerk reported that the Rights of Way Officer from S.C.C. was looking into this issue.

Cllr Wilson reported that the V.A.S system had been deployed in Ixworth Thorpe this week.

Cllr Wilson reported the bulbs in the lights at Ixworth Thorpe Church were different and requested they are changed to bulbs that are the same.

Cllr Reeve also requested if an electrician could look at the floodlight highlighting the clock in St Mary's as it did not seem to be working.

The Clerk was instructed to contact an electrician to repair these problems.

It was reported that there had been some fly tipping near the gated area, belonging to Anglian Water, in Thetford Road. The Clerk was instructed to report this issue.

17. Date of the Next Meeting

It was confirmed the next meeting would be held on 13th March at 7.30pm in Ixworth Village Hall.

With no further business the meeting closed at 9.05pm.

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Signed

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Date