

IXWORTH AND IXWORTH THORPE PARISH COUNCIL

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

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

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

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr John Rowe – apologies were accepted by all present.

2. Declarations of Interest

Declarations of non-pecuniary interested were received from Cllrs Laughton and Lilley for item 11, Ixworth Village Hall.

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 February 2019.

4. Public forum

The following was highlighted by the public present;

- **Speedwatch** – The Community Speedwatch team informed members that due to the weather conditions there had not been as much activity as the group would have liked. The group also passed to the Clerk the Speedar Radar gun for calibration and battery checks. An email from a concerned resident was also read out by the group about the speeding traffic in the High Street. Unfortunately, the Speedwatch Group are unable to work in the High Street.
- The group enquired if there had been any progress on whether the Highways department had given permission for V.A.S. sign to be used in Stow Road and Thetford Road. C Cllr Spicer requested the Clerk to email her further information on this matter and she would investigate it.
- **Ixworth Café** – A resident stated she was concerned the village had no cafe at present. The resident had experience in running such a business and enquired if the Parish Council would like to discuss further about the possibility of opening another cafe. Cllr Laughton requested she email the Parish Council and they would pass her details to him as a member of the Village Hall Committee.
- **Footpath Over the By Pass** – Residents enquired if any further information was available about the footbridge over the by pass as crossing that road was very dangerous. The Chairman stated that this matter was ongoing as topical surveys were still being acquired.

5. Neighbourhood Plan

The following report was received from the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group;

- The NPWG Chair and Vice-Chair held a meeting with the Planning Department on 12 February in company with our consultant.
- Drop-in events have been arranged at the Village Hall, on 16 and 23 March, at which the public will be informed about the Neighbourhood Plan and opinions sought on relevant issues. This will also be an opportunity to recruit participants for the Workshops.
- Workshops will be held at the Village Hall on 2 April; these will take place during the afternoon and evening. Conducted by the consultant they will seek to gain public input in a structured manner. Participation will be a mixture of pre-booked and walk-up.
- A renewed publicity campaign by poster, leaflet and social media has been started in advance of these events. This has already stimulated much interest.
- The PC Chair attended the NPWG meeting on 5 March and updated the Group on development within Ixworth. The Group agreed to assist in calming rumours in the village resulting from recent work along the bypass.
- The Chair and NP Clerk met with Community Action Suffolk on 11 March to begin the Local Housing Needs Survey process.

- The Vice-Chair met with the PC Clerk and our graphics expert on 1 March to advance the NP page on the PC website. It was hoped that NP content would begin to appear from 8 March.

6. Hemyard Bridge

C Cllr Spicer reported that she still did not have any further information on a possible start date on the repair of the bridge. C Cllr Spicer stated she would chase the relevant department and give another report at the April meeting.

7. Report from County Councillor Joanna Spicer MBE

C Cllr Spicer reported the following;

- **Ixworth Free School** – use of community facilities were still being investigated
- **Vertas** – Issues with this application were still ongoing
- **Footpaths around the Parish** – C Cllr Spicer requested if she could have a volunteer to walk around the village to assess footpaths – Mr Wilson volunteered to assist
- **Highway Issues** – C Cllr Spicer requested if the Parish Council were happy for her to arrange a meeting with a highways officer to discuss issues around the Parish. All agreed this would be a good idea and to confirm some suggested dates
- **School Transport** – C Cllr Spicer reported all families had now received their letters about school places for September and they had also received their letters about transport to the respective schools
- **Footbridge** – C Cllr Spicer agreed that crossing the by pass was difficult and hoped money received from future developments would help achieve this project

8. Report from Borough Councillor John Griffiths MBE

B Cllr Griffiths reported the following;

- **Persimmon (Crown Lane Development)** – Planning application issues on this development are still ongoing so no further new information available
- **Vertas** – Issues with this application are still ongoing
- **Locality Budget** – B Cllr Griffiths was pleased to inform members that he had been able to grant his full locality budget to community groups in his ward for the financial year 2018/2019

9. Planning

No planning applications had been received this month for the Council to consider.

10. Accounts

It was resolved to pay the following accounts;

Chq No 1303, 1304	Wages	£1353.58
Chq No 1305	H M Rev & Customs	£542.23
Chq No 1306	Viking	£157.27
Chq No 1307	Profile Business Supplies (NP)	£45.80
Chq No 1308	Multisigns (NP)	£39.60
Chq No 1309	Ixworth VH	£155.13
Chq No 1310	SALC	£30.00
Chq No 1311	T.O.P. Garden Services	£615.00
Chq No 1312	LCPAS	£120.00
Chq No 1313	Playdale Playgrounds	£724.15
Chq No 1314	A Adlington	£168.90
Direct Debit Nest Pensions		£21.36

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

11. Ixworth Village Hall

It was resolved to transfer the Village Hall land to Jiggins Memorial Hall and Playing Fields to the Jiggins Memorial Hall and Playing Fields C.I.O. for no consideration. It was resolved that once the documentation was available two current Councillors would sign the paperwork on behalf of the Parish Council.

12. Correspondence

The following correspondence had been received;

- **St Eds** – Response re trees on corner of St Farm Lane
- **Pigeon** – Discussion Points for a Meeting
- **Matt Hancock** – Post Office
- **Post Office** – Stanton mobile Services
- **Unknown Resident** – Bin Obstructing the Pavement
- **Resident** – Fordham's Site
- **Chairman/Persimmon** - Letters
- **St Eds** – Planning Department Newsletter
- **Post Office** – Mobile Service
- **St Eds** – Spring Clean
- **St Eds** – Rural Services Network
- **Steve Wilson** – Monthly Report
- **NPWG** – Monthly Report

It was resolved for the Chairman, Cllr Lord, to write to Persimmon in reply to their recent letter.

The Clerk passed information received from St Edmundsbury Borough Council to Cllr Terry Lilley about the trees near St Farm Lane to pass on to concerned residents.

It was resolved to arrange a meeting with Pigeon after the Parish Council elections on 2nd May 2019 as current members may or may not be the same as at present.

13. Election 2019

The Clerk informed members of the key dates for the Parish ~Council Elections on 2nd May 2019. The Clerk informed members that she held copies of the necessary nomination papers if they required them.

14. Ixworth Cemetery

Cllr Anderson informed members that he had met with the contractor to install further posts around the edge of the new road. The quote had not yet been received so this item will be added to the April agenda for further discussion.

15. Chairman's Report

The Chairman reported he been invited to the official opening of the Multi Use Games Area at Ixworth Free School.

16. Clerk's Report

The Clerk reported the following;

- **Lights in Ixworth Thorpe and Ixworth Church** – the electrician had been informed and would visit the sites to assess the situation
- **Annual Parish Meeting** – the date of the meeting was confirmed as 22nd May 2019 and it was agreed for Cllr Lord to approach Ixworth Free School to hold the meeting there. It was also agreed Cllr Lord would write an article for the magazine inviting and urging residents to attend.
- **St Mary's Church** – a meeting was still to be arranged to discuss the responsibilities surrounding issues at the Church
- **Friends of Ixworth Primary School** – the Clerk had been informed that the grant for the science project that been applied for was no longer required

17. Councillors Reports

Cllr Laughton read the monthly report from Mr Steve Wilson. Cllr Laughton reported that he had been informed that trade in the other shops in the village had taken a downturn after the closure of the Cafe.
Cllr Wilson reported the bus stop sign had been knocked off the bus shelter in Ixworth Thorpe.
Cllr Reeve reported that a resident was willing to be the Parish Council tree officer if required.
Cllr Wilson enquired if any action had yet been taken to install a new hedge in the play area. It was agreed for the Clerk and Cllr Wilson to arrange a meeting at the play to discuss further.

18. Date of the Next Meeting

It was confirmed the next meeting would be held on 10th April 2019 at 7.30pm in Ixworth Village Hall.

19. Exclusion of Press & Public

To resolve that, pursuant to the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960, the press and public be excluded for the remaining items of business on the grounds that publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by the reason of the confidential nature of the business to be discussed.

20. Staffing

With no further business the meeting closed at 8.55pm.

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Signed

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Date