

IXWORTH AND IXWORTH THORPE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Ixworth & Ixworth Thorpe Parish Council meeting held at Ixworth Village Hall on 11th December at 7:30pm

Present: Cllr Ben Lord (Chairman) Cllrs David Reeve, Nick Laughton, Pam Shelton, Terry Lilley, Ben Birrell, John Rowe and Vicky Sutton (arrived at 8.30pm)

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 Councillor Wilson – apology was accepted by all present.

2. Declarations of Interest

Non-pecuniary declarations of interest were received from Cllrs (Councillors) Laughton and Lilley for item 9 (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 November 2019.

4. Public Forum

The following points were raised by residents present;

- Batteries do not seem to be collected for recycling by the bin collectors anymore – DC (District Councillor) Griffiths would investigate this issue
- Trees along the by-pass have been cut in the past – which authority is responsible
- A refuse skip on the road outside Peel House is dangerous
- Advertisement Boards – which Council is responsible – it was confirmed this is S.C.C. (Suffolk County Councils) responsibility
- Mr Sharpe enquired if the Parish Council (PC) still require him to act as the PC tree warden. It was agreed by all present that they wished him to continue assisting in tree issues within the Parish

5. Report from County Councillor Jonna Spicer MBE

C Cllr Spicer reported the following;

- Highway signs are the responsibility of S.C.C.
- The uneven pavement outside the Pykkerell Inn had been reported and would be repaired soon
- Drainage in Peacock Rise was about to be investigated
- Flooding around the Parish has been a concern and C Cllr Spicer informed members she was keeping a close watch on this issue
- The priority sign at the traffic calming in the High Street has now been repaired
- Parking near the Primary School still a concern and parking within the grounds was being looked at
- Youth sharing facilities within Ixworth Free School was still being negotiated but unfortunately was making slower progress than was first hoped

6. Report from District Councillor John Griffiths MBE

D Cllr Griffiths reported the following;

- **Persimmon**- this application is still ongoing, the planning officers are discussing various issues with the developer
- **Locality Budget** – grants are still available from D Cllrs Locality budget. Please contact me for more information
- **Vertas** – D Cllr Griffiths confirmed that Vertas has now left the site at Fordham's garage

7. Neighbourhood Plan

The Chairman gave the following report;

At the last PC meeting, and after a discussion, the draft policies for the plan were agreed by the PC Members. At the end of the meeting the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group Chairman (NPWG) approached the Chairman of the PC and stated the two groups seemed to have a differences of what can and cannot be included within the plan and suggested it may be worth meeting to discuss further.

The Clerk and the Chairman met and discussed this, and it was agreed the Clerk and the Chairman would attend the next NPWG to request this meeting. Unfortunately, the Clerk was unable to attend this meeting due to illness.

The Chairman reported he had attended, but it was a very difficult meeting. Very heated discussions took place including topics such as Register of Interests of the group members, the Terms of Reference for the group and uninvited persons attending. After these heated discussions the meeting was closed early.

The Chairman wanted to say all the work undertaken so far has been excellent and the progress recently has been remarkable. However, that does not mean there are not concerns about the running of the group and not directly following the Terms of Reference.

A discussion took place on some of the points above and during this discussion a vote of confidence in the Chairman was proposed and carried.

A member of the NPWG group sitting in the public forum area stated members were keen to continue and get the plan finished as was very close to completion. The residents of the Parish would be invited in January to give their views and thoughts of progress so far and comments on such things as site allocations.

Cllr Rowe suggested that in their drive to get the plan completed the passion of the two Chairs sometimes clash. Cllr Rowe suggested that the group and the PC get together to try to sort the differences. Further discussions took place, but no resolution was taken on this suggestion.

8. Village Hall

The Clerk confirmed that the PC Solicitor had sent the transfer documents to the Village Hall Solicitor for signing.

9. Hempyard Bridge

C Cllr Spicer read out a report received from S.C.C. on the current position regarding the repairs to Hempyard Bridge (this has been circulated to all members).

C Cllr Spicer informed members that a meeting was being organised, hopefully before the end of January, to visit the site to discuss options. S.C.C. would need to lead a joint approach to obtaining funding from various grants to assist in the repair costs.

The Chairman requested that members of the PC be invited to this meeting as they had a lot of the history of the bridge to add to the discussion. C Cllr Spicer stated she would arrange the meeting and invite PC members to attend also.

The Chairman wished to highlight that this issue really needed sorting as each month that passes the bridge deteriorates more and more. The Chairman also stated that once again the PC were disappointed the ownership of the bridge was being queried again.

10. Mulley's Roundabout

Cllr Lord reported that he had two confirmed responses to the sponsorship of the two roundabouts. Cllr Lord stated he would report at a future meeting the progress of this issue.

11. Planning

DC/19/2306 – Tree in Conservation Area – (i) 1no Maple tree – re-pollard (ii) 1no Bay – reduce height to 1.8 metres (iii) 1no Fig – light prune (105 reduction) – Tailors Cottage, 59 High Street, Ixworth – **No Comment**

12. Planning - Other

Cllr Lord reported the briefing with Pigeon prior to the meeting had been informative but wished to highlight it was only a briefing and the PC had not offered support or endorsed any plans Pigeon may put forward in the future.

Cllr Lord reported he had attended the Development Control Committee (DC) meeting where the application for 5 dwellings in Ixworth Thorpe was being discussed. Although the PC supported the application, it was turned down by the DC. It was felt by Cllrs present this seemed strange as a similar application in Pakenham, also outside the settlement area, was granted.

After a discussion it was agreed by all present to investigate making an application for a settlement boundary in Ixworth Thorpe. The Chairman stated he would investigate this further.

13. Accounts

The following were agreed for payment;

Chq No 1392 & 1393	Wages	£1407.87
Chq No 1394	H M Rev & Customs	£538.87
Chq No 1395	TOP Garden Services	£615.00
Chq No 1396	S Chandler	£54.00
Chq No 1397	B Birrell	£595.99
Chq No 1399	Viking	£243.15
Chq No 1400	The Country Landscapes	£108.00
Chq No 1401	A Adlington	£100.33
Direct Debit Nest Pensions		£28.16

It was agreed not to sign and pay chq no 1398 to Ixworth Village Hall as the outside toilet had been closed for some time. It was also agreed to speak with Top Garden Services before paying the invoice as some aspects of the contract had not been fulfilled.

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

14. St Mary's Church

The Clerk reported that a quote had been obtained for work to be carried out on several trees within St Mary's Churchyard, including the large Walnut tree overhanging a property. The quote was for £720 + VAT which included the planning application fee as the trees are in the Conservation area.

15. Correspondence

The following correspondence had been received;

NPWG;

- Housing Needs Study
- Correspondence re: Ixworth Thorpe
- First Draft of Plan Document
- Email re Housing Needs
- Ixworth Thorpe
- Proposed Timetable
- Email re: First Draft
- Findings from Housing Needs Study
- NPWG Minutes

Other;

- **Resident** – Community Award – Nomination
- **S.C.C.** – Drainage Works Peacock Rise
- **S.C.C.** – Response to Highways Question
- **Steve Wilson** – Monthly Report

16. Chairman's Report

The Chairman wished to thank Cllr Sutton for her marvellous work in arranging the Christmas Tree Light Switch On. The Chairman stated he would write to all who helped to say thank you.

The Chairman stated he would raise the issue of parking outside the school in Crown Lane with the Headteacher. The Chairman suggested that residents also need to complain directly to the school with their concerns.

17. Clerk's Report

The Clerk reported that a formal complaint had been received about a member of the PC staff. The Staffing Sub-Committee would now investigate the complaint and report back the members at the next meeting.

18. Councillors Reports

Cllr Lilley reported that a new Health & Safety Policy would need to be approved in the New Year. Cllr Sutton wished to thank all who helped with the Christmas Tree Light Switch On. Everyone who attended seemed to enjoy themselves. Cllr Sutton hoped that the Switch On in 2020 could incorporate a Christmas Street Fair.

19. Date of the Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as 8th January 2020.

With no further business the meeting closed at 9.25pm.

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Signed

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Date