

IXWORTH AND IXWORTH THORPE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Ixworth & Ixworth Thorpe Parish Council meeting held at Ixworth Village Hall on 12th February 2020 at 7:30pm

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

Also Present: Mandy Adlington (Parish Clerk), C Cllr Joanna Spicer MBE and 6 members of the public

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs Sutton and Birrell – apologies were accepted by all present.

2. Declarations of Interest

No declarations were received.

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 8th January 2020.

4. Public Forum

The following points were raised by members of the public present;

- **Streetlights** – who is responsible for the streets lights within the Parish? The resident was quite concerned about the safety of residents at night whilst out in the evening
- **Cemetery** – A resident wished to thank the Parish Council for help with reserving a plot within the Cemetery
- **Road Markings** – the white lines around the two roundabouts within the village, especially the roundabout near Mulley's are very faded and difficult to see
- **Crown Lane Development** – an enquiry was made as to what progress there has been on this application
- **Tree Cutting** – a resident was concerned that trees along the by-pass had been severely cut back
- **Planning Application DC/19/2476** – residents wished to highlight their concerns over this application. The application has not been altered very much since this first application and their concerns re traffic and over development still stood

The Chairman stated that streetlights were either the responsibility of West Suffolk District Council (WSDC) or Suffolk County Council (SCC). C Cllr Spicer stated that SCC were usually responsible for lights on the main highways.

The Chairman informed residents present that the Crown Lane Development application is still with West Suffolk Planning Department who were in talks with Persimmon over various aspects of the application. The tree along the by-pass had been cut back by Network Power as they were under overhead power lines.

5. Report from County Councillor Joanna Spicer MBE

C Cllr Spicer reported the following;

- **Ixworth Thorpe Wednesday Bus** – C Cllr Spicer apologised that Norse had reported the bus to Bury St Edmunds was finishing at the end of March. In fact the current contract with Norse is coming to the end but SCC were putting the contract out to tender as it wished this route to continue
- **Ixworth Primary School** – C Cllr Spicer stated she had not yet arranged a meeting with the school and the Parish Council. An email had been sent but she had not yet had a response
- **Boundary Review** – SCC was currently carrying out a review of its Ward boundaries. Hopefully the result of this consultation would now be available the last week of April or the beginning of May
- **Footbridge** – C Cllr Spicer stated she would try to arrange a meeting with all concerned parties to discuss this once again as there had not been much progress on this item

Cllr Wilson enquired if C Cllr Spicer would be able to enquire when the speeding post that has been knocked over for several weeks will be repaired. The speed cameras are due to be deployed again in the next few weeks but obviously they will not be able to be fixed to the post that is lying in the grass.

6. Report from District Councillor John Griffiths MBE

D Cllr Griffiths sent his apologies for not being able to attend this evening.

7. Neighbourhood Plan

The Chairman read the report received from the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group (NPWG) Chair. It was resolved that the Parish Council would arrange a meeting with Community Action Suffolk (CAS) to discuss the way forward with the Housing Needs Study (HNS). Cllr Laughton volunteered to assist the Clerk with this issue. The position of Clerk was discussed, and it was agreed that a Clerk was needed, and it was suggested that the NPWG be approached to see if anyone was interested in applying for the role and advertise if necessary. The PC Clerk would continue assisting the group.

8. Ixworth Thorpe Boundary

The possibility of extending the settlement boundary around Ixworth Thorpe was discussed. It was agreed to arrange a meeting with West Suffolk planning to discuss further.

9. Hempyard Bridge

C Cllr Spicer led this discussion. C Cllr Spicer reported the following from the meeting held on 21st January 2020;

- Approximately 8-10 Officials were in attendance from all Councils concerned. Also present were representatives from S W Cross
- Suffolk County Council (SCC) currently have no finances in the budget to repair the bridge
- Ownership of the land once again came into question, which is becoming very frustrating
- Chris Leveson, from West Suffolk, had not yet started an enforcement notice as she was waiting to review the outcome of the meeting
- It was agreed that the bridge was in quite a state at present. It was agreed that some interim work would be carried out. Cllr Rowe confirmed that some had been completed but not all that had been agreed

C Cllr Spicer stated that no formal notes had yet been produced relating to the meeting but once she had received them, she would forward to the Parish Council. C Cllr Spicer also requested that no fundraising or grant investigations be started for repairs to the bridge.

Cllr Rowe suggested that the original sale agreement from 1958 may help with confirmation of who in fact owns the bridge. C Cllr Spicer stated she would check that S.C.C. were going to investigate this.

C Cllr Spicer informed members she would not be attending the next meeting of the PC on 11th March 2020.

10. Planning

DC/20/0075 – Repair external walls to croft and adjoining walls – The Coach House, 39a High St, Ixworth

No Objection

DC/20/0125 – Various tree work – St Mary’s churchyard, Ixworth

No Objection

DC/19/2476 – 3no. dwellings and associated garages (following demolition of existing outbuildings) – Riverside Paddocks, Stow Road, Ixworth

Objection

11. Accounts

The following accounts were agreed for payment;

Chq No 1409 & 1410	Wages	£1403.23
Chq No 1411	Suffolk Pest Control	£105.6
Chq No 1412	Ixworth Village Hall	£137.79
Chq No 1413	TOP Garden Services	£444.00
Chq No 1414	Navigus Planning	£2503.80
Chq No 1415	Profile Business Supplies	£22.44
Chq No 1416	Viking Direct	£455.40
Direct Debit Nest Pensions		£37.37

The RFO (Responsible Finance Officer) was authorised to transfer £3000 by on-line transfer from the business account to the community account.

12. Ixworth Cemetery

Cllr Lord reported that when the Cemetery Working Group met, they felt that the moss needed to be removed from the roof of the entrance structure. The quotes had been obtained were £245 & £780. The Clerk was instructed to inform the company that quoted £245 to go ahead and complete the work required. The Clerk was also instructed to inform the unsuccessful with their quote.

13. Parish Roundabouts

The Parish Council had received correspondence from a resident questioning as to why the PC were sponsoring the cleaning of the roundabouts when it was a SCC responsibility. Cllr Lord explained that even though the PC had to initially pay the sponsorship fee, 3 companies had agreed to pay £1000 each towards the scheme and Cllr Spicer had also stated she would grant £1000. It was agreed to continue with the project to sponsor the roundabouts but to review the level of service received in September 2020.

14. Chairman's Report

The Chairman had nothing further to report as all issues had been covered in other items on the agenda.

15. Clerk's Report

The Clerk reported the following;

- **Paperless Working (Projector for Planning/Reports at Meetings)**
Various available but need to look at distance, screen size and placement in room.
After looking at varying screens available for such a room a possible budget of £750 may be required.
The reasons for having a projector would be looking at planning documents on the evening. Reasons for not having a projector was cost and would this facility be available at the Village Hall in the future.
- **St Mary's Church**
If planning application discussed earlier in the meeting gets approved the work is scheduled for around 3rd March 2020.
I am still trying to ascertain if PC or West Suffolk is responsible for this closed Churchyard. A discussion is required with West Suffolk and a possible visit to Suffolk Records Office to see if the original closure notice is held there.
- **Annual Parish Meeting**
Please confirm date as 22nd April 2020 at Ixworth Free School. The venue would need to be booked and confirmed and an entry would need to be placed in the magazine. Community Awards would be presented at this event
Need to set up a group to discuss applications already received and or other suggestions of groups or individual
- **V.A.S**
Is having a small permanent sign such as signs in Gt Barton still an option?
- **Ixworth Thorpe Church Lights** - instructed Welton to change bulbs had not been completed as they could not arrange collection of the Church key.
Karen Burton, the Reverend responsible for Ixworth Thorpe thought were Church Lights were their responsibility The Clerk would contact Rev Burton to discuss further.
- **Play Area** – The recent play area inspection highlighted a few small issues which the Clerk was addressing. Some of the larger poles on the large climbing frame need replacing but they may be covered by the guarantee, though fitting and delivery was not. The Clerk would report back to the members once all information had been obtained. It had also been discussed previously replacing the hedge along the back edge of the play area.
- **Standing Orders** – Will be circulated before next meeting, please read and inform the Clerk of any points not included. The Clerk requested that members view the section of emails and informal discussions between meetings to put an order in place so all members were aware what could and could not happen between meetings.

The possibility of purchasing a projector was discussed and it was agreed to hold a meeting at the Fire Station to see if this could be an option for future meetings where a projector and screen are already in place. It was suggested that if it could be arranged, then maybe the April meeting should be held there as a trial.

Cllr Reeve volunteered to contact John Welton to arrange the repairing of the lights in Ixworth Thorpe Church.

It was confirmed that the Annual Parish Meeting would be held on 22nd April at Ixworth Free School at 7pm. Cllr Lord volunteered to speak with the Free School and place an article in the Ixworth magazine. It was resolved and small working group of Cllrs Wilson, Laughton and the Clerk would meet to discuss applications received for the Community Awards. It was agreed that the members were still very keen to install flashing speed signs within the Parish. The Clerk was instructed to contact Gt Barton for information of the signs they have installed. Cllr Wilson and the Clerk agreed to meet at the play on 27th February at 9.30am to discuss the possible installation of a hedge in the play area.

16. Councillors Reports

Cllr Laughton read Steve Wilsons monthly report.

17. Date of the Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as 11th March 2020 at 7.30pm in Ixworth Village Hall

18. 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

19. Staffing

The minutes of this item are confidential.

With no further business the meeting closed at 9.30pm.

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Signed

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Date