

IXWORTH AND IXWORTH THORPE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Ixworth & Ixworth Thorpe Parish Council meeting held at Ixworth Village Hall on 8th January 2020 at 7:30pm

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

Cllr Vicky Sutton arrived at 8.35pm

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

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Reeve – apology was accepted by all present.

2. Declarations of Interest

Cllrs Laughton and Lilley declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 8 (Village Hall)

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The draft minutes had been distributed to all members prior to the meeting. It was suggested the draft minutes were incorrect as they stated 'A vote of confidence in the Chairman' had not taken place. Cllrs challenged this stating a vote had taken place and passed. The minutes were duly altered to confirm the vote had taken place. It was resolved for the Chairman to sign the minutes as a true record of the meeting held on 11th December 2019.

4. Public Forum

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

- **Ownership of the land in Stow Road (requested at a previous meeting)** please ascertain who owns the piece of land along Stow Road in front of the hedge by the kiosk
- **Hedges** – Hedges and trees along the pass-by seem to be being cut down, who owns them and was permission given
- **Anti-Social Behaviour around the Village Hall** – Once again this issue was becoming a problem, the outside toilet was now closed as it kept getting vandalised. Unfortunately, the current CCTV was not the standard needed for prosecuting the people responsible. Another problem seemed to be bikes racing up and down the High Street at night

D Cllr John Griffiths offered to put resident in touch with West Suffolk tree Officer to discuss any permissions regarding tree felling. D Cllr Griffiths also informed everyone that each new development needed to conform to regulations regarding tree planting schemes.

5. Report from County Councillor Joanna Spicer MBE

C Cllr Spicer reported the following;

- **Thetford Road Flooding** – Thetford Road had flooded once again during the recent heavy rainfall, the road was now clear, but it would need to be investigated as to what was causing the flood each time it rains
- **Boundary Review** – Suffolk County Council are going to run a consultation on possible ward boundary changes and hopefully C Cllr Spicer would be able to report further late February or early March
- **CCTV** – C Cllr Spicer suggested the Village Hall may be able to approach her for a grant from her locality budget to upgrade the CCTV
- **Hempyard Bridge** – C Cllr Spicer confirmed the meeting to discuss Hempyard Bridge was going to be held on 21st January at 2.30 pm. It was suggested meeting at the Fire Station then proceed to the bridge. Various parties would be in attendance including representatives from S.C.C., West Suffolk and the PC
- **Ixworth SET School** – the school had been successful in their bid for special needs approval

The Chairman wished to highlight to C Cllr Spicer that there was a lot of concerns surrounding the condition of the pavements in Ixworth High Street. The Chairman felt there were several places that were becoming a concern. C Cllr Spicer suggested reported them on the S.C.C. website.

6. Report from District Councillor John Griffiths MBE

D Cllr Griffiths reported the following;

- **Persimmon Planning Application** – still ongoing
- **Hempyard Bridge Meeting** – D Cllr Griffiths stated he was unable to attend but Chris Leveson would be attending on behalf of West Suffolk
- **Locality Budget** – urged groups within the Parish to apply as still grants available this financial year

7. Neighbourhood Plan

A copy of the draft plan 1b was discussed and it was agreed that the document was developing well. It was suggested that the Parish Council (PC) and the Neighbourhood Plan working Group (NPWG) should meet on 13th January 2020 at 2.30pm in Ixworth Village Hall to go through various points raised. It was hoped that the consultant would be in attendance.

Until a new NP clerk was installed, the Parish Clerk would try to attend all meeting and take notes and or minutes.

The NPWG representative for the PC stated that a copy of the draft plan had been passed to Suffolk County Council and West Suffolk DC and the group were in contact with planning officers from both Councils.

8. Ixworth Village Hall

Mr Mann reported that he had signed the transfer document which would then be passed to the PC for signing. It was resolved the Chairman could sign the document between meetings.

9. Hempyard Bridge

Hempyard Bridge was covered in C Cllr Spicers report.

10. Planning

No planning applications had been received for comment.

11. Accounts

The following payments were agreed for payment;

Chq No 1402	Wages	£532.15
Chq No 1403	V Sutton	£123.76
Chq No 1404 & 1405	Wages	£1348.87
Chq No 1406	Anglian Water	£16.32
Chq No 1407	Community Action Suffolk	£4900.27
Chq No 1408	Amplify	£85.00
Direct Debit Nest Pensions		£28.16

The following cheques have been cancelled – Chq no 1393 & 1398

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

12. Parish Council Policies

The following policies (previously distributed) were adopted;

- Health & Safety
- Disciplinary Policy
- Grievance Policy

Cllr Lilley volunteered to assist the Clerk in updating all Council Policies over the coming months.

13. Chairman's Report

The Chairman stated he had visited the Cemetery recently and there seemed to be another case of moles being present. It was agreed by all present the Chairman speak with a pest controller and to remove them from the Cemetery.

14. Clerk's Report

The Clerk gave no report and would report fully in February.

15. Councillors Reports

Cllr Wilson reported that one of the Standard lights at Ixworth Thorpe Church was not working and requested both are replaced so they have matching bulbs. Cllr Wilson also informed members that the 40mph sign that had been knocked down had been reported and the person reporting it had been informed it would be repaired soon.

Cllr Shelton reported the residents had complained to her about branches overhanging the notice board in Peddars Close.

Cllr Laughton read Steve Wilsons monthly report.

Cllr Lord enquired if the Christmas tree lights would be turned off soon.

The Clerk was instructed to contact Welton to repair the Church lights in Ixworth Thorpe and Havebury Housing to discuss the overhanging trees.

16. Date of the Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as 12th February 2020 at 7.30pm in Ixworth Village Hall.

17. 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

18. Staffing

With no further business the meeting closed at 9.25pm

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Signed

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Date