

IXWORTH AND IXWORTH THORPE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Ixworth & Ixworth Thorpe Parish Council meeting held Virtually via the Zoom Platform on 10th February 2021 at 7:30pm

Present: Councillors (Cllrs) Ben Lord (Chairman), Sophia Wilson, Pam Shelton, Terry Lilley, Vicky Sutton and Ben Birrell

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

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Reeve who was still having technology issues – the apology accepted by all present.

2. Declarations of Interest

No declarations were received.

3. Parish Councils Policies

The policies below were previously distributed to all members.

The following policies were adopted;

- **Grant Awarding Policy** – The policy would be up-loaded to the current website.
- **Attendance at Meetings**- A new policy has been written and adopted to assist the smooth running of meetings. Anyone wishing to speak at meetings will be requested to register to speak at an upcoming meeting with a topic they wish to make comment on. The Parish Council are not in any way trying to stop residents from making comment, but it is thought that if the Chairman has a list of residents wishing to speak as said it will make the meetings run smoother.
- **Further Polices** – The following policies will be written or updated – Social Media Policy, Complaints Policy and Data Protection

The Chairman confirmed that the Parish Council had to take the unprecedented step of banning a member of the public from observing any future meetings of the Parish Council due to disorderly behaviour observed at the January meeting. After reviewing the recording of the meeting, and the type of disorderly conduct seen, the Parish Council took a zero tolerance approach to disorderly conduct as in line with Council policies.

4. Minutes of Previous Meetings

The draft minutes had previously been distributed to all Councillors and taken as read.

It was agreed by all present that the Chairman sign the minutes as a true record of the meetings held on 13th January 2021.

The minutes would be signed when the Chairman and Clerk are able to meet.

The Clerk made the following statement;

The December minutes held some incorrect information.

A resident made comment about the telephone kiosk in Stow Road. I misquoted the resident stating that he had spoken with the local Poppy Appeal organiser who supported Green Ixworth adopting the kiosk. I misinterpreted what the resident had said.

The Poppy Appeal organiser had only tagged a like to a facebook post and not at any time been spoken to or spoke about the kiosk.

I have since spoken with the Poppy Appeal organiser and apologised and informed her that I would be including this correction in tonight's minutes.

5. Reports

The Clerk gave the following reports;

- **Woodland at Crown Lane** -I was kindly given maps and a plan of the area from the resident concerned about this matter. I have read the minutes and it was discussed that an application for free trees was made to St Edmundsbury Borough Council, permission was given by the landowner for them to be planted and the PC paid for them to be planted. I am going to go back further in the minutes once I have the minutes from storage and time available.

I have spoken with the children of Mr Cross (who gave permission at the time) and they have no records and at no time was land given to the PC. The land is still owned by their family. They are, however, going to investigate it for me and get back to the PC when they can.

Another section of land that has some of the woodland area on it is now in the ownership of Persimmon. I have also written to them for further information on their plans for the wooded area.

Once I receive any further information from both parties, I will report back to the Parish Council.

- **S106 Money** - The Parish Council, as reported last month, had been approached by a WSDC Officer in charge of S106 money trying to ascertain if there had been any open space/recreational projects in the last year or proposed for the future. WSDC had a small amount of money from a development in Ixworth that could be assigned to open space/recreational projects. It was suggested forming a working group, but I was instructed to gain further information.
I spoke with the Officer and he clearly stated that the decision on how to spend the money was WSDC decision and at this stage he was just looking for suggestions. The PC was asked as the local authority, and he does not feel that any type of public consultation is required at this point.
- **Roundabout Sponsorship** - Sponsorship of the two roundabouts within the village was one of the projects of the PC that was postponed last March due to Covid-19. The PC has just re-started discussions with Marketingforce and the interested parties who wish to advertise on the roundabouts. Once there is further information available, I will report to the PC.
- **Plant Britain** - Due to time constraints the claim form unfortunately had not been sent to all residents requesting to join the scheme. All residents who showed an interest now have the claim form and two are completed and are on the accounts to be paid this evening.
- **Street Cleaner** - At this time, the PC have decided not to employ another street cleaner. The bins are being emptied each week, though there were some teething problems at the beginning. A Cemetery caretaker is going to be employed to oversee the Cemetery.
- **Complaint about Cllr Lilley –**
 - The complainant kindly met with a Councillor and the Clerk to ascertain the points of the their complaint. At my request, these concerns were emailed to the Clerk and Cllr Sutton
 - The comments were then passed to Cllr Lilley and the other members of the Council at a Policies sub0committee meeting held at the end of last week
 - A letter with the findings of the informal investigation was sent to the complainant.
 - The PC has been informed by the complainant, they will be approaching the WDCS monitoring officer

6. Public Forum

The following comments were made by a resident –

- **Planning Application DC/21/0039 –** Whilst this approach is to make best use of the existing buildings there would seem to be some down sides to this application. Car parking spaces may be a problem as currently there are 17 spaces, and this would not alter, however currently the site is served by 10 staff which will increase to 22. Also, the number of rooms increase from 24 to 48. More parking spaces need to be made available as surely there would be more visitors to more rooms and more staff on the premises each day possibly requiring parking. If not increased this may cause problems within the area. Sustainable Drainage has not been reported on. The field and surgery boundaries have several large trees on them and as it is not possible to build within several metres of them they may have to be cut down which would not be acceptable.
- **Grant Application –** As the application had now been adopted please could it be forwarded as soon as possible to Green Ixworth.
- **Neighbourhood Plan Working Group (NPWG) –** Could any outstanding minutes please be uploaded to the Council website.

- **Persimmon** – A response had been received from Persimmon on the Green Ixworth request for information on the small woodland on their land. Persimmon had responded that at present there were no plans to cut down any trees.

7. Report from County Councillor Joanna Spicer MBE

C Cllr Spicer reported the following;

Hempyard Bridge – The plans for the repairing of the bridge were coming along but there have been discussions and investigations were happening on whether a listed building planning application was required. Also, discussions were being held on if or what type of railing may or may not be required.

Ixworth Thorpe Flooding – A local team would visit the site within the next 6 weeks to view the problem. C Cllr Spicer suggested that someone meet them on site. C Cllr Spicer stated she would arrange the meeting and report dates and times to the Council.

Grants – C Cllr Spicer reported that she had granted £500 to Green Ixworth towards a survey of the river and a grant to the Primary School to resurface the car park.

Covid-19 Vaccinations – The local surgery now had supplies of the vaccine and had started vaccinating the Parish.

Scott Road – C Cllr Spicer reported that she had spoken with Andrew Reid and would forward any updates to the Parish Council.

8. Report from District Councillor John Griffiths MBE

D Cllr Griffiths reported the following;

- **WSDC Update**– As it is coming up to the end of the financial year to it a remarkably busy time for all officers. The Council has been able to award over £85 million in business and rate relief grants through the exceedingly difficult unprecedented last year.
- **Vaccinations** - WSDC are working with the NHS to set up more Covid-19 vaccinations sites. A successful site was at Woolpit where they held a drive through and managed to vaccinate over 2500 people in one day.
- **Ixworth Thorpe Flooding** – D Cllr Griffiths stated it was good news that the flooding issues in Ixworth Thorpe were going to be investigated and he would be happy to meet on site if required.
- **Locality Budget** – A grant to Green Ixworth was in the final stage of being awarded. A grant had been awarded to the Primary School for various projects. If any other organisation within the Parish required a grant, then he still had an amount left to award.
- **Persimmon** – At present no further information was available on any planning application from Persimmon. However, it was good news that they had responded to an enquiry about the trees on their land.

9. Planning

DC/21/2141 – Conversion and single storey rear extension of existing garage to annexe – The Moat House, Commister Lane, Ixworth

No Objection

DC/21/0039 – Extensions and alterations to existing care home to form dementia care village – Ixworth Court, Peddars Close, Ixworth
No Objection (with planning considerations as suggested by resident in the public forum)

10. Neighbourhood Plan

Cllr Birrell reported that unfortunately the Neighbourhood Plan (NP) has stalled in the last few months. A brief meeting had taken place with the Vice-Chairman, the PC Clerk and himself to discuss how to move forward. It has been agreed to arrange a meeting with the NP Working Group (NPWG) to discuss how to arrange a public consultation on site allocations in these difficult times. If things can be arranged quickly, we are hoping to arrange this for end of March.

11. Accounts

The following accounts were agreed for payment.

All invoices, documentation and bank statements were distributed to members prior to the meeting.

BACS	Staff Costs	£958.92
BACS	J R Property Maintenance	£560.00
BACS	Scribe Accounts	£345.60
BACS	Stone King Solicitors	£2400.00
BACS	Resident – Plant Britain	£17.50
BACS	Resident – Plant Britain	£20.00

Direct Debit Nest Pensions £34.69

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

Cllr Wilson would authorise online the payments above.

12. Parish Council Website

The new website was under construction and it is hoped it will be ready to launch on 1st April 2021.

13. Development Infrastructure Impact on A1088

Cllr Lord reported that a Bloor Homes planning application refers to the Northern End road was going to be modified. Cllr Lord welcomed C Cllr Spicer's suggestion that the Council meet with Stanton and Bardwell Council to discuss this application informally. It was agreed by all present that Cllr Lord attend. As previously agreed, Cllr Lord was authorised to seek further advice from a company specialising in highways issues to assist the Parish Council.

14. Ixworth Cemetery

The Clerk reported the following;

- **Caretaker** – Interest had been received in applying for the role of the Cemetery caretaker. The Clerk would meet with the parties interested and report to the staffing committee or Full Council.
- **Taps** – All equipment required to install new taps have been acquired by the plumber including covers for the taps which hopefully will prevent the taps freezing in the winter months. Installation should be completed this month.
- **Working Group** – The working group will arrange another meeting to discuss the next stage of improving the Cemetery. The working group is obtaining quotes for the tree work advised in the recent tree survey report that had been carried out. The group also would be reviewing all fencing surrounding the Cemetery.

15. Correspondence

The following correspondence had been received and distributed to members prior to the meeting.

- **Resident** – Concerns about PC
- **Walking Group** - Email & attachment
- **Anglian Water** – Upcoming Works
- **C Cllr Spicer** – Bloor Homes
- **Resident** – Concerns over footpaths – Passed to C Cllr Spicer
- **D Cllr Griffiths** – Message from Leader of the Council
- **Resident** – Parish Wood
- **SCC** – Bridleway 1 (up to Hempyard bridge)
- **Resident** – Various emails
- **Complainant** – Complaint re Cllr Lilley
- **Resident** – Robins Copse

16. Chairman's Report

The Chairman had nothing further to report.

17. Clerks Report

The Clerk had no further reports as issues had been covered in item 5.

18. Councillors Report

Cllr Sutton requested if she could obtain quotes to have the lights removed from the tree in the High Street. Cllr Sutton also felt the tree required trimming. It was agreed to obtain quotes and investigate ownership of the tree and whether tree falls within the Conservation Area.

Cllr Wilson enquired if any further progress had been made in installing 'Welcome to Ixworth Thorpe' signs. C Cllr Spicer stated that the white gate style, such as in Stow Road, could cost up to £5000. C Cllr Spicer recently helped to install smaller 'Welcome to' signs at Hopton and they were approximately £1200 for two. It was agreed to look at this issue at a future meeting.

Cllr Birrell wished to thank C Cllr Spicer for supplying links to him for residents struggling with Council Tax. Cllr Birrell also wished to thank D Cllr Griffiths and WSDC for grants that had been processed to businesses in this difficult time.

19. Date of the Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as 10th March 2021 at 7.30pm (Virtual Meeting)

20. Exclusion of Press and 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.

The public were excluded at 8.41pm

- (i) Staffing

With no further business the meeting closed, after the confidential discussions, at 9pm.

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Signed

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Date