

## **IXWORTH AND IXWORTH THORPE PARISH COUNCIL**

*Minutes of the Meeting of Ixworth & Ixworth Thorpe Parish Council held Virtually via Zoom on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> August 2020 at 7:30pm*

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

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

### **1. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Cllrs David Reeve and John Rowe. Apologies were accepted by all present.

### **2. Declarations of Interest**

No declarations of interest were made.

### **3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

It was agreed by all present the Chairman sign the minutes as a true record of the meetings held on 8<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> July 2020. The minutes would be signed when the Chairman and Clerk next meet.

### **4. Public Forum**

The following observations were made by members of the public present;

- **Planning White Paper** – Will the Parish Council be responding to the current white paper on changes to the planning regulations. It suggests that Parish Councils will no longer be consulted on each application but only every ten years on local development masterplans. If the new regulations are adopted what are the implications on the Neighbourhood Plan that is currently being created
- **Environment/Climate Change** – A resident offered thanks on the recent climate change report that had been produced by West Suffolk District Council (WSDC)
- **Lighting on Roundabouts** – It was noticed by a resident that a new lighting system on a roundabout had been installed in Ixworth
- **Overgrown Weeds and Debris in and around the Parish** – Residents were concerned about overgrown weeds around the roundabouts in the Parish, especially the Mulley's roundabout as this is causing visibility issues. Also, it was highlighted that many pavements were difficult to walk along as hedges were overgrown and the vegetation from the verges were obscuring the pavement

The Chairman stated the Planning White Paper would be on the agenda in September to discuss how and what comments the Parish Council were going to make. It was agreed by all it was especially important to take part in the consultation.

It was suggested that all parties, including Councils and residents, could submit a response to the White Paper Consultation.

D Cllr Griffiths wished once again to highlight the Neighbourhood Plan was going to be a particularly important document for the future of the Parish.

D Cllr Griffiths thanked the resident on comments about the recent climate change document. WSDC were have completed more on this issue than many other Councils, for instance they own the largest solar panels farms, have installed charging points in their car parks and have a grant scheme in place for homeowners for insulating their homes. A discussion took place and it was suggested that future, and current landowners, could assist in allotting land for tree planting. It was also suggested forming a group within the Parish to look at the environment issues affecting all residents.

C Cllr Spicer stated that the new lighting mentioned earlier is a new scheme that Suffolk County Council (SCC) are trialling. Cllr Lilley asked C Cllr Spicer if roundabouts were inspected after accidents. C Cllr Spicer stated she was not sure but any damage on a main highway is usually repaired after an accident. C Cllr Spicer again informed residents and members that sweeping of pavements were the responsibility of the WSDC.

## **5. Planning**

**DC/20/1177/TPO – 3no Sycamore – crown lift up to 11 metres – 7 St Edmund Close, Ixworth      **No Objection****

## **6. Hempyard Bridge**

County Councillor (C Cllr) Joanna Spicer informed the members that the bridge was now listed for repair next year. Hempyard Bridge was on the list with 3 or 4 others, one may take priority as it was currently closed. Suffolk County Council (SCC) had obtained some funding for the project, but further funding may be required. Over the coming weeks the bridge will be inspected again and a more detailed quote on the cost would be obtained along with a plan on how to deliver the repairs.

## **7. Neighbourhood Plan**

Cllr Birrell reported that the plan was once again progressing. A couple of meetings had been held, which had been very productive. The next stage was to arrange meetings with the developers who had put forward site allocations to be included in the plan to determine the level of infrastructure they would be able to provide to the Parish.

Cllr Birrell reported that there had been a slight issue with copyright material for the plan but that had been resolved very quickly and wanted to thank Cllr Lord for supplying new photos for the document. A public consultation would be held, considering current Covid-19 restrictions. It would possibly mean appointment times for residents attending a presentation at the village hall, a possible leaflet drop inviting comments, a Zoom meeting sharing a presentation with a question and answer session. A date and format had had to be finalised, but Cllr Birrell stated he would report back to members once the details have been finalised.

## **8. Youth Facilities**

No information was available on this subject at present so this item will be added to the agenda for September.

## **9. Community Self- Help Scheme**

Cllr Lilley explained the minor works group had met and decided to undertake a highways survey around the Parish. Cllrs Wilson, Lilley and Lord carried out the survey which had been added to the Cllrs correspondence website. Various issues were identified such as damaged signs and very overgrown pavements and road edges. Cllr Lilley, as a health and safety expert, felt it would not be advisable for volunteers to work on these projects as these needed to be completed by certified and trained contractors.

C Cllr Spicer stated that, at first, she was unsure of the County Council Self Help Scheme but encouraged the PC to look into it further. C Cllr Spicer suggested arranging a meeting with the County Council Officer in charge of the scheme, Luke Merton, for his input on the good and bad bits of the scheme.

The Clerk and C Cllr Spicer would arrange a convenient time for members of the minor works group, Luke and C Cllr Spicer. It was agreed to pass the survey to C Cllr Spicer to view.

## **10. Report from County Councillor Joanna Spicer**

C Cllr Spicer reported the following;

- **Height Limit of trees** – C Cllr reported that she had spoken with several SCC Officers and no-one thought there was a height limit of trees overhanging roads and pavements
- **Hedges Overhanging Pavements** – C Cllr Spicer had received emails from residents concerned about hedges overhanging pavements. The overhanging hedges and bushes usually come from residential properties. SCC will not write to residents until September due to birds nesting
- **Kebab Van** – C Cllr Spicer stated she had sent a report to the Council from SCC on their position on this issue. The report has also been sent to Pakenham Parish Council, as the van is parked in their Parish. Pakenham Parish Council do not meet again until September so when she receives comments from them, she will report again to members.
- **Bridge Railings in Bury Road** – The Clerk had passed on an email from a resident concerned that the railing on the bridge needed painting. C Cllr thought this would come under SCC highways department. C Cllr Spicer stated she would look into this and report back to the Council. A small discussion took place as to whether the bridge was in Pakenham Parish or Ixworth Parish. C Cllr Spicer said she would try to find out.

## **11. Report from District Councillor John Griffiths**

District Councillor Griffiths (D Cllr) reported the following;

- **Planning Alterations** - West Suffolk District Council (WSDC) were looking at the Government White Paper on alterations to the planning procedures and they would be making comments to the consultation
- **Persimmon** – D Cllr Griffiths confirmed that Persimmon had withdrawn their current planning application for the Crown Lane development
- **Civil Parking Enforcement** – A report on the enforcement figures had been distributed to the Parish Council
- **Leader of the Council** – A report from the Leader of WSDC (Cllr Griffiths) would be distributed to the Parish Council
- **Locality Budget** – D Cllr Griffiths reminded members and public he has a locality budget he can use to make grants to groups and projects within his ward
- **Delegation Panel** – The delegation panel had met and discussed two applications within his ward, 6 Peacock Rise, Ixworth and Lynton House, Ixworth Thorpe. The delegation panel granted both applications.

## **12. Accounts**

The following accounts were agreed for payment via BACS payment;

BACS	Wages	£1311.68
BACS	S.A.R.S. (Grant)	£100.00
BACS	TOP Garden Services	£615.00
BACS	TOP Garden Services	£450.00
BACS	Society Local Council Clerks (Clerk Annual Conference)	£25.00
BACS	Society Local Council Clerks (A Adlington refund of membership)	£346.00
Direct Debit Nest Pensions		£35.44

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

## **13. Ixworth Cemetery**

Cllr Lilley reported he had obtained a quote to replace the two taps in the Cemetery along with the cabinet that would surround them. The quote was £840 + VAT. It was agreed by all present to accept the quote and the Clerk was instructed to inform the company who supplied the quote. It was also agreed that the Clerk and Cllr Lilley could replace the stands holding the watering cans up to a cost of £150.00

## **14. Community Resilience Scheme**

At the start of the Covid-19 lockdown a Community Resilience Scheme was set up to assist anyone in need of help during the uncertain times. The scheme was set up to assist various vulnerable residents during this unprecedented time. The scheme also requested volunteers to help anyone who needed help such as collecting medicines and groceries.

Below are the figures from the scheme;

- 44 people requested help
- 40 volunteered to help
- 35 requests were actioned

Many of the volunteers carried on helping residents on an ongoing basis so they did not have to request again through the scheme.

The scheme had not received any requests for help since 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2020, so the Chairman suggested that the phone line and scheme be discontinued. It was agreed by all present to discontinue the scheme but be vigilant if anyone were aware of anyone within the Parish needing assistance.

Cllr Lord wished to thank Paul Cook and Stephen Mann for helping to man the phone line and to Paul for placing posters around the village. Cllr Lord also wanted to thank the magazine for attaching and delivering the leaflet on the scheme with the magazine.

Cllr Lord stated that the Covid-19 crisis had highlighted that the Parish needed to investigate having an up to date Emergency Plan.

The Clerk was instructed to speak with West Suffolk DC to ascertain if there was an Officer dedicated to Emergency Plan Schemes.

## **15. Correspondence**

The following correspondence had been received;

- **Resident** – Concerns of overhanging Willow Tree in Commister Lane
- **Resident** – Bridge Painting
- **Housing 21** – Blackbourne View
- **John Griffiths** – Persimmon
- **Resident** – Advice about planting a new tree
- **Resident** – Overgrown Hedges
- **West Suffolk** – Public Protection Orders
- **Delegation Panel Decisions** 28.07.2020 & 11.08.2020
- **John Griffiths** – Leader of the Council Statement
- **SCC** – Hempyard Bridge Inspection
- **Joanna Spicer** – Kebab Van & Update on A143
- **John Griffiths** – Civil Parking Enforcement Figures
- **NALC** – New Planning Information
- **SALC** – Covid-19 Update
- **Suffolk Police** – Chalking & Community Engagement
- **West Suffolk** – Great British Clean Up
- **Steve Wilson** – Monthly report

It was agreed to respond to the Public Protection Order consultation requesting that the Cemetery and St Mary's Churchyard are included.

The Clerk was instructed to speak with the resident concerning planting a new tree. Possible suggested locations were Robins Copse, or the land between St Farm Lane and Chalk Lane.

The Clerk was instructed to request further information from Housing 21.

Correspondence relating to Willow tree, overgrown hedges and bridge painting had been covered earlier in the meeting.

## **16. Chairman's Report**

The Chairman reported the following;

- **Crown Lane Parking** – New large 'No Parking' signs have been installed outside the school stating no parking between 8am & 4pm. Hopefully, this will assist in the problems around school drop off and pick up times
- **Anti-Social Behaviour** – Currently there is nothing further to report on this issue
- **Suffolk Radio** 'Don't Be a Tosser' campaign was running once again, and the Chairman had been sent posters and stickers to help with this anti-litter campaign
- **Upper End of High Street** – The Chairman reported some residents had reported that there have been several incidents of speeding vehicles between 4am & 6am. The Chairman has advised the Police
- **Social Media (dog stealing)** – Recently there has been several posts on facebook about dog stealing and chalk marks on pavements outside properties. The Police advise if any chalk markings are discovered outside a property then alert the Police. If any suspicious people are observed, once again alert the Police

## **17. Clerk's Report**

The Clerk reported the following;

- The Clerk would be on holiday from Friday 18<sup>th</sup> September until Monday 5<sup>th</sup> October
- Mr Wilson would be on holiday from Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September until Monday 21<sup>st</sup> September

Duties of Mr Wilson, such as the Cemetery bins, will need to be arranged. The Clerk will have access to emails but will only deal with emergencies whilst away.

**18. Councillor's Reports**

Cllr Wilson requested the data from the VAS in Ixworth Thorpe be obtained to assist in the evidence for having a permanent sign installed.

**19. Date of the Next Meeting**

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as 9<sup>th</sup> September 2020 at 7.30pm. The meeting would be a virtual meeting via Zoom.

**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  
Public and press were excluded at 9pm.

**21. Staffing**

Discussed in a closed meeting due to the confidential nature of the business being discussed.

With no further business the meeting closed at 9.35pm.

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Signed

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Date