

IXWORTH AND IXWORTH THORPE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Ixworth & Ixworth Thorpe Parish Council meeting held Virtually via Zoom on 20th May 2020 at 7:30pm

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

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

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs Reeve and Sutton – apologies were excepted by all present.

2. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Wilson declared a pecuniary interest in item 10, planning application DC/20/0695.

3. Minutes of Previous Meetings

The minutes of the meeting held on 11th March 2020, after a small amendment to the wording in item 6, Neighbourhood Plan, were agreed by all present as a true record of that meeting.

The minutes of the meeting held via email on 23rd March 2020 were agreed by all present as a true record of that meeting.

It was resolved the Chairman would sign the minutes once Covid 19 restrictions on meeting in person were lifted.

4. Public Forum

The resident of 52 Street Farm Lane, planning application DC/20/0600, wished to request that the Parish Council (PC) support her application to fell the Maple tree. The resident explained that the tree roots were causing a lot of damage to the drainage in the area and to her neighbours drainage system. A replacement tree, more suitable to the area, would be planted if permission were given to fell the Maple tree.

The Chairman suggested speaking with District Councillor (D Cllr) John Griffiths to see if he would be willing to speak with the tree officer at West Suffolk to assist in this application.

D Cllr Griffiths requested the resident contact him to discuss further.

5. Report from County Councillor Joanna Spicer MBE

County Councillor (C Cllr) Spicer apologised for not being able to attend the March meeting.

C Cllr Spicer reported the following –

- **Community Support** - Thanks to all the community for all their efforts in the Community during these unprecedented times due to Covid-19
- **Covid 19** - Suffolk County Council (S.C.C.) have been updating residents regularly on their website
- **Boundary Review** - The boundary review that was ongoing has been postponed, so divisional boundaries will continue for the foreseeable future. If there any further discussions of this issue I will report to the PC
- **Hempyard Bridge** – Monthly inspections were now being carried out and the reports will be forwarded to the PC
- **Vehicle Active Sign (V.A.S.)** C Cllr Spicer enquired if the V.A.S. sign had been deployed in Ixworth Thorpe recently or was the pole damaged. Cllr Wilson stated the pole was not damaged and the sign had not been deployed recently. C Cllr Spicer stated she would investigate this issue and inform the PC when the sign will next be deployed in Ixworth Thorpe
- **Roundabouts** – C Cllr Spicer commented that the two roundabouts within the Parish had been cut and enquired if this had been completed by S.C.C. or Marketing Force. The Chairman replied that the PC were unsure at this point
- **Highways** – C Cllr Spicer stated she would keep the PC informed of any upcoming issues with highways.

Cllr Lord asked if there was any further information of the progress of the footbridge over the by-pass. C Cllr Spicer stated there was nothing further yet, but she would investigate. Cllr Lord also asked, that as the Government had made a statement stating more money would be available for cycle walks and footpaths, had S.C.C. received any of this income yet. If they had, would this be made available at local level, such as Parish Councils, to improve their community. Cllr Lord also highlighted the overgrown pavement along Thetford Road in Ixworth and Ixworth Thorpe. C Cllr Spicer stated she would investigate both areas. Cllr Wilson wished to highlight that as the pavement in Ixworth Thorpe was overgrown the sand from the bank was running to the drains and were still blocked.

6. Report from District Councillor John Griffiths MBE

D Cllr Griffiths reported the following –

- **Weekly Reports** – D Cllr Griffiths reported he would make sure all PC members would get the weekly reports from West Suffolk
- **Covid 19** – £35 million pound has been granted in business rates relief along with £35 million pound in grants to eligible business within West Suffolk
- **Volunteering** – Community groups across the District have been setting up various community groups assisting with various tasks needed by the most vulnerable in society. The homeless at this difficult time had especially been helped
- **Waste Collection** – Waste collections from the brown bins will restart on 1st June 2020
- **Parks** – parks are still open within the District (not play areas) and are beginning to fill up. As they are being used more the West Suffolk are reintroducing car parks fees to Park car parks
- **Persimmon** – The planning application is still ongoing

Cllr Laughton wished to thank DC Griffiths for arranging for the fly tipping at the Village Hall to be removed.

7. Neighbourhood Plan

The Chairman reported that as all were aware, the Parish Council on 23rd March 2020, agreed to postpone work on the Neighbourhood Plan. One of the reasons for postponement was that one of the next major stages of the plan was a further public consultation to show the amendments since the last consultation.

The Parish Council are still fully committed to completing the plan.

Sadly, the Chairman had to report to members that five of the working group had chosen to resign from the group. The Chairman and all members wished to thank all those in the group for all the hard work they had undertaken to get the plan to this point. The plan was one, if not, the biggest project that had been undertaken in recent years.

It was agreed the Chairman write to each member who had resigned to thank them on behalf of the Parish Council.

It was agreed to hold a meeting at 2.30pm on 3rd June 2020 to discuss the next stage and agree how to proceed to complete this vital piece of work.

8. Housing Needs Study

The Clerk reported that Community Action Suffolk had contacted the PC to arrange a meeting to move this project forward. It was decided to discuss this further when the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group met next.

9. Anti-Social Behaviour

The Chairman reported that correspondence had been received about anti-social behaviour in Peasecroft Road. A discussion took place and it was resolved by all the Chairman could lobby all involved such as Police, Havebury Housing and any other organisation, to try to resolve this issue.

10. Annual Parish Meeting

It was confirmed that the Annual Parish Meeting would not be held in 2020.

11. Planning

DC/20/0600 – TPO – Fell 1no. Maple tree – 52 Street Farm Lane, Ixworth -

No Objection

Cllr Wilson left the Zoom meeting room whilst this application was discussed

DC/20/0695 – Change of use from redundant agricultural barn to light industrial (Class B1)/general industrial (Class B2)/storage and distribution (Class B8) – 1 Manor Farm Barns, Thetford Road, Ixworth Thorpe

No Objection

Cllr Wilson returned to the Zoom meeting room

DC/20/0441 – (i) change of use from car sales show room (sui generis) to a car body shop (B2) (ii) single storey glazed reception entrance extension (iii) vehicle spray booth to rear (iv) addition of roller shutter doors and additional windows to front elevation – Unit 1, High Street, Ixworth -

No Objection

12. Accounts

The Responsible Finance Officer (RFO) reported the following:

As per the measures put in place in the meeting held on 23rd March the following payments, due April 2020, were agreed by Cllrs Lord and Wilson and paid via BACS payment;

BACS	Wages	£1347.99
BACS	A Adlington (Bright Pay)	£58.80
BACS	West Suffolk DC	£157.04
BACS	SALC	£956.58
BACS	Navigus (NP)	£2011.80
BACS	Anglian Tree Solutions	£852.00
BACS	Anglian Water (Cemetery)	£11.93
BACS	Steve Wilson (Expenses)	£12.99
Direct Debit Nest Pensions		£37.37

The RFO had been authorised to transfer £5000 by on-line transfer from the business account to the community account.

The following payments were agreed for payment via BACS;

BACS	Wages	£1142.20
BACS	T.O.P Garden Services	£615.00
BACS	MCP Solicitors	£450.00
BACS	Village Hall	£27.23
BACS	A Adlington (Zoom)	£143.88
BACS	A Adlington (ICO Membership)	£40.00
BACS	Zurich Municipal (Insurance)	£957.70
BACS	Amplify Design & Print	£90.00
BACS	A Adlington (Expenses)	£94.52

Direct Debit Nest Pensions £27.60

The RFO had been authorised to transfer £3500 by on-line transfer from the business account to the community account.

13. Correspondence

The following correspondence had been received;

- **Anti-Social Behaviour** – Various Emails
- **Re-cycling Centres** – C Cllr Spicer
- **Thetford Road** – C Cllr Spicer
- **Letter to Parish/Town Councils** – Rt Hon Robert Jenkins MP

- **S.C.C.** - Hempyard Bridge Inspection (28.04.20) –
- **Monthly Report** – Steve Wilson
- **Hempyard Bridge** – Various Emails
- **S.C.C.** - Hempyard Bridge Inspection (14.05.20)
- **NPWG** – Various email - resignations from group
- **NPWG** – Emails re Education & Highways

It was decided that no replies were required.

14. Chairman’s Report

The Chairman reported that the Ixworth Community Resilience and Response Scheme had forty four volunteers come forward offering to help through this difficult time. Thirty three requests for help were dealt with. Many residents needing help became friends with the first volunteer assigned, who then carried on assisting without the need to come back to the scheme. Residents from outside the Parish had also been helped.

The Chairman wished to say a huge thank you to anyone who volunteered their services and sorry that all were not needed.

Thank you to the Ixworth Association for helping get the scheme off the ground and delivering the leaflets with the magazine.

Thank you to anyone who volunteered and assisted.

The Chairman wishes to relook at the Emergency Plan for the Parish soon once things have settled with the Covid-19 crisis.

15. Clerk’s Report

The Clerk reported that as the Annual Parish Meeting was not being held in 2020 the Community Recognition Awards will be awarded later or postponed until 2021.

The Clerk requested that the working group on Standing Orders meet before the next Parish Council in June to finalise the amended Standing Orders ready for adoption at the Annual Parish Council meeting in June. It was agreed to meet in a virtual meeting on 3rd June at 2pm.

The Clerk reported that unfortunately the defibrillator on the outside wall of the village hall has been taken out of use at present. The Clerk reported the key code number had been compromised and an essential item of equipment had been removed. The Clerk requested if she could follow this up and report back to members at a future meeting. It was agreed by all present the Clerk investigate and get the defibrillator back in service as soon as possible.

The Clerk also reported that she would be on holiday from Friday 22nd May 2020 until Monday 1st June 2020.

16. Councillor’s Reports

Cllr Laughton reported that the Slimming World advertisement sign was attached to the village sig. Cllr Lilley stated he had spoken with the slimming world representative who agreed to remove the sign.

Cllr Wilson wished to highlight the tree near the village sign needed some suckers removed from the trunk of the tree. All agreed that Cllr Wilson could remove the suckers.

17. Date of the Next Meeting

It was confirmed that the next meeting will be held on 10th June at 7.30pm. The meeting will be held virtually on the Zoom platform.

With no further business the meeting closed at 9pm.

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Signed

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Date