

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

*Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting of Ixworth & Ixworth Thorpe Parish Council meeting held Virtually via Zoom on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> June 2020 at 7:30pm*

**Present:** Cllr Ben Lord (Chairman) Cllrs Sophia Wilson, Nick Laughton, Pam Shelton, Terry Lilley, Ben Birrell & Vicky Sutton. Cllr Rowe joined the meeting at 8pm.

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

### **1. Election of Chairman**

Cllr Ben Lord was elected as Chairman for the coming year. There were no other candidates.

Cllr Lord signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office later when the Chairman and Clerk can meet in person.

### **2. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Cllr David Reeve. Apology was accepted by all present.

### **3. Statutory Business & Governance**

The following statutory business was agreed by all present;

#### **Committees**

- Finance Committee – All members will sit on committee
- Staffing Committee – Councillors (Cllrs) Wilson, Birrell and Lord

#### **Working Groups**

- **Cemetery** – Cllrs Lilley, Shelton and Lord
- **Neighbourhood Plan** – All members, Cllr Birrell will Chair the group
- **Council Policies** – Cllrs Lilley, Shelton and Lord

It was resolved that the Clerk would be the Burial Officer with delegated powers.  
All current Council policies were re-adopted.

It was discussed if a tree warden is still required for the Council. It was agreed that the Clerk approach the current warden to enquire if he was still happy to continue in the role.

### **4. Declarations of Interest**

No declarations were received.

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

The draft minutes of the meeting had been distributed to all members prior to the meeting. After a small amendment it was agreed by all present that the minutes were a true record of the meeting (held virtually) on 20<sup>th</sup> May 2020.

It was agreed by all present the Chairman would sign the minutes when the Clerk and Chairman were able to meet.

### **6. Public Forum**

A resident enquired if any update about the Persimmon Planning Application had been received from District Councillor (D Cllr) John Griffiths

D Cllr John Griffiths reported that the case officer for this application was due to meet with the developer but as yet no meeting had been arranged. At this stage it is too early to tell what is happening, but the application still needed to comply with West Suffolk Policies before the application could be agreed. The developer has been requested to alter certain aspects to make it acceptable.

A resident enquired if any update was available for the possibility for a new school. A document from the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group suggests that a new school unlikely as the current school still had vacancies.

County Councillor (C Cllr) Spicer stated things were much more difficult now than when the new development in Crown Lane was first discussed. At that time, the current school in Crown Lane was full but as stated it now has vacancies, this makes the argument for a new school weaker.

All is not lost and if the Crown Lane school would become full again then a new school would be more likely.

A discussion took place as to why current school has vacancies and it was agreed that the school is improving. It was noted it can be hard work to turn a school around after a discouraging OFSTED report.

A member whose children attend the school stated he was happy his children go there, and his children seemed happy there.

The school have been trying to engage with the community on various projects.

C Cllr Spicer and members encouraged anyone with children in the Parish to consider placing their children in the school.

### **7. Report from County Councillor Joanna Spicer MBE**

C Cllr Spicer reported the following;

- **Footbridge** – Unfortunately, the difficulties between Persimmon and West Suffolk have stalled this project somewhat. A small piece of land was required from the Persimmon development to accommodate the footings of the bridge. As yet, there has been no confirmation from Persimmon that they would be willing to give up this piece of land.
- **Kebab Van** – C Cllr Spicer stated that the status of the van had not been determined and requested if all Councils concerned could have a meeting to discuss. It was felt that if the van was operating illegally and on Suffolk County Council's land then it was their responsibility to take appropriate action
- **Ixworth Thorpe** – C Cllr Spicer confirmed that she had been given dates for the Vehicular Activated Sign (VAS) to be deployed in Ixworth Thorpe.  
C Cllr Spicer confirmed that the pavements needed to be swept by West Suffolk District Council (WSDC) before the drains could be unblocked again. Cllr Wilson stated she was very frustrated as the drains had not ever been unblocked. Every time it rained there was a larger puddle covering the road

D Cllr Griffiths stated he felt it would be unlikely that WSDC would wish to sweep the pavement again until the drains have been unblocked.

C Cllr Spicer also reported that a resident had enquired as to why when SCC workers had cleared some drains in Thetford Road, they had not cleared the interceptors. C Cllr Spicer stated she would report back to the resident once she had the information available.

### **8. Report from District Councillor John Griffiths MBE**

D Cllr Griffiths reported the following;

- **Bury St Edmunds** – The markets and the shops in and around the town were beginning to re-open after the Covid-19 shutdown. The Council had once again begun enforcing parking charges but had not increased them this year.
- **St Farm Lane Planning Application (52)** – this application was now going to be considered by the Delegation Committee on 16<sup>th</sup> June 2020
- **Civil Parking Enforcement** – The Civil Parking Enforcement team were now going to be visiting Ixworth on a weekly basis
- **Locality Budget** – D Cllr Griffiths stated his locality budget had been increased for the coming year. Any group wishing to apply for funding need to get in touch with him and he will direct them to the grant application process

It was agreed by all present the Chairman write a strongly worded letter to the Delegation Committee in support of the planning application at St Farm Lane.

It was agreed to request that the Civil Enforcement team take attention to vehicles parking in the disabled space in the High Street.

## **9. Neighbourhood Plan**

Cllr Birrell stated he did not have a lot to report yet. At present he was trying to work his way through the various documents that had been produced over the last couple of years.

Cllr Birrell wished to thank Debra Reay and her team for all their hard work getting the plan this far. Cllr Birrell hoped to be able to give a better report in a couple of months' time.

## **10. Planning**

**DC/20/0756** – TPO 1no Copper Beech (i) crown lift to 6m (ii) thin crown by 20% and (iii) target prune to balance crown on roadside – Hill House, High Street, Ixworth **No Objection**

**DC/20/0852**- (i) conversion of agricultural barn to 1no dwelling (ii) 1no outbuilding with garage – Wood Street Barn, Crown Lane, Ixworth **No Objection**

## **11. Annual Accounts**

Documents relevant to this item had been previously distributed to all Councillors

- (i) The internal controls were reviewed and agreed for the coming year
- (ii) After reviewing Section 1 of the Annual Governance Statement (AGAR) of the Annual Return, for year ending 31st March 2020 it was resolved that the Council had ensured there is a sound system of internal control. It was resolved that the Chairman and Clerk could sign this section of the form.
- (iii) After reviewing the figures in Section 2 of the Accounting Statement of the Annual Return, for year ending 31st March 2020 it was resolved that these figures were correct. It was resolved that the Chairman and Clerk could sign this section of the form
- (iv) The Fidelity Guarantee was reviewed and agreed the current amount of £250,000 was adequate

It was agreed that the Chairman would sign the AGAR when able to meet with the Responsible Finance Officer (RFO).

## **12. Accounts**

The following payments were agreed. It was agreed that all payments could be made via BACS payment.

BACS	Wages	£1303.72
BACS	H M Revenue & Customs	£419.76
BACS	RBA Solutions	£288.00
Direct Debit Nest Pensions		£36.81

The RFO had been authorised to transfer £2000 by on-line transfer from the business account to the community account.

## **13. Correspondence**

The following correspondence had been received and previously distributed to all members

**Covid 19 Update** - 29.05.2020

**C Cllr Joanna Spicer** – Ixworth Thorpe V.A.S.

**C Cllr Joanna Spicer** – Schools Re-opening 01.06.2020

**D Cllr John Griffiths** –

Infographic on Covid 19

Stick with Suffolk

Suffolk Collective Newsletter

Message from West Suffolk Leader

**S.C.C.** Road Closure -A642 (drainage works)

Map for above road closure

**C Cllr Joanna Spicer** – Suffolk Libraries

**C Cllr Joanna Spicer** – Ixworth Thorpe Pavement

**C Cllr John Griffiths** – Ixworth Thorpe Pavement

**Steve Wilson** – Monthly Report

**Cllr Laughton** – Resignation

**Resident** – Robins Copse

Cllr Laughton stated he would contact the Wildlife Group who look after Robins Copse to discuss the residents concerns about trees overhanging his house and report back to the Council.

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

Information on this scheme had been previously distributed to all members. The Self-help Scheme means that the Parish Council would be able to organise getting some issues completed rather than waiting for other Councils to complete things that are important to this Parish. Examples of such issues could be getting overgrown hedges cut back, overgrown verges cut, and village signs being cleaned.

It was agreed to start a Minor Works Group to look at this further and report back to members at a future meeting. The new group would consist of Cllrs Sutton, Wilson, Lilley and Lord. A meeting would be arranged as soon as possible.

#### **15. Chairman's Report**

The Chairman stated he had more anti-social behaviour in Peasecroft Road reported to him again. The Chairman had contacted PC Andre Dejongh but he had been redeployed during the Covid-19 situation. The Chairman also stated that a Police vehicle had attended one evening but did not stop, just drove into Peasecroft and then directly back out again. It was agreed by all present that the Chairman contact Havebury Housing and the Police Commissioner to discuss further.

A meeting of the Cemetery working group was arranged for 1<sup>st</sup> July at 9am at the Cemetery. Current social distancing regulations could be observed.

#### **16. Clerk's Report**

The Clerk had nothing to report.

#### **17. Councillors Report**

Cllr Wilson once again reported the road sign directing traffic to Troston had not yet been repaired even though it had been reported several times. C Cllr Spicer wished to highlight things were exceedingly difficult for SCC at present as budgets had been cut yet again.

Cllr Laughton confirmed his resignation as from the end of the meeting tonight. Cllr Laughton thanked all his fellow members current and past for all their hard work supporting the community over the years. At times things had been difficult but some good things had been accomplished in his time such as the by-pass and many other successes.

Cllr Laughton wished his fellow Councillors good luck for the future.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Laughton for his thirty years of service to the Council and the community and expressed the following sentiment:

Cllr Laughton has been great support to all new members, including me, and was always a pillar of strength and kept us all on the straight and narrow. Cllr Laughton always kept the Parish at the heart of the work he undertook for the Parish. You will be sadly missed.

All members agreed with Cllr Lord's sentiments.

C Cllr Spicer stated she also wished to add her thanks to Cllr Laughton, they had worked many many years together and she would miss him greatly missed by her and others. As a side bar she just wanted to remind members that Cllr Laughton was on the panel that selected her to become a candidate to be elected for SCC Ward member for this area so, in jest, he had a lot to answer for.

#### **18. Date of the Next Meeting**

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> July at 7.30pm. This meeting will be held virtually via the Zoom platform.

With no further business the meeting closed at 9.20pm.

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Signed

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Date