

IXWORTH AND IXWORTH THORPE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Ixworth & Ixworth Thorpe Parish Council meeting held in Ixworth Village Hall on Wednesday 10th August 2022 at 7.30pm

Present: Councillors (Cllrs) Ben Lord (Chairman) Sophia Wilson, Kate Rees, Pam Shelton, Clare Black, Steve Wilson and Debra Reay

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

Abbreviations

Cllr – Councillor, PC – Parish Council, C Cllr – County Councillor, D Cllr – District Councillor, WSC – West Suffolk Council, SCC – Suffolk County Council, RFO -Responsible Finance Officer, PCC – Parochial Church Council

1. Welcome from Chairman

Cllr Lord welcomed all present to the August meeting of Ixworth & Ixworth Thorpe Parish Council.

Cllr Reay advised those present that she was making her own recording of the meeting

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from-

Cllr Birrell – family commitments – apology accepted

Cllr Sutton – maternity leave – apology accepted

3. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Sophia Wilson declared a pecuniary interest in planning application DC/22/0612/VAR

4. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

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

It was resolved that the Chair sign the minutes as a true record of the meetings held on 13th July 2022.

5. Clerks Report

The Clerk reported the following;

- **Code of Conduct**

It was agreed at the March meeting to report Cllr Reay to the Monitoring Officer at WSC that she had possibly breached the Code of Conduct.

WSC Monitoring Officer have investigated and have concluded that Cllr Reay did not breach the PC's Code of Conduct.

- **Correspondence**

All correspondence had been responded to as instructed. Confirmation of receipt had not been obtained from some.

- **Tree Warden**

An article would go into this or next month's magazine.

- **Ixworth Thorpe Gateway Sign**

SCC have not yet given permission for the sign to be installed. I will contact again to chase.

- **Chalk Lane Cycle Barriers** – No response as yet, I will request information from higher officer

- **Chalk Lane sign** – no response from SCC

Cllr Steve Wilson enquired if there was any further updates on the following;

- Local Police Officer attending a meeting
- A new dog bin at the Village Hall
- Funding for dropped Kerbs

The Clerk informed members that there were no updates on these enquiries.
Cllr Reay requested if it was possible for Cllrs to receive a copy of the PC's response to the WSC Local Plan Consultation.

The Clerk states she would upload to the Cllrs secure website.

Action: Clerk

6. Reports from County and District Councillor

C Cllr Spicer reported the following:

- **Ixworth Court** - Unfortunately a recent inspection found that care at Ixworth Court was inadequate. Cllr Spicer would send a summary of the report for Cllrs to view
- **Ixworth Library** – Cllr Spicer had recently met with the new manager of Ixworth Library. It has been ten years since Suffolk Libraries was established and it is good to report that there had been no library closes in that time
- **A1088** – SCC had now painted new road markings at the junction of the A1088 and Thetford Road and cut back some of the vegetation
- **A1088 (Bridge Farm Bridge)** – the current restrictions and signage had now been extended to eighteen months. It has been suggested by some that this restriction will be made permanent, there are no plans for this at present, if anyone contacts the PC, please could they pass on to C Cllr Spicer
- **Rights of Way** – C Cllr Spicer had a long walk with Ixworth Footpath Warden which was very informative and requested that the footpath warden has an occasional slot on the agenda. Mr Rees stated he would contact the Clerk when this is required

Cllr Lord enquired if C Cllr Spicer had followed up with the appropriate SCC Officer following the recent Jaynic public consultation event. C Cllr Spicer stated that she had not done so as yet. C Cllr Spicer just wished to highlight that as yet no planning application had been submitted for this development.

D Cllr Griffiths reported the following:

- **Locality Budget** – D Cllr Griffiths wished to highlight he still had funds available to award grants to local groups from his locality budget. D Cllr Griffiths urged local groups to apply
- **Crown Lane Development** – At present there is no further information or progress on this issue. Developers and landowners are still liaising with WSC planners. Hopefully, there will be a consultation of a new Masterplan for the site. D Cllr Griffiths stated he would keep the Council updated on any progress with this issue

Cllr Steve Wilson enquired if there was any update on the Open Spaces consultation that the PC had completed some months ago. D Cllr Griffiths thought this was part of the WSC Local Plan Consultation.

It was agreed that the Clerk would contact WSC for an update.

Action: Clerk

7. Public Forum

- Footpaths
Mr Ian Rees reported that he had walked the Rights of Way within the Parish that morning all the areas were looking good and given the recent weather little grass-cutting was required.

While I note that no action is currently planned regarding the Reports I provided on 2nd March 2022 (Numbers 353444, 353447, 353448) as either 'no way-marking is being done owing to budgetary restrictions' or (in the case of the missing footpath sign) the contractor being busy

on the grass-cutting programme, I was surprised to see that work orders were authorised within two working days in the case of two recent reports dated 30th July (368655 and 368656), submitted by the Landowner. Having examined the ground today, I would advise that the first of these is unnecessary, as a firm and clear sign is already in place at the junction of the Bridleway and the Heath Farm Track. The second report - requesting a Bridleway sign near Brewsters Plantation - is also unnecessary, given the Landowner's own sign informing walkers that the track going north at that point is private land and not a right of way. Plus, as the westward direction of the Bridleway is clear at that point, any sign would effectively come under the heading of way-marking - and thus inconsistent with your current policy re budgetary restrictions. Unless the Landowner is paying for the work himself, of course

- Youth Club

Mr Mike Jones updated the PC on progress with the Youth Club. Mr Jones informed members that two youth workers had been employed and though the youth club was not open yet they were engaging with younger residents to find out what they want from the youth club. The club is having an open evening on 15th September and hope to open for the first evening on 22nd September 2022. Mr Jones sated that more volunteers were required and if anyone was interested, please contact him.

8. Planning

Cllr Sophia Wilson left the meeting due to declaring pecuniary interest in the following planning application

DC/22/0612/VAR – variation of condition 10 to enable commencement of development prior to bat licence being issued which relates to the demolition of the existing cottages and condition 15 of DC/21/1198/FUL to enable current occupants to remain in existing dwellings until new dwellings are available for occupation – Land North of Green Acre, Ixworth Thorpe **No objection**

Cllr Sophia Wilson re-joined the meeting

DC/22/1223/TCA – a, two Cotoneaster-reduce overhang to neighbours by six metres; b, one Beech-reduce in height by four metres; c, two Plum-reduce overhang to road by six metres – Stockacre House, Thetford Road, Ixworth **Not commented on as application already approved by WSC**

Cllr Rees wished to highlight a comment made in the latest Ixworth Magazine re planning application DC/22/0301 & DC/22/0302. At the time of the meeting of 9th March 2022 when this application was discussed no members of the public attended the meeting, no comments of objection were received by the PC and no comments by residents were on the application at WSDC.

9. Finance

The following were agreed;

BACS	Staffing	£1462.00
BACS	Suffolk Accident Rescue Service (Grant)	£150.00
BACS	Citizens Advice Bureau (Grant)	£100.00
Direct Debit	NEST	£42.07

The RFO (Responsible Finance Officer) was authorised to transfer £500 by on-line transfer from the business account to the community account.

Cllr Sophia Wilson would authorise, online, the payments above. **Action: Clerk & Cllr Sophia Wilson**

It was agreed to hold a finance workshop on Monday 26th September 2022 at 5.30pm in Ixworth Village Hall.

10. Ixworth Cemetery

The Chairman explained that the Memorial application to be discussed, as per agenda, has been postponed as the applicant will be sending an amended design for the Council to consider.

It was agreed that the Cemetery working group would meet at the Cemetery on Monday 22nd August at 2.30pm.

Cllr Lord is unable to attend so Cllr Rees volunteered to attend in his absence.

11. Parish Council Communication Pathway

A suggested PC Communication Pathway had previously been distributed to Cllrs. The reason for a communications pathway is so all members, when approached by a resident, have a clear pathway to follow when dealing with queries.

It was resolved to adopt the suggested document whilst acknowledging that the process will evolve over the coming months.

Cllrs will now follow the pathway when residents contact or approach them on an issue within the Parish.

As per GDPR all personal details given by a resident will never be disclosed in the public domain. If a resident wishes to contact the PC with a query, via the Clerk, and request to remain anonymous from the Cllrs and public then the Clerk will continue to manage this request.

While the PC are requesting the residents name when making a query or asking a question, as above, at no time will their names or addresses appear in the public domain.

12. Chairmans Report

Cllr Lord reported that he was honoured to accept an invitation to represent us at the recent RAF Honington Summer Sunset Ceremony alongside other civic leaders from the area.

It is very much hoped and anticipated that the revised draft of the NP will be presented to the Parish Council in time for next month's meeting. The Chairman remind everyone that this document is not to be externally shared until the Parish Council holds the next residents consultation on what is proposed to be submitted to West Suffolk Council.

Cllr Lord also reported that he had attended the Jaynic presentation on their suggested development at Shepherds Grove in Stanton.

Cllr Steve Wilson enquired if any progress had been made with Mulleys roundabout sponsorship. Cllr Lord explained that this issue was on hold until SCC and Marketingforce had completed their contract renewal negotiations.

13. Correspondence

The following correspondence had been received;

- **WSC** – Street Lighting Audit
- **Resident** – Parking problems New Road
- **Sparse UK** – Rural Parish/Town Group
- **Paul West (SCC)** – Chalk Lane/Street Farm Lane Information
- **Headway Suffolk** – email and attachment
- **JayNic** – Thank You for attending

The Clerk was instructed to contact Sparse UK for further information on the services they were offering.

The parking concerns raised by the New Road resident had been passed, with the consent of the resident, to C Cllr Spicer. The Clerk was also instructed to contact the resident requesting if their concerns could be passed to Havebury Housing as they are landlords of properties within New Road.

It was agreed to place an article in the magazine informing residents of the response received from SCC relating to Chalk Lane/Street Farm Lane.

The Clerk was instructed to complete the street lighting audit for WSC.

Action: Clerk

14. Councillors Reports

Cllr Black highlighted her concerns about traffic speeding in Micklesmere Drive, especially cars coming off the roundabout. Residents have expressed their concerns for children crossing the road. Cllr Black requested is this could be added to the September agenda to discuss if anything actions could be taken to slow traffic or make drivers aware of children in the vicinity. It was agreed by all present to add to the September agenda.

Cllr Reay wished to highlight how pleased she was pleased but unsurprising by the WSC Monitoring Officers decision concerning the Code of Conduct Complaint made regarding her and she is pleased to note that the matter is now closed.

Cllr Sophia Wilson reported that unfortunately due to the extreme heat the play area refurbishment has been halted. The grass mats cannot be laid on such dry ground.

Cllr Sophia Wilson requested in the PCC could be contacted as only one light was working at Ixworth Thorpe Church. It was agreed by all present that the Clerk contact the PCC.

Action: Clerk

15. Date of the Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as 14th September 2022 at 7.30pm in Ixworth Village Hall.

16. Exclusion of the Press and Public

to resolve that under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public be excluded from the meeting due to the confidential nature of the business to be discussed.

- (i) Discuss a commercially sensitive report

The press and public were excluded at 8.50pm.

17. Close Meeting

With no further business the meeting closed at 9.10pm.

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Signed

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Date