

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

*Minutes of The Annual Parish Council Meeting of Ixworth & Ixworth Thorpe Parish Council meeting held in Ixworth Village Hall on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2022 at 7:30pm*

**Present:** Councillors (Cllrs) Lord (Chairman), Pam Shelton, Debra Reay and Kate Rees

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

### **Abbreviations**

Cllr/Cllrs – Councillor/Councillors, C Cllr – County Councillor, D Cllr – District Councillor, PC – Parish Council, WSC – West Suffolk Council, RFO -Responsible Finance Officer, NP – Neighbourhood Plan, SCC – Suffolk County Council,

Cllr Reay informed members she was making a recording of this meeting.

### **1. Opening Statement from Chairman**

The Chairman welcomed Cllrs and members of the public to the December meeting.

The Chairman explained that item 18 was not required so there would be no exclusion of the press and public.

### **2. Apologies**

Apologies were received from –

Cllr Black – illness – apology accepted

Cllr Birrell – childcare – apology accepted

Cllr Wilson – childcare – apology accepted

Cllr Sutton – childcare – apology accepted

### **3. Declarations of Interest**

No declarations of interest were declared.

No requests for dispensation had been received.

### **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 meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> November 2022.

### **5. Clerk's Report**

The Clerk reported the following;

- **Meeting Dates** – The meeting dates for 2023 would be displayed in the PC Notice Board and as agreed in November the January meeting will be held on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> January at 7.30pm in Ixworth Village Hall
- **Updates** – a full report giving updates on any outstanding issues will be given at the January meeting
- **Clerks Holiday** – the Clerk will be on holiday from Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2022 until Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2023. Emails will be viewed but something of an urgent nature will be responded to

### **6. Reports from County & District Councillors**

C Cllr Spicer reported the following

- **Crown Lane Steps** – the steps leading down to the bypass had now been cleared by an Officer from SCC.
- **Micklesmere Drive** – C Cllr Spicer informed members that she had visited the area of concern in Micklesmere Drive with Cllrs Lord and Black. C Cllr Spicer's that the installation of 'road cushions' may help to slow the traffic coming off the roundabout and from the estate. C Cllr Spicer suggested the PC discuss this issue further to make a decision for her to assist in accomplishing
- **Sizewell C** – as Cllrs may be aware the Government have giving the go ahead for this project. As previously mentioned, Sizewell C have to offset land for wildlife lost in the development somewhere

else. Fen Road in Pakenham has been mentioned for this off set. A consultation is about to be distributed to local Councils for their thoughts and C Cllr Spicer has requested that Ixworth & Ixworth Thorpe Parish Council is included in the consultation.

- **Roundabout Sponsorship** – C Cllr Spicer is aware that this issue had been paused while SCC negotiated with Marketingforce to establish a new contract to upkeep sponsored roundabouts. C Cllr Spicer stated she would chase this issue.

D Cllr Griffiths reported the following;

- **WSC** – a recent update of issues surrounding WSC had been distributed to the Clerk
- **Suffolk Devolution Deal** – it has recently been announced by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities a devolution deal to award £480 million to Suffolk. The grant will be used for all kinds of infrastructure within Suffolk
- **Community Grants** – D Cllr Griffiths reminded members that WSC had available all types of grants available to local groups to assist in various projects within WSC.

It was agreed to add Micklesmere Drive to the January agenda.

**Action: Clerk**

## **7. Public Forum**

Members of the public made the following comments;

- **Post Office Services** – it was good to see the PC were looking to assist in re-opening of the Post Office on the site of the old Post Office. It was also commented that the calculations for staffing was possibly a bit short and would need to be looked at further
- **Sizewell C** – the land mentioned in this consultation is not actually new fen land. If this area were to be developed by Sizewell C then issues such as water drainage and the affect it would have on the local rivers would need to be looked at very carefully

## **8. Planning**

**DC/22/2042/HH** – (a) Conversion of garage to habitable room, including raising of roof (b) Detached car port - Five Gables, Stow Road, Ixworth, IP31 2JB

**No Objection  
Action: Clerk**

## **9. Finance**

The list of payments list along with invoices had been distributed to Cllrs prior to the meeting.

BACS	Staffing	£1803.54
BACS	H M Revenue & Customs	£561.20
BACS	A Adlington	£103.75
BACS	Viking	£279.29
Direct Debit	NEST	£58.82

The RFO was authorised to transfer £2750 by on-line transfer from the business account to the community account.

Cllr Wilson would authorise, online, the payments -

**Action: Clerk & Cllr Wilson**

The bank reconciliation, previously circulated was agreed by all present and signed by Cllrs Wilson and Lord.

## **10. Precept 2023-2024**

The RFO had distributed prior to the meeting a suggested budget for 2023-2024.

A discussion was held on various categories within the budget on what could be amended or removed.

It was agreed to request £47115 a reduction of £2350 meaning a reduction of £1.78 per annum on the D Band property. Members present very much wished to take the opportunity to reduce the council tax burden on residents during the current Cost of Living Crisis and felt able to do this given the prudent measures taken in running the finances of the Parish Council satisfactorily.

However, the final confirmation would depend on West Suffolk District Council when their budget is finalised.

### **11. Asset of Community Value**

Cllr Lord gave the following report;

As agreed, the PC gave a public consultation presentation around the concept of re-establishing Post Office Services on Wednesday 7 December. This was attended by twenty-five residents and 4 Parish Councillors. Broadly speaking, the concept was warmly welcomed and encouraged. Feedback forms were circulated amongst those attending of which nineteen responses came forward – 14 supporting this with various comments and five not supportive with no comments. In an effort to reach out to those who could not attend, the presentation has been uploaded to the website and feedback invited. So far, we have received eight emails, all unanimously supportive with one offering some helpful reflections that will aid any further detailed development of the business case. The Ixworth Association has kindly offered sufficient space in the forthcoming magazine to also submit the presentation in a format suitable for the magazine as a further method of communicating. It is therefore proposed to continue inviting comments up until our January meeting. At that point, we will need to make some decisions as to our next steps and how we might proceed.

Whilst all of the possible funding of this has been based around lending from the Public Works Loan Board, I am also reaching out to West Suffolk Council to see if this initiative would meet the criteria for the Community Chest Fund.

At this stage, we very much emphasise encouragement for the village to respond to this consultation ahead of our meeting in January.

It was agreed to continue to advertise the consultation through the website and place an article in the magazine inviting comments from residents on this project. **Action: Cllr Lord**

It was agreed to place on the agenda for further discussion in January. **Action: Clerk**

### **12. Neighbourhood Plan**

Cllr Lord, Chairman of the NPWG gave the following report;

A secure final draft of the NP was distributed to all Cllrs prior to the meeting. The only changes between the draft copy adopted in October 2021 and this final draft edition is the removal of a site allocation and provisions made within the plan towards Village Hall Facilities agreed at the November 2022 meeting. The document is now being submitted to WSC for examination. As this has been closely monitored by our consultant, we are not anticipating any further amendments required that would cause any further delays and we therefore hope to proceed to the 6-week consultation in the second half of January to ensure we are on target to have this go to the ballot in the May 2023 local elections.

### **13. Ixworth Cemetery**

A memorial application had been distributed to Cllrs prior to the meeting.

It was agreed by all present to give permission for the memorial to be installed. The Clerk was instructed to inform the applicant and the stone mason. **Action: Clerk**

### **14. Correspondence**

The following correspondence had been received;

- **SCC** – Continuation of TRO
- **SCC** – Upcoming Work – Ixworth Thorpe
- **Cllr David Roach** – Sunnica
- **Joanna Spicer** – A1088 Closure
- **John Griffiths** – WSC Annual Report
- **John Griffiths** – WSC Newsletter Issue 7
- **John Griffiths** – Seasons Greetings
- **Joanna Spicer** – Crown Lane Steps
- **WSC** – Coronation of the King
- **WSC** – Shared Prosperity Funding
- **Joanna Spicer** – Ixworth Bus to BSE

It was agreed to respond to the Sizewell consultation of Fen Land in Pakenham when received.  
It was agreed that no responses were required to correspondence received.

**15. Chairman's Report**

Thank you to the Councillors who participated in this year's Remembrance Sunday commemorations. The community once more very well supported them.

Disappointingly, I have been the subject of criticism from some in the community because I was stood on the saluting dais receiving the salute by the parade as it filed past on its return to the Fire Station rather than it being observed by any member of the armed forces. This event is a civic event and the parade is a civic parade organised by the Parish Council. If this were a military event, then military protocol would be followed. However, since it is a civic parade and in compliance with the very well laid out and rehearsed protocol governing civic events nationally, whoever is the highest ranking civic dignitary in attendance is who assumes that position during the parade. For example, if our District or County Councillor or the MP or Deputy Lord Lieutenant was in attendance, they would take appropriate ranking precedent. In the absence of any of those, the Chairman of the Parish Council takes this position as has been the case with many of my predecessors in years gone by. Ordinarily, I would not pay too much attention to such criticism but I feel it beneficial to set the record straight so that it answers any comments that may arise in any future civic occasions.

**16. Councillor's Reports**

Cllr Shelton wished to highlight again the verge and path between Peddars Close and Abbey Farm has still not been cut back.

**17. Date of the Next Meeting**

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Monday 16<sup>th</sup> January at 7.30pm in Ixworth Village Hall.

**18. Exclusion of the Press & Public**

As stated by the Chairman at the opening of the meeting the press and public were not required to be excluded.

**19. Close Meeting**

With no further business the meeting closed at 9.05pm

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Signed

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Date