

IXWORTH AND IXWORTH THORPE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting of Ixworth & Ixworth Thorpe Parish Council meeting held in Ixworth Village Hall Monday 16th January 2022 at 7:30pm

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

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

Abbreviations

Cllr/Cllrs – Councillor/Councillors, C Cllr – County Councillor, PC – Parish Council, WSC – West Suffolk Council, RFO -Responsible Finance Officer, NP – Neighbourhood Plan, SCC – Suffolk County Council, VAS – Vehicle Activated Sign, WG – Working Group, D Cllr – District Councillor

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 January meeting. The Chairman explained that item 18, the exclusion of the press and public, may not be required dependant on any decision made in item 13.

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from –

Cllr Black – family bereavement – apology accepted.

Cllr Sutton – childcare – apology accepted.

Cllr Birrell – 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 14th December 2022.

5. Clerks Report

The Clerk reported the following;

- **SCC** – C Cllr Spicer was obtaining the license application to install the Ixworth Thorpe sign and the Chalk lane sign
- **VAS** – a volunteer is required to assist in installing the VAS on a regular basis
- **Ixworth Cemetery** – a meeting of the working group is required to discuss further the option of having an area for additional waste
- **NP** -the group are waiting for further comments from WSC before arranging the public consultation

It was agreed for the Cemetery WG to meet on 1st February 2023 at 9.30am at the Cemetery.

Action: Clerk, Cllrs Rees, Shelton and Lord

It was agreed to place an article in a future magazine to advertise the need for help with the VAS.

Cllr Reay enquired if there was a timeframe on when WSC will respond to the NP. The Clerk stated she would enquire and inform members. **Action: Clerk**

The Clerk would complete the license required to install the above signs.

Action: Clerk

6. Reports from County and District Councillors

D Cllr Griffiths offered his apologies for not being able to attend the meeting.

C Cllr Spicer reported the following:

- **Hempyard Bridge** – C Cllr Spicer stated that as far as she was aware Hempyard Bridge was still to be repaired this year. In the meantime SCC were making monthly checks on the bridge
- **Mulleys Roundabout** – C Cllr Spicer informed members that she had not yet been informed if Marketingforce had agreed a contract with SCC for upkeep of sponsored roundabouts
- **License for Signs** – C Cllr Spicer stated she would pass on the license application to the Clerk for installation of the signs in Ixworth Thorpe and Chalk Lane

7. Public Forum

A resident wanted to make the following comments on the Discharge of Requirement Sizewell C, The Fen, Pakenham;

- Construction of Sizewell C will destroy a piece of larger fen Meadow and disrupt in-soil movement of water to a much larger area of the Minsmere Reserve. They have to mitigate this effect by creating similar habitat elsewhere. Three sites are to be used Benhall (small), Halesworth (small) and Pakenham very much the biggest
- The proposal is to take an area to the south of Pakenham Mill approximately where the Pakenham Stream leaks (which is to be repaired). The valley is a mix of Fen Meadow and Rush Meadow and will create 3 new blocks of Fen Meadow out of rush meadow. Pakenham Stream and the drainage ditch would remain. The Rush Meadow dries out in winter so will have the drains blocked. Approximately 50cm of topsoil will be removed and then new soil from Sizewell will be added but to a lower depth, the whole will be sculpted to provide a range of depths
- There are two major areas of concern for Ixworth residents, the water level in the Black Bourn and the soil transfer from Sizewell to Pakenham Fen
 - (i) the soil transfer to Pakenham Fen is scheduled to commence 2026 but this could be brought forward. Soil transfer is likely to create approx. 7,000 (3,500 each way) lorry movements from and to Pakenham over a 16 week period in the Summer. The above numbers equate to approximately 48 HGVs in each direction each day. The works access will be from the Thurston Road, beyond the windmill towards Thurston, an existing field access will be redeveloped. The vehicles will approach from Bury St Edmunds and turn right into Thurston Road. The route description makes use of the ghost junction with the added risk of crossing the oncoming traffic lane. Perhaps it would be a safer option for the lorries to continue to Mulleys roundabout and then approach the junction from the opposite direction thus then making a left turn.
 - (ii) EDF's response to an enquiry on the impact to the Black Bourn of altering the landscape in Pakenham was *"no water control structures are proposed within the area of proposed works and there will be no hydrological link between the proposed works and the river. Therefore there is not expected to be any effect on the river flow through Pakenham"*. The maps show three new weirs intended to maintain minimum levels of water in the new fen. In dry periods water which would otherwise flow into the central drain and Pakenham stream will be retained. The existing licence for surface water extraction nearby will continue. It is thus likely that if there were a repetition of last year's drought, which is probable, water availability at the mill and therefore entering the Black Bourn could be further reduced. This is supported by EDF's Hydrological Report

A discussion took place on how the PC could respond to a consultation which is now a Statutory Instrument agreed by Parliament and SCC cannot delay or oppose the request to Discharge Condition 25.

It was agreed to respond stating the PC were concerned with the lorries crossing the A143 when turning into Thurston Road and suggest the lorries use the Mulleys Roundabout and turn left into Thurston Road instead. Members felt this would be the safer option.

Action: Clerk

8. Planning

No applications had been received.

9. Planning Other

Application DC/22/2190/HYB had been received by WSC and although the PC were not a consultee on this application it was felt that the PC needed to discuss and make a response as this application may have an impact of this Parish.

Cllr Lord, as lead Cllr looking at this development over the last few months, presented the following points to consider;

- This application does not address any of the concerns that this Parish Council have shared with the applicant both in e-mails as well as at the public consultation event in July.

In August 2022, JayNic wrote to SCC suggesting that WSC had asked for a response on the “ES Scope” on the basis that WSC felt there were ‘issues’ north of BSE (i.e.. Great Barton and Ixworth).

The following day, Peter Bradfield from SCC advised that “the scope of the Transport Assessment should be limited to the new roundabout”

- Despite assurances, SCC are not producing any modelling data to mitigate what the applicant is using by way of evidence in their application.
- Applicant has said they expect traffic generation to be as follows:

237 vehicles arriving AM | 34 departing the site

56 vehicles arriving PM | 271 departing the site

Overall in movement terms, 924 arrivals in a 12-hour period versus 931 departures

78.8% of this is anticipated to come from west of the site (e.g. along the A143 passed Ixworth).

In real terms, that’s an extra 728 arrival movements versus 733 departures in a 12-hour period

- No impact data on the construction traffic generation over the period of construction
- Within the application, the applicant suggests that they would look to create footpath/cycling access to the site “safely”. If someone from Ixworth was employed at that site and wanted to travel by cycle, they cannot do that safely given the way the A143 is at the moment, as well as considering the current extent of traffic congestion. Most people would likely prefer to use quieter roads and lanes but for anyone living in Ixworth, this means crossing 60mph roads or negotiating roundabouts. A footbridge across the bypass would give people the ability to cross safely and use the quieter roads between Ixworth and Stanton to commute to/from work.

Cllr Lord recommended that the Council objects to this application on the following recommendations;

- Excessive increase in traffic where the vast majority of movements will use the A143 Ixworth Bypass
- No consideration has been given to mitigate this by contributing towards and/or providing a footbridge over the A143 Ixworth Bypass to create a safe crossing for the existing footpath network. Aside from the need that future development in Ixworth will create, this development accelerates that need as the impact will be exacerbated by this development

A lengthy discussion took place on the additional lorry movement and the traffic implications this could have on Ixworth. It was felt the additional traffic could cause further safer issues with pedestrians crossing the by-pass to use the circular footpath route.

The Clerk informed members that Stanton Parish Council were also now objecting to the application.

Cllr Spicer stated she would not be objecting to this application as the development of a relief road would be a benefit to Stanton by relieving traffic through the village thus improving the safety of residents.

It was resolved to object to this application in line with the above recommendations.

It was resolved that Cllr Lord would prepare a press relief for the magazine and social media platforms to draw attention to the unique factors this development will have on the Parish.

Action: Cllr Lord & Clerk

10. Finance

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

BACS	Staffing	£1500.83
BACS	Top Garden Services (grass cutting)	£1230.00
BACS	Ixworth Village Hall (meeting room rental)	£61.60
BACS	Anglian Water (WAVE) (Cemetery)	£15.29

Direct Debit NEST £43.93

The RFO was authorised to transfer £1500 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.

11. Micklesmere Drive

As Cllr Black was taking the lead on this project this item will be added to the February agenda.

Action: Clerk

12. Sizewell C

This item was discussed in item 7. It was agreed to send a response to SCC highlighting the Councils concerns on the number of lorries making right turns off the A143 into Thurston Road.

Action: Clerk

13. Asset of Community Value

Cllr Lord presented the following points for members to discuss on the recent Post Office consultation;

- 25 people attended the public consultation presentation on 7 December 2022.
- 15 emails have been received since the public consultation presentation in response to social media and village magazine articles.
- 27 supporting, 7 not in support, 6 people attending the presentation did not submit a feedback form.

Given such a small response from the community a discussion was held on whether the PC could proceed meaningfully with a near £250k investment and the following was resolved;

- The Parish Council cannot proceed further with this initiative
- A report is placed is circulated amongst the community highlighting the outcome of the consultation and the decision of the Council
- Cllr Lord would circulate a copy to Cllrs

Action: Cllr Lord

14. Chairman’s Report

The Chairman expressed his disappointment that the large tree had no lights switched on this year over the Christmas period. The Chairman requested that the PC discuss further at a future meeting who is responsible for arranging the lights.

It was agreed to discuss further at a future meeting.

It was resolved the PC would support the Events Committee on any events they seek to undertake.

15. Correspondence

The following correspondence had been received;

- **SCC & C Cllr Spicer** – Sizewell Discharge of Requirement (Fen Road, Pakenham)
- **Jaynic** – Shepherds Grove
- **Ixworth Library** – Invitation to Ixworth Library New Banner Launch (28.01.2023 at 11am)

Sizewell C Discharge of Requirement was discussed in agenda item 12.

Jaynic (Shepherds Grove Planning Application) was discussed in agenda item 9.

16.Councillors Reports

Cllr Shelton was pleased to inform members that the verge along Thetford Road has finally been cut back.

Cllr Wilson enquired if the lights at Ixworth Thorpe will be repaired.

Cllr Wilson enquired if any progress had been made on a meeting with Playdale to discuss the installation of the new play equipment and if the PC had received any applications on a new member being co-opted.

Cllr Reay enquired if anyone knew where the information plaques near the village sign had gone.

The Clerk reported that she was speaking with Rev Burton and Jill Walker in relation to the lights at Ixworth Thorpe Church and St Mary’s Church, hopefully before the February meeting.

Action: Clerk

The Clerk reported that even though two people had should an interest no applications had been received in relation to the vacancy on the Council.

It was felt that as the wall that the plaques were installed on was in the process of being repaired that perhaps the owner had removed them while the repairs took place. The Clerk would enquire and inform members.

Action: Clerk

17. Date of the Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Wednesday 8th February 2023 at 7.30pm in Ixworth Village Hall.

The next item was not required.

18. Exclusion of the Press & 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 matters of commercially sensitivity relating to an Asses of Community Value

With no further business the meeting closed at 9.10pm.

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Signed

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Date