

## **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 8<sup>th</sup> February 2023 at 7:30pm*

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

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

### **Abbreviations**

Cllr/Cllrs – Councillor/Councillors, C Cllr – County Councillor, PC – Parish Council, WSC – West Suffolk Council, RFO -Responsible Finance Officer, SCC – Suffolk County Council, 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 February meeting.

### **2. Apologies**

Apologies were received from –

Cllr Sutton – childcare – apology accepted.

Cllr Birrell – family illness – apology accepted.

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

No declarations of interest were made.

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.

After a minor amendment, it was resolved that the Chair sign the minutes as a true record of the meeting held on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2023.

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

The Clerk reported the following;

- **SCC** – the licence applications to install the Ixworth Thorpe and Chalk Lane sign had been submitted
- **Play Area** – it has proved difficult to arrange a site visit and Playdale are requesting photographs of the areas of concern
- **All Saint's Church Lights** – an electrician had been arranged to attend the site to fix the lights not working. The Clerk informed members that further investigation had proved the Parish Council owned and installed the lights so the upkeep was their responsibility
- **St Mary's Church Lights** – a site visit with an electrician and the Church warden needed to be arranged as the spotlights and lamps were installed by the Parish Council so the upkeep was their responsibility
- **Bus Shelter Ixworth Thorpe** – two contractors had failed to attend the site to fix the broken pane of glass. A third contractor was visiting this week to assess

C Cllr Spicer offered to grant the cost of the two street furniture licences from her locality budget. C Cllr Spicer requested that the grant request is completed. **Action: Clerk**

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

The following report was received from C Cllr Spicer –

- **Hempyard Bridge** – C Cllr Spicer reported that a start date for the repairs to Hempyard Bridge had not yet been scheduled

- **Ixworth Library** – C Cllr Spicer wished to congratulate the library team for the New Banner event they held recently

It was resolved to write to SCC requesting a start date for the repairs to Hempyard Bridge.

Cllr Lord expressed his concerns that resident from Blackbourne View who has mobility issues, has to walk to the Greyhound to catch the Wednesday bus to Bury St Edmunds. Previously the bus had picked up from outside Blackbourne View or the bottom of Peddars Close.

C Cllr Spicer stated that if the relevant information could be passed to her she would look into the matter.

**Action: Clerk**

Cllr Lord also enquired if there was any further information about the awarding of the contract to Marketingforce for roundabout sponsorship.

C Cllr Spicer stated that she would follow up and report back to the PC.

The following report was received from D Cllr John Griffiths –

- **WSC Local Plan** – the next consultation stage for the WSC Local Plan would now be in the Summer
- **Crown Lane Development** – WSC planning department have sent comments to Bidwells, who are developing a masterplan for the area, before the planning department give permission for them to hold a consultation with the public
- **Locality Budget** – D Cllr Griffiths informed members that even though he had given many grants this financial year he still had a small amount of grant to allocate. If anyone would like to request a grant the application had to be made as soon as possible as they had to be awarded prior to the start of the election period on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2023

D Cllr Griffiths also informed members that he had visited the Primary School and received 36 letters from pupils informing him of their concerns on speeding traffic. One of the main concerns raised was crossing the A1088 and many wished to see a footbridge installed over the by-pass.

## **7. Public Forum**

Members of the public raised the following issues

- **Micklesmere Drive** – a resident wished to highlight his concerns on the speed of the traffic driving to and from Mulley's roundabout. The resident agreed that some sort of traffic calming was required
- **Pakenham Fen** – a resident wished to inform members that all the press coverage this has received seems to be working as Sizewell are now looking at using the Mulley's roundabout rather than crossing over the ghost island to access Thurston Road

## **8. Planning**

No applications had been received.

The Clerk distributed the following list of applications the PC had been consulted on between July 2022 and December 2022 including WSC decisions on each application. The list of applications are available to view on the PC's website and is updated monthly. The website is [www.ixworthpc.org.uk](http://www.ixworthpc.org.uk)

### **June 2022**

**DC/22/0866/TCA** – a, reduce branches by 2.5 metres and height by up to 2 metres with a radius by 3.5 metres – b, clear from window one Holly by 2.5 metres – c, clearance from Church one Walnut by 3 metres – d, fell one Sycamore – St Mary's Churchyard, Ixworth **Approved**

**DC/22/0740/TCA** – a, one Sycamore lift canopy up to 2.5 metres – b, one Silver Birch overall crown reduction by two metres, c, one Silver Birch overall crown reduction by 1.5 metres, d, six Sycamore pollard back to previous pruning points – Landridge, High Street, Ixworth **Approved**

**DC/2/0442** – (re-consultation) – single storey extensions – Round House, Thetford Road, Ixworth **Approved**

**DC/22/0373** – (re-consultation) – a. single storey extension with linked extension to form annexe b. attached garage (replacement of existing garage) – Round House, Thetford Road, Ixworth **Approved**

**DC/22/1006/TCA** – fell one Boxelder Maple – The Blooms, Stow Road, Ixworth **Approved**

**DC/22/1015/TCA** – fell one Persian Ironwood & one Conifer – River House, High Street, Ixworth **Approved**

**DC/22/1018/TCA** – group of Conifers forming hedge crown reduce height by 5 metres and remove overhanging branches projecting into garage – Peacock House, 12 Stow Road, Ixworth **Approved**

**DC/22/0934/HH** – conversion of Nissan hut to home office with cladding, insertion of windows and door on North elevation and bifold doors on South elevation – Riverside Paddocks, Stow Road, Ixworth **Approved**

**DC/22/0950** – replacement of existing front and rear window and doors – 52 High Street, Ixworth **Approve**

### **July 2022**

**DC/22/0966/HH** – a, convert and extend existing store to single storey side extension with replacement pitched roof b, replacement windows and doors c, front grass area to be replaced with a gravel and boundary fence removed – 1 Cross Farm Houses, Stow Road, Ixworth, Suffolk **Approved**

**DC/22/1007/TPO** – re-pollard tree to 12 metres above ground level – Parkland, High Street, Ixworth **Approved**

**DC/22/1005/TCA** – remove five branches from one Oak on Southeast side overhanging the property known as Robert Peel House – Robert Peel Guest House, 3 High Street, Ixworth **Approved**

**DC/21/0039/FUL** – to enable use of amended plans for the extensions and alterations to existing care home to form dementia care village – Ixworth Court, Peddars Close, Ixworth **Approved**

### **August 2022**

**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 of 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 **Approved**

**DC/22/1223/TCA** – (a) two Cotoneaster to reduce overhang to neighbours by six metres (b) one Beech to reduce in height by four metres (c) two Plum to reduce overhang to road by six metres – Stockacre House, Thetford Road, Ixworth **Approved**

### **September 2022**

**DC/22/1490/TCA** – one Cypress (T1 on plan) overall crown reduction by up to seven metres; one Spruce (T2 on plan) fell – 100 High Street, Ixworth **Approved**

**DC/22/1524/TCA** – one Sycamore – re-pollard to five metres above the ground – Hicks Bungalow, Thetford Road, Ixworth **Approved**

**DC/22/1809/TPO** – TPO 45 – four Beech and one Sycamore, crown lift to 4.5 metres above the ground – Shalom, The Paddocks, Ixworth **No objections**

### **December 2022**

**DC/22/2042/HH** – (a) conversion of a garage to a habitable room, including raising of roof (b) detached car port – Five Gables, Stow Road, Ixworth **Approved**

## **9. Planning (Other)**

Cllr Lord requested that this be added to the agenda to update members on the Shepherd's Grove planning application. Cllr Lord explained that he had attended the recent Hepworth Parish Council extraordinary meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> January 2023 to hear some of their reflections on the JayNic application whilst also sharing some of our knowledge and learning on this particular situation.

The most noteworthy piece of information I took away from this is that whilst the transport assessment accompanying the planning application provides information on vehicle movements by HGV's and staff/business associates to the site, it does not take into consideration any single-vehicle movements by lay members of the public bringing a trailer-towed vehicle with a vehicle for disposal where they would have an allocated time to drop this off. Not only will this also add to the transport figures that the applicant is glossing over and giving no indication on quantity of slots that would translate into vehicle movements, but there are considerable concerns what this means for neighbouring streets and layby's.

Cllr Lord also informed members he would be attending the Bloor Homes consultation on 24<sup>th</sup> February and the next Stanton Parish Council meeting and report to members at the next meeting.

A lengthy discussion took place with all present and all were frustrated that there seems to be no joined up thinking when planners look at applications, whether they be in the same Parish or a neighbouring Parish. A planning application in a neighbouring Parish, such as a large new residential build, will affect traffic in a neighbouring Parish. It was felt that if an application may affect another Parish, then they should be consulted and applications that affect each other should be looked at as one.

D Cllr Griffiths explained that by law, each application had to be looked at as an individual application and applications could not be grouped together for a decision.

Members were most concerned that applications in Stanton and surrounding Parishes would have major traffic implications for Ixworth. It was felt that a complete traffic strategy should be in place for the whole area rather than once again looking at an individual application.

C Cllr Spicer explained that SCC were aware of the impact all developments have along the A143.

Cllr Lord suggested that Matt Hancock MP had previously offered to facilitate a meeting of all interested parties to discuss these issues further. It was agreed by all present to contact him to discuss further. **Action: Cllr Lord**

It was agreed by all present to send further comments to the planning officer on the Shepherd's Grove application. **Action: Cllr Lord**

## **10. Finance**

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

BACS	Staffing	£1500.83
BACS	Scribe	£414.72
	(accounts package)	
BACS	Suffolk Icloud	£35.00
	(website domain)	
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. Community Defibrillator**

It was agreed that there was a need to install a second defibrillator in Ixworth. The fire station was the suggested site. The approximate cost of the de-fib, box to house it and installation could be up to £2000 with an additional cost of an annual maintenance fee of approximately £150.

It was agreed by all present to take this project further.

The clerk was instructed to obtain a quote.

**Action: Clerk**

C Cllr Spicer agreed to speak with the fire station for permission to install.

It was agreed that once quotes and permissions had been obtained then grants would be applied for.

### **12. Micklesmere Drive**

Cllr Black reported to members that she had met with C Cllr Spicer to view the issue of speeding traffic driving to and from Mulley's roundabout. It was suggested at the meeting that possibly installing traffic cushions may slow the traffic entering and exiting Micklesmere Drive.

It was agreed to write an article in the magazine requesting residents thoughts on traffic issues in the area.

**Action: Cllr Black**

C Cllr Spicer agreed to obtain a quote for the cost of the traffic cushions.

### **13. Annual Parish Meeting**

The Annual Parish Meeting date, time and venue was confirmed as Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> April at 7pm in Ixworth Methodist Church.

It was agreed to place an article in the magazine to advertise the event.

**Action: Clerk**

It was agreed to add to the March agenda to finalise the format of the event.

**Action: Clerk**

### **14. Community Recognition Awards**

The Clerk had previously sent a report on the suggestion of awarding Community Recognition Awards for residents of the Parish. The scheme had been suggested in early 2020 but was postponed due to the Covid 19 pandemic.

It was agreed by all present to re-instate the scheme. An article explaining the awards and how to nominate someone would be placed in the magazine and on the website.

**Action: Clerk**

The closing date for nominations would be 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023 with an awarding panel meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> April 2023.

### **15. Ixworth Cemetery**

The Cemetery WG had met, and the following report was given:

- The archway roof required repairs as some tiles were loose and were falling off
- The previous suggestion of having a hardstanding for the excess soil was not in keeping with the Cemetery and may encourage dumping of rubbish
- A tree in the old section was leaning over and a possible danger in high winds
- An issue with bins not being emptied was causing a build-up of waste bags
- The Holly tree in the old section required attention
- The new section grass was proving to be difficult for the grass contractor to cut as there are many immemorial items being placed along the grave plot. Regulations state memorials should only be placed at the head of the grave

The following actions were agreed –

- Instruct a roofer to repair roof immediately due to the safety issues involved
- Contact a tree surgeon for quotes for the leaning tree and Holly tree
- Contact WSC to discuss waster collections
- Write a polite article in the magazine requesting families clear additional memorials from grave plots

**Action: Clerk**

### **16. Chairman's**

The Chairman read the following report;

On 27<sup>th</sup> January 2023, I was invited to accompany our MP on a tour of Ixworth Primary School. It was a fantastic opportunity to see just how much progress has taken place at the school over the last five years that led up to it's Ofsted 'Good' grading last Summer. It is particularly impressive to see how pupils and their families along with staff are so well supported with enhanced 'wrap-around' wellbeing support without any additional funding. The community should really consider itself so fortunate to have such an ambitious school that really is providing an enriched journey for children.

We are also one of only two villages north of Bury St Edmunds where a child can begin primary school at the age of 3 through the nursery service and then transition aged 11 to the secondary school resulting in their core school journey remaining within the village from the age of 3 to 16.

During the visit, the School's Collective Council met with us to talk about some issues they wanted to bring to our attention – one of which was the ongoing campaign for a footbridge over the A143. Inspired by the current activity occurring with JayNic in Stanton, earlier today I was invited back to the Primary School with John Griffiths where 28 letters have been written by each child in Year 6 sharing their thoughts on increasing safer crossing at the bypass. This is exactly what we had hoped to achieve in earlier discussions that have taken place around this and I have already thanked the students and the Headteacher for yet another fantastic display of support from these upcoming communitarians. They are a credit to the school and to their families!

### **17. Correspondence**

The following correspondence had been received;

- **Resident** – trees near the Fire Station
- **Sizewell C** - Update
- **Jaynic/Shepherds Grove** – Various correspondence
- **WSC** – Pre Election Period (from 22.03.2023)
- **WSC** - Civic Dinner Invitation
- **WSC** – Local Plan Timeline
- **WSC** – Chair Charity Concert

The correspondence received from the resident of Street Farm Lane concerned about the trees adjacent to the fire station was discussed. Unfortunately the piece of land concerned does not belong to the Parish Council. The members thought it was owned by WSC so the Clerk was instructed to reply to the resident with the contact details of WSC and D Cllr Griffiths. The correspondence was also to be forwarded to D Cllr Griffiths.

**Action: Clerk**

### **18. Councillors Reports**

Cllr Rees requested that the King's Coronation be added to the March agenda, this was agreed by all present.

**Action: Clerk**

Cllr Reay thanked members for attending the recent Library event.

Cllr Reay also wished to highlight some small issues there had been with anti-social behaviour in and around the village hall and library.

A small discussion took place and it was agreed to contact the Village Hall to request a representative to give the PC an update of the Youth club.

**Action: Clerk**

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

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2023 at 7.30pm in Ixworth Village Hall.

With no further business the meeting closed at 9.35pm.

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Signed

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Date