

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

*Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of Ixworth & Ixworth Thorpe Parish Council meeting held in Ixworth Village Hall on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2022 at 7:30pm*

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

**Also Present:** Mandy Adlington (Parish Clerk), County Councillor (C Cllr) Joanna Spicer MBE, District Councillor (D Cllr) John Griffiths MBE and six 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, NPWG – Neighbourhood Plan Working Group, VAS – Vehicular Activated Sign

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

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

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

Apologies were received from –

Cllr Rees – illness – apology accepted

Cllr Sutton – childcare – apology accepted

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

No declarations of interest were declared.

### **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 12<sup>th</sup> October 2022.

Cllr Shelton wished to pass on a residents thanks for getting the hedging cut back on the junction of Thetford Road and Commister Lane.

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

The Clerk reported that two people had showed an interest in filling the vacancy on the Council. At this time no formal applications had been received.

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

C Cllr Joanna Spicer reported the following;

- **Thetford Road** – C Cllr Spicer reported that she had visited Thetford Road with two SCC engineers to discuss possible signage . It is impossible to install a sign near the Greyhound but they would continue to look at other possibilities for signage along the road
- **Dropped Kerb** – the dropped kerb outside the school in Crown Lane has been ordered
- **Drainage in Street Farm Lane** – the Clerk had forwarded me the photos and concerns from a resident about flooding in Street Farm Lane near his property. Could the area be looked at once the water has drained away and check if a drain is there and if there is, is it blocked. The Clerk was instructed to contact the resident with C Cllr Spicers request.

**Action - Clerk**

D Cllr John Griffiths gave the following report;

- **WSC Local Plan** – the latest update is now available on WSC website. D Cllr Griffiths also gave the Clerk the latest document with all Local Plan maps
- **Locality Budget** – D Cllr Griffiths reported that he has received a few applications this year. However, there is still the possibility of further small grants to local organisations or groups if they wish to apply

- **Environmental Department at WSC** – D Cllr Griffiths reported that the department had met with Green Ixworth
- **Community Chest** – the WSC Community Chest grant scheme is running and D Cllr Griffiths encouraged groups to apply if they meet the criteria of the grant
- **Insulating Homes** – WSC are issuing various grants to residents to insulate their homes. Grants have been obtained from various Government departments for WSC to be able to accomplish this

## **7. Public Forum**

The following points were raised by members of the public in relation to the Neighbourhood Plan

- **NPWG Meeting** – a NPWG meeting had been cancelled and as yet not been rearranged and no communication had been made to the group as to why
- **Public Information** – no updates had been given to the public recently, and no up to date minutes have been published

The Chairman, who is also the Chairman of the NPWG, stated the meeting of the NPWG had been cancelled due to personal circumstances of the Clerk and a meeting had been rearranged for Monday 21<sup>st</sup> November. All group members will be informed.

The NPWG minutes had not been published as they contain commercially sensitive information. A further update for the public would be published soon.

A resident also commented on the Crown Lane Development and requested if any further information was available.

The Chairman confirmed that a small parcel of land had been acquired by Persimmon in 2007. An application for a right hand ghost island junction to access the land had been granted under appeal by the Planning Inspectorate.

D Cllr Griffiths reported that the planning department of WSC were still in discussions with the landowner and developers to produce a Masterplan for the whole section of land.

## **8. Planning**

**DC/22/1809/TPO** – four Beech and one Sycamore crown lift to 4.5 metres above ground – Shalom, The Paddocks, Ixworth, Suffolk

**No Objection  
Action - Clerk**

## **9. Finance**

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

The following payments were agreed for payment;

BACS	Staffing	£1462.91
BACS	Ixworth Village Hall (meeting room)	£16.65
BACS	The Poppy Appeal (Parish Wreath)	£30.00
BACS	Ixworth & District RBL (Remembrance Parade)	£200.00
Direct Debit NEST		£42.07

The RFO was authorised to transfer £1000 by on-line transfer from the business account to the community account.

Cllr Sophia Wilson would authorise, online, the payments -

**Action: Clerk & Cllr Sophia Wilson**

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

## **10.Christmas 2022**

Cllr Birrell confirmed that the Christmas Fair this year would be held on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2022. Cllr Birrell confirmed that no additional lights for the tree were required this year.

The Clerk was instructed to ascertain who owned the tree at the bottom of the High Street.

**Action - Clerk**

## **11. Precept 2023-2024**

It was agreed to hold a budget workshop on 28<sup>th</sup> November at 7pm in Ixworth Village Hall.

## **12. Chairman's Report**

The Chairman read the following statement

### Remembrance 2022

An Act of Remembrance will be taking place this Friday 11<sup>th</sup> November at the War Memorial at St. Mary's at 11am.

Just to remind everyone that's intending to participate in the Remembrance Sunday Parade to be at the Fire Station from 10am and no later than 10:15am in order for the parade to be formed for a prompt departure around 10:30am.

### Constituency Visit of Matt Hancock MP

Our constituency MP undertook an annual visit on Friday 14 October at rather a short notice, kindly facilitated by C Cllr Joanna Spicer. Together with Cllr Rees, I met with Matt Hancock to update him on a variety of parish matters including the ongoing evolution of our Neighbourhood Plan and our response to the West Suffolk Local Plan in respect of future development in Ixworth.

It was widely considered that in respect of the Persimmon-owned site and that owned by Bypass Farms, along with the potential for large-scale development on The Langridge means that as things stand, and as documents such as the West Suffolk Local Plan evolve, there is quite a reliance on the incumbent historical documents such as Rural Vision 2031 and the adopted Crown Lane Masterplan from 2010. It is therefore considered that working with documents that are at least 10 years old is no longer helpful or reasonable given how needs have changed and evolved. The suggestion was therefore proposed of holding a Stakeholder meeting, chaired and invited by the MP that would include all appropriate stakeholders from Parish, District and County Councils as well as the respective landowners, agents and developers. However, events surrounding our constituency MP took an unexpected and drastic turn just over a week ago and whilst he remains an independent MP, this unprecedented turn has now triggered further reflection on how best to develop that opportunity early in 2023.

### JayNic Development

Following the consultation event held in Stanton in July, and on the recommendation of the S106 Officer at West Suffolk Council, I have so far not been able to succeed in getting C Cllr Spicer to provide a copy of any modelling data undertaken by SCC Highways on how this proposed development will influence traffic flow on the A143 bypass. This was one of the subjects discussed with the constituency MP and where C Cllr Spicer advised that because of the enormous benefit that Stanton would be getting by way of a relief road and what the cost of that entailed that she felt unable to support Ixworth's plight of getting a footbridge over the A143 ahead of the original intention that this came from the Persimmon development. I would therefore like to make enquiries directly with the appropriate officers at Suffolk County Council to obtain this information so that we are well prepared for when the planning application comes forward. It is expected any day now and therefore I don't want to end up in a scenario whereby we're reacting with the tight deadlines planning applications come with and therefore feel we need to be proactive.

It was agreed that Cllr Lord continue to try to obtain modelling data undertaken by SCC Highways on how this proposed development will influence traffic flow on the A143 bypass

### **13. Correspondence**

- **Green Ixworth** – email + attachments
- **Resident** – NP
- **Citizens Advice** – Thank You for donation
- **Methodist Church** – a Shared Space
- **Resident** – Concerns about flooding in Street Farm Lane

The correspondence for the Methodist Church was discussed and it was suggested that they contact WSC to see if they would be eligible to apply for a grant. It was also suggested they contact the Ixworth Association for a grant. The Clerk was instructed to thank them for their communication and suggest the two options above as a way forward.

**Action: Clerk**

The correspondence on flooding in Street Farm Lane had been discussed in item 6.

### **14. Councillors Report's**

Cllr Birrell wished to inform members and residents, after some comments on social media, that after the initial purchase of lights by the Council some time ago, no further money from public funds had been used for the Christmas Fair. The Events Committee were now working as part of the Jiggins Memorial Village Hall.

Cllr Wilson wished to inform members that the VAS in Ixworth Thorpe was once again installed and working.

Cllr Wilson also requested if the Clerk could speak with Rev Burton in relation to the Church lights not working at Ixworth Thorpe Church.

**Action: Clerk**

Cllr Reay requested if any training was available to help assist in commenting on planning application.

The Clerk was instructed to look into planning training courses.

**Action; Clerk**

Cllr Black enquired if lights could be fitted on the path and steps leading from Stow Road to New Road.

C Cllr Spicer reported that she had spoken to the resident of the wall next to the steps who was willing to have a light installed on his wall. C Cllr Spicer stated she would follow up on this enquiry.

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

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as 14<sup>th</sup> December 2022 at 7.30pm in Ixworth Village Hall.

### **16. Exclusion of 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 a commercially sensitive report
- (ii) Neighbourhood Plan

The press and public were excluded at 8.30pm.

### **17. Close of Meeting**

With no further business the meeting closed at 9.10pm.

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Signed

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Date