

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 11th October 2023 at 7:30pm

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

Also Present: Mandy Adlington (Parish Clerk), District Councillor (D Cllr) John Griffiths MBE and five 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, D Cllr – District Councillor, De-fib – defibrillator, NP – Neighbourhood Plan

1. Apologies for Absence

Cllr Sutton – family illness – apology accepted

Cllr Black – childcare – apology accepted

2. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Lord declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 11.

3. 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, after a small amendment, sign the minutes as a true record of the meeting held on Wednesday 9th August 2023.

4. Clerk's Report

The Clerk reported the following;

- **De-fib** – the new de-fib for the Fire Station has now arrived and the Clerk reported she was arranging for it to be delivered to the Fire station for SCC to install.
- **Chalk Lane Sign** – the Clerk was still awaiting a design from Cllr Black

5. Public Forum

No Comments were received from the public present.

6. Reports from County & District Councillors

C Cllr Joanna Spicer had sent her apologies for not being able to attend the meeting.

C Cllr Spicer sent the following report via email –

I will be attending the Stakeholder NP Meeting on 30th October 2023, and I will be requesting if D Cllr John Griffiths could follow up on the sign directing people to the school in Crown Lane.

D Cllr John Griffiths reported the following –

- **Planning** – at present the WSC planning officers have various applications in the ward with many conversations happening with residents. At present there is no further information of the Persimmon application in Crown Lane.
- **Local Plan** – the WSC Local Plan is still moving along and hopefully the next stage of consultations will be ready for January 2024.
- **Locality Budget** – just a reminder again if any groups within the ward can apply to me for a small Locality Budget Grant.

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

7. Planning

DC/23/1601/TCA – one Ash – reduce crown height by five metres and lateral spread by three metres – 4 Estate Yard, Cedar House, Commister Lane, Ixworth – **No Objection**

DC/23/1594/FUL – a, change of use of land from agricultural land to equestrian paddocks – b, three individual timber field shelters – Roses Roost, Baileypool Lane, Pakenham **No Objection**

DC/23/1628/TPO – two Beech, remove branch material to achieve a 2.5 metres clearance from the external fabric of the building or up to the boundary line where this is less than 2.5 metres – Ixworth Surgery, Peddars Close **No Objection**

DC/23/1621/TCA – fell one Tree of Heaven – The Beeches, High Street, Ixworth **No Objection**
Action: Clerk

8. Finance

The RFO informed members the following payments were required;

BACS	Staffing	£2132.62
BACS	Community Heartbeat (annual fee)	£151.20
BACS	Ixworth VH	£19.25
BACS	West Suffolk Council (election costs)	£163.82
BACS	CloudyIT (digital services)	£106.14
BACS	The Clean Plumber (Cemetery)	£214.02
BACS	Leon Brown (Robins Copse)	£912.00
BACS	Suffolk Accident Rescue Service (S137 grant)	£100.00
Direct Debit	NEST	£66.55

The RFO was authorised to transfer £4000 by on-line transfer from the business account to the community account.

Cllr Wilson would authorise, online, the above payments

Action: Clerk & Cllr Wilson

9. Footpath Warden

The Footpath Warden, Mr Ian Rees, reported that he had walked the footpaths recently and all seemed to be in good condition. Mr Rees also reported that he had carried out some gentle pruning on footpath 2 & 3.

10. Neighbourhood Plan

Cllr Lord, the Charman of the NPWG, reported that a Stakeholders meeting had been arranged for 30th October 2023. As the consultation responses had been assessed some differences had come to light between stakeholders such as SCC and WSC. The meeting with representatives from the NPWG and SCC, WSC and landowners would clarify all the difference highlighted. Cllr Lord would update all members after this meeting.

11. Remembrance Sunday

The Remembrance Sunday Service will be at 11am on Sunday 12th November at St Mary's Church. As usual the Parade would march from the Fire Sation to the Church. All Cllrs are invited to march and will need to be at the Fire Station at 10am.

It was resolved to donate £50 to The Poppy Appeal for the Parish wreath and £250 for the cost of the Band. Cllr Lord abstained from voting as he is Secretary/Treasurer of Ixworth & District Royal British Legion

Action: Cllrs and Clerk

12. Hempyard Bridge

A meeting with SCC and other stakeholders will be held at the end of the month. A report will be given to Cllrs to update them at the next meeting.

13. Christmas 2023

In the absence of Cllrs Black and Sutton Cllr Lord reported that he had spoken with the resident who organises the installation of the small Christmas Trees along the High Street. The resident confirmed that no assistance was required from the PC.

Cllr Lord had obtained two quotes for a cherry picker to remove the lights from the large tree at the bottom of the High Street. Once removed the lights would need to be inspected by an electrician and then reinstalled ready to turn it on the evening of Friday 1st December. Arrangements for this small event would be discussed further at the next meeting.

It was resolved to accept the quote of £320 + VAT.

Action: Cllr Lord & Clerk

14. Play Area

A full report was distributed to Cllrs prior to the meeting.

The Clerk reported that she had received from the PC Solicitors the Management Agreement with Jiggins Management Committee for the Play Area.

The new agreement was signed by both parties in July 2011 for £100 per annum and the agreement was agreed by both parties for 25 years. The Clerk has been led to believe that the Jiggins Trust have mislaid their copy of the agreement.

The Clerk recommended that, as there were various documents to consider and finances to be calculated, that this issue be discussed again at the November or December meeting. It was also suggested that at this point a meeting with the Jiggins Trust would be unproductive until all documents have been viewed and discussed by the Full Council. Once all documentation had been viewed by the Parish Council copies would be made available to the Jiggins Trust.

It was agreed by all present, that the Clerk work on this issue and report back to members.

It was agreed by all present, that at this time no meeting would be arranged with the Jiggins Trust until all relevant information is available to discuss.

Action: Clerk

Cllr Wilson reported that she was meeting with a Play Area the next day and would report back to members at a future meeting.

Action: Cllr Wilson

15. Correspondence

The following items had been received;

- **Green Ixworth** – Litter Pick
- **Green Ixworth** – Response to Planning Application – Shepherds Grove
- **Resident** – Crown Lane sign
- **Peasecroft Resident** - Anti-social behaviour
- **Resident** – abandoned vehicle
- **Resident** – planning issues
- **Resident** – 2nd planning issue
- **Resident** – flooding in St Farm Lane

It was agreed to write to Green Ixworth thanking them for their intention to arrange a litter pick.

It was agreed to write to the resident with a planning application issue explaining the PC were consultees and not the Planning Authority.

It was agreed to contact C Cllr Spicer on issues relating to flooding in St Farm Lane.

Action: Clerk

16. Chairman's Report

Cllr Lord reported that the meeting with Jo Churchill MP had gone very well. A visit to the school was incorporated along with meeting some of the Council.

Cllr Lord also enquired if any response had been received from Greene King about the wall in the play area.

The Clerk stated that apart from the initial response there had been no further contact. It was agreed that Cllr Lord follow up on this issue.

Action: Cllr Lord

17. Councillors Reports

Cllr Rees reported that she had attending the meeting at Stanton discussing the Copart/Jaynic/Equation planning application for Shepherds Grove. Attendees in general had many concerns of the development of the site and implications for the surrounding area.

Cllr Wilson enquired if the cleaning of the De-fib kiosk in Ixworth Thorpe has been arranged if the weeding of the Cobbled Area near the village sign has been arranged and has the blocked drains in Ixworth Thorpe been reported. The Clerk reported that all issues were in hand.

Cllr Mann urged Cllrs to review all comments received from the recent NP consultation as after the upcoming meeting with stakeholders any amendments will come back to the Council to discuss.

Cllr Mann also requested if St Mary’s could be contacted regarding the spotlights in the Churchyard as many are not working. It was agreed the Clerk would contact Rev Karen Burton. **Action: Clerk**

18. Date of the Next Meeting

The next meeting was confirmed as Wednesday 8th November 2023 at 7.30pm in Ixworth Village Hall.

The press and public were excluded at 8.25pm.

19. 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) to discuss co-option
- (ii) staffing

20. Parish Council Vacancy (Co-option)

It was resolved to Co-opt Mr John Rowe and Mr Tony Molloy to fill the two vacancies on the Parish Council. The Clerk was instructed to contact Mr Rowe and Mr Molloy prior to the next meeting. **Action: Clerk**

With no further business the meeting closed at 9.15pm.

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Signed

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Date