

## **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 12<sup>th</sup> April 2023 at 7:30pm*

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

**Also Present:** Mandy Adlington (Parish Clerk), D Cllr John Griffiths MBE and ten 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, APM – Annual Parish Meeting, NPWG – Neighbourhood Plan Working Group, de-fib – defibrillator, NP – Neighbourhood Plan

### **1. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from:

Cllr Sutton – childcare – apology accepted.

### **2. Declarations of Interest**

No declarations were made.

### **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 sign the minutes as a true record of the meeting held on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2023.

### **4. Clerks Report**

The Clerk reported the following -

- **Play Area** – the piece of equipment had now been repaired. The manufacturer confirmed the following “*The contractor is correct the outer shaft is bigger than the inner, It is designed that way to allow movement, and is completely normal. If they have tensioned the net, then that should reduce the amount of movement.*” It was agreed to make the final payment.
- **Clerks Holiday** – the Clerk confirmed her annual holiday. An automatic response would be added to emails received with the information to contact a nominated person if the issue were an emergency
- **Dropped Kerbs** – this item would be added to the July or August agenda to take this project forward
- **Website and Emails** – the new address for the PC website is [www.ixworthparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.ixworthparishcouncil.gov.uk) and the new clerks email is [clerk@ixworthparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@ixworthparishcouncil.gov.uk). A redirection from [pc@ixworth.net](mailto:pc@ixworth.net) has been set up and the Clerk will start notifying all relevant bodies on the change of email address.

### **5. Reports from County & District Councillor**

D Cllr Griffiths reported the following:

- **Locality Budget** – D Cllr Griffiths was delighted to inform members that he had allocated all his locality budget this year to worthy applications such as the Village Hall, the new de-fib, various smaller groups, events in Ixworth such as the Coronation Event
- **WSC Report** – a report had recently been distributed to Cllrs, and was on the WSC website, on how WSC were progressing on various issues within the borough. Included in the report was a section of Environmental issues
- **Developments** – D Cllr Griffiths wished to assure all members and residents that the planning officers when speaking to developers make aware all the issues surrounding Ixworth. Issues such as the footbridge, improvements to road junction improvements, infrastructure, street lighting and access to wheelchairs etc along with many other things when discussing allocating S106 money.
- **School Highway Issues** – D Cllr Griffiths thanked all the school children who had written to him on their concerns of highway issues in this area. As previously reported, he had taken them to SCC and has now requested a regular update so he can report back to the school
- **Highway Strategy** – D Cllr Griffiths agreed that it was important to get a highway/traffic strategy in place as this will not only help Ixworth but all the area areas surrounding Ixworth

C Cllr Spicer reported the following:

- **Hempyard Bridge** – C Cllr Spicer reported that recent emails confirmed that SCC would not Hempyard Bridge this year and has been postponed until 2024. C Cllr Spicer reported she was extremely disappointed in the news after so much hard work by all parties involved but the decision was out of her hands

Cllr Lord produced photos of the bridge six months apart and the difference was very significant, and it was very surprising that the recent email from SCC had stated that no further damage had occurred. A discussion was held on what the PC could do to highlight again the concerns over the bridge.

The following actions was agreed by all present;

- Cllrs Lord & Rees would attend the next SCC Full Council meeting and speak on the PC's concerns
- Request that C Cllr Spicer offer her support at the meeting
- Cllr Lord could contact the local press to highlight the issue

**Action: Cllrs Lord & Rees**

## **6. Public Forum**

Two residents wished to highlight the following to the Parish Council –

- **Entertainment** – Many years ago there were many groups within the village to entertain all resident of all ages, such a football teams, dance group, bingo etc, but over the years they all seem to have disappeared. Would the Parish Council be able to do something to assist in restarting some groups to entertain the current and future residents of the Village
- **Cleanliness** – the resident also expressed his concerns over the state of the Village, standards had fallen and there was litter on the streets and in the verges
- **Ixworth Thorpe Church** – concerns were raised over the condition of the lay-by outside the Church in Ixworth Thorpe. Currently the potholes are very deep and full of water, recently a funeral had been held there and many aging attendees found it difficult to walk on the area and get out of cars without stepping into very large puddles
- **Hempyard Bridge** – a resident agreed with decisions made in item 5. It was suggested that a Lottery Funding Grant could be applied for. Green Ixworth is actively communicating with WSC Conservation Officer on the bridge
- **Groups within the village** – a resident stated he is surprised at the number of groups available within the village, however, he felt most were not known to the majority of residents

## **7. Planning**

**DC/23/0102/FUL** – 68 High Street, Ixworth – (a) change of use of ground floor from restaurant (class E) to residential dwelling (class C3) (following demolition of existing single storey extension) (b) construction of new access gates

**No Objection**

**DC/23/0103/LB** – 68 High Street, Ixworth – (a) internal alterations to allow change of use from restaurant to dwelling (b) demolition of existing extension

**No Objection**

**DC/23/0417/HH** – Crown House, Crown Lane, Ixworth – installation of fencing to front, rear and side of boundary

**No Objection**

**DC/23/0419/LB** – Crown House, Crown Lane, Ixworth – replacement windows to front and rear elevations

**No Objection**

## **8. Finance**

The following payments were agreed for payment;

BACS	Staffing	£1557.37
BACS	Zurich Insurance	£1081.13
BACS	SLCC	£177.00
	(membership)	
BACS	SALC	£691.71
	(membership)	
BACS	Willowserve	£420.00
	(Cemetery maintenance)	

BACS	Suffolk Icloud (website-domain name)	£425.00
BACS	Playdale (Play Area)	£27,700.57
BACS	Viking (stationery)	£405.68
BACS	Warren Electricals (Ixworth Thorpe Church)	£96.00
BACS	Anglian Water (WAVE) (Cemetery)	£15.16
BACS	West Suffolk DC (Cemetery Bin Collection)	£446.16
BACS	West Suffolk DC (Ixworth Thorpe Litter Bin)	£183.04
BACS	A Adlington (refund payroll software)	£82.80
Direct Debit NEST		£50.09

The RFO was authorised to transfer £2000 by on-line transfer from the business account to the community account.

Cllr Wilson would authorise, online, the above payments

**Action: Clerk & Cllr Wilson**

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

### **9. Parish Council Elections 4<sup>th</sup> May 2023**

The Clerk reported that the following persons were duly elected to Ixworth & Ixworth Thorpe Parish Council –

Ben Lord  
Pam Shelton  
Vicky Sutton  
Clare Black  
Kate Rees  
Stephen Mann  
Sophia Wilson (Ixworth Thorpe)

### **10. King Charles Coronation**

It was agreed to purchase Coronation Decals to be installed on lampposts in the High Street and Ixworth Thorpe. Cllr Rees would purchase and be refunded at the next meeting. The cost would not exceed £120 inc VAT.

**Action: Cllr Rees**

### **11. Micklesmere Drive**

The Council had only received two responses from the article in the magazine. All agreed that the speeding in Micklesmere is still a potential problem, and it was agreed to relook at this issue in a future meeting.

### **12. Community Defibrillator**

The Clerk was waiting for confirmation that SCC would agree for the de-fib to be installed on the Fire Station and they would install free of charge. Once confirmation had been received the Clerk would be able to get a definitive quote dependant on which unit and cabinet were required.

### **13. Neighbourhood Plan**

Cllr Lord, as Chairman of the NPWG reported to members that the group were hoping that the public consultation would run from 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2023 for six weeks if all documentation were in place.

A discussion took place and proposals made as to whether deliver a copy of the draft plan to each household or deliver a copy of the final plan to each household.

It was agreed that a copy of the final plan, prior to the referendum, would be delivered to each household in the Parish at a cost of approximately £1500.

Hard copies of the draft plan would be available for residents to borrow to assist in completing the questionnaire and copies would be available to view in the library.

The draft plan, all associated documents and the questionnaire would also be available online through the Parish Council's website.

**14. Annual Parish Meeting**

The date and time of the APM were confirmed as Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> April at 7pm in Ixworth Methodist Chapel.

**15. Correspondence**

The following correspondence had been received;

- **SCC** – Hempyard Bridge
- **Resident** – manhole cover High Street, Ixworth
- **Resident** – Chalk Lane
- **John Griffiths** – email ref Leader of the Council
- **SCC** – Highways – Upcoming Highway Work

The Clerk informed members that she had reported the issue with the manhole cover in the High Street on the SCC reporting website.

**16. Chairman’s Report**

Cllr Lord informed members that he had started corresponding with the local MP Matt Hancock and neighbouring MPs to discuss options to arrange an area strategy on highways issues affecting the local area. Cllr Lord informed members he hoped to have the initial meeting with them in the first two weeks of May.

**17. Councillor Reports**

Cllr Shelton reported she had received thanks from a resident that the taps had been repaired in the Cemetery and the issue of overflowing bins had been resolved.

Cllr Black requested that Robins Copse is added to a future agenda to discuss upgrading the site to encourage use of residents and the schools. It was agreed by all present to add to a future agenda.

Cllr Wilson reported that once again the bins in Ixworth Thorpe had not been emptied. Cllr Wilson suggested that if this keeps happening the Council will need to make a formal complaint to WSC.

Cllr Birrell wanted to thank members for all the support he has received over the last eight years as a Councillor. Cllr Birrell said he had enjoyed the experience, but family and work commitments meant that at this time he was unable to continue being a Councillor and wished all his colleagues re-elected and the new member elected his best wishes for the next four-year term.

Cllr Lord thanked Cllr Birrell and Cllr Reay for their contributions during their time as a Cllr.

Cllr Rees requested if ‘Ixworth Gardens’ could be added to an agenda to discuss if an event such as this could be started in Ixworth. It was agreed by all present to add to a future agenda.

Cllr Reay thanked all for the last two years she had been a Councillor but acknowledged she had failed in being a Councillor in line with the aspirations she had set for herself upon being elected.

**18. Date of the Next Meeting**

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2023 at 7.30pm in Ixworth Village Hall. The May meeting would be the Annual Parish Council Meeting and only Statutory and Finance business will be conducted.

With no further business the meeting closed at 9.20pm.

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Signed

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Date