

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 13th December 2023 at 7:30pm

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

Also Present: Mandy Adlington (Parish Clerk), and two 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

Apologies were received from –

Cllr Black – childcare – apology accepted
Cllr Sutton – childcare – apology accepted
Cllr Rowe – work commitments – 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. The Chairman read a small amendment and it was resolved that the Chairman sign the minutes as a true record of the meeting held on Wednesday 11th October 2023.

4. Clerk's Report

The Clerk reported the following –

- **Planning** – the planning application in Troston Parish Council had been investigated and the decision on the application had already been made by WSC planning department.
- **De-Fib** - SCC had informed the Clerk that the de-fib should be installed at the Fire Station soon.
- **Holidays** – the Clerk would be on annual leave over the Christmas period but would monitor emails and respond to anything urgent
- **Cobbled Area** – the new grass contractor has started on clearing the cobbled area, but this may take a few months to complete due to the amount of moss and weather conditions.

5. Public Forum

A member of the public requested if they could have any relevant reports on the NP that were going to be discussed later in the meeting. The Chairman explained that the report would be read out when the NP was discussed and gave a brief overview of what stage the NP was at and the issues that had been discussed at the November meeting.

The resident stated that if installing a 5-arm roundabout was SCC Highway's objection then perhaps a 4-arm roundabout would be an option. The resident also stated they were concerned that if the NP was not in place soon then it may conflict with WSC Local Plan which is about to go to consultation.

6. Reports from County and District Councillors

C Cllr Spicer and D Cllr Griffiths offered their apologies for not being able to attend the meeting.

7. Planning

The following applications were considered –

DC/23/1795/TPO – one Walnut tree-remove branches encroaching neighbouring garden by lifting crown –
Walnut View Cottage, Crown Lane, Ixworth – **Support**

DC/23/1855/TPO – nine Lime -re-pollard to 8 metres above ground level – 5 St Edmund Close, Ixworth **Support**

DC/23/1594/FUL - re-consultation – a, change of use of land from agricultural land to equestrian paddocks b, three individual timber field shelters – Roses Roost, Baileypool Lane, Pakenham **Support**

DC/23/1938/VAR – variation of condition 5 of DC/20/1784/HH to allow for a different design of privacy screen for first floor extension above existing two bay garage and external staircase with balcony to form annexe – 21 Fordham Place, Ixworth **Support**

DC/23/1964/TPO – one Norway maple-reduce branches on the western aspect by up to two metres to achieve a clearance of the house of approximately 3.5 metres – 6 Fordham Place, Ixworth **Support**

8. Finance

The following payments were reported –

BACS	Staffing	£1937.69
BACS	H M Revenue & Customs	£620.08
BACS	CloudyIT	£119.82
BACS	CloudyIT	£11.76
BACS	Jose Mendez Acosta	£1323.74
BACS	A Adlington	£106.05
BACS	V Sutton	£68.71
Direct Debit NEST		£54.88

The RFO was authorised to transfer £3500 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. Play Area

Cllr Wilson requested this item be moved to the February meeting as not all quotes had been received.

10. Neighbourhood Plan

The Neighbourhood Plan has been through the Regulation 14 Pre-Submission Consultation, wherein the draft plan is considered by stakeholders and residents. There are two issues that must be resolved before the plan can continue.

A1088

- Suffolk County Council Highways object to the policy in the Neighbourhood Plan requiring a roundabout at Bardwell Road and advised the Parish Council to seek evidence to prove its necessity if the PC do not wish to change the plan.
- It is important to note this is likely the only opportunity to get access to the new development right while also reducing speed on the A1088 and improving safety along that stretch of road.
- To obtain the level of detail Suffolk County Council require would be incredibly expensive without a guaranteed result. Early proposals from suitably qualified persons suggest a cost of over £20,000.

Langridge

- There is a discrepancy between the Neighbourhood Plan and the emerging West Suffolk Council Local Plan whereby the NP mentions 220 dwellings and the WSC Local Plan mentions 145.
- Having gone back through the history of the Neighbourhood Plan, it appears that in early 2020 a proposal from the landowner/promoter of a new village hall, land and an exterior building framework was made. At the same time, it was stated by the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group of the day that housing numbers on the Langridge site should be increased from 140 to 220.
- The NWPG and PC agreed that a new consultation should be held if this number was to increase but the country then went into lockdown due to the Covid-19 pandemic and it appears a consultation was never carried out while 220 has remained in the plan ever since.
- The WSC Local Plan uses the original number of 145 dwellings based on the original 140 on Langridge.
- The PC must now decide whether to increase the Neighbourhood Plan to include 220 dwellings or remain at the original 140.
- Pigeon Developments have cited in their submission to the WSC Local Plan the increase to 220 is supported by the PC and our Neighbourhood Plan. In records held by the PC it appears that the NPWG of early 2020 did approve but also noted a re-consultation was needed to formally increase the number.

- The offer of “Community Benefits” by way of land for a village hall has not been negotiated with the PC. It has also not been examined by the relevant S106 officer of West Suffolk Council, who is responsible for determining in what way a developer should be supporting the community they are developing in.
- Without having been involved in any negotiations, the PC is unclear if this offer is contingent on the increase in dwelling numbers.
- If the PC wish to formally increase the dwellings number on Langridge, a re-consultation should be held with the public
- As the West Suffolk Council Local Plan considers Langridge, the PC could remove Langridge from the Neighbourhood Plan entirely as the West Suffolk Council Plan will consider this development.
- The Neighbourhood Plan can continue without specifically including any individual sites for development while still stating what community infrastructure would be required should a development happen.
- The West Suffolk Council Local Plan process would also include consideration for community infrastructure through Section 106/Community Levy.

After a discussion, it was felt that not all members had the detail to decide at this point. It was agreed by all present to hold a dedicated meeting with Chris Bowden, the Council’s NP Consultant, to ask any questions and assist in the next stage of the plan. It was agreed that Cllr Lord would contact the consultant and arrange a Full Council meeting in January. **Action: Cllr Lord**

11. Correspondence

The following correspondence had been received –

- **Headway** – Grant Request
- **Green Ixworth** – Community Engagement
- **Babergh & Mid Suffolk** – Adoption of Joint Local Plan
- **C Cllr Spicer** – Financial Aid for Flood Affected Properties
- **C Cllr Spicer** – Road Signs
- **WSC** – Christmas Bin Collections

It was agreed to grant £25 to Headway.

Action: RFO

12. Chairman’s Report

The Chairman thanked all Cllrs who took part in the Remembrance Sunday Parade. At present there is not a final total available for the Poppy Appeal in Ixworth.

13. Councillor Reports

Cllr Rees enquired as to why the PC minutes had not been published in the latest magazine. Cllr Lord explained that it was up to the editorial team of the magazine to decide what to publish. The Clerk explained that the minutes may not have been published on the website in time for publication.

Cllr Rees enquired who was the lead for the Parish Emergency Plan. The clerk explained that Mr Ben Birrell had volunteered to take the lead. Cllr Rees requested if she could confirm this with Mr Birrell, this was agreed by all present. **Action: Cllr Rees**

Cllr Wilson enquired if the blocked drains in Ixworth Thorpe had been reported as there was no record of the report on SCC reporting tool.

Cllr Wilson enquired when the second light at Ixworth Thorpe Church would be repaired. The Clerk stated she would investigate both issues. **Action: Clerk**

14. Date of the Next Meeting

The next meeting was confirmed as Wednesday 10th January 2024 at 7.30pm in Ixworth Village Hall. The meeting would only be planning, finance and any urgent issues arising.

With no further business the meeting closed at 8.40pm.

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Signed

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Date