

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 March 2024 at 7:30pm

Present: Councillors (Cllrs) Pam Shelton, Clare Black, Kate Rees. Stephen Mann, John Rowe and Tony Molloy

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, APM – Annual Parish Meeting, De-fib – defibrillator, NP – Neighbourhood Plan, RBL - Royal British Legion

In the absence of the Chairman, it was agreed by all present that Cllr Rowe would Chair the meeting.

Cllr Rowe read the following statement prepared by Cllr Lord.

It is with great sadness that the Parish Council learned last week of the death of David Reeve. David's tenure as a Parish Councillor is understood to be the longest serving of any Parish Councillor in the history of this Parish Council and his contribution during those years was always constant, in gentle tone, and with a deep, reliable knowledge on a vast array of village matters. David was the consummate communitarian given his commitment of more than half a century not just to the Parish Council but also to our church as well. On behalf of the Parish Council, the Chairman has sent a message of condolence to David's family expressing our sympathies at his loss which marks the end of an era in the tapestry of our village's history.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from the following Cllrs –

Cllr Sutton – childcare – apology accepted

Cllr Lord – work commitments – apology accepted

2. Declarations of Interest

No declarations were made.

3. Minutes of the Previous Meetings

After a small alteration from the distributed draft minutes, it was resolved that the Chairman sign the minutes as a true record of the meetings held on Wednesday 14th February 2024 and Monday 4th March 2024.

4. Clerk's Report

The Clerk confirmed the APM would be held on Wednesday 17th April at 7pm at SET Ixworth. Invitations to local groups would be sent.

Action: Clerk and Chairman

5. Planning

As the Chairman was not present and taking the lead on this item it was agreed to add to the April agenda.

Cllr Rees stated she had also attended the Development Control meeting and found it remarkably interesting.

The Jaynic application at Shepherds Grove was discussed and various concerns were raised by many parties present including issues around traffic, scrap metal and oil on the site and parts from electric vehicles.

C Cllr Spicer stated she had a statement read out as she was unable to attend the meeting.

Action: Clerk

6. Public Forum

A resident wished to highlight her deep concerns on trees from St Mary's overhanging her garden. A particular tree drops berries into her garden which are poisonous, and she has concerns they may poison her grandchildren. The resident has been informed that the trees are the responsibility of the Parish Council.

It was agreed that the PC would contact Rev Burton, as the trees are on St Mary's land, and have a response by the April meeting.

Action: Clerk

D Cllr Griffiths offered £500 from his Locality Budget to the PC to assist in cutting back the aforementioned trees.

7. Reports from County & District Councillors

C Cllr Spicer reported the following:

- **Hempyard Bridge** – thank you to all who attended the meeting on 26th February and notes from this meeting have been passed to the Clerk for distribution. At present it is hoped the work to repair the bridge will start the middle of June 2024 or early July 2024. If an alternative route cannot be found, then the footpath from the gate at Commister Lane will be closed whilst repairs are undertaken. The footpath will require closing from this point as special tracks need to be installed to protect the footpath.
- **Roundabouts** – Cllr Lord and I are meeting with Marketingforce on Monday to discuss the situation with sponsorship of the two roundabouts in Ixworth.
- **De-fib** at the Fire station – As previously discussed C Cllr Spicer is hoping to hold the photo-shoot of the new de-fib at the Fire station on Monday 8th April at 6pm. The Chief fire Officer will be present. The photo shoot is an opportunity to thank all who have assisted in installing this new de-fib including SCC, D Cllr Griffiths and the PC.

D Cllr Griffiths reported the following:

- **Planning Application** – the planning application for a property in Fordham Place went to the development control meeting as the officers are minded to refuse the application.
- **Locality Budget** – as mentioned above a grant of £500 could be made available for help with the overhanging trees from St Marys Churchyard. D Cllr Griffiths stated he would contact the Families and Communities Team Leader at WSC to start the application process.

Cllr Rees enquired, when WSC consider planning applications, does the Council prefer brown sites rather than green sites. D Cllr Griffiths stated there was no formal policy, however brown sites are a preference.

8. Planning

No planning applications had been received to consider.

9. Finance

The following payments were made;

• Chq No's 1449,1450, 1451	Staffing	£1907.72
• Chq No 1452	Anglian Water	£20.88
• Chq No 1453	Glasdon UK Ltd	£364.42
• Chq No 1454	Arco	£123.77
• Chq No 1455	Cloudy IT	£134.58
• Chq No 1456	Ixworth Village Hall	£107.87
• Chq No 1457	Ixworth Village Hall	£5000.00
• Chq No 1458	A Adlington	£90.00
• Direct Debit NEST		£60.71

The RFO was authorised to transfer £10,000 from the Business account to the Community account.

Action: RFO

The RFO also informed members that the following invoices were outstanding and required payment before the end of the financial year;

- Jose Mendez
- Navigus Planning
- Leon Brown
- H M Revenue & Customs
- Amplify

It was resolved that the RFO could pay these invoices.

Action: RFO

10. Neighbourhood Plan

Cllr Rowe reported that all amendments had now been made except three small sections requiring up to date information. The Clerk reported she had requested this information from WSC and SET Ixworth. Once all these final adjustments are made it will be possible to move to the next stage.

A letter the Chairman had received from the developers and owners of the Langridge site was discussed. The letter offered another meeting to discuss The Langridge site. It was agreed to write back and thank them for their kind offer of a meeting but decline it at this time. The decision to remove site allocations from the NP stands and the PC wish to move forwards to getting the plan adopted.

The PC would, however, be happy to meet in the future, once their plans were more formalised, to discuss any benefits their development would have to the Parish.

Cllr Lord had distributed a suggested response which Cllrs felt was too long and it was agreed to shorten the letter and send to those concerned.

Action: Clerk & Cllr Lord

It was agreed that once all the final information is entered into the plan a copy be distributed to all Cllrs, C Cllr Spicer and D Cllr Griffiths.

Action: Clerk

11. Anti-Social Behaviour

Unfortunately, there has recently been some vandalism around the village. Obscene words and unsightly graffiti were sprayed over seats, bins and signs at the Cemetery causing immense distress to users of the Cemetery when tending and visiting their relatives' graves. Jose Mendez and Rob Pye, the cemetery caretaker, have managed to clean the offending words and pictures. The PC would like to thank them for their prompt response.

The phone kiosk in Stow Road that Ixworth accepted responsibility for some time ago was also vandalised.

Ixworth RBL have requested if the PC would be able to assist in the cleaning costs to remove the graffiti. It was agreed to contact Rob Pye to request if he was able to assist in the cleaning.

Action: Clerk

The Police were contacted to report both acts of vandalism.

Cllr Black also informed members that there had also been instances in and around the school areas.

Cllr Mann informed members that hopefully in the future the Local Police will be having a presence at the Village Hall.

12. Ixworth Cemetery

The Clerk reported that after the recent heavy rain some graves within the Cemetery have sunk. The Clerk requested permission to have the graves levelled as soon as possible. It was agreed by all present to have the sunken graves levelled.

Action: Clerk

The Clerk also informed the Cemetery WG members that she would need to arrange a meeting to discuss various issues surrounding the Cemetery. It was agreed that the Clerk send some suggested dates to members of the group to arrange a convenient time and date.

Action: Clerk

13. Correspondence

The following correspondence had been received:

- **Marketingforce** – Roundabouts
- **West Suffolk Wheelers** – May BH Cycle Race (06.05.24)
- **Matt Hancock MP** – Bury St Edmunds Archives
- **SARS** – thank you letter for the recent grant
- **Green Ixworth** – Jaynic & Copart
- **PC Reeve** – Vandalism at the Cemetery
- **SCC** – Local Transport Plan Consultation
- **WSC** – Sunnica Decision Delay
- **WSC** – Request from WS Chair to meet Cllrs

It was agreed to invite the Local Police Officer to a meeting.

14. Chairman's Report

As the Chairman was unable to attend the meeting there was no Chairman's report.

15. Councillors Reports

Cllr Rowe requested that the following be added to a future agenda:

- CCTV within the village, especially the Cemetery
- Relationships with the SET Ixworth to discuss residents using the facilities at the school.

It was agreed by all present to add to a future agenda.

Action: Clerk

16. Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as 10th April 2024 at 7.30pm in Ixworth Village Hall.

With no further business the meeting closed at 8.45pm.

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Signed

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Date