

IXWORTH AND IXWORTH THORPE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of Ixworth & Ixworth Thorpe Parish Council held in Ixworth Village Hall on Wednesday 13th September 2023 at 7:30pm

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

Also Present: Mandy Adlington (Parish Clerk), County Councillor (C Cllr) Joanna Spicer MBE and four 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, SCC – Suffolk County Council, NPWG – Neighbourhood Plan Working Group, De-fib – defibrillator, NP – Neighbourhood Plan

1. Apologies for Absence

Cllr Clare Black – childcare – apology accepted.

Cllr Vicky Sutton – family illness.

Cllr Mann – no apology received.

2. Declarations of Interest

No declarations or requests for dispensation were received.

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 9th August 2023.

4. Clerk's Report

The Clerk reported that, once the payment for the additional de-fib is agreed, Community Heartbeat would arrange delivery. As mentioned previously SCC have agreed to install this at the Fire Station. Ixworth Fire station have kindly agreed to pay for the electricity for the De-fib.

Issues to be completed;

- Chalk Lane Sign – awaiting a design from Cllr Black
- St Mary's Church Spotlights – meeting still to be arranged
- VAS – obtaining quotes to make VAS permanent with a solar panel

5. Public Forum

The following issues were raised by members of the public;

- A member of the public thanked the Chairman for obtaining recent photos of Hempyard Bridge.
- Concerns were raised over the planning application DC/23/1154/OUT and the impact it would have on Ixworth and the surrounding areas. Concerns were especially highlighted were the number of vehicles travelling to and from the site and the safety of users of the A143.

6. Reports from County and District Councillors

D Cllr Griffiths sent his apologies for not being able to attend.

C Cllr Spicer reported the following;

- **Parking Problems** (Bury Road/High Street) – C Cllr Spicer agreed that parking on the bend at this junction was a problem but there are no yellow lines prohibiting parking. If parking was causing an obstruction, then the Police should be informed. At present there are no finances available to install yellow lines and SCC do not install mirrors opposite junctions. C Cllr Spicer suggested writing an article in the village magazine highlighting concerns. Cllr Rees expressed her concerns that if nothing is done a serious accident could happen between cars coming down Bury Road and cars coming up Bury Road from the High Street.
- **Dropped Kerbs** – C Cllr Spicer informed members the dropped kerb near the Primary School was now completed. The cost of three additional dropped kerbs in Ixworth had been set aside but C Cllr Spicer would arrange for a SCC engineer to view the suggested kerbs agreed by the PC's SAWG to view which ones were achievable.

- **Right of Way** – C Cllr Spicer enquired if the PC were going to initiate an application for a Right of Way over the Crown Lane Development Lane. The chairman confirmed that at this time the PC had no intention of starting an application.
- **Hempyard Bridge** – C Cllr Spicer thanked the Chair for the additional photos. The bridge was now being inspected fortnightly. The concern is if more erosion happens that bridge may need to close. Cllr Wilson requested if the PC could have copies of the inspections.
- **Marketing Force** (Roundabout Sponsorship)– C Cllr Spicer reported that she had no further information on Marketing Force. C Cllr Spicer informed the members that at this time she could no longer follow up on this issue for the Parish Council and suggested that the members investigate themselves the issues surrounding Marketingforce and SCC. It was agreed that Cllr Lord would continue to investigate this issue.
- **Primary School Sign** – C Cllr Spicer had looked at the request to install a sign directing residents to the Primary School from the High Street, but she felt there was no room for a stand alone sign to be installed on the junction of Crown Lane. Perhaps residents could be approached to install a sign on their property.

Cllr Lord wanted to highlight his disappointment that the roundabout near Mulley's was once again looking a mess. The chevrons were filthy and urgently needed cleaning and weeding. Cllr Lord requested that C Cllr Spicer investigate.

Cllr Wilson wished to highlight that the dates the VAS would be visiting Ixworth Thorpe were not available on the SCC website.

Marketingforce –

Action Cllr Lord

7. Planning

DC/23/1265/TPO – fell one Horse Chestnut, one Horse Chestnut-reduce lower limb on west side over cottage to 9 metre radius, branch end reduction of 5 metres and remaining northwest crown 2 metre branch end reduction – Ixworth Abbey, The Paddock, Ixworth

No Objection

DC/23/1310/HH – Climbing frame to rear garden – 22 Street Farm Lane, Ixworth

Objection

DC/23/1377/TCA – as per tree schedule (see appendix 1 on West Suffolk Website) – Ixworth Surgery, Ixworth

No Objection

8. Planning (other)

DC/23/1154/OUT – (means of access to be considered) – demolition of existing buildings and structures to provide new employment floorspace (classes E(g)(iii), B2 and B8) including vehicular access with all other matters reserved – shepherds Grove Industrial Estate, Eat Sumner Road, Hepworth, Suffolk

Objection

9. Hempyard Bridge

Cllr Lord informed members that his recent photographs showed more damage, and the crack appears to be getting larger. A meeting is being arranged for the end of October, C Cllr Spicer would confirm the date and time.

10. Finance

The RFO informed members the following payments were required;

BACS	Staffing	£2042.59
BACS	Ixworth Village Hall (2 invoices)	£38.50
BACS	ARCO (2 invoices)	£172.84
BACS	Cloudy IT (Digital Services 2 invoices)	£212.28
BACS	Multi Signs (Play Area)	£66.00
BACS	Viking (office supplies)	£208.46
BACS	PKF Littlejohn (external audit)	£378.00
BACS	The Clean Plumber (Cemetery)	£104.45
BACS	Community Heartbeat Trust (fire station de-fib)	£2520.00
BACS	Wave (Anglian Water)	£58.47

(Cemetery)

BACS	A Adlington (expenses)	£122.34
BACS	Top Garden Services	£2066.40
Direct Debit NEST		£82.25

The RFO was authorised to transfer £5000 by on-line transfer from the business account to the community account.

Cllr Wilson would authorise, online, the above payments

Action: Clerk & Cllr Wilson

11. Neighbourhood Plan

Cllr Lord, as Chairman of the NPWG reported that at the recent meeting responses to the consultation had been discussed. The group agreed and are recommending to the Council that Navigus be contacted to assist in formulated the assist in considering the responses. It was suggested that Navigus assist in amending the document where required and help compile the Consultation statement.

Cllrs Wilson and Rees wished to highlight their concerns about the references made within the plan about relocating the Village Hall. The possibility of relocating the Village Hall is included within the plan but as yet there has been no evidence presented to the PC that the village would support such a move. Cllrs Wilson and Rees wished to highlight that no consultation of the future of the village hall and the suggestion of moving to a different location has not taken place as yet.

It was agreed by all present to contact Navigus to assist with the recommendations made by the NPWG.

Action: Clerk & Cllr Lord

12. Parish Council Working Groups

The suggested Terms of Reference for the Cemetery, Play Area and Crown Lane Development Groups were previously distributed to all Cllrs.

It was agreed to rename the Crown Lane Development Group to Countryside Access Working Group.

It was agreed to adopt Terms of Reference for each group.

13. Play Area

Cllr Wilson reported that the toddler area needed a complete refurbishment. Cllr Wilson informed members she was looking at various companies and she would report back at a future meeting. Cllr Wilson also suggested that all the areas may need to be fenced due to dog mess.

The Clerk reported that several small parts had been ordered to repair some fixture and fitting issues raised by the recent play area inspection report. Once the parts arrived the Clerk would get them installed.

Action: Cllr Wilson & Clerk

14. Parish Council Plan

It was agreed to meet prior to the next meeting at 6.30pm. Cllr Lord once again encouraged members to think about what they would like the PC to accomplish during this Parish Council Term.

15. Parish Council Projects

The following projects were considered;

- **20mph within the village** – It was agreed not to pursue this project
- **Dropped Kerbs** – As mentioned by C Cllr Spicer this issue was something C Cllr Spicer was now completing. It was agreed that the PC would not take this issue any further except to assist C Cllr Spicer with list of suggested kerbs developed by the previous PC SAWG.
- **Tree Planting** – The PC does not own any land except Robins Copse; the PC have requested the Wildlife Group who look after Robins Copse attend a meeting with the PC to discuss any issues effecting the Copse. It was agreed that the PC, at this time, is unable to advise residents to plant trees and shrubs on their own land. It was agreed not to take this suggested project any further.
- **Parking Problems** – It was agreed to continue to lobby the Police and residents with an article in the magazine requesting that residents do not park on the corner of the junction from Bury Road to the High Street.

16. Christmas 2023

A brief discussion took place but as Cllr Black and Sutton were not in attendance it was agreed to add to the October agenda.

A road closure was briefly discussed along with getting the large tree trimmed.

It was agreed the Clerk email Cllrs Sutton & Black for a report of actions required for the October meeting.

Action: Clerk, Cllrs Black & Sutton

17. Chairman’s Report

Cllr Lord informed members that the meeting with Jo Churchill MP had been postponed. Cllr Lord informed members he would inform them the new time and date.

Cllr Lord informed members that he had met with Mark Barrow the Head Teacher at SET School. Mr Barrow is now back in post and is very keen to re-connect with the Community.

It was agreed that Cllr Lord speak with Mr Barrow on the suggestion that the PC could write to parents inviting one or two of them to consider becoming a Parish Councillor. **Action: Cllr Lord**

18. Correspondence

The following correspondence had been received;

- **SARS** – Donation Request
- **Resident** – Parking on Bend information
- **Greene King** – Play Area Wall
- **Footpath Warden** – Delay in signage
- **Resident** – Meeting at Crown Lane
- **Green Ixworth** – Copart
- **C Cllr Spicer** – Hempyard Bridge
- **C Cllr Spicer** – Walsham-le-Willows Plan

It was agreed to grant £100 to SARS.

Action: Clerk

It was hopeful news that Greene King were intending to send someone to look at the collapsed wall.

It was agreed to write to the landowners and developers of the Crown Lane Development site for an update.

Action: Clerk

19. Councillors Reports

Cllr Rees informed members she was going to write an article on her experience of becoming a Parish Councillor. All members agreed this was a very good idea.

Cllr Wilson wished to highlight the blocked drains in Ixworth Thorpe, the telephone housing the de-fib in Ixworth Thorpe required cleaning and had the PC had any interest in adopting new Cllrs.

Cllr Lord showed Cllrs a card of thanks from the King and Queen on the occasion of their Coronation.

20 Date of the Next Meeting

The next meeting was confirmed as 11th October 2023 at 7.30pm in Ixworth Village Hall.

21. Exclusion of the 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 contract
- (ii) Staffing

The press and public were excluded at 9pm.

With no further business the meeting closed at 9.30pm

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Signed

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Date