

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 Monday 22nd January 2024 at 6:30pm

Present: Councillors (Cllrs) Lord (Chairman), Pam Shelton, Kate Rees. Stephen Mann and John Rowe.

Also Present: Mandy Adlington (Parish Clerk), Chris Bowden and two members of the public

Abbreviations

Cllr/Cllrs – Councillor/Councillors, PC – Parish Council, WSC – West Suffolk Council, NPWG – Neighbourhood Plan Working Group, NP – Neighbourhood Plan

1. Apologies for Absence

Cllr Black – childcare – apology accepted.

Cllr Sutton – illness – apology accepted.

Cllr Molloy – illness – apology accepted.

2. Declarations of Interest

No declarations were made.

3. Planning

The Council considered the following application;

DC/3545/1310/HH – a, climbing frame to rear of garden - b, 2.5 metre boundary fence – 22 Street Farm Lane, Ixworth
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PC Decision - Object

Action: Clerk

4. Neighbourhood Plan

Distributed to all Cllrs prior to the meeting was a copy of the Regulation 14 pre-submission document and access to comments from consultees and residents to the Regulation 14 Pre-submission Consultation.

The Chair explained that this was agreed to be discussed at a Full Council meeting in August for full transparency of the process. The Council had invited along Chris Bowden, the Councils NP Consultant, to answer any questions Cllrs may have and assist in explaining some of the finer points on a NP.

- (i) Sections 1 & 2 of the plan were discussed and various small amendments to spelling and sentence structure were agreed to be altered. Section 2.35 & 2.36 wording required altering as this section mentioned negotiations with developers to create a new community centre as part of a future development site. A photo of the proposed site of the Youth Club at Ixworth SET School needed to be removed and replaced with the Youth Club at its new location of the Village Hall.
- (ii) It was agreed that again small alterations were required in Section 3. It was agreed to strengthen the opening statement (3.1) around the Covid-19 effects on outlets closures. Outlets have closed in the village which happened prior and after Covid-19. Section 3.12 (13) will now read 'To develop a Village Hub within the Village'.
- (iii) It was agreed that as pointed out in WSC response to Regulation 14 Pre-submission number of new houses required in the settlement seem be out of date. However, it was discussed that as WSC are about to go to another consultation of their Local Plan beginning on 30th January 2024, will confirm their suggested numbers. It was noted at this point that the Langridge Site Allocation was now being included in the WSC New Local Plan along with the Crown Lane site.
- (iv) The wording in Section 5 (5.5, 5.10) required slight amendments.

At this point of the meeting the site allocation known as The Langridge was discussed. The disparity of the number of houses in the original site allocation and the number of houses mentioned in Regulation 14 Pre-Submission (220 houses) were different and discussions were held as to how this happened. It was also highlighted that WSC were including the Langridge development within the new West Suffolk Local Plan with another different number (145 houses).

The Chair had contacted WSC NP Liaison Officer for clarification of points of site allocation who advised that the PC could remove this site allocation if they so wished.

A lengthy discussion ensued around the action points from the stakeholder meeting held on 30 October 2023 at West Suffolk House and in particular focussing on the suggestion by Suffolk County Council Highways Officers that the Parish Council provides evidence into why we believe a roundabout off the A1088 into The Langridge development would be more satisfactory than what is set out for coming off Bardwell Road. Such evidence would require engaging consultants and would cost in excess of £20,000. It was felt this is too much for the Parish Council to underwrite in terms of cost when considering it may not provide the outcome we are advocating, nor be acceptable to SCC Highways. Since Suffolk County Council were objecting to the inclusion of a roundabout in our policies for The Langridge Site Allocation, it would not be possible to move the plan forward without tackling this issue. Councillors then sought advice from our NP consultant on how to overcome this and what options were available to us in order for the NP to proceed.

The following motions were proposed;

1. Cllr Mann proposed that the Langridge site allocation be left within the plan but state the same number of houses as WSC's Local Plan (145 houses), as there was not a seconder for this proposal a vote was not taken.
 2. Cllr Rowe proposed leaving the Landridge site allocation in the plan in line with WSC 145 houses and then do a separate proposal to seek assurances from the landowner for land a community hall at the development for the village. Cllr Mann seconded this proposal, with three votes to two this proposal was not carried.
 3. Cllr Rees proposed to take out the Langridge site allocation out of the NP, Cllr Lord seconded this – this proposal was carried with four votes for and non against with one abstention.
- (v) Section 6 (6.3 & 6.4) were discussed, and it was agreed that they needed some alteration as confirmation was required from the SET Ixworth to confirm use of facilities at their site 6(6.3). Alterations to 6.4 were also required following the above decision on site allocations.
- (vi) Following the above decision, it was agreed that Section 9, Site Allocation now needed to be altered to reflect the decision of the Council.
- (vii) Section 7 had also received comments from residents and consultees. It was mentioned that Section 7.7 should not read permissive footpaths but should read substantive as it was felt that permissive footpaths could have permission taken away at any time. It was felt by all that there are not enough Public Rights of Way (substantive footpaths) and access to the countryside in and around Ixworth & Ixworth Thorpe.

Cllr Rees proposed altering to substantive, seconded by Cllr Lord and carried unanimously.

Access to the suggested Langridge development were also discussed and members still felt that access to this development should not come off a junction in Bardwell Road (top of the High Street). It was agreed to keep commenting on any consultation the wish for a safer access to this site by way of a roundabout off the A1088.

It was agreed that Chris Bowden would make all the alterations, with the assistance of Cllrs Lord and Rowe, and send the PC a draft copy to view in time for the February meeting.

Chris Bowden informed members the following needed to be completed before moving on to the next stage of the plan.

- The new draft with all alterations
- A Basic Conditions Statement
- A Consultation Statement

Chris Bowden stated he would start altering the draft plan and start work on the Conditions statement and would assist the Clerk to write the Consultation Statement.

It was agreed that as all decisions on the NP needed to be made by the Council the NPWG would be disbanded. A letter of thanks would be sent to all members of the group. **Action: Clerk**

5. Date of the Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Wednesday 14th February 2024 at 7.30pm in Ixworth Village Hall. (not 8th February as noted on the agenda).

With no further business the meeting closed at 8.55pm.

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Signed

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Date