

## **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 8<sup>th</sup> November 2023 at 7:30pm*

**Present:** Councillors (Cllrs) Lord (Chairman), Sophia Wilson, Vicky Sutton, Pam Shelton, Clare Black, Kate Rees. Stephen Mann, John Rowe and Tony Molloy

**Also Present:** Mandy Adlington (Parish Clerk), C Cllr Joanna Spicer MBE, D Cllr John Griffiths MBE and seven 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, BSE – Bury St Edmunds, NPWG – Neighbourhood Plan Working Group, De-fib – defibrillator, NP – Neighbourhood Plan

### 1. Apologies for Absence

No apologies were received.

### 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 Chairman sign the minutes as a true record of the meeting held on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> October 2023.

### 4. Clerk's Report

The Clerk reported the following;

- **Fire Station De-fib** – the de-fib is at the Fire Station waiting to be installed by SCC
- **St Mary's Church** – it has been agreed with Rev Burton that the PC continue to look after and tend to the front and right-hand side of the Church. Rev Burton would speak with the team looking after the rear of the Church for them to continue in their rewilding project.  
The Clerk also would speak with the Church Warden to arrange an inspection of the spotlights with an electrician.

### 5. Public Forum

No comments were made from the public present.

### 6. Reports from County & District Councillors

C Cllr Spicer gave the following report:

- **A1088 Bridge Repairs** – the repairs to the Bridge on the A1088 are due to take place in May or June. The A1088 at this section will be closed and diversions will be in place. The liaison group met to discuss issues surrounding the closure and may arrange another meeting in January 2024.
- **Fire Station De-fib** – it is good news that the installation is in hand.
- **Road Signs** – SCC hopefully, with a recent grant from Government, will be able to mend some road signs. If there any in particular need of repairing, please let her know.

D Cllr Griffiths gave the following report;

- **Meetings** – Thank you to all who have arranged or attended the recent meetings on the A1088, the Neighbourhood Plan and Hempyard Bridge. Working together will achieve great results.
- **Planning** – various planning applications are being discussed at present. Please could the Parish Council keep me updated on their thoughts on planning applications within the Parish. The Chairman stated the Clerk would inform him on applications discussed.
- **Local Plan** – the WSC Local Plan has now been delayed until January 2024.
- **Locality Budget** – Local groups can apply for a grant from D Cllr Griffiths Locality Budget

### 7. Planning

**DC/23/1711/LB** – Installation of solar panels on roof – Round House, Thetford Road, Ixworth

**Objection**

**DC/23/1721/HH** – (a) single storey rear extension (following demolition of existing conservatory) (b) replacement window to side elevation – 21 Micklesmere Drive, Ixworth

**No Objection**

A planning application for Troston Parish was mentioned as it was felt it would have an effect on Ixworth Thorpe. The clerk was instructed to contact WSC planning department to ascertain if a response could be sent from Ixworth & Ixworth Thorpe Parish Council. If this was agreeable, could an extension be given so the application could be discussed by Ixworth & Ixworth Thorpe Parish Council and comments agreed.

### **8. Finance**

The following payments were made;

BACS	Staffing	£1972.52
BACS	CloudyIT	£119.82
BACS	Ixworth Village Hall	£19.25
BACS	Jose Mendez Acosta	£1182.58
BACS	Ixworth & District RBL	£250.00
CHQ No1428	The Poppy Appeal	£50.00
Direct Debit NEST		£66.55

The RFO was authorised to transfer £3000 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. Neighbourhood Plan**

Cllr Lord, Chairman of the NPWG gave the following report;

Following the Reg 14 Public consultation some issues were noted in the representations from SCC that necessitated a stakeholder meeting. The meeting was hosted by the Parish Council at West Suffolk House on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> October. The meeting included representatives of SCC, WSC, SW Cross and Pigeon.

Issues raised by SCC were;

- Flooding around the potential development at Dairy Farm
- Issues around school admissions numbers in both primary and secondary education arising from the developments
- Highway issues

#### Outcomes – flooding and schools

The landowner/promoter for the development at Dairy Farm has made a modification to appease the concerns over flooding on this development which was acceptable by SCC.

Suffolk County Council's officers for school admissions have advised that the proposed site allocation at Langridge of 220 dwellings will exceed the current primary school capacity in Ixworth. Work is ongoing to determine when that capacity will exceed so that preparations for a new primary school can be suitably considered and planned. SET Ixworth School is virtually full, and a feasibility study has been commissioned by SCC to determine if expansion on the existing site is possible and it is advised that shall take six weeks to work on.

#### Highways

Throughout the whole Neighbourhood Plan process, and in matters relating to the A1088 between Thetford Road and the A143 roundabout, the Parish Council have been unequivocally clear in the need to address the inherent safety issues and there presents an ideal opportunity to do this with the development of the Langridge. Presently, the draft NP states that access to the Langridge site is to be delivered via a roundabout from the A1088. However, SCC are resistant to this for similar reasons to their continued varying stance over roundabouts that we've experienced with the varying iterations of planning applications for the Persimmon site.

SCC have requested that the Parish Council provides suitable evidence to support its position as SCC feels that it is perfectly acceptable to deliver access in/out of the Langridge development from a T-Junction in Bardwell Road which is in line with pre-application dialogue that the landowner/promoter has had with SCC.

Our consultant has prepared some terms of reference for a highways consultant to undertake this work.

An initial response has been received to our request for a cost proposal to undertake this work however this is currently subject to further clarification between SCC in terms of being clearer on the type of evidence is required so that a firm cost can be ascertained and put before the Parish Council for decision.

Pigeon/SW Cross have offered to undertake this work for us and contribute towards the funding for it.

It is therefore necessary for this meeting to consider whether it is appropriate for a landowner/promoter to involve itself in this particular matter at such a level.

### Recommendations

1. For the PC to note the present position of the NP process
2. For the PC to consider and decide on whether it would like landowner/promoter to be involved more closely in providing evidence for SCC

A lengthy discussion was held on points raised and the following was resolved;

1. All members agreed and noted current position on the NP.
2. It was agreed that the PC would reject the landowner/promoter's kind offer as the PC felt it would be inappropriate to accept funding from a landowner/promoter towards a PC NP that was seeking to create a different access to that which the landowner/promoter had received pre-application advice on from SCC. It was felt that to ensure the transparency and independent integrity of the plan that it should not have any funding from any landowner/promoter.
3. Cllr Lord would inform the landowner/promoter of the Council's decision.

**Action: Cllr Lord**

### 10. Hempyard Bridge

The Chairman gave the following report on points discussed at the meeting hosted by C Cllr Spicer held on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2023.

- Work expected to start in June and funding secured
- Required application to environment Agency in hand
- Overhanging trees need to be cut back
- The last inspection was undertaken on the 24<sup>th</sup> Oct – Now being undertaken at 2-week intervals.
- The works will involve reconstruction of the SW wingwall, extensive masonry repairs throughout the structure, replacement of previous inappropriate repairs, installation of tie bars to arrest further movement/longitudinal cracking, installation of scour protection works at the base of the abutments and piers, removal of the timber "boardwalk" structure.
- The bridge and that stretch of bridleway will need to be closed to the public during the works
- Diversion route to be researched by Claire Dickson
- The design drawings have been finalised and issued to us from Kier.
- Kier have submitted details of the proposed materials to the Planning authority to discharge the LBC conditions relating to materials – response expected by mid-November.
- Further bat surveys were completed in Sept/Oct, which revealed no roosting bats – One further survey will be required before the start of the works.
- A schedule of outstanding issues/actions has been compiled and Milestone have been asked to provide a cost estimate for addressing these issues up to and including provision of a construction cost estimate.
- Next update meeting to be set up in Jan/Feb 24

### 11. Christmas 2023

Cllr Sutton informed members that the arrangements for Christmas Tree Light Switch on scheduled for 1<sup>st</sup> December was in its final stages. The lights had been removed but were deemed unsafe by an electrician so new lights were required. Cllr Sutton stated new sets would cost approximately £1350 and items for the event would cost approximately £150.

It was agreed that Cllr Sutton and the Clerk order the necessary lights and due to the date falling prior to the next meeting a budget of £1750 was agreed for the lights and event.

**Action: Cllr Sutton & the Clerk**

Cllr Sutton informed members she would apply to D Cllr Griffiths for a £500 grant from his Locality Budget to offset some of the cost.

**Action: Cllr Sutton**

A leaflet would be posted through all doors to inform residents of the event and Cllr Sutton urged all members to attend.

**Action: Cllrs**

### 12. Play Area

Cllr Wilson informed members she was meeting with various contractors to discuss refurbishment of the Toddler Play area and requested the Play Area be added to the agenda again in December.

**Action: Clerk**

### 13. Precept Budget 2024-2025

It was agreed to hold a budget workshop prior to the meeting in December.

**14. Correspondence**

The following correspondence had been received;

- **Resident** – Overgrown conifers + photo
- **Commonwealth War Graves** – Installing a Commonwealth War Graves sign at the Cemetery
- **Anglian Water** – Upcoming Works
- **Jaynic** – Confirmation of Copart Withdrawal
- **Action Play** – Lottery Changes
- **Suffolk Police** – Police Commissioners Update
- **WSC** – Review of Polling Stations
- **WSC** – BSE Bus Station

The members discussed the overgrown Conifers that a resident had highlighted. Members felt the location of the conifers were on Havebury Housing land. The clerk was instructed to write to the concerned resident with the Councils thoughts.

**Action: Clerk**

It was agreed that a sign showing that the Cemetery held two Commonwealth War Graves should be installed. The Clerk was instructed to complete the necessary forms.

**Action: Clerk**

**15. Chairman’s Report**

The Chairman reminded members that they needed to be at the Fire Station at 10.15am, if they were able, for the Parish Remembrance Parade on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> November 2023.

The Chairman also reminded members that The Royal British Legion would be holding a Two-Minute Silence at the War Memorial on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2023 at 11am.

**16. Councillors Reports**

Cllr Wilson requested if the Cobbled area could be weeded this week.

**Action: Clerk**

Cllr Mann requested if anyone had any knowledge of a Solar Farm being installed in Pakenham. All members stated that they had not heard of this project.

**17. Date of the Next Meeting**

The next meeting was confirmed as Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2023 at 7.30pm in Ixworth Village Hall.

With no further business the meeting closed at 9.20pm.

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Signed

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Date