

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 9th August 2023 at 7:30pm

Present: Councillors (Cllrs) Lord (Chairman), Sophia Wilson, Pam Shelton, Clare Black, Kate Rees and Stephen Mann

Also Present: Mandy Adlington (Parish Clerk), District Councillor (D Cllr) John Griffiths MBE and five 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, NPWG – Neighbourhood Plan Working Group

1. Apologies for Absence

Cllr Clare Sutton – childcare – apology accepted.

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 19th July 2023.

4. Clerk's Report

The Clerk reported the following;

- **Play Area** – the initial meeting of the Play Area WG had been held on Monday 7th August. The general condition of the place area was very unkempt. The back of the small toddler area required immediate attention to cut back the weeds and remove two tree stumps. The group requests that a quote be sought for the tree stumps, but permission be given to get the weeds removed. The group would produce a report for the Full council on all other issues that require immediate action. Issues of safety had been highlighted by the recent play area inspection and the Clerk reported she was in the process of ordering these parts to resolve the issues highlighted. Terms of Reference for the Group would be distributed to all Cllrs for adoption at the September meeting.
- **Cemetery Roof** – the roof has now been completed.
- **Cemetery Gate** – the gate has been repaired.

It was agreed the Clerk could instruct a contractor to remove all weeds and overgrowth from the small toddler area. **Action: Clerk**

Cllr Lord requested if the agreed complaint to SCC about Hempyard Bridge had been sent and had previous Cllrs been written to request they destroy all information relevant to the Council.

The Clerk reported that both issues were in hand. **Action: Clerk**

5. Public Forum

The following issues were highlighted by members of the public present;

- **Large Tree in Churchyard** – a resident wished to highlight her concerns that a large tree in the Churchyard was overgrown and hanging over her boundary wall. The resident was very concerned that the tree was shedding red berries which she believed to be poisonous.
- **Christmas Trees in the High Street** – a resident wished to speak about the small and large Christmas trees in the High Street. The small Christmas tree installation has been organised by herself and a very small team over many years. The small trees are purchased by the Ixworth Association. The resident

concerned requested that the PC assist this year and there had been a few minor problems last year and the large tree was not lit at all.

- **20 MPH Limits** – a resident stated that there are many issues relating to speeding traffic and the reason for limiting traffic to 20mph in the village to reduce traffic speed. If a whole village approach was not feasible then perhaps only certain areas such as High Street, Stow Road and Micklesmere. Micklesmere had previously been discussed by the PC as a speeding problem. The resident urged the PC to join with other PCs to get a decision of support from SCC
- **Persimmon** – It was reported that Persimmon had started to erect signs such as private land on the Crown Lane Development land. It was suggested that the 20 years rule to classify the route as a 'Right of Way' be explored.
A resident in the public section offered her services as a Public Relations expert if the PC required help in publicity.

The Chairman reported that the PC were taking the installation of the large Christmas tree in house again this year and issues raised would be discussed later in the evening. It was agreed that the PC, if required, would help the installation of the small trees.

The Clerk was instructed to speak with St Mary's Church over the issue of the overhanging tree.

6. Reports from County and District Councillors

C Cllr Spicer sent her apologies for not being able to attend.

D Cllr Griffiths reported the following;

- WSC planning department had received no further information of the Persimmon application and there does not seem to be any regulations to stop Persimmon erecting signage.
- The planning application for the shop at 46 High Street was still ongoing.
- WSC had no hacking issues even though it had been reported that the Electoral Commission had been hacked.

7. Planning

DC/23/1164/TCA – a, one Walnut overall crown reduction by up to 1.5 metres – b, one Fig overall crown reduction by 0.5 metres – Walnut Cottage, 54 High Street, Ixworth **No Objection**
DC/23/1117/VAR – variation of condition 5 DC/20/1784/HH to allow for 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 **No Objection**
DC/23/1190/TCA – Various tree works (see West Suffolk Planning for full details) – Street Record, Reeve Close, Ixworth – Application from Havebury Housing **No Objection**

8. Finance

The following payments were made;

BACS	Staffing	£1591.73
BACS	Suffolk ICloud (digital services NP)	£100.00
BACS	Designs on Metal (Cemetery)	£90.00
BACS	Willowserve (Cemetery)	£144.00
BACS	T P Keeling (Cemetery)	£500.00
Direct Debit	NEST	£49.40

No transfer from the business account to the community account was required.

Cllr Wilson would authorise, online, the above payments

Action: Clerk & Cllr Wilson

9. Dropped Kerbs

A report had been previously distributed to all Cllrs on the suggestion of installing the following dropped kerbs as highlighted by the Safety and Accessibility Group.

Kerbs identified were;

1. *A single dropped kerb in Commister Lane opposite the entrance to Peasecroft Road.*
2. *A single dropped kerb in Street Farm Lane opposite No 1.*
3. *A single dropped-kerb adjacent to the vehicle access to the Primary School.*
4. *A pair of dropped kerbs across the entrance to the car park at Dover Terrace (possibly achievable by minor tarmac work).*
5. *A crossing point to Blackbourne View from the pavement in Peddars Close.*

The kerb, no 3 on the list, has been completed by C Cllr Spicer.

Previously it had been suggested that each dropped kerb could cost approximately £3000 each. It was agreed that the Council did not have £12,000 in its finances to this cost.

It was agreed to discuss with C Cllr Spicer to see if any funding could be sought from her or SCC to assist in installing the suggested dropped kerbs.

Action: Clerk

10. 20 MPH Speed Limit

The suggestion about making the village a 20mph zone was discussed. It was agreed that whilst this is a good intension it would not be enforced. It was suggested that 20mph could be suggested for certain areas of the village such as housing estates. It was agreed to discuss with C Cllr Spicer to ascertain if she could take this suggestion forward.

Action: Clerk

11. Parking

Cllr Rees showed members a diagram with her concerns about residents parking their cars on the corner of Bury Road, the High Street and Stow Road, outside Cyder House. Cllr Rees stated she had seen some near misses and when cars are parked there visibility is very reduced from cars travelling down Bury Road towards the High Street and cars travelling from Stow Road to Bury Road.

A discussion was held, and members agreed that whilst there were no yellow lines on the corner something needed to be put in place before a serious accident happened. It was suggested a mirror in installed on the wall so cars could see vehicles approaching or even install yellow lines.

It was agreed to approach C Cllr Spicer with both these possibilities to see if either could be an option.

Action: Clerk & Cllr Rees

12. Christmas 2023

As discussed in the public forum it was agreed that the PC would organise the installation of lights on the large tree. It was also agreed to assist the small tree group the PCs help to install the smaller trees on residences in the High Street.

It was agreed to hold again a 'Lights Switch On' perhaps on Friday 1st December 2023.

The following actions are required;

- The current lights need to be removed and tested before re-installing them
- The tree needs to be trimmed
- A road closure needs to be applied for the 'Switch On' event
- Costings for a cherry picker needs to be obtained for light installation and installation of the small trees
- Liaise with resident attending this evening's meeting and the Events Group on tree installation and switch on event.

Cllr Black agreed to join Cllr Sutton to take the lead on this project and action the above points.

Action: Cllrs Black & Sutton

13. Hempyard Bridge

Cllr Lord updated members that a follow up meeting with SCC would be on 31st October 2023. C Cllr Spicer would confirm the time.

14. Grass Cutting Contract

The Clerk reported that specifications had only just been sent to companies that had showed an interest in quoting for the grass cutting contract. Quotes have been requested to be received by 31st August so this item will be on the September agenda.

15. Tree Planting

A report had been previously distributed to all members following the suggestion from a resident that the PC plant, or encourage residents to plant, more trees within the Parish.

The idea was discussed but as the PC only own one area of land, Robins Copse, it is difficult to plant more trees. It was felt the PC needed to visit the site and ascertain if the Wildlife Group were still attending and managing the site.

Cllr Lord highlighted that there is a rotten post and the remnants of an old Parish Council notice board in there that needs to be removed. A new sign seems to have been installed that he didn't recall the Parish Council agreeing to.

It was agreed that Cllrs Wilson, Rees and Black would visit the site and report back to the Council.

Action; Cllrs Wilson, Black and Rees

16. Chairman's Report

The Chairman reported the following;

Meeting with Jo Churchill MP

A meeting with Jo Churchill scheduled to take place on Friday 29 September with a 'Getting to Know You' for Parish Councillors. The time would be confirmed.

Robins Copse – Tree Works

As previously agreed, a local certified tree surgeon will be undertaking the work to remove the trees causing a safety issue to neighbouring properties on 31st August 2023. The contractor will also remove a couple of dead trees causing issues in the area overlooking properties. The contractor has offered to leave a pile of "logs" for people to help themselves to for wood burners etc.

Neighbourhood Plan

The NPWG were due to meet this week but with various members either on holiday now or about to go on holiday, this will be rescheduled to first week of September for the group to review the responses and what impact they may have on the emergence of the final version of the plan.

17. Correspondence

The following correspondence had been received – all correspondence had been distributed to Cllrs.

- **Resident** – Basketball Court
- **Persimmon** – Response to Cllr Lords email re Crown Lane site (long grass after cutting)
- **Pigeon** – Request for meeting
- **Resident** – overgrowth in Thistledown Drive (forwarded to C Cllr Spicer)
- **Resident** – Persimmon Signs
- **Resident** – Parking on pavement leaflets
- **WSC** – Community Chest Grants (2)

The following replies were agreed;

The resident requesting a basketball court would be, with the residents' permission, be forwarded to the Village Hall Committee. **Action: Clerk**

Concerns on the overgrowth in Thistledown Drive had been forwarded to C Cllr Spicer and reported on the SCC online reporting tool. The Clerk was instructed to inform the concerned resident. **Action: Clerk**

After a discussion, it was agreed not to place leaflets on cars parked inappropriately as parking did not come under the jurisdiction of the Parish Council. The Clerk was instructed to inform and thank the resident for her offer to place leaflets on cars, but the PC decision is not to carry out this option. **Action: Clerk**

It was agreed to inform Pigeon that the PC do not wish to meet at this time until the NPWG have discussed points raised from the recent consultation. **Action: Clerk**

It was agreed to contact the resident about the Persimmon signs and accept his offer of help to canvas residents on trying to establish a Right of Way for the area using the 20-year use rule. It was also agreed to set up a Crown Lane Development Working Group to look at issues on this site. It was agreed to invite the resident who had contacted the Council to join the group. Members of the group would be Cllrs Reeve, Lord and Shelton. The PC Footpath Warden would also be invited to join the group. A meeting would be arranged as soon as possible to discuss these concerning sign issues. Terms of Reference for the group would be distributed for adoption at the September meeting. **Action: Clerk & Cllr Rees**

18. Councillors Reports

Cllr Shelton wished to highlight that Thetford Road was once again overgrown and residents were finding it difficult to walk along and quite often had to walk in the road. Cllr Black highlighted her concerns to Cllr Mann, as Chairman of the Village Hall Committee, her concerns on the condition of all areas around the village hall. Cllr Black especially wished to highlight the lack of goal posts and the large piece of metal sticking out the ground where one of the old goalposts used to be. Cllr Black informed members that the Toddler Group were very concerned about using the playing field area. Cllr Wilson informed members that she had not been able to find any data on when the VAS was deployed in Ixworth Thorpe in August and September. It was agreed to contact C Cllr Spicer to request her to find out when it will be in attendance. **Action: Clerk**

19. Date of the Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Wednesday 13th September 2023 at 7.30pm in Ixworth Village Hall.

With no further business the meeting closed at 8.55pm.

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Signed

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Date