

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 10th April 2024 at 7:30pm

Present: Councillors (Cllrs) Lord (Chairman), 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 three 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, APM – Annual Parish Meeting, NP – Neighbourhood Plan

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from the following Cllrs –

Cllr Sutton – childcare – apology accepted
Cllr Rees – unwell – apology accepted
Cllr Shelton – transport issues – apology accepted
Cllr Black – childcare – apology accepted

2. Declarations of Interest

No declarations were made.

3. Minutes of the Previous Meetings

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 meetings held on Wednesday 14th February 2024 and Monday 4th March 2024.

4. Clerk's Report

The Clerk reported the following:

- **Play Area** – the final figure the RFO feels the PC owe to the Village Hall has now been finalised. The report is available on the Cllrs secure site for all to view. The Clerk would once again try to contact the Village Hall Trustee to discuss further.
- **King's Portrait** – the Clerk reported that the PC had received a free print of the King's Portrait. It was agreed that it should be displayed in St Mary's Church.
- **St Mary's Trees** – as yet no quote had been obtained as Clerk's meeting with the tree surgeon is later this month. Cllr Griffiths, however, had granted £500 from his locality budget to assist in the cost of trimming the tree overhanging the resident's garden mentioned at a previous meeting.

5. Planning Other

Cllr Lord explained to all present that he had attended a Development Control Meeting at WSC where the Shepherds Grove Jaynic application was discussed. As agreed by the Council he read a statement on the objections the PC have on this application. The application was refused. The Council had also been informed that the decision on the application for 22 Street farm Lane was now being appealed.

6. Public Forum

A resident asked the following questions;

How many make a quorum for this Parish Council?

How many meetings can a Cllr miss before being excluded from sitting on the Council?

Cllr Lord informed the resident that the quorum for this Council was three and Cllrs had to miss six consecutive meetings before being excluded.

A resident had attended the Development Control Meeting mentioned earlier. They were impressed by the observations from objectors present but were disappointed by the WSC planning officers and Jaynic representatives. Their answers were unsatisfactory, especially around the traffic implications for the entire surrounding area. The resident asked about the Section 106 Agreement and its specifications. Cllr Lord said he would contact the resident directly regarding this.

A resident highlighted that some soil is being left in an area of land beside the A143. This is a high risk place as it impacts the safety of the A143, creates risk to the stability of trees, appears to be illegal dumping and may be a flood plain. The resident has been in contact with WSC as a gate now appears to have been fitted and locked. A discussion took place after which it was agreed for Cllr Lord and this resident to attend Pakenham Parish Council's meeting as this is in their parish, not Ixworth.

7. Reports from County & District Councillors

C Cllr gave the following report;

- **Hempyard Bridge** – as reported before the repairs to Hempyard Bridge are still scheduled for June 2024. Unfortunately, at this time there are no diversions available so the footpath will be closed while the repair works are carried out.
- **Stowlangtoft Bridge Farm Bridge** – closure of this bridge for repairs is scheduled for 8th July 2024.
- **Resurfacing** – C Cllr Spicer has been informed that Abbey Close and Crown Crescent are due to be resurfaced.
- **De-Fib at the Fire Station** – C Cllr Spicer thanked all who had attended on Monday evening to advertise the new de-fib fitted at the Fire Station. The Fire Officer was in attendance along with the Parish Council Chairman and local fire personnel. It was good to see how working together to install a great asset for the community.

D Cllr Griffiths reported the following;

- **West Suffolk Local Plan** – D Cllr Griffiths thanked the PC for getting their response to WSC on the recent Local Plan Consultation.
- **Planning** – an application coming up soon is the Sunnica application
- **Locality Budget** – a grant of £500 has been paid from my Locality budget for St Mary's churchyard to assist in the tree work required.

8. Planning

The following applications were discussed -

DC/24/0317/LB – install Ohme home pro, 7.4 KW tethered vehicle charger on garage wall – The Crown, Thetford Road, Ixworth **Support**

DC/24/0473/TCA – fell two Elm trees – Sycamores, 5 Beeches close, Ixworth **Support**

9. Finance

The following payments were recorded –

Chq No's 1461, 1462, 1463	Staffing	£2055.25
Chq No 1464	SALC	£719.01
Chq No 1465	Cloudy IT	£134.58
Chq No 1466	Leon Brown	£702.00
Chq No 1467	Suffolk.ICloud	£120.00
Chq No 1468	Mr J Acosta	£2867.48
Chq No 1470	A Adlington(Bright)	£94.80
Direct Debit NEST		£78.21

The RFO was authorised to transfer £8,000 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;

- West Suffolk District Council
- H M Revenue & Customs
- Arco

It was resolved that the RFO could pay these invoices once Cllr Lord is able to access online banking.

Action: RFO

10. Neighbourhood Plan

Chris Bowden, the NP Consultant, has sent the latest draft to WSC and is currently working on the plan to reflect the comments received. The Consultation Statement has been sent to Mr Bowden for review. Once these two are completed, Mr Bowden will be gathering all documents required for Regulation 16 and submitting the Neighbourhood Plan to WSC. WSC will then run the Regulation 16 consultation, appointing an independent examiner.

11. Calthorpe & Edwards Educational Foundation

It was agreed by all present that Cllr Mann would be the PC's representative on the Calthorpe Foundation. The Clerk was instructed to inform the Foundation.

Action: Clerk

12. Ixworth Cemetery

The tree has now been felled in the cemetery, leaving the tree stump present. Members present agreed to engage the existing grass cutting contractor to remove this tree stump at a cost of £280.

The contractor has begun work on the sunken graves and would require some top soil to complete levelling work. Members agreed to order this top soil at a cost of approximately £150.

The tree contractor has left tyre tracks on the lawn in the cemetery and members agreed to highlight to any and all contractors to only use the driveway in the cemetery to prevent damage the grass.

A holly bush has begun to grow out of control. It was agreed to ask the existing grass cutting contractor to cut this back.

A discussion was held regarding tributes and memorials being left on the grass of the cemetery and not on the base of memorials. Ixworth Cemetery is a lawn cemetery and in accordance with the cemetery regulations, the grass should be left entirely clear to allow for maintenance and grass growth. Members highlighted the sensitivity of this issue and it was agreed to write a mild article in the magazine to inform residents why this regulation is in place and ask for some help making maintenance of the lawn more effective.

The Clerk was instructed to liaise with the contractor, order required top soil and write the article for the magazine.

Action: Clerk

13. Annual Parish Meeting (APM)

The APM is due to be held on 19th of April. Cllr Lord is going to discuss with SET School, who are hosting, to see if they're able to provide refreshments.

Action: Cllr Lord

14. Correspondence

The following correspondence was received:

- **Resident** – Jaynic Planning Application
- **Cllr Lord** – emails discussions with WSC
- **Cllr Lord** – email discussions Langridge
- **Foil** – Newsletter
- **Marketingforce** – roundabouts
- **Marketingforce** - Artwork
- **Residents** – concerns parking on Micklesmere Drive (Mulley's employees)
- **Mulley's** – response re parking issues
- **C Cllr Spicer** – Hempyard Bridge
- **C Cllr Spicer** – Stowlangtoft Bridge

No responses were required to this month's correspondence.

15. Chairman's Report

Cllr Lord expressed his thanks to the contractor for clearing the cobbled area and commented how nice it was looking now. He also confirmed the new defibrillator has been activated and the fire station crew are delighted and enthusiastic about its life saving potential.

Cllr Lord informed members that he has drafted a letter to the residents of Ixworth Thorpe to seek a resident from that ward who might wish to join the Parish Council.

Previous to the meeting, the Chairman had circulated a report about the ongoing roundabout sponsorship project. This started in 2019 and Cllr Lord is keen to see this finished. A discussion and vote were held, and it was resolved to sponsor Mulley's Roundabout only for one year at a cost of £2,750 and review in six months' time. Cllr Lord agreed to write to local businesses to seek future sponsorship. Cllr Lord also reported that Cllr Spicer is looking into the repair and cleaning of the chevrons on this roundabout.

Action: Cllr Lord

16. Councillors Reports

No additional reports were given.

17. Date of the Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as 8th May 2024 at 7.30pm in Ixworth village Hall. As normal the May meeting will be the Annual Parish Council Meeting where only Statutory Business of the Council is carried out. All other business, unless urgent, will be carried over to the June meeting.

With no further business the meeting closed at 9.20pm.

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Signed

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Date