

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 12th February 2025 at 7:30pm

Present: Councillors (Cllrs) Lord (Chairman), Kate Rees, Clare Black, Tony Molloy and Sam Linton.

Also Present: Mandy Adlington (Parish Clerk), County Councillor (C Cllr) Joanna Spicer MBE and five members of the public

Due to the clerk's injury, Mrs Heather Jermy was engaged as a note-taker.

Abbreviations

I&ITPC – Ixworth & Ixworth Thorpe Parish Council, 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, NP – Neighbourhood Plan, VAS – Vehicle Activated Sign, ICG – Ixworth Community Group

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from the following Cllrs –

Cllr Shelton – unwell – apology accepted

Cllr John Rowe – work commitments – apology accepted

Cllr Stephen Mann – illness – apology accepted

2. Declarations of Interest

No declarations were made.

3. Minutes of the Previous Meetings

After a small alteration from the distributed draft minutes, it was resolved that the Chairman sign the minutes as a true record of the meeting held on Wednesday 8th January 2025.

4. Clerk's Report

The Clerk gave the following report:

- **Play Area** – the Clerk has contacted the Jiggins Trust to discuss the Play Area Lease, but it seems that the current lease will be satisfactory.
- **VAS** – collection will be arranged, and an update will be given in March or April.
- **Risk Assessments** – all risk assessments require updating and the Clerk will rearrange a meeting soon.

5. Public Forum

Members of the public present raised the following points;

- **Robins Copse** – the sign to Robins Copse needs to be recemented into the ground as it has fallen over.
- **Street Signs** – the sign at the bottom of the High Street still needs repairing and one of the signs in Commister Lane is still covered in graffiti and needs cleaning or replacing. Both signs will be reported on the SCC portal. C Cllr Spicer will also look into these issues.
- **Litter** – unfortunately, there is a lot of litter in and around the village. The community group would look into arranging a litter pick soon. Litter from the fence around the High School is coming over the fence. Cllr Lord agreed to contact the Headteacher to discuss.
- **Land in Walsham Road** – the land in Walsham Road, opposite Robins Copse, is privately owned.

Action: Clerk, Cllr Lord & C Cllr Spicer

6. Reports from County & District Councillors

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

C Cllr Spicer reported the following:

- **Bridge Farm Bridge (A1088)** – it is hoped that Bridge Farm Bridge would be opened on 10th March if there are no further delays.
- **Hempyard Bridge** – the contractors are now in the final stages of clearing the site. Issues surrounding sand placed on both sides of the bridge are being addressed and any additional sand on site will be removed.
- **Elections** – elections have been put on hold due to Unitary Authority. Once the new Authority has been formed an Election for Mayor will take place, but it is unclear whether the Mayor will cover Norfolk and Suffolk.

C Cllr Spicer agreed to contact Colin Godfrey and Claire Dickson to seek advice on issues surrounding Hempyard Bridge.

C Cllr Spicer requested to host a briefing with local community stakeholders within the Parish Council's Community Recreation Working Group to discuss Public Rights of Way/Footpath opportunities within the parish.

7. Planning

The following applications were considered –

DC/25/0109/ELEC – Application under section 37 of Electrical Act 1989 install a third conductor and upgrade pole mounted transformer – Street Record, Heath Road, Ixworth -	Support
DC/25/0016/TCA – fell one Cypress, crown reduction all over one Bay, reduce one limb of Indian Beam over house by 2.5 metres – 20 High Street, Ixworth -	Support
DC/25/0003/TCA – crown lift a group of five Sycamores by 4.5 metres overhanging neighbouring garden – The Nook, High Street, Ixworth -	Support
DC/25/0005/HH – a, outdoor swimming pool – b, rear garden room – The Priory, High Street, Ixworth, Suffolk -	Support
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8. Finance

The following payments were agreed for payment –

BACS	Staffing	£1894.89
BACS	Jose Acosta	£1133.74
BACS	Cloudy IT (Nov 24)	£134.58
BACS	Cloudy IT (Nov 24)	£134.58
BACS	LUC (NP)	£1332.00
BACS	Ixworth VH	£19.25
BACS	Suffolk Pest Control	£144.00
BACS	Scribe	£414.72
Direct Debit NEST		£58.27

The RFO was authorised to transfer £4000 from the Business account to the Community account.

Action: RFO

9. Dropped Kerbs

The Clerk informed members that SCC had requested £1000 towards the cost of a new dropped kerb within the High Street. It was agreed to grant the £1000 requested.

Action: Clerk

10. Highway Consultancy

The Chairman informed members that he had obtained a quote for a new highway's consultant. The quote was for £3900 + VAT. The consultant would be looking at all aspects of highway issues around the Parish especially concentrating on the ghost island junction which already has planning permission and the option of roundabouts to proposed developments. The benefits of this would aid the Parish Council greatly in its representations to forthcoming major planning applications. It was agreed by all present to accept this quote. It was agreed for the Chairman to continue to liaise with the new consultant and keep all members updated.

Action: Cllr Lord

11. Ixworth Community Group

A representative from ICG informed members that so far eight projects had been completed. Luke Merton, the Community Works Project Lead for SCC had supplied the group with some equipment such as high vis jackets. The group would also like some cones and lights, and Mr Merton was willing to pay for this equipment but initially the equipment needed to be purchased via I&ITPC. The Clerk informed members that items could be purchased via a supplier account but may cost slightly more than the Amazon quote the ICG had obtained. It was resolved that the Clerk would contact Mr Merton to discuss costs and purchases equipment via a PC supplier.

Action: Clerk

ICG agreed to arrange a litter pick and Cllr Black agreed to assist if she could dependant on work commitments.

12. Parish Council Vacancy (Co-option)

The Chairman informed all present that an application had been received for the current vacancy. Due to the personal information in the application under GDPR regulation, this would be discussed in item 19.

13. Church Lights

A meeting had yet to be arranged due to the Clerks injury. An update will be given at the March meeting.

14. Neighbourhood Plan

The Chairman informed members that WSC are planning to take the NP forward for Referendum on 8th May 2025. It was discussed that some issues, such as the requirement for a footbridge over the bypass, had been removed by the Inspector of the plan. The members felt this is unacceptable and WSC should be contacted again to discuss further prior to the referendum. It was agreed that Cllr Lord contact WSC for further information and if necessary convene an additional meeting to discuss his findings. Cllrs Lord and Rowe would continue to monitor this project and keep members informed.

Action: Cllrs Lord & Rowe

15. Correspondence

The following correspondence had been received;

- **Bidwells** – Response to their meeting with PC
- **Bidwells** – Meeting Request email trail
- **Green Ixworth** – Newsletter
- **Marketingforce** – Landscaping Update
- **Beyond the Fen** – response to GI Newsletter
- **General Enquiry** – filming in Ixworth
- **Horringer Podcast**
- **ICG** – Equipment required
- **Resident** – emails re Hempyard Bridge
- **SALC** – Devolution Briefing
- **C Cllr Spicer** – Devolution x 2
- **C Cllr Spicer** – dropped kerb grant request (inc two photos of suggested position)
- **WSC** – Civic Dinner
- **SCC** – Various emails re Hempyard Bridge

It was agreed that as some items had already been discussed throughout the meeting no further responses were required.

16. Chairman's Report

The Chairman gave the following report;

- **Kebab Van** – unfortunately there has been another fire at the Kebab Van, the second in 4 months. The issues involving this fire has been reported to the Police and Environmental Health at WSC. Once again, this fire could have resulted in a much more serious incident if Ixworth Fire Station had not attended so promptly, and it occurred when a crop was in full growth in the field directly behind. A resident nearby has contacted Cllr Rees with her concerns over the safety of her land and home along with environmental health issues. It has also been reported by the Parish Council's Waste Operatives that an exponential rise in trade food waste has appeared in the Parish Council's bins in the Village Hall Car Park given that there are no trade waste facilities where the Kebab Van is situated.

- **MP Visit** – Peter Prinsley MP visited Ixworth and met with Cllr Rees and I. At the meeting we discussed issues involving our Parish including a footbridge over the by-pass and obtaining more accessibility to footpaths or creating new footpaths around the Parish.
- **Planning** – Bloor Homes in Stanton have submitted a revised planning application. I suggest we respond to the application when it can be viewed on WSC planning portal.

17. Councillors Reports

No further reports were made.

18. Date of the Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Wednesday 12th March 2025 at 7.30pm in Ixworth Village Hall.

19. Exclusion of 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) Staffing
- (ii) Parish Council Vacancy
- (iii) Cemetery Management

The press and public were excluded at 9.05pm.

With no further business the meeting closed at 9.40pm.

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Signed

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Date