

## **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 13<sup>th</sup> November 2024 at 7:30pm*

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

**Also Present:** Mandy Adlington (Parish Clerk) and five members of the public

### **Abbreviations**

Cllr/Cllrs – Councillor/Councillors, PC – Parish Council, WSC – West Suffolk Council, RFO -Responsible Finance Officer, SCC – Suffolk County Council, CRWG – Community Recreation Working Group, ICA – Ixworth Community Action

### **1. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from the following Councillors –

Cllr Black – work commitments – apology accepted

Cllr Rowe – work commitments – apology accepted

Cllr Molloy – illness – 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 Chair sign the minutes as a true record of the meeting held on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> September 2024, Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> October 2024, Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> October & Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> November 2024.

### **4. Clerk's Report**

The Clerk reported the following –

- **Ixworth Community Action** – all equipment had now been purchased and delivered to the group.
- **St Mary's Church Lights** – a meeting will be arranged with the Church Wardens to discuss the lights in St Mary's Churchyard and the spotlight at Ixworth Thorpe Church.
- **Ixworth Play Area** – a meeting is being arranged with a contractor to obtain a quote for all the issues raised in the recent play area inspection report

### **5. Public Forum**

- **Notice board** – a resident wished to highlight again that the fence near the Primary School entrance is covered once again with leaflets and notices. It was pointed out again that this area needs a notice board installed.
- **Suffolk Records Office** – discussions are still ongoing to see if records for West Suffolk can be returned and housed in Bury St Edmunds.
- **Speeding Traffic in Micklesmere Drive** – a resident enquired if the speeding traffic in Micklesmere Drive was still on the PC's radar. This issue had been discussed a few years ago but there seemed to have been no outcome to the situation. At the time it was suggested that perhaps speed cushions be installed at the entrance so traffic could not accelerate off the roundabout. Speeding traffic is still a great concern.

It was agreed to approach C Cllr Spicer to start discussions again about speeding traffic in Micklesmere Drive.

**Action: Clerk**

### **6. Reports from County & District Councillors**

C Cllr Spicer sent her apologies for not being able to attend and sent the following report via email –

- **Hempyard Bridge** – Now that the main work on the bridge is completed there are various tidying up issues to complete. SCC are working to complete these issues.
- **A1088 Closure** – as announced in the press the completion of the Bridge has been delayed.

- **Mulley's Roundabout** – I have enquired as to why when the Chevrons were replaced, why the rest of the roundabout was not tidied up.
- **Mulley's** – the company are going to sort extra signage for their defibrillator on the outside of their gates.

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

### **7. Planning**

The following application was considered –

**DC/24/1532/TCA** – pollard two Lime trees to 5.5 metres above ground level and remove epicormics to maintain the trees – Old Rectory, 11 High Street, Ixworth – **PC Decision - Support**

### **8. Finance**

The following payments were agreed for payment –

BACS	Staffing	£2359.17
BACS	J Acosta	£3233.74
BACS	WSDC	£50.00
BACS	ARCO	£218.33
BACS	A Adlington (refund CSH Equipment)	£436.60
CHQ No1482	The Poppy Appeal	£50.00
Chq No 1483	Ixworth & District RBL	£250.00
Direct Debit NEST		£82.04

The RFO was authorised to transfer £6000 from the Business account to the Community account.

**Action: RFO**

### **9. Neighbourhood Plan**

The amended notes to the Inspectors queries had been distributed to all members. Cllr Mann suggested an amendment to one section by adding a clarifying sentence. It was agreed by all present to add this sentence. It was agreed that Cllr Lord write a response to the final query and submit the next morning to Chris Bowden. The Clerk would then submit to WSC to pass to the Inspector.

**Action: Clerk & Cllr Lord**

### **10. Pigeon Exhibition**

The Chair reported that Pigeon had offered an area within the room they were presenting their exhibition for the PC to have a table to gain views of residents before or after they had viewed the exhibition.

It was agreed to take Pigeon up on their offer but to clearly define that the PC were separate from the Pigeon Exhibition.

**Action: Cllr Lord**

It was agreed that the Clerk and Cllr Rees would be in attendance from 2pm until 4pm, Cllr Mann would be in attendance from 4pm and Cllr Lord would be in attendance from 5pm. Cllr Lord agreed to contact Cllrs not in attendance to ascertain their availability.

**Action: Cllr Lord**

### **11. Community Recreation Working Group (CRWG)**

Cllr Lord read the response from The Jiggins Trust Trustees to the PC invite to sit on the CRWG. Unfortunately, due to work and other commitments the Trust were sorry, but they were not in the position of being able to attend at present but however, in the Spring they would look at their availability again. The Trustees are all volunteers.

As agreed at the meeting held on 30 September, a consultant with experience in securing developer funding that would fund community recreational facilities such as a new Village Hall. A local Suffolk-based company with experience of undertaking and delivering this has been found. A quote for the consultant to assist the CRWG had been distributed by Cllr Lord earlier that day for Cllrs to discuss. Cllr Mann stated that he had not seen the quote until just prior to the meeting and felt strongly that he had not had enough time to view, understand and vote on it. The quote consisted of two scopes of work, the first consisted of Community/Stakeholder engagement to establish a brief, objectives and goals. The Consultant would aid the Parish Council to formalise funding strategy, project budgets and develop a business case. These were all essential components to any due diligence required by planning officers in allocating S106/CIL funding from any

planning applications. The second section was more comprehensive work to be discussed after the completion of the first section, if agreed.

Cllr Lord expressed again that evidence was required as to how the community sees the future for recreation facilities. Applications on two major developments, the largest the village has seen for over 35 years, are getting closer and the Community must demonstrate to planners, with evidence, what the community wants when the planners are allocating developers S106/community levy contributions. Ixworth should not miss such a unique, massive opportunity. Employing a consultant is exclusive to the Village Hall but would also consider wider issues concerning recreation across the community.

As it had been agreed on 30 September 2024 to enlist the services of a consultant to aid this scope of work at to the appropriate detail and speed of planning applications coming forward, it was agreed to accept the quote of up to £3,350 + VAT.

Cllr Mann abstained from the vote.

### **12. Christmas 2024**

As previously agreed the 'Switch On' would take place on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November at 6pm. The lights are already installed on the tree.

Cllr Lord agreed to speak with Vicky Sutton about which electrician she used last year to install power to the lights. Cllr Lord also agreed to speak to Cllr Black and Vicky Sutton on any arrangements needed for that Switch On Event.

**Action: Cllr Lord**

### **13. Ixworth Thorpe Bus Shelter**

An email had been received from a resident in Ixworth Thorpe with a suggestion that as no bus services stop in Ixworth Thorpe anymore that the bus shelter might be removed to another location in Ixworth.

It was suggested that it could be moved to Walsham Road. The Clerk was instructed to obtain a quote for removal and installation at a different location. The Clerk was also instructed to ascertain who owns the land and if a planning application was necessary.

**Action: Clerk**

### **14. Footpath Warden**

Mr Ian Rees, the Footpath Warden gave the following report –

Ian Rees reported that he had walked all of the Parish's Rights of Way a number of times since his last report, including two in the past week. The paths were generally in very good condition, with little grass-cutting currently needed, and (unusually) no evidence of litter.

There are two updates on my earlier reports:

- **First** - the missing Footpath Post on the A1088 in Ixworth Thorpe has been replaced and is now positioned on the opposite (western) side of the road, by the gate leading across the field to Brand Lane (FP 2A).
- **Secondly** - the broken waymarking posts from the Bridleway to footpaths BR4 and BR17 (both heading south towards Pakenham) have also been replaced.

As recently reported by Ixworth Community Action, several visits have been made by the team to clear vegetation encroaching on Crown Lane and adjacent paths (including FP 3 (heading north from the telephone box in Stow Road)).

I hold copies of Ordnance Survey maps showing the Parish's various Rights of Way and will happily share these with anyone who would like to see them. I would also be pleased if any members of the Parish would like to join him on my future walks; the route from Ixworth Thorpe back to Ixworth is about 7.5 kilometres, generally taking around 90 minutes, mostly on tracks, but including a short stretch along Heath Road. Anyone interested please contact me at idorees@hotmail.com.

### **15. Correspondence**

The following correspondence had been received –

- **Planning Appeal Decision** – 22 St Farm Lane

- **B Birrell (Chair of Jiggins Trust)** - Response to invitation to join the CRWG
- **Ixworth Community Action (ICA)** – Next Planned areas
- **East Anglian Air Ambulance** – Donation request
- **Persimmon** – follow up from presentation
- **Resident** – concerns re Ixworth Thorpe
- **Resident** – Increase in anti-social behaviour
- **C Cllr Spicer** - Local Plan Examination
- **WSC** – Community Funds Information
- **SCC** – Communications between Community Self Help Group and SCC
- **Marketingforce** – Planting – photos & plans
- **Suffolk Highways** – Stowlangtoft Bridge Updates

The Chairman reported that an appeal had been lodged following WSC’s refusal for the planning application at 22 Street Farm Lane, Ixworth. The Appeal upheld WSC decision to refuse the application.

The email on Anti-Social behaviour was discussed and it was agreed to contact the Rural Police Team to discuss. **Action: Cllr Lord**

It was agreed to grant a £100 grant to East Anglian Air Ambulance. **Action: RFO**

WSC have opened their Community Funds Grants. It was agreed, that if there is time, to apply for a grant to replace the broken wooden trail that had been removed from the play area. **Action: Clerk**

**16. Chairman’s Report**

The Chairman wished to thank all Cllrs and residents who either participated in the Remembrance Parade or observed the Parade last Sunday. As normal there was a very good turnout. Unfortunately, SCC had not placed cones along the High Street stopping cars parking along the Parade Route. A formal complaint has been made with SCC on this matter.

**17. Councillors Reports**

Cllr Mann wished to highlight that he was appalled that members of the public outnumbered the number of Cllrs present at the meeting.

No further reports were made.

**18. Date of the Next Meeting**

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2024 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) Matters Pertaining to Burial Management

The press and public were excluded at 8.50pm.

With no further business the meeting closed at 9.10pm.

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Signed

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Date