

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 19th February 2025 at 6:30pm

Present: Councillors (Cllrs) Lord (Chairman), Kate Rees, John Rowe and Sam Linton.

Also Present: Mandy Adlington (Parish Clerk) and Mrs Heather Jermy (PC employee)

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

Abbreviations

Cllr/Cllrs – Councillor/Councillors, PC – Parish Council, WSC – West Suffolk Council, NP – Neighbourhood Plan

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from the following Cllrs –

Cllr Shelton – transport – apology accepted
Cllr Clare Black – work commitments – apology accepted
Cllr Stephen Mann – illness – apology accepted.
Cllr Terry Lilley – unwell – apology accepted.
Cllr Tony Molley – unwell – apology accepted.

2. Declarations of Interest

No declarations were made.

3. Public Forum

No members of the public present.

4. Planning

The following applications were considered;

DC-25-0206-PIP – Permission in Principle – conversion of water holding tanks to one self-build dwelling, with associated gardens and parking – Old Pumping Station, Bailey pool, Pakenham –
It was agreed to seek further information on the meaning PIP

DC-25-0186-TCA – one Russett Apple a) crown reduction in height by two metres b) reduce lateral branches on north and west aspect by up to 1.5 metres c) remove lateral branches on east aspect by up to one metre d) remove branches overhanging neighbour property south aspect by up to one metre – 30 High Street, Ixworth
Support - Action: Clerk

5. Neighbourhood Plan

Cllr Lord explained that he had convened this additional meeting after seeking advice from WSC on the NP and its progress to Referendum.

As a result of the inspectors remarks concerning the footbridge following representations from Pigeon Developments and Persimmon Homes, WSC advises that the current points on the footbridge cannot be included in the NP as it had been presented. Members present expressed their huge disappointment at this and how it materially changes the Neighbourhood Plan at this late, critical stage in stark contrast to what residents had been consulted on and consistently made representations for. The situation leaves the PC with the following options;

1. Withdraw the plan to rework/reconsult on the part of the plan relating to the footbridge, or;
2. Follow through to referendum which may mean the PC considers a position of lobbying against the NP.

Members had a lengthy discussion, and it was agreed that it was disappointing the inspector had not seemed to actually visit the steps by the by-pass to properly see the dangerous situation aching pedestrians as well as the compliance with the Equality Act yet seemed to rely heavily on points made in consultations from developers hoping to develop within the Parish.

Chris Bowden had advised that the PC had the option for the plan to go forward and concentrate their efforts on getting the footbridge back into the emerging WSC Local Plan.

Cllr Rowe stated, while the Council wanted the footbridge in the NP, and residents had mentioned it in consultations, it would be hard to withdraw the plan when there were many other good points made in the plan that residents had also mentioned in consultations.

It was discussed that if the NP was passed at referendum without the footbridge that would this jeopardise getting it into the WSC Local Plan.

Cllr Lord expressed an option that if the plan was withdrawn then it could be resubmitted again with further consultations.

After further discussions it was agreed, although not unanimously, to withdraw the plan in order to rework and reconsult on the provisions made in the Neighbourhood Plan for a footbridge.

It was agreed that Cllr Lord would inform WSC.

Action: Cllr Lord

With no further business the meeting closed at 7.05pm.

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Signed

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Date