

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 October 2024 at 7:30pm

Present: Councillors (Cllrs) Lord (Chairman), Kate Rees, John Rowe, Pam Shelton, Stephen Mann and Tony Molloy.

Also Present: Mandy Adlington (Parish Clerk), D Cllr Griffiths and six 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, CSH – Community Self Help, WG – Working Group, D Cllr – District Councillor

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from the following Cllrs –

Cllr Black – Childcare – apology accepted

2. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Lord made a non-pecuniary declaration for item 14.

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 11th September 2024.

The minutes of the additional meeting held on 30th September had been distributed but various amendments were required so the amendments would be made and resolved at a future meeting.

4. Clerk's Report

The Clerk reported the following;

- **Play Area** – The recent Play Area Inspection had been carried out on behalf of WSC which highlighted some urgent issues. The balance beams poles, which were on the list for a contractor to repair, now needed urgent removal. The Clerk, as it was a Health & Safety issue contacted a contractor advised by WSC to remove the poles and make the area safe. The contractor would supply the PC with a quote to replace this piece of equipment. The previous contractor had not contacted the Clerk to arrange a start date for carrying out the work they had quoted. The Village Hall has now invoiced the PC for the outstanding rental of the Play Area, and it is included in this month's payments.
- **Emergency Plan** – the Emergency Plan needed to be updated with a lead name now that Cllr Sutton was no longer on the Council. It was agreed that Cllr Lord would now be named as the lead on this plan. The Clerk was instructed to amend the Plan, inform SCC and change the information in the box stored at the Village Hall.
- **Stow Road** – the overgrown hedge in front of the Council Houses in Stow Road had been reported to Havebury Housing with a request to cut back as soon as possible.

5. Public Forum

Green Ixworth are to become the WS Hub for a campaign that Suffolk climate Change are running on Energy Saving. It is hoped to launch in November and at this moment not all details have been finalised, but it is hoped we will be able to assist with guidance on many areas including electric vehicles.

6. Reports from County & District Councillors

- **Hempyard Bridge**

Firstly, C Cllr Spicer thanked everyone who had attended the recent meeting at Hempyard Bridge. The refurbishment is nearly completed. Cllr Rowe highlighted his concerns concerning some cracks in the newly refurbished areas. Cllr Rowe had contact SCC who stated they would look into his concerns. Some of the areas have now been repaired.

C Cllr Spicer thanked Cllr Rowe for all the work he had done on the refurbishment of the bridge. Cllr Rowe stated that overall, the job completed was a good.

It was agreed that a Grand Opening Event take place on 2nd November 2024 and invite all parties that were involved in getting the Bridge repaired along with members of the Community who have been very patient while the repairs have been made.

It was agreed that Cllr Lord would invite various key stakeholders that had been involved in this project.

- **A1088 Bridge at Stowlangtoft** – unfortunately, the repair to this bridge has been delayed. The PC raised concerns with C Cllr Spicer the loss of business and inconvenience to Ixworth residents resulting from the extension to this closure.
- **Stow Road** – repairs in Stow Road were now completed and the road was open again.
- **Community Self Help** – the CSH Scheme is now running and Mr Spiller had informed C Cllr Spicer they were awaiting training from SCC.

Cllr Lord requested if any further action was happening about the Kebab Van. A discussion was held on the Enforcement Notice that WSC had served but failed to uphold.

C Cllr Spicer stated that SCC had sought legal advice some time ago and she would pass this information onto the PC. Although C Cllr Spicer reiterated that the van was actually within the Pakenham Parish boundary, Councillors asserted that this fixture is at one of the key entrances to Ixworth and is a very unsightly welcome. Furthermore, it was clearly stressed how there are other fast-food businesses and pubs in Ixworth, all of which have the appropriate licenses and permissions and pay the appropriate business rates in order to operate yet this business does not and there is considerable concern that this unfair trading position is not being robustly tackled.

It was agreed that Cllr Lord & Rees would attend the next Pakenham Parish Council meeting to pursue their collaborative engage in this matter with them. **Action: Cllrs Lord & Rees**

D Cllr Griffiths reported the following;

- **Planning** – As normal various planning applications have been received in this Ward
- **Community Self Help** – congratulations to Green Ixworth for running this project. Once all the equipment has been purchased please apply for a grant his Locality Budget. The Locality Grant Initiative is open to all local groups to apply for within his Ward.
- **WS Local Plan** – this is still moving through its stages, but it is a slow process.
- **Waste Management** – Various Waste Management Processes are being worked on by WSC.
- **WSDC Website** -the website has a vast amount of information for all residents to seek on everything connected to WSDC.

7. Planning

The following applications were considered;

DC/24/1392/TCA – reduce height of one Cedar by up to 4.5 metres – 4 Beeches Close, Ixworth – **Object due to insufficient supporting information – Action: Clerk**

It was agreed that the Clerk & Cllr Lord would look into using the larger hall room so that future planning applications could be displayed on the projector. **Action: Clerk & Cllr Lord**

8. Finance

The following payments were agreed for payment:

BACS	Cheapmowers (CSH paid Sept 2024)	£816.00
BACS	Staffing	£1948.45
BACS	J Acosta	£1383.74
BACS	Cloudy IT	£134.58
BACS	Community Heartbeat (Ix Thorpe De-fib)	£151.20
BACS	Community Heartbeat (VH De-fib)	£162.00
BACS	PKF Littlejohn (external audit)	£378.00

BACS	R&S Playgrounds	£350.00
BACS	Village Hall	£34.65
BACS	Village Hall	£806.08
Direct Debit NEST		£54.88

The RFO was authorised to transfer £2500 from the Business account to the Community account.

Action: RFO

9. Community Self-Help

The CSH coordinator reported that Stow Road footpath had been started and they now had compiled a list of all areas they wish to tackle.

A list of equipment required had been given to the Clerk to purchase from Homebase.

Action: Clerk

10. Neighbourhood Plan

Regulation 16 Consultation had now been completed and WSC had informed the Council that an Inspector would now complete the next stage. A link to view all responses had been sent to all Cllr for them to view. The next stage of the plan is to wait for any comments or actions required by the Inspector.

11. Parish Council Surgeries

The date of the first PC Surgery was confirmed on 23rd November 2024 from 10am to 12. Cllr Rees had written for the magazine which was agreed by all. The Clerk was instructed to send to the magazine.

Action: Clerk

The Clerk showed alternative screens to the ones agreed the previous month. It was agreed to maintain the decision to have the screens already agreed.

12. Community Recreation Working Group

As discussed at the meeting on 30 September, the Parish Council agreed to ringfence funds to appoint a consultant that could assist in creating a plan and assist in the due diligence necessary to obtain funding, in particular from S106/CIL contributions that will arise out of large-scale developments in Ixworth.

Terms of Reference that were agreed for the WG would be available for reference from the Cllrs Sharepoint. A resident stated that Community Action Suffolk (CAS) may be able to help with supporting community recreation initiatives.

Cllrs to work on the WG would be Cllrs Lord, Rees and Molloy. Cllr Lord confirmed that representation from the Jiggins Trust to join the group has been sent for their consideration and we await their response.

As previously outlined, as the group develops more stakeholders from across the Community will be invited to participate to ensure that there is a cohesive cross-community input for the whole Parish and its future recreational facilities.

13. Christmas 2024

A quote had been obtained for Crown Lifting and trimming the two trees at the bottom of the High Street. The quote was accepted, and the Clerk was instructed to inform the contractor. Once the planning application had been passed the Clerk was instructed to request the work be carried out as soon as possible ready for the Light Switch On.

It was agreed to hold the Switch On' on 29th November at 6pm.

It was agreed to approach the contractor storing the lights to fit them to the tree and an electrician would be required to check and install.

14. Remembrance 2024

Cllr Lord as Ixworth & District Branch Secretary informed members that the Parade would march off from the Fire Station at 10.30am. All members are encouraged to attend and participate in the parade as it is a civic event. It was agreed to pay £250 towards the cost of the Band and purchase a Wreath at a cost of £50 to lay on behalf of the Parish. Cllr Lord abstained from any voting given the declaration of interest made in item 2

15. Ixworth & Ixworth Thorpe Councillor Vacancies

Cllr Lord reported that he had tried to contact the three residents from Ixworth Thorpe who showed an interest in the vacancy via email but two bounced back and the third had not contacted him.

The Ixworth vacancy has to wait to see if the Electorate requests an Election. If no Election is requested it was agreed that Cllr Lord would write an article for the magazine advertising the vacancies.

Action: Cllr Lord

16. Correspondence

The following correspondence had also been received:

- **Persimmon** – Round up from previous meeting
- **Resident** – Thank you
- **Resident** – Chalk Lane
- **Green Ixworth** - Newsletter
- **WSC** – Invitation to Civic Service (20th October 2024 at 3.30pm)
- **WSC** – Grass Cutting Schedule x 2
- **Joanna Spicer** - Copy of SCC response to NP Reg

17. Chairman’s Report

Cllr Lord reported that he had a meeting with planners from WSDC to discuss the emerging Masterplan for the Crown Lane Development.

Cllr Lord informed members that WSC Planners were keen to have ongoing dialogue so as to discuss issues with the PC as the Masterplan develops.

WSC officers stated that they are unable to enable the masterplan to proceed as it is apparent that the area for the Cemetery extension is not clear on the plan and the plan does not bring sufficient connectivity between the two sites now that it is intended to develop the site in one phase as opposed to two as was formerly planned. Nevertheless, it is good news that SCC have strengthened the requirements for a footbridge over the bypass that ensures safe crossing over the A143 that is currently lacking, but land would be needed on both sides of the road for any bridge to be installed.

WSC planners are keen to maintain contact and are willing to ongoingly engage with the PC.

18. Councillor Reports

Cllr Rees thanked WSC for replacing the sign in Peacock Rise.

Cllr Rowe asked if a visit from the Leader of WS Council had been arranged following their expression of interest to visit local villages.

19. Date of the Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Wednesday 13th November 2024 in Ixworth Village Hall at 7.30pm. If it can be arranged the meeting may take place in the large hall.

With no further business the meeting closed at 9.30pm.

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Signed

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Date