

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 11th December 2024 at 7:30pm

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

Also Present: C Cllr Spicer, D Cllr Griffiths and three 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, PROW – Public Rights of Way

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from the following Councillors –

Cllr Black – work commitments – apology accepted

The Clerk is currently incapacitated and unable to work and it was agreed for this meeting that minutes would be taken by the Chairman.

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 Wednesday 13th November 2024.

4. Public Forum

No comments received from members of the public in attendance.

6. Reports from County & District Councillors

C Cllr Spicer provided the following report:

- **Hempyard Bridge** – Unfinished matters pertaining to making good the area around the gate at the Commister Lane entrance remain outstanding. Excess sand still needs to be removed and there are some issues around the surface of the bridge exposing stones which is being reviewed. Cllr Rowe reported there was a lot of mud accumulation that was being compounded by the presence of excess sand. Barbed wire in close proximity to the bridge has been removed. Temporary signage warning cyclists will remain in situ pending substantive replacements. Agreements with the adjoining landowners for the finishing works is required. Two out of the three landowners have agreed however there are complications with the third. It was also reported that the mounting block on the far side of the bridge (not village side) is allegedly not to the landowner's agreement.

Parish Cllrs were very surprised to hear of the issues with the mounting block and find it very distasteful that further taxpayers money is potentially being wasted to demolish what has been constructed and for it to be re-positioned. The Parish Council would like to have an understanding on SCC's legal position as to whether this is absolutely required.

- **Pakenham Fen Development** – C Cllr Spicer has been liaising with the PROW Officer for East Suffolk concerning the soil transfer from Sizewell that's due to start in Spring 2025. There continues to be concerns/reflections around the extent of vehicle movements and what this means for the locality. A Liaison Group consisting of Pakenham and Ixworth Parish Council's, SCC and Green Ixworth will be spearheaded by C Cllr Spicer in January.
- **A1088 Bridge Farm** – Further setbacks in this project have occurred following heavy rain and a planned site visit for Friday 13th December has been cancelled.

- **Bus Services** – Although Simond’s have overhauled their network, Ixworth remains unaffected and actually has had an increase in bus services from 19 to 22 per day.
- **Ixworth Thorpe Bus Shelter** – C Cllr Spicer urged Parish Councillors to exercise caution in any future plans to potentially relocate this bus shelter given that there is one bus per week in Ixworth Thorpe.
- **Micklesmere Drive** – Further to the public representation made at the November PC meeting, C Cllr Spicer believes nothing further can be done to aid slowing down traffic coming off the Mulley’s Roundabout.

D Cllr Griffiths had nothing substantive to add to the various items relevant to Ixworth raised by C Cllr Spicer and wished everyone a Happy Christmas.

Cllr Rees enquired with D Cllr Griffiths as to why the Christmas Market in Bury St Edmunds had not restarted after being cancelled a few years ago. D Cllr Griffiths confirmed that it was cancelled for a variety of reasons but primarily on the grounds of safety, security, costs and risk management.

6. Finance

The following payments were approved for payment –

BACS	Staffing	£1,894.89
BACS	HMRC	£619.14
BACS	Viking	£289.48
BACS	Lee Snashfold	£2,641.32
BACS	Cloudy IT	£134.58
BACS	A Adlington (Clerk Expenses)	£90.00
Direct Debit	NEST	£58.27

The RFO was authorised to transfer £4,000 from the Business account to the Community account.

Action: RFO

7. Community Recreation Working Group (CRWG)

A discussion was held on the scope of the work proposed by the consultant who has experience on delivering evidence to support S106/CIL applications from major developments. Cllr Mann stressed he felt it imperative that the PC Chair and Chair of Jiggins Trust should meet to discuss and emphasise that this project is designed to secure developer contributions. Although the PC Chair confirmed that this was the purpose of the meeting held on 30 September 2024 which representatives of the Jiggins Trust attended, he confirmed he would be very happy to facilitate a further discussion but emphasised this must happen urgently given the imminency on large-scale planning applications for Ixworth anticipated during Q1/2025.

8. Parish Council Surgeries

Cllr Rees reported that she had attended the first surgery together with the Chairman. Despite two months of advertising both on social media and in the village magazine, no one attended which she found quite disheartening. It was suggested that this is pursued to see if it might develop at a future session to be held at a different time. It was resolved to revisit this in the New Year.

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. Correspondence

The following correspondence had been received –

- **Ixworth History Recorder** – Update on Records Office
- **Havebury Housing** – Stow Road Hedge
- **Resident** – 82a High Street (responded to contact planning at WSC)
- **Youth Club** – Request for funding – Cllr Lord reply included
- **Running Club** – Help with funding application
- **Cllr Lord** – Response from Highways Consultant
- **Suffolk Highways** – Walsham Road Closure 25.11.2024
- **SCC** – Response to Remembrance complaint from PC

- **West Suffolk Council – Warm Spaces**
- **WSC - Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme in West Suffolk**
- **WSC on Behalf of Cllr Richard O’Driscoll – Housing Challenges**
- **WSC Election Services – Confirmation of The Right to Co-opt**
- **WSC – Focus on Winter**
- **Suffolk Highways – Stowlangtoft Bridge Updates**

Careful consideration was given to the grant funding application from the Youth Club. The Parish Council wished to make it clear that it recognises how successful the Youth Club has been and is grateful to the Jiggins Trust and Mike Jones in particular for their tenacity in evolving this. However, as several children attending come from other villages, the Parish Council agreed to fund the Youth Club for a further 12 months from March 2026 for £2,000 and encouraged the Jiggins Trust to reach out to other Parish Council’s for match funding contributions. The Chairman particularly wanted to commend how detailed and informative the funding application was.

16. Chairman’s Report

The Chairman wished to report on a few matters. There has been a malfunction in the Christmas Lights and Jose needs to hire a cherry-picker to safely investigate the issue. It was agreed that this be carried out urgently. There seems to be problems with most of the lights in the Churchyard and with the Clerk being offline from working at the moment, the Chairman is arranging for an electrician to attend and scope the work required to reinstate the lights. It had been suggested that the Parish Council might look to make a presentation to the Youth Club members to stimulate conversation and consideration towards what the Parish Council does and how the community can engage with the PC. The Chairman also confirmed he had submitted a piece for the magazine to advertise our vacancies and that this would also be featured on community social media pages.

17. Councillors Reports

No reports were made.

18. Date of the Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Wednesday 8th January 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) Matters Pertaining to Burial Management

The press and public were excluded at 9.05pm.

With no further business the meeting closed at 9.15pm.

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Signed

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Date