

IXWORTH & IXWORTH THORPE PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman: Councillor Ben Lord
Clerk: Claire Usher
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Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 8th October 2025

At Ixworth Village Hall

Councillors Present: Ben Lord (Chairman), Stephen Mann, Kate Rees and John Rowe

Others in attendance: Claire Usher (Clerk) and 4 members of the public.

081025/01 **Apologies for absence:** Terry Lilley, Sam Linton, Tony Molloy and Clare Black. All Councillors resolved to accept these apologies.

081025/02 **Declarations of Interest (DoI):** Cllr Ben Lord declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 081025/23 (ii)

Dispensation: Councillors noted no requests had been received and none were requested at the meeting.

081025/03 **Minutes of previous meeting:** All Councillors resolved to accept the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 10th September 2025 as a true reflection of the decisions made and authorised Cllr Lord to sign the minutes.

Public Forum:

081025/04 There were no questions from the public.

081025/05 **County Councillor Report:** County Councillor Joanna Spicer informed the Council regarding a flood issue at St Edmunds Close and water collecting at this junction with the High Street and that she was investigating this along with other areas that were experiencing flooding. Regarding the signage at the Chalk Lane roundabout, it was agreed by the Parish Council not to pursue this further. Joanna reported that there had been an illegal rave off Woolpit Road over the weekend that had resulted in a large amount of refuse being removed from the site. Bardwell solar farm was still ongoing.

District Councillor Report: District Councillor John Griffiths reported on the devolution process so far and highlighted that Parish Councils may be approached to ask what extra areas they would like to be responsible for or not. He had been approached by 3 organisations in the village for some financial assistance from his locality budget.

Planning:

081025/06 Councillors considered the following application made to the local District Council relating to Ixworth since the last parish council meeting:

DC/25/0666/HYB – Revised Application – Provision of 215 dwellings with access, public open space, landscaping and associated infrastructure, Outline planning application (means of access to be considered) provision of 2.2-hectare site for primary school – Land off Crown Lane

Cllr Lord reported that he had asked West Suffolk Council for an extension of time for the Parish Council to consider this revised application and had been granted an extension until the 31st October for submission of the Council's comments. It was agreed that a separate meeting of the Parish Council be convened just to consider this application. The Clerk will book an appropriate venue within the next two weeks. It was also agreed to offer an invite to Bidwells and Persimmon Homes to attend the proposed meeting to help highlight the changes made to the original application.

Both the County Councillor and District Councillor agreed this was the way forward especially concerning the proposed footbridge over the A143 and the land allocated for an extension to the cemetery. County Cllr Spicer informed the meeting that Suffolk County Highways were looking at the costs involved for 2 different options for the footbridge but so far both were not suitable. Roger Spillar of Ixworth Green informed the meeting that they had already submitted their objections to the application.

081025/07 Cllr Lord reported that he and other Councillors had met with representatives from the proposed Pigeon development on 17th September. They presented their findings following a Road Safety Audit which had been carried out. Cllr Lord asked when this audit had taken place and was informed that it took place in August. Cllr Lord was astounded that this had taken place during the school summer break, with no school buses, no children and no extra cars dropping children off and therefore questioned the timing of this audit. There had been changes to the school bus timetable that Pigeon had not included in the audit. The problems of the site entrance were still present and when asked if a different entrance could be considered we were told that this was the only proposed option.

It was agreed that West Suffolk Council be informed that further to the representations made at that meeting a further objection be submitted in response to the Road Safety Audit.

Upon reviewing the data and revised position of the applicant, we note the following issues:

- The Road Safety Audit was carried out on 19 August 2025 as is stated within the document. Ixworth High School was closed at this time due to the Summer Holidays where no school buses were operating around the area in question that forms a significant basis of our objection. It is therefore clearly flawed to suggest that this area can operate with the proposed access when there were no buses in the vicinity of the area, nor the extent of passenger cars that peaks in this area around school times.

- The Road Safety Audit fails to take into consideration changes to the school transport. Previously, three buses were only held at the time the students leave school in the afternoon. Changes applicable from this academic year now sees buses bringing students to school in the morning, as well as increased number of buses being used. All of this has been confirmed by Ixworth High School.

The applicant met with the Parish Council on 17 September 2025 where we presented these findings and were astounded that there has not been greater diligence around the timing of this audit, let alone not having up to date information on school transport arrangements that have materially changed in this area. Despite having been recommended by Suffolk County Council Highways to “engage meaningfully with the Parish Council” we are yet to see anything demonstrably meaningful by way of engagement from the applicant that would cause us to change our position.

The Parish Council are incredibly concerned that access to the development is the priority of the applicant encapsulated by their recent revised position accompanying their road safety audit, rather than the unequivocal, resultant disruption to the wider Ixworth community including the future residents of their development. It continues to cause considerable concern for the welfare and safeguarding of students that have no alternative than to board and/or disembark school buses on Bardwell Road and that the intransigent attitude of the applicant fails to properly and meaningfully take this seriously.

081025/08 DC/25/1460/TCA — Trees in a conservation area notification – 1No Ash to fell and DC/25/1458/TA – 3 No. Holly to fell – Buttons Close – Councillors supported these applications.

DC/25/1467/TCA – Trees in a conservation area notification – 1No. Cherry overall crown reduction by 2m and thin inner crown by 10 per cent – 51 High Street – Councillors supported this application.

DC/25/1454/TPO – TPO 510 (2010) tree preservation order – 1No. Walnut to fell – 3 Saddlers Yard – Councillors supported this application.

DC/25/1556/TCA – Trees in a conservation area notification – 1No Beech crown lift to 4 metres from ground level, remove two limbs over neighbouring property, 1No Walnut remove two lower sound facing branches – Torrella, 1 Beeches Close – Councillors supported this application.

Finance:

081025/09 All Councillors confirmed receipt of the finance report for the period ending 30th September 2025.

081025/10 **Bank Reconciliation** – Councillors received a bank reconciliation report prepared by the Clerk, the Community Account as of 30th September 2025 £6,561.42, the Business Account as of 30th September 2025 £101,506.24, total £108,067.66.

081025/11 **Receipts:** The Clerk confirmed that £325 had been received under Cemetery Income.

081025/12 **Payments:** All Councillors resolved to approve the following gross payments by internet banking confirming a full schedule, supported by invoices and receipts, had been received prior to the meeting:

	Payee	Details	£
081025/13	Claire Usher	Clerks Wage	1078.18
081025/14	R Pye	Caretaker Cemetery	164.90
081025/15	Jose Mendez Acosta	Grounds Maintenance	783.74
081025/16	Claire Usher	Mileage & Expenses	106.19
081025/17	Jiggins Trust	Room Hire	29.75
081025/18	WSC	Bin Emptying	999.86
081025/19	HMRC	PAYE	45.67

081025/20 **Asset Register:** The Clerk reported that the Asset Register was still being updated.

081025/21 **Standing Orders and Financial Standing Orders:** All Councillors agreed to adopt the new Standing Orders and Financial Standing Orders.

081025/22 **Cloudy IT:** It was agreed to continue the contract with Cloudy IT as there was no financial change.

081025/23 **Donations:**

- i) Friends of Ixworth Primary School were requesting a donation from the Parish Council to support the Primary School's Xmas Fair to be held on 6th December. It was agreed to donate £100 to Friends of Ixworth Primary School.
- ii) The Royal British Legion were requesting a donation to support Remembrance Sunday on 9th November towards cost of the band and to support the buffet lunch for band members. It was agreed to donate £300 towards the band and £50 towards the buffet lunch.

081025/24 **Outstanding Actions and Clerks Report:** All Councillors had received a copy of the report prior to the meeting. Cllr Lord will prepare a questionnaire for the next Parish Council meeting.

081025/25 **Appointment of Vice-Chairman:** This was deferred to the next Parish Council meeting.

081025/26 **Cemetery – Tree Works:** The Clerk had received two quotations from Jose Mendez Acosta for some necessary tree work in the Cemetery. The cost of these will exceed the £5000 limit within the Council's Financial Standing Orders to go out to tender, therefore two more quotes will need to be obtained. The Clerk to write a specification and to contact two further tree contractors.

081025/27 **Chairman's Report:** Cllr Lord informed Councillors of the arrangements for Remembrance Sunday, Sunday 9th November 2025.

- 081025/28 **Councillor's Reports:** Cllr Rees was unhappy with the lack of notification of the Jiggins Trust AGM, considering this affected all residents within the Parish of Ixworth and Ixworth Thorpe. There was a small mention in the village magazine.
- 081025/29 **Correspondence:** The Clerk reported that she had received no further correspondence than that already dealt with during the meeting.
- 0810925/30 **Any other Council business for information to be noted or for inclusion in a future agenda:** None
- 081025/31 All Councillors noted that the next meeting of the Parish Meeting will be at 7.30pm on Wednesday 12th November 2025 at the Village Hall, but an extra planning meeting will be convened before the end of October 2025.
- 081025/32 The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.05pm.
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Signed

Date