

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 July 2026
At Ixworth Village Hall

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

Others in attendance: Claire Usher (Clerk) and County Councillor Harry Richardson, District Councillor John Griffiths and 7 members of the public

080726/01 **Apologies for absence:** Cllr Lilley. This was accepted by all Councillors.

080726/02 **Declarations of Interest:** None

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

080726/03 **Minutes of previous meeting:** All Councillors resolved to accept the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 10th June 2026 as a true reflection of the decisions made.

080726/04 **Matters to report:**

- a. Review Village Green Magazine Article – The Clerk reminded Councillors that when they are writing articles for the village magazine expressing their own views, they must state this at the beginning of any article and that it is not being written in their capacity as a Parish Councillor. Remarks made on any social media platform against fellow Councillors is a serious breach of their Code of Conduct and she would advise against this. If a Councillor has an issue to raise this should be raised at the next available Parish Council meeting or discussed with the Chairman or Parish Clerk.

Councillor Molloy expressed his concerns that the playing field could be used as a future development site and should be designated as a village green to protect it. Cllr Mann explained that the playing field has been within the Trust's constitution when the constitution was rewritten in the 1980's. This means that it cannot be used for any purpose other than for recreation, education or other leisure activities for the residents of Ixworth. If this was to be changed then all residents of Ixworth would need to be consulted. If the playing field was to be registered as a village

green, then no activity or development other than what exists now would be permitted by the charity commission. The Chairman also expressed concern that this article was ill toned in terms of its approach and strongly recommended that any individual perceptions or opinions on other organisations should not be presented in the manner this was, as well as creating the potential of causing controversy over citing a risk of development that is simply not the case as theoretically described. Cllr Rowe confirmed that there was enough protection in place within the existing legal documents.

b. Planning Decision in respect of Land off Crown Lane – Cllr Lord reported that this application had been approved by WSC Planning following their planning meeting on 1st July. Alongside the District and County Councillor, he had requested that the application be deferred but this was ignored. On the positive side, the Parish Council had secured agreement through a Section 106 Legal Agreement for land to facilitate the extension to the cemetery, the number of houses proposed was lower than was original planned and that the Parish Council evidence submission for contributions towards the regeneration/redevelopment of the village hall under a section 106 legal agreement had been agreed resulting in funds of £109,000 being secured.

Most concerningly was the officer's recommendation of appeal disregarding much of the non-compliance of the site allocation policy by the applicant which was set aside because it was cited by the officer that "in their opinion" that it did meet the balance test in determining planning applications. Ultimately, the West Suffolk Local Plan's adopted policies were set aside on the basis of a planning officers' opinion that risks setting a dangerous precedent for developers to exploit all over the district.

Furthermore, it was extremely unsatisfactory to hear how two members of the Development Control Committee suggested that "localities always complain against development" whilst another cited "we just need to get on with doing the job the government demands of us in terms of house building – although I must confess I do not know this area specifically and did not participate in the site visit". It was very disappointing that the footbridge over the A143 had not been agreed within this decision. During the debate planning officers did not mention Ixworth's Neighbourhood Plan and feels this had not been considered when recommending approval of this application by officers.

It was agreed that Cllr Lord write to the Chief Executive and Leader of West Suffolk Council expressing the Parish Council's concerns and requesting a meeting with the Chief Executive and Leader.

080726/05 **Public Forum:**

A member of the public asked if any Parish Councillor was aware of who was Ixworth's Lord of the Manor. Unfortunately, no member of the Parish Councillor knew.

Another member of the public asked if some of the old notices for events long since passed at the bottom of Stow Road could be removed as they looked untidy.

Roger Spiller provided his reflections on the recent planning decision by WSC Planning regarding the application off Crown Lane.

080726/06 **County Councillor Report:** Cllr Richardson's report had been circulated prior to the meeting. He was currently involved in the impact of the closure of the A143 between Ixworth and Stanton due to the surface of the road melting caused by the recent heatwave and trying to gain as much information as possible from Suffolk County Council Highways to keep residents and Parish Councillors as up to date as possible and questioning when the works will take place so that this extremely busy stretch of road can reopen. The diversion routes were causing major problems for all the local villages. Cllr Lord suggested that this road should become a trunk road as this would then be Highways England's responsibility but was aware this could take some time. Roger Spiller suggested a working party of local parish councillors to discuss the situation of the A143.

He also gave a brief update on the situation regarding the proposed housing of immigrants at RAF Barnham.

080726/07 **District Councillor Report:** Cllr Griffiths gave a brief update concerning the approval of the planning application off Crown Lane, the situation regarding RAF Barnham and that he still had some funds in his locality budget should the Parish Council need some assistance with a future project.

Planning:

080726/08 DC/26/0820/TPO – Trees in a Conservation Area – One Alder at entrance to fell – Pumping Station, Thetford Road – Councillors supported this application.

DC/26/0966/FUL – One self-build dwelling – Land rear of Five Gables, Stow Road – Councillors supported this application.

Councillors noted that no planning decisions had been made since the last meeting except for the application off Crown Lane.

Finance:

080726/09 **Bank Reconciliation** – Councillors received a bank reconciliation report prepared by the Clerk, the Community Account as of 30th June 2026 £2,733.59 in the Business Account, and as of 30th June 2026 £120,751.13, total £123,484.72.

080726/10 **Receipts:** The Clerk confirmed that no receipts had been received.

080726/11 **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	£
080726/12	Claire Usher	Clerks Wage	1128.87
080726/13	R Pye	Caretaker Cemetery	165.23
080726/14	HMRC	PAYE	31.38
080726/15	Claire Usher	Expenses	63.60
080726/16	Jose Mendez Acosta	Cemetery Maintenance	783.74
080726/17	Cloudy IT	IT	114.32
080726/18	R Pye	Caretaker Expenses	79.99
080726/19	Clarkes of Walsham	General	31.99
080726/20	Ixworth Primary School	Hire of Hall	45.00
080726/21	Village Hall	Hire of Hall	22.00

080726/22 **Financial Risk Assessment:** All Councillors agreed to adopt the Financial Risk Assessment.

080726/23 **Outstanding Actions:** All Councillors had received a copy of the report prior to the meeting.

Children's Play Area Fencing: The Clerk confirmed that all 3 quotes had been sent to Ben Birrell as Chair of the Jiggins Trust but had not received a response to date.

Bank Signatories: Due to the problems being experienced trying to change signatories the Clerk was instructed to look at moving the Council's accounts to a new bank.

- 080726/24 **Health & Safety Update:** No update.
- 080726/25 **Chairman’s Report:** Cllr Lord reported that he was currently involved in meetings with the Primary School and SCC Highways in relation to matters connected to the planning application off Crown Lane.
- 080726/26 **Councillor’s Reports:** All matters had been raised.
- 080726/27 **Correspondence:** The Clerk had received the following correspondence:
- i) An email from Adam Massey, Ixworth Football Club asking for financial assistance towards the purchase of football posts. The Clerk had replied confirming that no application for financial assistance had ever been received from the Football Club and consequently no grant has been considered. Cllr Lord confirmed that an application form was requested by, and sent to Ben Birrell on 11 March 2025 following which, the Parish Council did not receive any application on behalf of the Football Club. The Clerk had also asked for further financial information before any grant would be considered.
 - ii) A request for the installation of a planter in the village – Councillors agreed not to purchase any planters for the village due to the maintenance involved.
 - iii) Two emails regarding maintenance of trees and shrubs in the village – The Clerk to forward these to Suffolk County Council Highways.
 - iv) Naming of Streets – Persimmon Homes – The suggested street names already forwarded were not suitable due to the West Suffolk’s guidance where names were no longer acceptable. If Councillors had any suggestions, please forward them to the Clerk.
 - v) Council’s Insurance – The Clerk had forwarded the new Asset list to Zurich Insurance and following these items being listed on the Council’s Schedule had received a refund of £163.21.
- 080726/28 Any other Council business for information to be noted or for inclusion in a future agenda: None
- 080726/29 All Councillors noted that the next meeting of the Parish Council will be at 7.30pm on Wednesday 9th September 2026 in the Village Hall, Ixworth. There will be no meeting in August unless an urgent matter arises.
- 080726/30 The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.20pm

Signed

Date