

IXWORTH AND IXWORTH THORPE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Ixworth & Ixworth Thorpe Parish Council meeting held at Ixworth Village Hall on 9th December 2015 at 7:30pm

Present: Cllr Richard Courtneil (Chairman) Cllrs David Reeve, Sophia Wilson, Roy McFruin, Pam Shelton, Ben Lord, Trevor Anderson and Ben Birrell.

Also Present: Mandy Adlington (Parish Clerk), B Cllr John Griffiths MBE and four members of the public.

1. Apologies for Absence

Cllr Laughton – apology accepted by all present.

2. Declarations of Interest

A declaration was received from Cllr McFruin for item 8.

3. Minutes of the Previous Meetings

It was agreed by all present that the Chairman sign the minutes as a true record of the previous meetings held on 11th & 18th November 2015.

4. Public Forum

Mr Sharpe welcomed that the 'flashing speeding' sign had been deployed in Stow Road and hoped it would return on many occasions.

A resident from Ixworth Thorpe wished to highlight his concerns about the speeding through the village.

Mr Lawrence a volunteer driver with The Botesdale and Rickinghall Good Neighbourhood Scheme wished to highlight some changes from Suffolk County Council to the scheme over the coming months. Mr Lawrence volunteers with the community transport scheme, which transports people to such things as hospital appointments, and is invaluable to over 20 Villages within the area. Suffolk County Council is putting this scheme out to tender and is encouraging businesses to apply for the tender. Mr Lawrence, who has been volunteering for 15 years, only runs one vehicle with six volunteer drivers has made over 3000 people movements in the last year cannot tender to keep his vehicle as he is not a business. Mr Lawrence requested the Parish Council write a letter of support to keep his vehicle under the current agreement. It was agreed by all present to write to support this local scheme.

5. Report from County Councillor Joanna Spicer MBE.

C Cllr Spicer had emailed her apologies for not being able to attend the meeting. No report was received.

6. Report from Borough councillor John Griffiths MBE

B Cllr Griffiths reported the following;

- **Locality Budget** – B Cllr Griffiths locality budget for 2015/16 still had £2000 still available to grant to local groups within his ward. The Parish Council are able to request a grant.
- **Crown Lane Development** – B Cllr Griffiths reported that a meeting between all the concerned parties was still being arranged to discuss further the development of the land north of Crown Lane. Once there are some suggested dates B Cllr Griffiths will contact the Parish Council.

7. Report from Local Police Officer

The following report was received via email;

Firstly the SNT would like to thank the Chairman, the Council and the community for their continued support.

Your dedicated officer is PCSO 3268 Claire Teakle.

Crime Statistics for the Parish:

There has been 1 crime of interest since the last meeting:

Bowling Club, Village Hall – Criminal Damage to the green

Speeding and Parking Patrols

We have conducted parking patrols with Junior Road Safety Officers at village Primary School, to a very positive response.

The Speed Board is now up and running! It has been placed out in Stow Road and Thetford Road already.

Community Speed Watch

You enquired about the Community Speed watch scheme, and I can see that PCSO Claire Teakle sent the information through to you last November, and set up a meeting, and an article was put out in the Village magazine seeking volunteers. Unfortunately only 2 volunteers came forward.

One of your Councillors at the meeting said that he knew of a couple more people would be interested. As you know, we need 6 to get a scheme up and running. If you can rally round and find the names of 4 more volunteers, we can revisit the original 2 to see if they are still willing.

We have just completed training for a new scheme in Hepworth, which all the participants really enjoyed.

If you can't get 6 volunteers, would you considerer joining forces with another village? This has worked well in other areas where they didn't have enough – Barrow and Risby have teamed up, as have Bardwell and Fakenham Magna.

Suffolk Policing Review

The Suffolk Poling Review was announced on 4th December, summarised below. A full report can be found on the Constabulary Website.

“Policing in Suffolk is to be redesigned to meet the challenges of the future.

A series of changes to Suffolk Constabulary's policing model have been agreed, which will help deliver significant savings required by government, whilst improving the efficiency of its services.

The Constabulary is required to deliver savings of £20.5 million by March 2020. Alongside this, the demand facing police has changed, so services need to be realigned to the areas posing the greatest threat, harm and risk.

A series of projects are therefore underway to bridge this funding gap and to better respond to today's challenges.

The Suffolk Local Policing Review (SLPR) is the most significant review of policing in Suffolk for many years and is looking at better ways of structuring resources and delivering key services.

The current phase of the review has looked at the following areas:

Neighbourhood policing; Community contact; Investigations; Emergency response; Community Safety

A number of changes have now been agreed which will result in the re-design of teams and processes and a reduction in the workforce.

Key changes include:

- Streamlined processes for the investigation of crime.
- A redefined remit for Safer Neighbourhood Teams (SNTs) and a reduction in their number from 29 to 18, with a focus on addressing community concerns.
- Three revised policing areas in the East, West and South.
- Nine policing 'locality' areas, combining emergency response, investigations, SNTs, volunteers and the Special Constabulary.
- A revised workforce mix removing 68 PCSO posts from the organisation.
- The closure of a number of police station front counters, leaving three public access points in Ipswich, Bury St Edmunds and Lowestoft.*The police stations will remain operational. “

For non-urgent matters dial 101

or email: stedsruralnorth.snt@suffolk.pnn.police.uk

If you believe a crime is in progress dial 999

8. Ixworth Village Hall

Mr Mann gave a small presentation to the members to update the Council, as they are Custodian Trustees, no recent changes to the Village Hall Committee.

The following points were raised;

Trust Document - Changes had been made to the original Trust document recently removing the need for each group hiring the hall to have a representative on the Committee. Unfortunately, this meant the Committee had to find volunteers. Volunteers have been difficult to find as they have to become Trustees and become personally and financially responsible if a major incident happened. The Committee have decided to apply to the Charity Commission to alter the Charity to a Limited Liability Charitable status to remove this liability. Hopefully this move will encourage more volunteers to sit on the Committee. The aims of the charity will remain the same and the Parish Council would still be the Custodian Trustees.

Improvements – The Committee are hoping to make some improvements over the next couple of years such as new table and chairs, replace windows, soundproofing both of the large halls and replace windows and doors. Hopefully these measures will attract more people wanting to hire the hall. Also, the Committee is in discussion with Suffolk Arts Council to hold cinema evenings in the hall.

The cost of these improvements could be in the region of £45,000, of which £15,000 has been allocated. Mr Mann requested, on behalf of the Village Hall Management Committee, that the Parish Council would consider help funding these projects of the next few years out of the Parish Council budget.

It was agreed by all present to discuss further at the January meeting where the 2016/2017 budget would be finalised.

B Cllr Griffiths reminded Mr Mann that St Edmundsbury Borough Council could be approached for a grant from the Rural Initiative Grant Scheme.

9. Planning Applications

DC/15/2385 – Fell one Maple tree – 52 Street Farm Lane, Ixworth

No objection

DC/15/2249 – Timber framed garage on brick plinth at rear of property – White House, Thetford Road, Ixworth

No objection

10. Play Area

The Clerk reported that the junior swings had been damaged beyond repair when a tree fell on them in a storm. It was agreed by all present to make an insurance claim to replace the swing and repair the damaged fence. It was also agreed to contact Playdale to repair the other items highlighted in the recent play equipment inspection.

11. Cobbled Area

It was agreed by all present that the quote for £1453 be accepted to repair and make safe the cobbled area in the High Street. The Clerk was instructed to make sure Suffolk county Council had no objections to this work being carried out.

12. Crown Lane Development

The Chairman stated there was nothing further to add to B Cllr Griffiths comments in item 6.

13. Parish Plan

It was agreed by all present to start working on renewing the Parish Plan. The Clerk was instructed to contact Suffolk Community Action for advice and possibly arrange a meeting to discuss how to move this project forward.

14. Accounts

It was agreed to pay the following accounts;

Chq No 965/967	Wages	£1083.05
Chq No 967	H M Revenue & Customs	£408.25
Chq No 968	A J Wheelie Bin Cleaning	£10.00
Chq No 969	Anglian Water	£19.69
Chq No 970	St Edmundsbury BC	£1103.64
Chq No 971	M & TJ'S Gardening	£384.00
Chq No 972	Ixworth Village Hall	£163.75
Chq No 973	S Wilson	£19.99
Chq No 974	A Adlington	£123.56

The RFO was authorised to transfer £3000 by on-line transfer from the reserve account to the community account.

The Clerk handed out suggestions for the budget and precept request for 2016/2017. This item would be discussed further and finalised at the January meeting.

15. Speeding in Ixworth Thorpe

The Clerk reported that she had not yet received information on whether permission or planning permission is needed to erect the posts to hold the 'Flashing Slow Down Signs'.

16. Correspondence

The following correspondence was received;

- **St Edmundsbury Borough Council** – New Street Name Approval
- **Guy Smith (S.C.C. Highways)** – Ixworth Thorpe Drains
- **Steve Wilson** – Monthly Update
- **Suffolk Highways** – Replacement of Village Gateway
- **Sgt Anna Whybro** – Update from last meeting
- **Suffolk Police** – Updates (22.11.15, 23.11.15, 29.11.15, 01.12.15)
- **SALC** – Suffolk Local Policing Review

17. Chairman's Report

The Chairman reported that he had sent a list of all road signs within the village that needed repairing to Cheryl Froud at St Eds. Ms Froud hoped to visit the village before the end of December.

18. Clerks Report

The Clerk reported the following items were still outstanding;

- Repairs to St Mary Church clock face
- Adopt the telephone kiosk in Stow Road
- Various highway issues

19. Councillors Reports

Cllr Lord requested that Ixworth Cemetery be added to the January meeting, so that a discussion can be held on quotes he has for work needed on various trees within the Cemetery, this was agreed by all present. Cllr Lord also wished to thank Cllr Anderson and his helpers for installing all the small trees in the High Street. Cllr Shelton wished to highlight the overgrown bush in Saddlers Yard and the nettles along Thetford Road. Cllr Birrell stated he would cut back the bush in Saddlers Yard. Cllr Wilson stated the drains were still blocked in Ixworth Thorpe and the 40mph sign had been knocked over. Cllr McFruin wished to highlight the minutes had not been printed in recent village magazines.

20. Date of the Next Meeting

It was confirmed that the next meeting would be held on Wednesday 13th January 2016 at 7.30pm in Ixworth Village Hall.

With no further business the meeting closed at 9.30pm.

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Signed

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Date