

IXWORTH AND IXWORTH THORPE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Ixworth & Ixworth Thorpe Parish Council meeting held at Ixworth Village Hall on 14th December 2016 at 7:30pm

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

Also Present: Mandy Adlington (Parish Clerk), C Cllr Joanna Spicer MBE, B Cllr John Griffiths MBE and two members of the public

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Laughton – apology accepted by members.

2. Declarations of Interest

No declarations were received.

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

After a small alteration to C Cllr Joanna Spicer's report (oil tank to water tank), it was agreed by all present that the Chairman sign the minutes as a true record of the previous meeting held on 9th November 2016.

4. Public Forum

Mr John Sharpe made the following comments;

Speedwatch – Mr Sharpe was concerned that this project had taken so long and was concerned that no Speedwatch area would be in the High Street. Mr Sharpe felt that the village had been lucky so far as no major accidents had happened. Whilst Speedwatch was a good start to slowing traffic within the village Mr Sharpe hoped there would be more measurers put in place such as perhaps having 20mph zones within the village.

Stow Road – The hedge in front of the Council Houses was in need of cutting again as brambles were overhanging the pavement. The pavement had been cleared back but the soil had just been put back on the bank, this soil was now once again all over the pavement and Mr Sharpe requested that this be cleared again but this time the soil is taken away.

Pavements – Mr Sharpe highlighted his concern about the condition of pavements within the village. Pavements were no longer being swept

A discussion was held about the pavements and it was decided to discuss further in the January meeting. Mr Sharpe requested to be undated as and when items he has highlighted are dealt with.

5. Report from County Councillor Joanna Spicer MBE

C Cllr Spicer reported the following;

- **White Lines and signage in Stow Road** – C Cllr Spicer stated she had received some complaints that the 'Slow' signs had not yet been painted on the road. C Cllr Spicer stated she was still in discussion with Suffolk County Council on designing a scheme to enhance this area
- **Mulley's Roundabout** – C Cllr Spicer reported that the roundabout had recently been tidied.
- **Potters Bridge** – The new weight limit was now in force
- **Hempyard Bridge** – After an email from a resident, anti slip stripes had been installed on the temporary bridge. The bridge repairs were not budgeted for next year but it was now on the list of bridges needing repairing. Hempyard Bridge was 4th on the list. Cllr Rowe stated the crack was getting worse and hoped the bridge would not collapse before the repairs were completed
- **Crown Lane Development** – C Cllr Spicer reported that she had had a meeting with Marcus Hopkins, Chairman of The Bypass Farm Partnership, to discuss the land due for development near Crown Lane. C Cllr Spicer stated she would write a full report on the discussions and pass to the members

Cllr McFruin wished to highlight the condition of the 'No Parking' signs in the High Street.

After a discussion about parking on double yellow lines in the High Street, and lack of enforcement, it was agreed the Chairman could contact Inspector Matt Dee and the Police and Crime Commissioner Tim Passmore to discuss the situation.

The Clerk or Chairman was instructed to contact Marcus Hopkins to start dialog about the need for future land for the Cemetery.

6. Report from Borough Councillor John Griffiths MBE

B Cllr Griffiths reported the following;

- **Speeding/Parking** – B Cllr Griffiths reported that the Borough Council would be taking on the enforcement of parking regulations. However, this was still in negotiation and could take up to two years before this happens. In the meantime it was still the responsibility of the Police to enforce parking regulations
- **Locality Budget** – B Cllr Griffiths stated he still had £2000 available in his locality budget to give grants to groups within his ward
- **Planning** – The Borough Councils planning officers were still speaking with Persimmon Homes re the Crown Lane Development

7. Planning

DC/16/2259 – Replacement and repositioning of flue – 20 High Street, Ixworth

No Objection

DC/16/2587 – (i) insertion of 1no window on first floor, North elevation (ii) lowering of sill height of window on first floor level, West elevation – 55 Chalk Lane, Ixworth

No Objection

DC/16/2676 – (i) Ground floor single storey extension to West and North elevation (ii) extension to provide rooms in the roof (iii) works to trees & (iv) alterations to external elevations – Sycamores, 5 Beeches Close, Ixworth

No Objection

8. Neighbourhood Plan

Cllr Lord reported that he, Cllr Shelton and Cllr Loughton had attended a meeting with Ann-Marie Howell at St Edmundsbury Borough Council to discuss the Neighbourhood Plan. Cllr Lord reported the meeting had been very informative and useful. Ms Howell suggested amending the initial application that had been submitted. Cllr Lord stated he would make the changes in the New Year and resubmit the application. The plan would take approximately 12-18 months to complete and would not be ready for the initial development in Crown Lane. Also, it was suggested to start engaging with the Parish, it was agreed the Chairman write an article for the magazine.

9. Employer Pension Responsibilities

The Clerk reported that as employers, the Parish Council now had to offer and contribute to a pension scheme for their employees. Only one member of staff qualified for contributions from the Parish Council. It was agreed that the Parish Council would contribute the statutory amount each month for the qualifying employee. The pension scheme the Parish Council would use is NEST. It was agreed that the contributions would be paid via direct debit. The direct debit mandate was signed by Cllr Lord and Cllr Shelton.

10. Precept/Budget 2017-2018

The RFO (Responsible Finance Officer) had circulated prior to the meeting three suggested budgets for the coming year. The RFO explained that once again St Edmundsbury Borough Council had cut the Parish Grant by £2633. After a lengthy discussion of various aspects of the Parish Councils financial responsibilities it was agreed to cut some areas of the budget to accommodate loss of most of this grant. However, a very small increase to the Precept request would be needed.

11. Ixworth Cemetery

The Clerk reported that Steve Wilson would undertake the duties of putting the Cemetery bins out for collection and also general upkeep of the Cemetery. Any issues he found would be reported to Cllr Loughton or the Clerk. Mr Wilson would complete these duties within the current hours the Parish Council currently pays him for. Cllr Lord presented two quotes for tree work needed within the Cemetery. It was agreed to give the contract to Anglian Tree Solutions at a cost of £1180. The Clerk was instructed to contact both parties and inform them of the Council's decision.

Further information was required about the suggestion of a new gate to stop vehicles parking on the grass area in front of graves. This project would be discussed further a future meeting when all relevant information had been collected.

12. St Mary's Church

The Clerk reported that she had instructed Hawards Horological to carry out the work to refurbish the clock face.

The Clerk had instructed the company to contact Cllr Reeve with any queries and to arrange suitable dates and time

13. Accounts

The following were agreed for payment;

Chq No 1062/1062	Wages	£1174.46
Chq No 1063	Anglian Water	£16.24
Chq No 1065	John A Welton Partnership	£104.15
Chq No 1066	Dent Security Systems Ltd	£1638.00
Chq No 1067	TOP Garden Services	£512.50
Chq No 1068	Ixworth Village Hall	£163.75
Chq No 1069	A Adlington	£94.50
Chq No 1070	H M Rev & Customs	£381.40
Chq No 1071	Rougham Estate Sales	£252.00

Direct Debit NEST Pensions £6.79

The RFO was authorised to transfer £4000 by on-line transfer from the reserve account to the community account.

14. Play Area

Cllr Wilson stated that this project had been making slow progress for various reasons. Cllr Wilson and Cllr Shelton were meeting with Playdale on site before Christmas to finalise the equipment needed. Cllr Wilson also suggested that the area needed more picnic benches, possibly three. Cllr Wilson would obtain quotes for a future meeting.

15. Correspondence

The following correspondence was received;

- **Joanna Spicer** – Hempyard Bridge
- **Bob Sellars** – St Farm Notice Board
- **Andy Osman** – Ixworth Circular Walk
- **Anglian Water** – Changes
- **John Griffiths** – SE Leaders Brief to Members
- **Suffolk Police** – Police & Crime Commissioner Letter
- **Suffolk Planning** – Minerals & Waste Local Plan
- **SCC** – Weight Restriction Orders Potters Bridge
- **Angela Gibbs** – Hempyard Bridge
- **Rachel Almond** – A1088 Roundabout Application
- **Ann-Marie Howell** – **St Eds** – Neighbourhood Plan

A discussion was held about Mr Sellars request to move the Street Farm notice board. It was agreed to look into this in the New Year.

16. Chairman's Report

The Chairman reported the following;

- Cllr Shelton and he had met with Pigeon to discuss the possible development of the land near the grain store in Bardwell Road
- The Chairman had met with the Doctors at Ixworth surgery
- The Chairman was honoured to take salute as the Remembrance Parade marched past the saluting dais on Remembrance Sunday. However, once again he was concerned about the amount of cars parked in the High Street

17. Clerk's Report

The Clerk reported that she and Cllr Laughton had met with Mr Cobbold to discuss an area of Robin's Copse in front of his house. The Clerk explained that the deeds would be needed to assess ownership of the piece of land concerned. The Clerk and Cllr Laughton would follow up this enquiry and report to a future meeting. The Clerk requested permission to open dialog with the Village Hall Management Committee to clarify the Parish Councils position when the Village Hall becomes a Charitable Incorporate Organisation. The Clerk was given permission to arrange a meeting with the Village Hall Management Committee. The Clerk reported she would be having a hand operation in January and would be off work for one week.

18. Councillors Report's

Cllr Anderson requested if a quote could be obtained to install a waste bin near the bench by the Village sign. The Clerk was instructed to obtain a quote for a future meeting. Cllr Reeve wished to highlight his concern that older children were riding their cycles on the pavement causing older residents to step into the road.

19. Date of the Next Meeting

It was confirmed the next meeting would be held on 11th January at 7.30pm in Ixworth Village Hall.

With no further business the meeting closed at 9.40pm.

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Signed

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Date