

IXWORTH AND IXWORTH THORPE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Ixworth & Ixworth Thorpe Parish Council meeting held at Ixworth Village Hall on 9th November 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), B Cllr John Griffiths MBE and six members of the public.

The Chairman welcomed Cllr John Rowe as the new member of Ixworth & Ixworth Thorpe Parish Council.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Laughton – apology was accepted.

2. Declarations of Interest

A non-pecuniary declaration was made by Cllr Birrell for planning application DC/16/2327.

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

After the Clerk reported minor adjustments to the draft minutes distributed, it was resolved for the Chairman to sign the minutes dated 12th October as a true record of that meeting.

4. Public Forum

Members of the Speedwatch team wished to update the members on the progress of this project. The team now had 11 volunteers whose applications had been passed to PCSO Ken Ruston for processing. The team were holding a meeting with PCSO Ruston on 10th November 2016.

A member of the public enquired as to why the speeding deterrents had not been painted on Stow Road when it was resurfaced. The Chairman stated he had a report from C Cllr Spicer which included a section on Stow Road.

C Cllr Spicer sent her apologies for not being able to attend the meeting and sent via email the following report;

- Stow Road and the top of the High Street have been re-surfaced – and I have even had some positive feedback
- Annoyingly, the increased line markings for Stow Road were not done at the same time as the designs had been done separately and were not ready! There is still a “plan” around the gateway effect (“Welcome to Ixworth”) – but I am told to wait for design and costing
- I am chasing why the roundabout clearing has not been done when it was promised over a month ago. Apparently clearing the dead tree away is not considered a priority. I do have a name of someone at KMG to contact now as they are booked to replace the chevrons. If I have no luck with the KMG contact I will take it to the assistant director
- Pavement clearing along Thetford Road is ordered for strimming and skirting
- I have sent my objection to the Kebab Shop planning application and have an assurance from Samantha Bye that the County Council will also be objecting on highway grounds
- I am sort of assuming that you may have reservations about the house on top of the old water tanks and associated new access on to the A1088 – but please advise me ASAP what view you come to so I can decide if I should also object
- Many thanks to Sophia for arranging a useful meeting at the Primary School when we were able to talk about the routes towards a new primary school
- The weight limit on Potter’s Bridge will be implemented soon – details have been sent to Ixworth magazine

I had a meeting in Ipswich with Stuart Heald (bridge engineer) and Glyn French about Hempyard Bridge at the end of last month. There is a report below – but the key updates for the PC are as follows;

- Ivy removal work has been ordered – this will include repairs where the ivy is removed (filling the holes with cement)
- Keir May Gurney has been asked to do the structural design and plan for a major repair BUT this is currently not budgeted for.... When we have the proper specification from KMG then quotes can be sought (locally as well as from KMG)
- There has been a meeting with Christie Levenson (Conservation officer SEBC) and she has confirmed that she is satisfied with the work so far

- Meanwhile bridge is quite safe using the wooden walkway – and no urgency considered

It was agreed to contact C Cllr Spicer to discuss Mulleys roundabout and request a visit to Ixworth to view concerns of the Parish Council. It was agreed for the Chairman to arrange a meeting

5. Report from Borough Councillor John Griffiths MBE

B Cllr Griffiths reported to members that he had a written briefing for all Borough Councillors which he would email to the Clerk to distribute to all members.

The planning application for change of use of the Post Office to a Kebab takeaway was still being considered by the planning officers.

6. Planning Applications

DC/16/1282 – Conversion of existing water holding tanks to create 1no dwelling – Ixworth pumping station, Baileypool Lane, Ixworth	No Objection
DC/16/2441 - 1no Beech – Crown reduction of up to 3 metres and raise crown by up to 3.5 metres – Stockacre House, Thetford Road, Ixworth	No Objection
DC/16/2382 – Fell 1no Conifer tree – Stockacre House, Thetford Road, Ixworth	No Objection
DC/16/2052 – (i) New open front porch (ii) render and weather boarding to front elevation – Hope House, 3 Estate Yard, Commister Lane, Ixworth	No Objection
DC/16/2327 – 1no Oak tree crown reduce by 3 metres in spread on East side to clear buildings by a minimum of 2 metres – 10 Crown Crescent, Ixworth	Object

7. Neighbourhood Plan

The Clerk had spoken with Ann-Marie Howell at St Edmundsbury Borough Council to arrange a meeting to discuss the neighbourhood plan. It was agreed that Cllrs Lord, Birrell, Laughton and Shelton would attend a meeting on 24th November at 9.30am at West Suffolk House, Bury St Edmunds.

8. Accounts

The following accounts were agreed for payment;

Chq No 1052/1053	Wages	£1080.98
Chq No 1054	Haward Horological Ltd	£450.00
Chq No 1055	G Palastanga	£33.20
Chq No 1056	Community Action Suffolk	£60.00
Chq No 1057	Ixworth Village Hall	£168.75
Chq No 1058	St Edmundsbury BC	£36.40
Chq No 1059	The Poppy Appeal	£25.00
Chq No 1060	Ixworth RBL	£75.00
Chq No 1061	Anglian Tree Solutions	£108.00

The RFO was authorised to transfer £2000 by on-line transfer from the reserve account to the community account.

9. Ixworth Cemetery

A discussion was held again as to when, and who, was putting the Cemetery bins out for collection as there had been some confusion once again. It was agreed that the Clerk be contacted if the bins had not been emptied rather than a Councillor going directly to St Edmundsbury Borough Council to complain.

The Clerk reported sensitive issue regarding the Cemetery. Complaints had been received about a grave that has an exceptional amount of flowers on the grave. The flowers are very close to other plots and are in excess of the plot size. The Cemetery is a Lawn Cemetery and rules apply as to what is allowed on a plot. The Clerk was given permission to write to the family member looking after the particular grave explaining the rules and regulations relating to Ixworth Cemetery.

As previously discussed there had also been complaints about cars parking on the grass area in front of grave plots. The Clerk had met with Ray Wood to discuss the possibility of erecting gates to stop cars parking on the grass. The Clerk was instructed to obtain quotes and designs to discuss at a future meeting.

The Clerk was also instructed to place an article in the magazine explaining that this project was being accessed.

10. St Mary's Church Clock

A Quote had been received for £3850 to refurbish the clock face. The Clerk was instructed to accept this quote and instruct Haward Horological Ltd to carry out the work required.

11. Play Area

As agreed previously Cllrs Wilson and Shelton inspected the play area to decide if the mushroom table needed to be replaced. Cllrs Wilson and Shelton suggested replacing it with a playground springer suitable for toddlers. Cllrs Wilson and Shelton also suggested installing two picnic benches in the grass area just before the toddler area. Cllr Wilson requested that a budget of £4000 is agreed so that the equipment can be ordered and installed. It was resolved that Cllrs Wilson and Shelton could spend up to £4000.

Cllr Wilson requested that the Play Area be added to the February agenda for further discussion. This was agreed by all present.

12. Correspondence

The following correspondence was received;

- **Andy Osman** – Ixworth Circular Walk
- **Ixworth Village Hall Management Committee** – CCTV Maintenance
- **Steve Wilson** – Monthly Report
- **Copy of letter to Jaki fisher (Thistledown Drive)**
- **S.C.C.** – Temp Road Closure
- **SCC** – Weight Restriction Orders Potters Bridge
- **St Eds** – Rural Imitative Grants Scheme
- **Mr Marshall** – Reservation of a Burial Plot
- **St Eds** – Christmas Fayre

It was agreed by all that the Chairman would discuss with C Cllr Spicer the issues concerning Mr Osman regarding the circular walk when arranging a visit to the village. The Chairman read Mr Wilson monthly report.

13. Chairman's Report

The Chairman reported the following;

- I attended memorial service of the late Mr John Cross on behalf of Parish Council on 27 October 2016
- I attended a meeting concerning trees in Thistledown Drive Woodland with Cllr Shelton and Jaki Fisher of St Edmundsbury which was attended by the residents of 14 & 18 Thistledown. A thorough discussion was held and although slightly tense at times due to the complexity/reality of the issues, it was a productive meeting
During this meeting, the Chairman requested clarification concerning the status, and responsibility, of trees in Abbey Close. It is not considered parkland as was earlier misunderstood by Cllr McFruin and SEBC routinely checks the trees every 4 years for any remedial work required. The Chairman strongly advised Cllr McFruin to carefully consider his position as a Parish Councillor versus Resident in this matter as it was deemed by the Parish Council that the assistance of Cllr McFruin by Abbey Close residents is due to his Parish Councillor status
- Remembrance commemorations will be taking place on Friday 11th November at 11am at the War Memorial with classes from Ixworth Primary School in attendance – all welcome to attend. The Chairman also invited Councillors to join the Remembrance Sunday Parade on Sunday 13th November at 10:15am
- The Chairman has followed up contact with SEBC and Persimmon to get an update on the status of the Roundabout/Ghost Island situation for the proposed Crown Lane development
- The Chairman had received further correspondence from the proprietors of Ixworth Fish Shop with additional petition signatories lobbying for Parish Council support to object to the proposed Kebab Shop in the former Post Office. The Chairman advised that further lobbying correspondence to the Parish Council was not necessary as we had facilitated our consultation process to the point that we objected to the proposal in line with the concerns voiced during the October meeting and that the Parish Council had no further consultation input in this planning application
- The Chairman was slightly concerned about the accuracy of minutes published in public areas which was outside the editorial control of the Parish Council. It was resolved the Chairman would include a small section in an upcoming magazine article advising residents where the full, accurate account can be found
- The Chairman has been invited to meet with the partners of Ixworth Surgery in context with the Neighbourhood Plan that will be undertaken in 2017

14. Clerk's Report

After a discussion it was agreed to award Steve Wilson a 1% pay increase. The Clerk was instructed to inform Mr Wilson.

The Clerk reported that BT was assessing the red phone boxes in the Parish. Currently they were planning to remove the telephone box in the High Street and the telephone box at Ixworth Thorpe. It was agreed by all present that an objection to the removal of Ixworth Thorpe would be lodged. However, if BT wishes to remove it was agreed to try to adopt and possibly find another use for it, perhaps a de-fibrillator.

15. Councillor's Reports

Cllr Wilson reported that after the meeting of the Primary School Governors and Suffolk County Council a new school for Ixworth was now included in Suffolk County Councils Capital Expenditure for 2019. Cllr Wilson stated the Headteacher wished to be involved in the Neighbourhood Plan. Cllr Wilson also thanked members for installing the litter bin at the Church in Ixworth Thorpe, it was making a great difference to the area.

Cllr Reeve reported the Holly Tree in St Mary's Churchyard was in need of trimming. Cllr Reeve suggested a tree surgeon be contacted to discuss. Cllr Reeve also suggested that Mr John Sharpe, the Parish Councils tree officer be in attendance to discuss, this was agreed by all present.

Cllr McFruin reported that the footpath in St Mary's Churchyard had not been resurfaced. C Cllr Spicer stated this would be completed some months ago. It was agreed that the Chairman mentions this to C Cllr Spicer when arranging a meeting for her to visit the Village.

16. Date of the Next Meeting

It was confirmed that the next meeting would be held on 14th December 2016 at 7.30pm in Ixworth Village Hall.

With no further business the meeting closed at 9pm.

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Signed

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Date