

IXWORTH AND IXWORTH THORPE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Ixworth & Ixworth Thorpe Parish Council meeting held at Ixworth Village Hall on 10th May 2017 at 7:30pm

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

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

1. Election of Chairman

Cllr Ben Lord was elected as Chairman for the coming year. There were no other candidates.

Cllr Lord signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Rowe – apologies were accepted by all members present.

3. Declarations of Interest

No declarations were made.

4. Minutes of the Previous Meetings

After minor adjustments (grammar/spelling to minutes of 12th April 2017) it was agreed by all present the Chairman sign the minutes as a true record of the meeting held on 12th April 2017. It was also agreed the Chairman sign the minutes as a true record of the meeting held on 19th April 2017.

5. Public Forum

A resident from Bury Road (Pakenham Parish) expressed her concerns about the speeding traffic in Bury Road. Rachel Waite, the Speedwatch coordinator stated the Speedwatch Team were going to be deployed in that area in the next few days. Rachel also explained that the resident could join the Speedwatch team as a volunteer. Residents wished to highlight their concerns on the Primary School failing the recent Ofsted report. Concerns highlighted by the report were – high turnover of staff & cultural problems. Parents also felt that they were being told lies and teachers were very unhappy. Residents wished to enquire if the Parish Council had a plan to get involved. The Chairman stated he would write to the School and Governors offering support.

Cllr Wilson, the Chairman of Governors, explained the process for contacting the school with their concerns.

Mr John Sharpe wished to highlight his concern that there was no feedback from items mentioned in the public forum or any action taken. Mr Sharpe suggested a list is kept of who is responsible for each item mentioned. Mr Sharpe requested more communication from the Parish Council. B Cllr Griffiths stated the Parish Council was very active but perhaps a list could be kept to keep issues mentioned up to date.

The Chairman informed Mr Sharpe that many issues recently mentioned in the public forum have been actioned and the Parish Council always lobbied the County Councillor and Borough Councillor on issues out of the Parish Council's control.

Mrs Palastanga highlighted the quote received for the stone trough to be placed in front of the war memorial. The Chairman stated this would be discussed in item 11, correspondence.

The coordinator of Speedwatch reported their group was up and running and had already been out on three occasions. Rachel stressed once again that Speedwatch was a deterrent to speeding vehicles rather than catching speeding vehicles.

6. Report from County Councillor Joanna Spicer MBE

C Cllr Spicer sent her apologies for not being able to attend the meeting. The Chairman offered the Parish Council's congratulations to C Cllr Spicer for being re-elected on 4th May 2017.

The Chairman then read the following report from C Cllr Spicer received via email:

- **Ixworth Thorpe tree** – SCC have now confirmed that the land in question is SCC highways /Frederick Hiam and therefore it is now not a matter for the Parish Council. Arrangements are being made for it to be cleared
- **Stow Road** – Cllr Nick Laughton attended the site meeting this morning and will show you design for the "gateway" and brief you on proposed road markings etc. Guy Smith has undertaken to sort out for me the breakdown in communication with "Marketforce" re sponsorship of the roundabout

- **Ixworth Primary School** - Parish Councillors will be aware that an OFSTED inspection in February has produced a difficult and disappointing report for the school (available on OFSTED website). A meeting for parents was held at the school on Monday evening which I attended.
- Please report that I have met SCC (as LEA) officers responsible for supporting the school and am pursuing with them both questions about what help the school should have had in the past and also pursuing with them what SCC (as LEA) should be doing to help now
- **Persimmon planning applications** 2 separate responses from SCC are now published and I think they are not unhelpful in terms of most of the issues – especially Crown Lane, Walsham Road and footpaths.
- **Hempyard Bridge** Some progress re communication as I have now had a long discussion with Andrew Woodin (Head of Countryside Services). He is getting me a fuller report on what has actually happened. He confirms the EIS is set for next week. We have also worked out that the seeming discrepancy about Christine Leveson (SEBC) was in relation to the interim repairs (re-pointing) rather than anything long term

7. Report from Borough Councillor John Griffiths MBE

B Cllr Griffiths reported the following;

- **Persimmon Homes** – The two planning applications for the 90 houses in Crown Lane would most properly go to the Development Control Committee in July or August 2017. B Cllr Griffiths suggested writing a joint letter from St Edmundsbury Borough Council, Suffolk County Council and the Parish Council about the new development highlighting again concerns about access to the development
- **Thistledown Drive Tree Application** – The planning application to cut back the trees in the area known as ‘The Pit’ has been passed. Hopefully now the residents will be able to enjoy more light in their houses and be able to sit in their gardens
- **Annual Parish Meeting** – B Cllr Griffiths offered his apologies for not being able to attend the Annual Parish Meeting on 24th May 2017. B Cllr Griffiths informed members that he would send a report

8. Planning

DC/17/0784 – Partial Change of use of Theobalds Restaurant (class A) to Residential Dwelling (class3) – 68-70 High Street Ixworth **No objection**

DC/17/0770 – (i) single storey rear extension and (ii) garage conversion – Priory Coach House, high Street, Ixworth **No objection**

9. Robins Copse

A discussion was held about the letter of response received from Mr Cobbold re purchasing a small section of Robins Copse. The Clerk was instructed to ascertain a quote for trimming the trees in the section under discussion. A quote was also to be obtained for the cost of Solicitors fees for transferring the land. Cllr Laughton, on behalf of the Wildlife Group, requested if a brush cutter could be purchased for Robins Copse at a cost of £265. It was agreed by all present that this could be purchased.

10. Accounts

The following were agreed for payment;

Chq No 1099/1100	Wages	£1151.99
Chq No 1101	Playdale Playgrounds	£4886.14
Chq No 1102	Ixworth village Hall	£371.25
Chq No 1103	Tripp Batt	£26.10
Chq No 1104	SALC	£721.63
Chq No 1105	Protect Signs	£120.72
Chq No 1106	A Adlington	£99.52
Chq No 1107	Second Chance Stroke Group	£100
Chq No 1108	The Voluntary Network	£100
Chq No 1109	N Laughton	£319

Direct Debit Nest Pensions £7.85

It was agreed by all present the RFO could transfer £7500 from the business account to the community account.

11. Correspondence

The following correspondence was received;

- **Joan Jones** – Pavements in Ixworth
- **Gordon Palastanga** – Quote for War Memorial Trough
- **Steve Wilson** – Monthly Report
- **Daniel Cobbold** – Robins Copse
- **Peter Shaw** – Trees in 'The Pit' – thanks for Parish Council help

Mrs Jones concerns about the pavements in Ixworth were passed to C Cllr Spicer. It was agreed by all present to accept the quote from Saxon Monumental Craft to install a stone trough in front of the War Memorial at a cost of £670. The Clerk was instructed to accept the quote obtained by Mrs Palastanga.

12. Annual Parish Meeting

The meeting time and date was confirmed as 24th May at 7.30pm in Ixworth Free School. The Chairman informed members that he had invited various organisations within the village to attend and give a report on behalf of their group.

13. Chairman's Report

The Chairman informed members that St Edmundsbury Borough Council would be starting a consultation on Ixworth & Ixworth Thorpe Neighbourhood Area. The consultation would run from Thursday 25th May 2017 until Thursday 22nd June 2017. Once the consultation was finished the Council would be informed if the Parish can be designated as a Neighbourhood Plan Area.

It was agreed to arrange an initial meeting for 5th June at 7pm in Ixworth Village Hall. It was agreed that the members who would represent the Parish Council would be Cllrs Lord, Birrell, Shelton and Laughton. It was agreed that Cllr Lord would write an article for the magazine inviting residents along.

14. Clerk's Report

The Clerk gave the following report;

- **Ixworth Thorpe De-fib** – the de-fib had not yet been delivered. Cllr Wilson requested if £150 could be spent on purchasing some new windows for the kiosk. This was agreed by all present
- **Councillor Guides** – The new 2017 Councillor Guides were now available for purchase. It was agreed by all present the Clerk order a copy for each member
- **Insurance** – The Clerk informed members the Council insurance was due for renewal in June. The Clerk would obtain quotes and advise members at the next meeting
- **Ixworth Cemetery** – A meeting was arranged for 24th May at 9am to discuss items needed to be completed in the Cemetery. It was agreed that Cllrs Lord, Shelton, Anderson and the Clerk would attend and report back at the June meeting

15. Councillors Reports

Cllr Wilson reported that she has spoken with the gentleman that was going to refurbish the village sign in Ixworth. Ixworth was fourth on their list to be completed.

Cllr Anderson reported that the cycling 'Tour of Britain' would be passing through Ixworth on 8th September 2017.

16. Date of the Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as 14th June 2017 in Ixworth Village Hall at 7.30pm.

With no further business the meeting closed at 9.05pm.

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Signed

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Date