

IXWORTH AND IXWORTH THORPE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Ixworth & Ixworth Thorpe Parish Council meeting held at Ixworth Village Hall on Wednesday 11th April 2018 at 7:30pm

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

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

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs Birrell and Rowe – apologies were accepted by members present.

2. Declarations of Interest

No declarations were received at this time.

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

It was agreed by all present the Chairman sign the minutes as a true record of the meetings held on 21st March 2018.

4. Public Forum

The following points were made by members of the public present;

- **Ixworth Post Office** – Residents were very concerned that the Post Office had now been closed for 6 weeks. Residents wished to highlight that this facility was a lifeline to many residents, especially older people who had no transport to go to other villages. The members agreed that this was a facility that needed to be kept and it was agreed that the Chairman would approach the shop owner to ascertain more information. It was also agreed to contact Post Office Ltd for further information.
- **Speedwatch** – It was requested if 'Flashing Speed Signs' for Ixworth could be considered. It was agreed by all members that this would be added to a future agenda for discussion

The following concerns were raised by an Ixworth Thorpe resident;

- **Speeding** – When would the flashing speed signs be installed in the village. Speeds through the village seem to be increasing.
- **Signs** – Could all the speed signs be replaced or refurbished as many are faded or have been turned around and are now not visible
- **Village Sign** – Could a village sign be installed at the entrance to the village coming from Honington, this may make drivers aware they are entering a village
- **Blocked Drains** – Once again the drains in the village are blocked and when it rains the road is flooded

5. Report from County Councillor Joanna Spicer MBE

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

- I have the Assistant Director for Highways (Mark Stevens) coming to meet me in Ixworth (and other villages) on the afternoon of Wednesday 25th April. This will be primarily for him to see the roundabout and Hempyard Bridge. I hope Chairman or others from the PC might be able to meet him with me please
- Roundabout – Marketforce remain out of communication. I am told Mark Wedgwood is the key person who might unlock the apparent impasse.
- I am now in correspondence with a road safety officer, David Chenery, to try and get agreement about permanent VAS signs for Ixworth Thorpe as you have requested.
- You will appreciate flooding is a major issue everywhere after the last few weeks. SCC is giving priority to where properties, businesses etc are being flooded. I am not aware of water in properties in Ixworth at present but let me know if I am wrong
- No news from about VERTAS and I will discuss with John Griffiths what might be done next
- School Transport – Ongoing discussions

6. Report from Borough Councillor John Griffiths MBE

B Cllr Griffiths reported the following;

- **Leader of St Edmundsbury Borough Council Report** – available to view on the West Suffolk website
- **Vertas Planning Application** – the application was still ongoing as the planning officers were awaiting information from Vertas
- **Locality Budget** – It is now a new financial year for my locality budget and I urge local organisations to apply for a grant

7. Planning

DC/18/0578 – 1no Walnut tree, reduce overall crown by 3 metres – Walnut Cottage, 54 High Street, Ixworth

No Objection

DC/18/2630 – Retention of 2no chiller compressors and 1no air conditioning compressors – 13 Hugh Street, Ixworth

No Objection

8. Councillor Vacancy

Three applications of interest had been received which had been distributed to Councillors prior to the meeting. The applicants were Mr Stephen Mann, Mrs Ally Balaam and Mr Terry Lilley. After the vote it was two votes per candidate, the Chairman used his casting vote to break the impasse. It was then resolved to invite Mr Terry Lilley to fill the vacancy on the Council.

9. General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)

The Clerk reported that she was working towards the Council being compliant for the new regulations on 25th May 2018. The Clerk reported she would produce various policies for Councillors to consider and adopt at the Annual Parish meeting in May.

10. Annual Parish Meeting

A discussion was held to confirm the date for the Annual Parish Meeting. It was decided it would either be held on 16th or 23rd of May. It was resolved the Chairman would contact the Free School to confirm they were still happy to let the Council use their facilities and then select which date would be best for them. The Chairman and the Clerk would then confirm the date to members. It was resolved that the Chairman would write an article for the magazine to inform residents and invite village organisations to attend and give a report.

11. Neighbourhood Plan

Cllr Laughton reported things were progressing well. The Vision Statement had been finalised and a draft had been sent to the consultant for his input. The deadline for the grant was approaching so the group were working on the application.

12. Christmas Tree/Christmas Market

The Chairman reported that Cllrs Rowe and Birrell had met with the resident who suggested holding a Christmas Market in Ixworth. It was discussed the market would have a theme of festive food and drink. It had been decided to approach Ixworth Association to request their help.

Cllr Anderson reported he would be approaching the electrician to get a quote to install lights on the large tree at the bottom of the High Street.

13. Accounts

The following accounts were agreed for payment;

Chq No 1196, 1197, 1198	Wages	£1194.06
Chq No 1199	Mr Jack Larder	£50.00
Chq No 1200	St Edmundsbury BC	£37.70
Chq No 1201	Multisigns	£54.00
Chq No 1202	Navigus Planning	£862.80
Chq No 1203	Ixworth Village Hall	£168.75
Chq No 1204	TOP Garden Services	£615.00
Chq No 1205	SALC	£734.40
Chq No 1206	A Adlington (GDPR)	£399.99
Chq No 1207	Mrs S Wilson	£17.97
Direct Debit Nest Pensions		£22.74

14. Ixworth Cemetery

The Clerk reported that the working group had met at the Cemetery and the following was discussed;

- **Wooden posts** – a final quote was being obtained for the installation of small wooden posts to edge the grass area to stop cars parking on the grass
- **Cemetery fees and terms and conditions** – the Clerk would produce new terms and conditions, suggested fees and the process for burials at the Cemetery for the members to consider at a future meeting
- **Moles** – The Clerk reported she had employed a pest expert to remove the moles in the Cemetery
- **General issues** – the group had also looked at levelling graves, hedge cutting and general tidying of the Cemetery

15. Robins Copse

The Clerk apologised that this item had not yet been resolved. The Clerk reported a letter had been received from the resident interested in purchasing the small piece of Robins Copse in front of his house. The resident was disappointed things had taken so long but also wished to highlight his concern on the condition of the tress within this section. Cllr Laughton stated the tress had been inspected by a tree surgeon and no issues had been raised. It was stressed that Robins Copse is a wildlife area. The Clerk was instructed to obtain quotes for the possible transfer of ownership for the small section near the residents house.

16. Stow Road Telephone Kiosk

Cllr Shelton declared a non-pecuniary interest in this item as she is on the committee of the Women's Institute. A meeting took place between the Clerk, Cllr Wilson and a member of the local Women's Institute (W.I.). The W.I. would like to adopt the telephone kiosk and would be willing to undertake the refurbishment and then take responsibility for it going forward. It was suggested at the meeting that they would like to alter the colour to suffragette movement or W.I. colours and install flowers on a regular basis. The members felt this was a good use but requested if a design and quote for the refurbishment could be brought to a future meeting for a final decision. The Clerk was instructed to contact the W.I. for the information requested above.

17. Correspondence

The following correspondence had been received;

- **Steve Wilson** – Monthly Report – no Nick to read
- **Highways** – Woolpit Road (24th April – 27th April)
- **PCSO Ken Ruston** – Speedwatch
- **LCPAS** – Update
- **Councillor Vacancy** – Applications

The Chairman read the Speedwatch update from PCSO Ruston.

18. Chairman's Report

The Chairman read a letter he had received from Persimmon Homes after he had contacted them as agreed the previous month. Persimmon response had not addressed issues that the Chairman had raised on behalf of the Council. The Chairman informed members that he had written once again requesting clarification of the points originally raised, such as Persimmon considering returning to a five-way roundabout for access to the Crown Lane development.

The Chairman also reported he had not yet written to Suffolk County Council Highways Department highlighting the Councils concerns on the issues outstanding in the Parish.

19. Clerk’s Report

The Clerk reported the following;

- **Play Area** – On the recent play area inspection some issues had been highlighted that needed repair. A quote had been obtained for £900 + VAT. It was resolved to accept the quote and get the repairs completed as soon as possible.
- **War Memorial** – The Clerk reported that she had received confirmation that the memorial trough and the refurbishment of the War Memorial lettering would be completed by the end of May
- **Sign for Gate in Commister Lane** – The design for the gate sign was approved by all members and the Clerk was instructed to order and get fitted as soon as possible.
- **Village Hall** – No further information had been received from the Councils Solicitor about the application to the Land Registry

20. Councillors Reports

Cllr Wilson highlighted that the footpath sign near the telephone kiosk in Stow Road had still not been repaired, the light in Ixworth Thorpe Church was still not repaired and a quote was still needed to remove the tree stump from the green in Ixworth Thorpe. Cllr Wilson also expressed her concern that the spelling on the defibrillator direction sign was incorrect, the sign states meters rather than metres. It was agreed by all to contact the sign maker and request a new sign with the correct spelling.

Cllr Laughton reported that he had spoken to the resident of Dover Terrace about installing the Village Sign information boards on his wall. The resident has given his permission. It was agreed by all present the Cllr Laughton could get the wall ready for the signs to be attached up to a cost of £500. The Ixworth Association had already granted the Parish Council a grant for the cost of the signs and Mr Mike Dean had agreed to compose the wording.

Cllr Laughton also read to members Steve Wilsons monthly report.

Cllrs Reeve and Wilson gave their apologies for not being able to attend the May meeting.

21. Date of the Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Wednesday 9th May at 7.30pm in Ixworth Village Hall. It was confirmed that this meeting would be the Annual Parish Council meeting.

With no further business the meeting closed at 9.10pm.

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Signed

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Date