

IXWORTH AND IXWORTH THORPE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Ixworth & Ixworth Thorpe Parish Council meeting held at Ixworth Village Hall on Wednesday 11th October 2017 at 7:30pm

Present: Cllr Ben Lord (Chairman) Cllrs David Reeve, Sophia Wilson, Nick Laughton, 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 several members of the public

1. Apologies for Absence

All members were present.

2. Declaration of Interest

Cllr Wilson declared pecuniary interest in planning application DC/17/1859.

Cllrs Laughton and McFruin declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 8 – Ixworth Village Hall.

Cllr McFruin declared a pecuniary interest in planning application DC/17/1977.

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

It was agreed by all present the Chairman sign the minutes as a true record of the meeting held on 13th September 2017.

4. Public Forum

Speedwatch – Rachel Waite gave the members an update on the community Speedwatch Group and thanked C Cllr Spicer for the 30mph signs now painted on Stow Road. The team had been out on various occasions recently and in one survey on Bury Road 11 cars were observed doing over 50mph in a space of 30 minutes. Mr Sharpe invited Councillors to attend a survey to observe the work the Community Speedwatch team were doing. Rachel stated she would send times and dates to the Clerk so any interested Councillors could attend. Cllr Lord stated he would be interested in attending.

Flashing signs were again discussed and it was agreed to try and find out further information to discuss at a future meeting.

Cllr Lord enquired if there were any statistics were available from previously completed surveys. If so, these could be reported at a future meeting and thus minuted. Rachel stated she would contact PCSO Ken Ruston to see if this information was available.

Parking at the top of the High Street – A resident from Copper Court wished to highlight to the members her concerns about the cars parked at the top of the High Street. The cars mainly seemed to be employees of Vertas, working from the Fordham's site. The cars were parked on the bus stop, parking on kerbs and blocking junctions, which is extremely dangerous. The resident supplied photos for members to view.

A discussion was held about noise and parking from Vertas. B Cllr Griffiths stated his enforcement officers from St Edmundsbury Borough Council Planning Department were aware of all the issues surrounding this operation and were in the process of visiting the site to ascertain if planning permission is needed for the business to operate. B Cllr Griffiths would report back as and when further information was available.

C Cllr Spicer stated that Suffolk County Council owned Vertas, however, they were not involved in the day to day running of the operation. C Cllr Spicer reported that the lease from Fordham's stated planning was not required. C Cllr Spicer was pleased that St Edmundsbury were looking into whether a planning application was required and if it was then an application could include restrictions to working hours and number of buses on site.

Mr Sharpe wished to enquire as to when Mulley's roundabout would be tidied up as once again it was a mess and an eyesore to the entrance of Ixworth. C Cllr Spicer stated she would arrange a meeting with Suffolk County Council, the Parish Council and Marketingforce about the possibility of getting a sponsor for the roundabout so this issue could be finally sorted.

Mr Sharpe also asked when he would get a response to his recent email queries. The Clerk apologised that she had not yet sent a response and would do as soon as possible.

5. Report from County Councillor Joanna Spicer MBE

C Cllr Spicer reported the following;

School Transport – The Cabinet at Suffolk County Council had decided to go out to consultation about school transport, however, this is to be delayed whilst S.C.C. decide on how the consultation will proceed. C Cllr Spicer wished members to know that school transport did need overhauling but needed to be done correctly. C Cllr Spicer had been in touch with all concerned parties, such as local school Headteachers, for their input. As stated above C Cllr Spicer confirmed she would arrange a meeting to discuss sponsorship of Mulley's roundabout.

Cllr Lord requested if this meeting could be arranged as soon as possible as this issue had been discussed for well over a year with no action being taken.

6. Report from Borough Councillor John Griffiths MBE

B Cllr Griffiths reported the following;

Crown Lane Development – B Cllr Griffiths stated that the application for the 90 houses at the new development was still being looked into. The planning officer was still discussing with Persimmon, the applicant, various issues raised in the original application. B Cllr Griffiths stated the ghost island entrance to the new development was still the current option after St Edmundsbury Borough Councils' decision to refuse the application was overturned by the Planning Inspector.

7. Planning

Cllr Wilson left the room whilst this application was discussed –

DC/17/1859 – Removal of condition 3 of E/80/1293/P – to allow offices to be used independent of farm business – Manor Farm, Thetford Road, Ixworth Thorpe **No objection**

Cllr Wilson returned to the room

DC/17/1981 – 1no Cherry tree – fell – The Barn, 57a High Street, Ixworth **No objection**

Cllr McFruin left the room whilst this application was discussed

DC/17/1977 – 1no Beech tree, reduction of up to 2 metres of the highest branches and up to 3 metres of the lowest branches – Rookery Nook, Commister Lane, Ixworth **No objection**

Cllr McFruin returned to the room.

8. Ixworth Village Hall

Cllr Laughton, on behalf of the Village Hall Management Committee, gave the following report;

- The library will be renewing their lease for another 5 years
- The floor in the main hall will be replaced in December
- The Committee were looking at many options for the Village Hall including possibly relocating to another site

The Clerk reported that she still had not had any correspondence from the Solicitor who was assisting with getting the land registered. The Clerk was given permission if needed to approach another Solicitor is needed.

9. Neighbourhood Plan

Cllr Laughton reported that the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group had met with Gt Barton's NP Chairman and Clerk. The meeting had been very informative and a few issues were raised that needed addressing immediately, Issues needing discussing and actioned are – to employ a dedicated Clerk for the group and employ a consultant to help formulate the beginnings of the plan.

The Parish Council Clerk stated she would not like the extra hours to be the Clerk of the NP group and felt that if she were to do the job it would be at the detriment of her Parish Council work. It was agreed for the group to advertise for a Clerk. However, the Clerk would assist until a dedicated Clerk had been found.

It was agreed that the group could also look into getting assistance from a consultant on helping to start the process of starting to put together the plan.

10. Ixworth Cemetery/St Mary's Church

Cllr Lord reported that he and the Clerk had met with Rev Garbett, Mike Breffit and Frances Brown the Church Wardens at St Mary's to discuss the current grass cutting in the Churchyard. It was felt that once again the cutting was not up to standard.

It was agreed to arrange a meeting with the current grass cutting contractor with the issues and also to approach other contractors to get quotes for next year.

11. Notice Boards

The Clerk reported that the notice boards were being delivered the following week. It was decided to install the notice boards at Peacock Rise and Peddars Close in the same position. It was decided to move the notice board at Street Farm Lane to a new position near the seat on more level ground.

12. Parish Boundary

Cllr Lord reported that the Clerk had emailed the Clerk at Pakenham Parish Council to ascertain if many of their residents had approached them about moving the Parish Boundary. The Pakenham Clerk had responded to the effect that they had not had any official requests. Cllr Lord reported that moving the boundary was very complicated and involving not only moving the Parish Boundary but also the Borough, County and Parliamentary boundary also. It was agreed that Cllr Lord contact B Cllr Brown to inform him that at this time the Parish Council had decided not to pursue this matter.

13. Accounts

The following were agreed for payment;

Chq No 1144/1145	Wages	£1208.02
Chq No 1146	TOP Garden Services	£512.50
Direct Debit Nest Pensions		£8.99

The RFO was authorised to transfer £1500 by on-line transfer from the reserve account to the community account.

14. Christmas Tree

It was agreed to order the tree for the bottom of the High Street as usual but to add to an agenda in the New Year to discuss 2018 Christmas tree.

15. Robins Copse

The Clerk reported that due to the fact that she was having trouble communicating with the Solicitor this item had not been actioned. It was agreed that the Clerk could consult another Solicitor if needed. The Clerk reported she would contact the resident to update him of the situation.

Cllr Laughton reported that the Wildlife group were still working on the Copse but recently one of the trees had been struck by lightning exposing some roots.

16. Anti-Social Behaviour

Cllr Lord reported he had received the information from the residents of Peasecroft Road about the anti-social behaviour. The Clerk would scan onto the Councillors website for all to view. Cllr Lord had spoken with the Police and Havebury Housing to address the situation. The Police are very aware of the situation and Havebury Housing has started legal proceedings to address it.

17. Correspondence

The following correspondence was received;

- Ixworth Methodist Church – Toilet Twinning
- SWAG – West Suffolk Operational Hub
- Suffolk Police – Burglaries in Ixworth
- Suffolk Police – Corrie McKeague
- Steve Wilson – Monthly Report

It was agreed to support the Methodist Church in their efforts to make Ixworth a Toilet Twinning Village. The Clerk was instructed to inform them.

18. Chairman's Report

The Chairman reported the following;

Pigeon had approached him to arrange another meeting to discuss Ixworth, it was agreed by all present for the Chairman to arrange a meeting with Pigeon, Cllr Shelton and himself

The Chairman stated he would be arranging a meeting to meet with the new Headteacher of the Free School
The Chairman reminded members that Remembrance Sunday was on 12th November 2017 and members who were parading needed to be at the Fire Station at 10am.

19. Clerk's Report

The Clerk reported the following;

- The de-fib at Ixworth Thorpe would be installed in the next two weeks
- Two ideas had been suggested for the telephone kiosk in Stow Road – a small museum and an information centre
- The Clerk reported that next year more Data Protection laws were to come into effect. SALC were running a course giving further information and training. The Clerk requested permission to attend and requesting if a Councillor would also like to attend. The Clerk was given permission but no Councillors were able to volunteer or attend.

20. Councillors Reports

Cllr Wilson reported the Ixworth Village sign had been taken down to be refurbished.

Cllr Wilson also requested if the sign at the bottom of the steps in Stow Road could be replaced.

Cllr Rowe requested if it could be looked into installing a dog mess bin near the grit bin in Commister Lane.

Cllr McFruin enquired if any progress had been made on the repairs to Hempyard Bridge.

Cllr McFruin reported that trees were over growing Commister Lane.

Cllr Laughton suggested that direction signs to the de-fib at the village hall be installed around the village.

Cllr Reeve reported that the brick plinth that the village sign sits in has hairline cracks in it.

The Clerk was asked to contact S.C.C. to replace the sign on the steps in Stow Road, speak with St Edmundsbury Borough Council about installing another dog mess bin and request an update form C Cllr Spicer on Hempyard Bridge.

Cllr Rowe agreed to speak with Lee Hurrell to discuss the cracks in the brick plinth.

21. Date of the Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting was agreed as 8th November 2017 at 7.30pm in Ixworth Village Hall.

With no further business the meeting closed at 9.45pm.

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Signed

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Date