

IXWORTH AND IXWORTH THORPE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Ixworth & Ixworth Thorpe Parish Council meeting held at Ixworth Village Hall on 14th June 2017 at 7:30pm

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

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

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from – Cllrs Wilson, Laughton, Birrell and Anderson. Apologies were accepted.

2. Declarations of Interest

Cllr McFruin declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 11, Ixworth Village Hall.

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 10th May 2017.

4. Public Forum

Mrs Palastanga wished to highlight her concerns that vehicles were parking across the gate for the bridle path, leading to Hempyard Bridge in Commister Lane. A discussion was held and it was agreed to seek a quote to have a 'Please Keep Clear' sign attached to the gate.

Mr Palastanga requested permission to install a flower pot, similar to the ones in the High Street, at the War Memorial. Mr & Mrs Palastanga volunteered to look after it as they do already with the flower pots in the High Street. Permission was given.

5. Report from County Councillor Joanna Spicer MBE

C Cllr Spicer apologised again for not being able to attend the meeting in May and then reported the following;

- **Stow Road** – S.C.C. have requested authorisation for more expenditure for the 'Gateway Signs' for Stow Road
- **Ixworth Thorpe Tree** – As reported previously S.C.C. have informed Frederick Hiam that the land where the tree has fallen belongs their estate

Persimmon Planning Applications – S.C.C. had sent in two responses to the applications. Various issues were highlighted such as road layout, library, schools, pedestrian and cycle access, and the Crown Lane entrance needed to be up to an adoptable standard for two way traffic. It had been suggested that if the 5 arm roundabout application was resubmitted that S.C.C. would not have any objections.

Footbridge over the By-pass – C Cllr Spicer also reported that the Chairman and she had met with Suffolk County Council officers to discuss the footbridge over the by-pass. S.C.C. officers suggested a cost of £750,000. The Chairman, Cllr Lord, distrusted this cost as previously he had completed some work on this project and the cost had been significantly smaller. S.C.C. is also looking at a safe crossing at Mulley's roundabout. This expenditure would be much less at a projected cost of up to £100,000.

After a discussion it was agreed that Cllr Lord would look again at the costs for a footbridge and if it was viable then the Parish council would request S106 expenditure to deliver this project.

Crown Lane Development Site – C Cllr Spicer reported that By Pass Farms now had the draft masterplan for the area.

6. Report from Borough Councillor John Griffiths MBE

B Cllr Griffiths reported the following;

- **Persimmon Planning Applications** – St Edmundsbury planning department were also looking into various issues raised by the application. Issues raised included affordable housing, parking design and access.
- **St Edmundsbury Borough Council & Forest Heath** – B Cllr Griffiths informed members that St Edmundsbury Borough Council had voted to explore the possibility of merging with Forest Heath District Council.

7. Neighbourhood Plan

Cllr Lord informed members the first meeting had been held on 5th June 2017. It was disappointing how few residents had attended but hoped more would attend the next meeting in July. A consultation period had started by St Eds to designate the Parish a Neighbourhood Plan area. The consultation finished on 25th June 2017.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 19th July at 7pm in the Fire Station.

8. Planning

DC/17/0930 – single storey rear extension (following demolition of existing extensions) – Hilltop House, High Street, Ixworth **No objection**

DC/17/0966 – Listed building consent for various work (see West Suffolk website) The Old Dairy, 45 High Street, Ixworth **No objection**

DC/17/0936 – (i) replace existing C20th shopfront with 2no sash windows and rebuild walls to match existing (ii) replace existing door and door case – The Old Drapery, 9 High Street, Ixworth **No objection**

DC/17/1078 – 2no Plum tree & 1no Rowen tree, cut back to boundary by up to 3 metres – Nurses House, Thetford Road, Ixworth **No objection**

9. Insurance

The Clerk had obtained quotes from three insurance companies. Zurich, the company the Council were currently with, was the best value at £962.99. Zurich had also agreed to hold the price if the Council were happy to sign a five year plan. It was agreed by all present to accept the quote from Zurich and sign up to the five year plan.

10. Accounts

The following were agreed for payment;

Chq No 1110/1111	Wages	£1184.57
Chq No 1112	H M Rev & Customs	£417.19
Chq No 1113	RBA Solutions	£264.00
Chq No 1114	Ixworth Village Hall	£337.50
Chq No 1115	Tripp Batt	£21.62
Chq No 1116	Community Heartbeat	£1901.00
Chq No 11017	S Wilson	£176.10
Chq No 1118	A Adlington	£129.70
Chq No 1119	G Palastanga	£37.70
Direct Debit Nest Pensions		£8.52

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

The internal auditor reported verbally to the RFO that there were no issues to report in the accounts dated 1st April 2016 to 31st March 2017.

After reviewing the figures in Section 2, the Accounting Statement of the Annual Return, for year ending 31st March 2017 it was resolved that these figures were correct. It was resolved that the Chairman and Clerk could sign this section of the form.

After reviewing Section 1, the Annual Governance Statement of the Annual Return, for year ending 31st March 2016 it was resolved that the Council had ensured there is a sound system of internal control. It was resolved that the Chairman and Clerk could sign this section of the form.

It was resolved the fidelity guarantee was sufficient at £250.000

11. Ixworth Village Hall

The Chairman reported that advice from Joanna Peek, the Council's Solicitor, had been received about ownership of the Village Hall and the Playing Fields. Ms Peek advised that the Parish Council were legal owners of the land to be held in trust for the Charity. Ms Peek also suggested the Parish Council register the land. After a discussion a few points were raised as to changes when the Village Hall Management becomes a Charitable Incorporated Organisation. It was agreed to request further advice as to ownership of the land once the Charitable Incorporated Organisation is established. Further information was needed on the following, which organisation holds the value of the assets at present and if the Parish Council would transfer the ownership of the land to the new Charitable Incorporated Organisation.

12. Robins Copse

The Clerk reported she was still waiting for a quote from a Solicitor for transferring the land. Mr Cobbold had been informed and would be contacted again once all relevant information had been obtained.

13. Training

The Clerk reported she had received information about training sessions on all aspects of planning. The Clerk was instructed to obtain further information about how long each session would take and report back to the members. Cllrs McFruin and Shelton expressed an interest in attending Councillor courses at SALC. The Clerk would furnish them with times and dates.

14. Ixworth Cemetery

It was agreed to accept the quote from Old Parsonage Gardening Services. The contract would be awarded for the next three years. Cllr Lord reported the working party had met at the Cemetery and quotes were being sought for suggested work needed. Once all quotes had been received the working party would report back to members at a future meeting.

It was agreed by all present not to install a wild flower garden at this time until negotiations on the purchase of the land next to the Cemetery was completed.

15. Notice Boards

The Clerk reported the three notice boards within the village at Street Farm Lane, Peddars Close and Peacock Rise were in need of replacing. It was agreed to replace with non-door notice boards of a similar size. Cllr McFruin volunteered to obtain quotes and report back to members at a future meeting.

16. Communication/Correspondence

The following correspondence had been received;

- **N King** – Ixworth Free School
- **Magpas** – Donation Request
- **LCPAS** – Planning Training
- **West Suffolk** – Stow Road Kiosk
- **St Eds** – Delegation Panel (May)
- **Anglian Water** – New Account Number
- **Alice Martin** – Tree Wardens

It was agreed by all present to give MAGPAS a grant of £200.

Cllr Lord expressed his concern that the Parish Council do not communicate with the Parish effectively. Cllr Lord suggested starting a Parish Surgery on a regular basis so that residents could come along and discuss any issues they have concerns with. It was agreed to look into this and the Clerk was instructed to obtain advice from SALC on this matter.

17. Annual Parish Meeting

The Chairman reported that the APM had been held on 24th May 2017. Unfortunately, on the notice boards the date was incorrectly advertised. The Clerk apologised for this error.

18. Chairman's Report

The Chairman reported that he had not yet written the letter of support to the Primary School. The letter would be written shortly.

19. Clerk's Report

The Clerk reported the agreement for adopting the Stow Road telephone kiosk had been received. However, it was noticed that the agreement was incorrectly written as Ixworth Thorpe Parish Council. The Clerk was instructed to obtain a new agreement with the correct title.

The Clerk reported the trough for the War Memorial had been ordered.

20. Councillor Reports

Cllr Shelton reported that when the new lines were painted in the High Street the disabled bay was now larger. Cllr Reeve enquired if anything had been received from Hawards Horological about St Mary's Clock face. It was agreed Cllr Reeve contact them to ascertain if any progress on this project had been made.

21. Date of the Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Wednesday 12th July at 7.30pm in Ixworth Village Hall.

With no further business the meeting closed at 9.25pm

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Signed

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Date