

IXWORTH AND IXWORTH THORPE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of Ixworth & Ixworth Thorpe Parish Council meeting held in Ixworth Village Hall on Wednesday 12th March 2025 at 7:30pm

Present: Councillors (Cllrs) Lord (Chairman), Kate Rees, John Rowe, Tony Molloy, Sam Linton and Terry Lilley.

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

Due to the clerk's injury, Mrs Heather Jermy was engaged as a note-taker.

Abbreviations

I&ITPC – Ixworth & Ixworth Thorpe Parish Council, Cllr/Cllrs – Councillor/Councillors, C Cllr – County Councillor, D Cllr – District Councillor, PC – Parish Council, WSC – West Suffolk Council, RFO -Responsible Finance Officer, SCC – Suffolk County Council, NCC – Norfolk County Council - NP – Neighbourhood Plan, APM – Annual Parish Meeting

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from the following Cllrs –

Cllr Shelton – transport – apology accepted.

Cllr Stephen Mann – illness – apology accepted.

Cllr Clare Black – work commitments – apology accepted.

2. Declarations of Interest

No declarations were made.

3. Minutes of the Previous Meetings

After a small alteration from the distributed draft minutes, it was resolved that the Chairman sign the minutes as a true record of the meeting held on Wednesday 12th, 19th and 26th February 2025.

4. Neighbourhood Plan

WSC confirmed that the NP would go to Referendum on 8th May 2025. It was agreed that while all members were very disappointed that references to a footbridge over the by-pass had been removed, the many other good policies within the plan needed to be supported. It was agreed to support the plan but inform residents that the PC had wanted the footbridge included, however, the decision was made by the Plan Inspector to remove it. The inspector of the NP had no option but to remove it as the emerging WSC Local Plan does not mention a footbridge meant that the Ixworth & Ixworth Thorpe NP has to conform to the emerging WSC Local Plan.

It was agreed that the PC would lobby strongly through their response to get the footbridge included in the WSC Local Plan and would encourage all residents to respond to the WSC Local Plan Consultation if they wished for a safe crossing over the by-pass.

It was agreed that any statement produced should be a positive statement on the plan while informing the public the disappointment on the footbridge and that the PC were overruled by WSC to remove it from the NP.

Action: Clerk & Cllr Lord

5. Public Forum

The following comments were received from members of the public present;

- **NP** – a resident confirmed the NP Inspector had no option but to remove the footbridge from the NP and agreed lobbying through the emerging WSC Local Plan was a good idea
- **Planning Application Baileypool Lane** – a resident suggested objecting to this application as it had been previously turned down and previous reasons for turning it down had not been resolved
- **Notice Board** - a resident requested that as it was near the end of the financial year would there be any surplus in the budget to purchase a notice board for Stow Road near the school and possibly Commister Lane.

The Chairman informed the public that the PC had not yet considered the Baileypool Lane application as they were waiting for further information.

The RFO would be finalising the end of year accounts to present to the Council. At this point if there was a surplus the members would consider and agree where surplus could be used.

6. Reports from County & District Councillors

D Cllr Griffiths sent his apologies for not being able to attend the meeting.

C Cllr Spicer reported the following:

- **Devolution** – It has been suggested that an Election for a Mayor for Suffolk/Norfolk may take place in May 2026. The consultation on Devolution will run until mid-April. SCC and NCC are both supporting devolution plans.
- **Unitary** - the Government wish to remove 2 tier County Authorities. WSC do not support this suggestion and SCC will decide shortly. Each Council have to make business cases to support their views.
- **Libraries** – the decision to in house Suffolk library services had not yet been made. Cllr Spicer stated that there would be no closures and no reduction in hours. Cllr Spicer would update the members as and when she had further information.

7. Planning

The following applications were considered –

DC/25/0221/HH – single storey rear link extension – Walnut View Cottage, Ixworth **Support**
DC/25/0286/TCA – one Robinia, overall crown reduction up to five metres – 4 Beeches Close, Ixworth **Support**
DC/25/0005/HH Re-consultation – a, outdoor swimming pool, b, rear garden room, c, air source heat pump – The Priory, High Street, Ixworth **Support**

8. Planning Other

The Chairman informed members that a Bloor Homes planning application had been submitted for a housing development in Stanton. Although I&ITPC are not a direct consultee the Chairman felt a response was required. After a discussion it was agreed that the Chairman submit a response from I&ITPC especially highlighting the impact additional traffic would have on the Parish.

Action: Cllr Lord

9. Finance

The following payments were agreed for payment –

BACS	Staffing	£2021.39
BACS	H M Revenue & Customs	£497.51
BACS	Jose ACOSTA	£783.74
BACS	Cloudy IT	£134.58
BACS	Ixworth VH	£38.50
BACS	A E Thurlow	£4439.00
BACS	A Adlington	£154.40
	(expenses)	
Chq No: 1484	Resident	£1500.00
	(Burial refund)	
BACS	Viking	£324.17
BACS	Create Consultancy	£1824.00
BACS	Anglian Water	£33.57
Direct Debit NEST		£58.27

The RFO was authorised to transfer £16000 from the Business account to the Community account.

Action: RFO

10. Planning Strategy

The following was agreed to inform residents of upcoming planning application and the Neighbourhood Plan.

- A Parish Forum would be held on 26th March 2025 at 7pm in the Village Hall to inform residents of upcoming NP Referendum and proposed planning application.
- An additional PC meeting would be held on 2nd April so residents could express their views on the proposed planning application for the housing development on the land of Bardwell Road. The agenda would only contain statutory items, public forum and any other application received.
- The PC meeting on 9th April would consider the planning application for the housing development of Bardwell Road and the Council would agree their response considering any comments received from the public attending on 2nd April. It was agreed to try to cut the agenda items to give Cllrs enough time to discuss the application. An extension had been agreed by WSC to Friday 11th 2025 for the PC to consider the application.

It was agreed that Cllr Lord would book the Village hall and advertise the Parish Forum and addition meeting on social media and the Clerk would add to the website..

Action: Cllr Lord & Clerk

11. Community Recreation Working Group

Cllr Lord informed members that the Consultancy Group were going to hold a residents meeting on 2nd April at the Village Hall between 4pm & 6pm. The meeting is to gain residents views and gain evidence to assist the PC on what is required from S106 contributions from the upcoming developments planned for Ixworth.

The members were informed that any Rights of Way applications needed to be led by the PC.

12. Clerk Vacancy

The Chairman informed all present that so far three applications had been received for the current vacancy. Due to the personal information in the application under GDPR regulation, this would be discussed in item 20.

13. WSC Local Plan

It was agreed to request the assistance of the consultant who is aiding the PC on various issues around the Parish to aid in formulating the PC response. It was agreed that the response should strongly mention the need for a footbridge over the by-pass. It was agreed that Cllr Lord would speak with the consultant and distribute the response prior to the April meeting. If all agreed at the April meeting the response can be submitted prior to the consultation deadline.

Action: Cllr Lord

14. Annual Parish Meeting

It was resolved to hold the APM on 21st Mar 2025 at 7pm. The venue would be confirmed at the April Meeting.

Cllr Linton volunteered to assist the Clerk in arranging the event.

Action: Clerk & Cllr Linton

15. Clerk's Report

The Clerk informed members that a meeting with St Mary's Church Warden had been arranged for 27th March 2025.

16. Chairman's Report

The Chairman informed members that he had attended a meeting, with various stakeholders present, to discuss the kebab van. Unfortunately, there seems to be course to prosecute and have the van removed.

Cllr Lord was informed the owners of the van are applying for a street licence.

17. Correspondence

The following correspondence had been received;

- **A Gibb (Ixworth High School)** – Litter
- **Chris McManigan** – CRWG Work
- **Resident** – Village Hall Access (passed to VH)
- **East Anglian Air Ambulance** – Information
- **Richard Ball** – Brambles Thetford Rd/Commister Lane
- **C Cllr Spicer** – Stowlangtoft Road Closure
- **SCC** - Bridge Farm Bridge
- **SCC** – Various Road Closures
- **WSC** – Local Plan Consultation

It was agreed that as some items had already been discussed throughout the meeting no further responses were required.

18. Councillors Reports

No further reports were made –

Cllr Rees wished to highlight the social media posts concerning dogs fouling the playing field at the Village Hall. It was felt this was unfortunate incidents when there were four bins on the playing fields, two in the village hall car park and one at the exit onto Crown Lane where dog walkers could dispose of their dog’s waste.

19. Date of the Next Meeting

As discussed in item 10 the dates of the next Parish Council meetings were confirmed as Wednesday 2nd April & Wednesday 9th April. 2025 at 7.30pm in Ixworth Village Hall.

An additional meeting, not an official PC meeting, to inform residents of upcoming planning and NP Referendum was agreed to be held on Wednesday 26th March 2025 at 7pm.

20. Exclusion of Press & Public

to resolve that under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public be excluded from the meeting due to the confidential nature of the business to be discussed

- (i) Staffing
- (ii) Cemetery Management

The press and public were excluded at 9.15pm.

With no further business the meeting closed at 9.40pm.

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Signed

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Date