

IXWORTH & IXWORTH THORPE PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman: Councillor Ben Lord
Clerk: Claire Usher
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Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 13th August 2025

At Ixworth Village Hall

Councillors Present: Ben Lord (Chairman), Terry Lilley, Sam Linton, Stephen Mann, Kate Rees and John Rowe

Others in attendance: Claire Usher (Clerk) and 2 members of the public.

130825/01 **Apologies for absence:** Cllr Black and Tony Molloy. All Councillors resolved to accept the apologies.

130825/02 **Declarations of Interest (DoI):** None.

Dispensation: Councillors noted no requests had been received and none were requested at the meeting.

130825/03 **Minutes of previous meeting:** All Councillors resolved to accept the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 9th July and the extraordinary meeting held on 22nd July 2025 as a true reflection of the decisions made and authorised Cllr Lord to sign the minutes.

Public Forum:

130825/04 No questions were received.

130825/05 **County Councillor Report:** County Councillor Joanna Spicer sent her apologies.
District Councillor Report: District Councillor John Griffiths sent his apologies.

Planning:

130825/06 Councillors considered the following application made to the local District Council relating to Ixworth since the last parish council meeting:

DC/25/1201/LB – Application for Listed Building Consent -a. internal studwork partitions to create lobby b. new external door c. new internal door to allow access to the kitchen, 17 High Street – Councillors supported this application.

DC/25/1254/TCA – Trees in a conservation area notification – one elderberry and two hawthorn to fell, 8 Council Houses, Stow Road – Councillors supported this application.

Neighbourhood Plan – Cllr Lord reported that Ixworth and Ixworth Thorpe Neighbourhood Plan had now been adopted by West Suffolk Council. To monitor the plan including its implementation in planning applications it was felt that a Councillor be responsible for this. It was agreed that Cllr Mann take on this role.

Persimmon Homes: Cllr Lord and Cllr Rees reported that they had met with Bidwells to discuss the land for the future expansion of the existing cemetery. Cllr Lord had explained that an extension was unlikely to be required for some years, but the issue was the access to the cemetery as the existing access from Crown Lane and through the gate is very narrow. Bidwell's confirmed that the cemetery extension is not CIL compliant and therefore could not be included in a section 106 agreement. The land could be set aside as open space with a proposal outside planning to transfer land at a future date. An access to and from Scott Road to the cemetery could be considered by Persimmon Homes and delivered by a private agreement. Bidwell's to confirm the proposed approach. Cllr Lord informed Bidwell's that the preferred location for the village hall is at its current site but needed upgrading or rebuilt as evidenced by a recent community engagement. Cllr Lord confirmed that a 'vision' for improvements to the village hall had been sent to West Suffolk Council.

Cllr Lord also asked if there was merit in a one-way road connection into the site from Crown Lane to help alleviate congestion in Crown Lane. Persimmon homes will explore this option, parking bays for school buses and the location of the proposed sub-station.

Village Hall Vision Document and 106 legal Agreement

The Clerk advised Cllr Mann that he should declare an interest in this matter as a Trustee of the Jiggins Trust, but Cllr Mann made the decision not to declare an interest and wished to remain in the meeting and listen to the debate but not take part.

Cllr Lord confirmed that this had been submitted to West Suffolk Council.

Finance:

- 130825/07 All Councillors confirmed receipt of the finance report for the period ending 31st July 2025.
- 130825/08 **Bank Reconciliation** – Councillors received a bank reconciliation report prepared by the Clerk, the Community Account as of 31st July 2025 £10,875.70, the Business Account as of 31st July 2025 £106,136.28, total £117,011.98.
- 130825/09 **Budget to actual Payments and Receipts:** Councillors noted the report.
- 130825/10 **Receipts:** The Clerk confirmed that £275 had been received under Cemetery Income.
- 130825/11 **Payments:** All Councillors resolved to approve the following gross payments by internet banking confirming a full schedule, supported by invoices and receipts, had been received prior to the meeting:

	Payee	Details	£
130825/12	Claire Usher	Clerks Wage	1093.62

130825/13	H Jermy	Waste Collection	494.71
130825/14	R Pye	Caretaker Cemetery	164.90
130825/15	Jose Mendez Acosta	Grounds Maintenance	783.74
130825/16	Claire Usher	Expenses	66.38
130825/17	Claire Usher	Mileage	43.20
130825/18	CloudyIT	Monthly Payment	134.58
130825/19	Arco Ltd	Supplies	114.96
130825/20	Greene & Greene	Fees – High Street	2100.00
130825/21	PKF Littlejohn	External Audit	378.00
130825/22	Clarkes of Walsham	Supplies	91.49
130825/23	Clarkes of Walsham	Supplies	42.99
130825/24	Jiggins Trust	Room Hire	19.25
130825/25	Jiggins Trust	Room Hire	45.15

The Chairman was authorised to transfer £5,000.00 from the Business account to the Community account.

- 130825/26 **Community Engagement:** Cllr Lord reported that a recent survey in Moreton Hall—called *The Big Listen* had gathered input from over 360 residents, including children, to identify key concerns and aspirations for their community. Cllr Lord felt this would be a good exercise for Ixworth, following a similar model, it could be a powerful way to engage residents and shape local priorities—from infrastructure and transport to community spaces and services. Surveys like these don’t just gather data—they build trust and give people a voice in shaping their village’s future. All Councillors agreed that this would be a valuable piece of work and asked the Clerk to obtain a copy of the survey and to look at producing a questionnaire for Ixworth and Ixworth Thorpe residents.
- 130825/27 **Outstanding Actions and Clerks Report:** – All outstanding actions from the last meeting had been completed.
- 130825/28 **Health and Safety:** Cllr Lilley reported that he and the Clerk had met with Heather Jermy regarding the purchase of safety wear and the risk assessment report for her role. The play area needed some minor maintenance and asked if the Play Area Working Group could meet before the next Parish Council meeting.
- 130825/29 **Chairman’s Report:** Cllr Lord reported that he had received an email from Rev Karen Burton that two trustees wished to resign from the IRIN and was requesting two nominations from the Parish Council. It was agreed that Cllr Lord and Cllr Rowe be nominated to the IRIN.
- 130825/30 **Councillors Reports:** Cllr Rees highlighted the problems of parking outside the doctor’s surgery.
- 130825/31 **Correspondence:**
The Clerk reported that no other correspondence.
- 130825/32 **Any other Council business for information to be noted or for inclusion in a future agenda:** None

130825/33 All Councillors noted that the next meeting of the Parish Meeting will be at 7.30pm
on Wednesday 10th September 2025 at the Village Hall.

130825/34 The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.20pm.

Signed

Date