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 9th September 2026
At Ixworth Village Hall

Councillors Present: Ben Lord (Chairman), Terry Lilley, Stephen Mann, Tony Molloy and Kate Rees

Others in attendance: Claire Usher (Clerk) and County Councillor Harry Richardson, District Councillor John Griffiths and 2 members of the public

090926/01 **Apologies for absence**: Cllr Rowe. This was accepted by all Councillors.

090926/02 **Declarations of Interest**: None

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

090926/03 **Minutes of previous meeting:** All Councillors resolved to accept the minutes of the Parish Council meetings held on 8th July and 5th August 2026 as a true reflection of the decisions made.

090926/04 **Public Forum**: No questions from members of the public.

County Councillor Report: Cllr Richardson's report had been circulated before the meeting. He reported that the Government had paused its reorganisation of local government pending a review, with an update expected next month. He also reported that a new A143 Resilience Group had been established in response to recent problems on the A143 and insufficient information about proposed works and diversion routes. The group includes Cllr Richardson, the Chairman, and the chairmen of Stanton and Bardwell Parish Councils. It will continue to press Suffolk County Council Highways for clearer communication. Cllr Richardson had also met with the Head of the Primary School and the Chairman to discuss the Persimmon Homes site and the proposed new primary school, whether there was a need for a new school, whether the site could be used for other educational uses especially as these 106 monies were ring fenced for educational purposes.

He had also met with Suffolk County Council Highways to discuss the proposed footbridge over the A143 and that they were looking to carry out a business case.

District Councillor Report: Cllr Griffiths agreed and supported the work being carried out by the A143 Resilience Group and the works around the footbridge. As regards Local Government Reorganisation, he confirmed there will be district and parish council elections in May 2027.

Planning:

090926/05 Councillors noted that no planning applications had been made to West Suffolk Council relating to the Parish since the last meeting.

Councillors noted that no planning decisions had been made since the last meeting except for the application off Crown Lane.

Finance:

090926/06 Bank Reconciliation – Councillors received a bank reconciliation report prepared by the Clerk, the Community Account as of 31st August 2026 £3,085.08, in the Business Account, and as of 31st August 2026 £115,751.13, total £118,836.21

090926/07 Budget to Actual Report – All Councillors had received the report.

090926/08 Receipts: The Clerk confirmed that £410 had been received in Burials.

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090926/09 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	£
090926/10	Claire Usher	Clerks Wage	1309.56
090926/11	R Pye	Caretaker Cemetery	131.92
090926/12	HMRC	PAYE	101.44
090926/13	Claire Usher	Expenses	103.20
090926/14	Jose Mendez Acosta	Cemetery Maintenance	858.74
090926/15	Cloudy IT	IT	114.32
090926/16	Playdale Playgrounds	Train Works	800.56
090926/17	Paul Sparks	Burial	110.00
090926/18	Anglian Water	Cemetery	34.45
090926/19	Village Hall	Hire of Hall	22.00

090926/20 **Grant Application Ixworth Football Club:** The Clerk reported that an application had been received for a £1,000 grant towards work completed 18 months earlier to level the playing field with topsoil and re-seed the pitch. She advised that the Council could not retrospectively fund an invoice for work already completed by the Football Club. Before the application was submitted, the Clerk had contacted the applicant to confirm when the work had taken place. The applicant stated that an application had been made 12 months earlier; however, the Clerk confirmed that no application had been received, and the Chairman supported this as outlined in the July 2026 minutes. Councillors unanimously agreed that a grant could not be awarded for work completed 18 months earlier and agreed not to proceed with the application.

Following the discussion, a question was raised about the proposed new fencing around the children's play area. Cllr Mann confirmed that, under the Council's current management agreement, the Parish Council was responsible for the fencing. The Chairman stated that the Jiggens Trust had been proposing a new lease while the current management agreement remained valid and in force. That agreement continued to be relied upon as the basis for charging the Parish Council a peppercorn rent for the play area; however, communications about the proposed lease had stalled over the previous 12 months, largely due to limited communication from the Chair of the Jiggens Trust. Dog fouling and the new measures introduced were not matters for the Parish Council; however, the Council would object if the Jiggens Trust proposed closing either the play area or the playing field.

It was felt that there needed to be better communication between both parties, and it was proposed and agreed that all members of the Parish Council and the Jiggens Trust meet to discuss these issues, including the fencing and how both parties could source funding for this project. In the first instance it was agreed that the Chairman would attend the forthcoming Jiggens Trust AGM to ascertain their current intentions around this matter.

090926/21 **Grounds Maintenance Contract:** The Clerk reported that the existing contract will end on 30th September 2026. The contract may need amending to include two grass cuts to the rear of the churchyard. The Clerk to contact the Reverend. In the meantime, it was agreed to let the contract continue with the current contractor until 31st December 2026 whilst a new contract was prepared for tender to commence 1st January 2027.

090926/22 **Outstanding Actions**: All Councillors had received a copy of the report prior to the meeting.

090926/23 **Health & Safety Update**: No update.

090926/24 **Chairman's Report**: Cllr Lord updated Councillors in respect of the new A143 Resilience Group as mentioned earlier in the evening. He had attended a meeting with Suffolk County Council Highways in relation to the proposed

footbridge over the A143 and that following this they had agreed to prepare a better detailed business plan. He reported that Stanton Parish Council had arranged a meeting with Jaynic regarding the Shepherds Grove, Stanton and Hepworth Hybrid planning application and all neighbouring parishes had been invited to attend. Unfortunately, he would be unable to attend and Cllr Rees agreed to attend on behalf of the Parish Council. Lastly, the Chairman had received reports that the defibrillator cabinet had been left open for no reason and that the contact details on the cabinet were out of date. It was agreed that due to the age of the cabinet that it be replaced with a new one.

090926/25 Councillor's Reports: Cllr Molloy reported that there were currently a number of water leaks in the village and he will report these to Anglian Water.

090926/26 Correspondence: The Clerk had received notification regarding the proposed street names for the Persimmon development of which all Councillors had objected to. The names proposed had no connection to the village and the Chairman will respond expressing the Council's dissatisfaction with the suggestions.

090926/27 Any other Council business for information to be noted or for inclusion in a future agenda: None

090926/28 All Councillors noted that the next meeting of the Parish Council will be at 7.30pm on Wednesday 14th October 2026 in the Village Hall, Ixworth.

090926/29 The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.20pm

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Signed ……..

Date ……