

THE SAXHAMS PARISH COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of the AVM held on 12 May 2016

At St Nicholas Church, Little Saxham

Present:

Councillors: Michael Burt (Chairman), Carol Hall (Councillor), Helen Ferguson (Councillor), Sue Dunn (Councillor), Jonathan Clarke (Councillor), Lisa Gleave (Clerk)

The Chairman, Michael Burt welcomed 8 people to the meeting including the councillors listed above.

Action

Apologies for Absence – Fred Gittus, Jennie Moody.

1. Minutes of the AVM held on 14 May 2015 – The Chairman summarised the Minutes from last year's meeting. It was agreed that the flyer advertising the AVM is bland. This will be revamped for next year. Lisa Gleave
2. Matters arising during the year
 - Welcome Guide – If Parishioners know of anyone moving to the village they should contact the clerk who will provide a Welcome Guide.
 - Phone Box - The phone box can be adopted from BT by organisations for £1. Nobody has come forward with any ideas of what it could be used for ie library, plant sales etc. The phone remains in working order.
 - Website – Chairman explained the PC now has a website. This enables it to comply with the new Transparency Code. The PC is required to publish Agendas, Minutes and financial information. Parishioners can keep up to date with developments if they are unable to attend meetings. The website address is <http://thesaxhams.onesuffolk.net>. If you wish to be notified of forthcoming meetings by email please contact the clerk.
3. Suffolk Police – No Police were present but the attached Newsletter was provided. The community raised concerns over street begging in Bury St Edmunds Town Centre, youth anti-social behaviour at the Nature Reserve, Springfield Road, Bury St Edmunds and rural dwelling burglaries. Suffolk Police responded by sending out 7 warning letters/notices and making 1 arrest for persistent begging offences. Patrols are being conducted at the Nature Reserve and Police are working with the 3 High Schools. Patrols and Crime Reduction Work is being carried out in rural areas.
4. St Edmundsbury Borough Council – Cllr Ian Houlder was not in attendance and no report was available. The Chairman explained the PC had some concerns over the West Suffolk Operational Hub consultation. People were asked across West Suffolk for their views on where a waste hub for West Suffolk should be sited. Simonds Farm is one of the potential sites but at the time of the consultation it was unlikely Symonds Farm would be the chosen site. The consultation period has expired but it is still not clear what the outcome will be. We will continue to liaise with the Borough Council for updates.
5. Suffolk County Council – County Cllr Terry Clements was not in attendance. The Chairman read out his attached report. Briefly, Council Tax is to be frozen for a sixth year in a row. The Council has made savings of £170million since 2011/12 and needs to make further savings of over £80million during the next two years. SCC has achieved its target savings to date and looks set to achieve next year's target. Suffolk's education attainment results have increased by

Signed

Chair

Date

2.6% from last year's provisional results and see Suffolk rise 17 places in the overall league table, going from 124th to 107th. The PC is grateful to Terry for all his support throughout the year.

6. Parish Council (Chairman's Report/Outline Accounts) – The Chairman explained we need about £5000 each year to operate as a Parish Council. That is to represent the views of our local community in The Saxhams and to carry out responsibilities in looking after such assets as the Play Area. It is good governance to keep 1 years reserve in the Bank. The Chairman ran through the accounts management summary for the year ending 31 March 2015. The accounts for 2014/15 were accepted by everyone present.

As a Council, we value continued support and feedback from villagers. We have approximately 5 meetings a year and villagers are encouraged to attend.

Over the last year, we have taken action to tackle speeding vehicles. We have shared use of a VAS unit with neighbouring parishes of Barrow and Westley. The sign is mounted periodically at one of 3 designated sites within Great and Little Saxham. The PC is very grateful to County Councillor Terry Clements for his support with this project.

7. Village Events:

Various options were discussed for celebrating the Queen's 90th Birthday. A coffee morning/litter pick was considered. Enquiries will be made to see if anyone will organise such an event. The PC will provide its support. The PC has also written to various businesses on Little Saxham Business Park to request they organise a litter pick to "Clean for the Queen" as there is a lot of litter accumulating in that area.

On 31 July 2017 there is a BBQ/ Tug of War taking place at Glebe Paddocks/ Gt Saxham Playing Field. Villagers wishing to participate should organise a team of 6.

Church Service at St Andrews Church, Gt Saxham on 3 July 2017 at 10.30 am to commemorate the Battle of Somme.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and the meeting was declared closed at 7.50pm. A brief Parish Council meeting will now follow.

Contact details:

Michael Burt	01284 810134	mike_burt@btopenworld.com
Jonathan Clarke	01284 810408	jgc.saxham@btinternet.com
Helen Ferguson	01284 811696	helen.alletson@btinternet.com
Fred Gittus	01284 810692	fred@gittus.me.uk
Jennie Moody	01284 811605	jennie@moodyblues.plus.com
Carol Hall	01284 850302	dancinggrave@hotmail.com
Sue Dunn	01284 810803	suedunnfba@msn.com
Lisa Gleave (Clerk)	01284 811986	lisa.gleave@hotmail.co.uk

Signed

Chair

Date