

# THE SAXHAMS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the AVM held on 17<sup>th</sup> May 2018

At St Nicholas Church Little Saxham

**Present:**

Councillors: Michael Burt (Chairman), Helen Ferguson (Councillor), Sue Dunn (Councillor), Jonathan Clarke (Councillor), Michelle Thompson (Clerk)

The Chairman, Michael Burt welcomed 20 people to the meeting including the councillors listed above.

**Action**

Apologies for Absence – Jennie Moody, Ian Houlder (Borough Councillor)  
Catherine Burt, Fiona Hilder, Peter Hilder

1. Minutes of the AVM held on 18<sup>th</sup> May 2017 – The Chairman summarised the Minutes from last year's meeting
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.
  - County Councillor Terry Clements has stepped down. Terry has been very supportive of The Saxhams and we are grateful for the work he has done for us. We wish him all the best in his new role as Mayor. Karen Soons has since been elected County Councillor and has also been actively engaging with the Parish
  - Barrow Cycle Path – Bury St. Edmunds to Barrow
3. Suffolk Police – P.C Mark Ellis attended and gave a report stating that we live in an area of low level criminal activity and shared crime statistics.

He detailed the following figures that related to The Saxhams Parish, although the majority of incidents were linked to Saxham Business Park.

1 Anti-Social Behaviour Order (ASBO)  
1 Assaults  
1 Criminal Offence  
1 Mental Health (Saxham Business Park)  
3 Crimes reports on Protective Vulnerable Person  
9 Thefts

Signed

Chair

Date

4. St Edmundsbury Borough Council – Cllr Ian Houlder was not in attendance and the chairman read out his report for the year.

Over the past year the Borough has seen many progressing projects, particularly so with housing and business development seeing large scale housing schemes in both Bury St Edmunds and Haverhill. On a local note Manns gained permission to rebuild and extend at The Saxham Business Park and planning permission has been granted for a Lorry Park off the A14 between Saxham and Risby.

St Edmundsbury Borough Council is due to amalgamate with Forest Heath to form a new West Suffolk Authority; this is likely to see the number of Councillors reduced. Ian Houlder indicated his willingness to stand again for the Barrow Ward in the 2019 elections if selected

5. Suffolk County Council – Cllr Karen Soons – Annual Report of Thingoe South

Karen who is the Chair of the Audit Committee and the Deputy Chair of the SCC Pension Fund Committee went on to give a summary of what had happened over this last year: -

After one of the worst winters ever S.C.C. spent £60M on our roads.

April 2017 saw the first official Research School; Samuel Ward Academy in the East of England. It has 15 schools spread over Haverhill Newmarket Sudbury and Bury St Edmunds and has been awarded £200,000 to become a focus point on educational research

Suffolk passes 90% Fibre Broadband Milestones as Suffolk County Council signs a new contract to extent coverage to 98% during 2020.

Energy Efficiency Grants are now available for local Retail Business in Suffolk through funding from the EU.

Suffolk County Council Children Services continue to improve, following an Ofsted Pilot Inspection they are rated “Good” in all areas.

Suffolk is chosen for one of ten pilot areas to retain 100% of Business Rates.

Working with Suffolk Climate Change Partnership, Suffolk County Council will be able to help 514 fuel poor households across Suffolk.

An additional £21M over the next three years has been announced to repair and resurface the County’s roads.

GCSE and A Level results have progressed in Suffolk with 3 % more students achieving the expected standard in English and Maths.

Signed

Chair

Date

Nicola Beech took over as the new Chief Executive of Suffolk County Council

Karen covered some of the Sporting Highlights which included The Great East Swim, OVO Energy Tour of Britain and the Great East Run.

6. Parish Council (Chairman's Report/Outline Accounts) –

The Chairman explained that the PC asked for a precept of £6000 to be collected on our behalf, on residents Council Tax Bills for 2017-18. This amounts to approx. £1 per week for most properties for the PC to represent the views of the local community in The Saxhams and to carry out responsibilities in looking after such assets as the Play Area.

With a donation from the Great Saxham United Charities and a Grant from Ian Houlder at the Borough Council Locality Fund of £1500 we have been able to refurbish and modernise the Play Area.

During this year our Parish Council has lost two long serving Councillors, Mr. Fred Grittus who sadly passed away and Mrs. Carol Hall who has retired. We would therefore like to show the appreciation of the local community for the work they have undertaken throughout the years and we are currently looking to Co-Opt two new Councillors to join us.

The PC pays for the cost of the Stile Community Newsletter for households in our parish, considering this to be a valuable source of news and information. The PC continues to take action to tackle the problem of speeding vehicles. We have shared use of a VAS (Vehicle Activated Sign) unit with the neighbouring parishes of Barrow and Westley. The Chairman ran through the Accounts Management Summary for the year ending 31 March 2018. As a Council, we value continued support and feedback from villagers. We generally have five meetings a year and villagers are encouraged to attend. Publicising information on our noticeboards and websites. We also work very closely with our County Councillor Karen Soons who assists us greatly.

During this last year we have protested strongly to Highways England about the night closures of the A14. This has resulted in some improvements in signing and diversions and an acceptance that repairs to verges and road triangles would be carried out.

7. Village Events:

Fun Afternoon - Great Saxham Play Area 8<sup>th</sup> July 2018 at 1.30 pm - 5.30 pm  
Birdsong and Gypsy Music – St Andrew Church Great Saxham 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2018  
7.30 pm

Signed

Chair

Date

- 8 Any Other Business – A resident requested an update on the proposed Cycle Path from Barrow to Bury St Edmunds. Karen agreed to look into this as there was no information available.

Sally Fearnley From Lodge Farm informed the meeting that a walk through their farmyard into Ickworth Park had been arranged without the family's permission on Rogation Sunday. She stressed that all former permission to cross their land were now revoked and the Parishioners must respect the "private" notices that were now displayed. The Chairman assured her that this must have been an oversight and hoped that at sometime in the future certain routes or times of access might be negotiated for local villagers.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and the meeting was declared closed at 8.15pm. A brief Parish Council meeting will now follow.

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Signed

Chair

Date