

# THE SAXHAMS PARISH COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of the Meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> November 2017

at St Nicholas Church Little Saxham

**Present:**

Councillors: Michael Burt (Chairman), Sue Dunn (Councillor), Jonathan Clarke (Councillor), Karen Soons (County Councillor) Helen Ferguson (Councillor) Ian Houlder (Borough Councilor)

The Chairman, Michael Burt welcomed everyone to the meeting. He also said we welcome Michelle Thompson as our new Parish Clerk. He shared the sad loss of one of our Councillors, Mr. Fred Gittus saying that not only had he served as a councillor for many years but was a long - standing resident of Little Saxham and was part of the local Farming Industry. Michael Burt requested a minute silence in remembrance

**Action**

1. Apologies for absence – Jennie Moody, and Carol Hall Mike Burt

2. Declarations of Interest – None.

3. Minutes of PC Meeting on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> September 2017 - Approved and signed off by the Chairman.

4. Play Area

Since the last meeting a quote has been obtained from Playdale to refurbish the Play Area, It was agreed that a further quote would be obtained by Helen.

Helen  
Ferguson

Concerns have been raised regarding the fencing and a quote is being obtained. It was also mentioned that the Play Area soft paving had not been replaced for many years; the most cost-effective options were being considered and costings obtained.

Ian Houlder kindly offered to contribute towards this project from his Locality budget and has requested a breakdown of the costs.

5. Suffolk County Council – County Cllr Karen Soons

Karen shared that she had been on Suffolk Radio and discussed the A14 and Birds End to New Road Roadworks. Also, the poor signage has been raised with the Highways Department and is waiting for a response. Issues were raised around the noise and damage to the verges which has been reported to the Highways Department. It was suggested that the situation should continue to be monitored.

Karen informed the meeting that she used her Facebook page to post updates on Suffolk County Council information which the public may find useful.

Signed

Chair

Date

6. Suffolk Police report – No Police were present.

The attached monthly Newsletter was read out. The community raised concerns over Substance Abuse in Rougham and Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) in Greene Road. The Police responded by executing a drug warrant and seizing 18 Cannabis plants and equipment.

Suffolk Police are endeavouring to work in partnership with Havebury Housing Association to combat and increase the quality of the lives of the local residents.

7. St Edmundsbury Borough Council – Cllr Ian Houlder

Ian Houlder reported that after several years with no increase, the St. Eds B.C. is looking to increase Council tax bills for this coming year. He also said that by 2019 the Borough Council was looking toward a Single Unitary Body known as ‘West Suffolk Council instead of Forest Heath and St Edmundsbury. There would be a re-arrangement of Wards and Borough Councillors.

There were a number of proposals set out by Ian

- Old Post Office Site: - the Council is looking at residential and retail options
- W.S. College :- Looking towards expansion
- St Andrew Street South: - Looking toward building a Multi Storey Car Park
- More houses being built :- Fornham All Saints.

8. Planning Applications Received Since the Lasting Meeting:

- DC/17/1360/HH – 4 Honeyhill Cottages, Little Saxham – Two storey side extension. **No Comment.**
- DC/17/1220/CLE - Pork Pie Cottage, Cobbs Hall, Gt Saxham – Use as a single dwelling house. **No Comment.**
- DC/17/1581/FUL – Priors Farm, Barrow Road, Hargrave – Conversion of barn to 1 dwelling. **No Comment.**
- DC/17/2177/HH – 6 Twites Corner, Great Saxham – Just published and no documents yet available. Councillors were asked to review and contact the Clerk with any comments.

9. Planning Applications Approved/Refused Since Last Meeting:

None

Signed

Chair

Date

10. Correspondence-

- Letter from McGregor Services, Moles at Little Saxham Churchyard.
- Letter from One Suffolk, Subscription due.
- Courses available from SALC-November 2017.
- Letter from Kier Services- Roadworks A14 - October 2017.
- Letter from SCC – Roadworks Birds End to New Road - October 2017.
- SALC: Planning for the right homes in the right place: consultation proposals - October 2017.
- SALC: Data Protection Bill - October 2017.
- SALC: Councillor Disqualification - October 2017.
- SALC: Local Government Finance Settlement: Technical Consultation – October 2017
- Letter from St Edmundsbury B C Re: - Bogus Callers

The Chairman briefly ran through the correspondence

11. Finance

- Cheques (see attached sheet) – circulated and agreed by all present.
- Bank Reconciliation circulated and approved. The Chairman ran through the figure.
- Annual Audit – awaiting confirmation.
- Budget Proposals for 2018. After discussion, it was agreed for the Precept to remain at the current level of £6000 as Ian Houdler had kindly offered to contribute toward the Play Area.
- Bank Account – In the process of making the changes for the Clerk to receive the bank statements. Councillors approved the proposal that the new clerk is set up as the Primary user of the on-line banking portal with HSBC.

12. Chestnut Trees at Twites Corner

Issues have been raised around the safety of the Chestnut Trees at Twites Corner. It was agreed to contact the Highways Department who are responsible, requesting that they maintain, the trees as there are concerns over high winds and damage done by falling branches.

Michelle  
Thompson

13. Any Other Business

- Dog Fouling – It has been brought to our attention that dogs have been fouling on the Play Area at Great Saxham. As this is an area used mainly by children, this is irresponsible behaviour. It was agreed a sign would be commissioned to convey this message and to ask dog owners to behave responsibly.
- Pot Holes – There was an issue raised over Pot Holes; a reoccurring one on Honey hill that could be dangerous; and another one near Little Saxham Church corner. Both are needing investigation.

Michelle  
Thompson

Signed

Chair

Date

- Road Stud Signs – A number of warning signs between Great Saxham Twites Corner, Little Saxham bends and Westley crossroads should now be removed by SCC. Michelle Thompson
- The Co-option of Councillors was discussed. If possible, it would be best to strike a similar balance between Little and Great Saxham and the Chairman would take this forward.

14. Matters for Consideration at the Next Meeting

- Play Area
- Annual Audit

15. Date of Next Meeting – 7.30 pm, 1<sup>st</sup> March 2018 at St Andrews Church Great Saxham. (Note, meeting date delayed by one week after discussions following the meeting)  
Annual Village meeting 17<sup>th</sup> May 2018 – Little Saxham at St Nicholas’ Church

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and the meeting was declared closed at 8.45 pm.

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Signed

Chair

Date