

# THE SAXHAMS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on 19 March 2015

at St Nicholas Church, Little Saxham

## **Present:**

Councillors: Michael Burt (Chairman), David Gordon-Lennox (Councillor), Carol Hall (Councillor), Alan Page (Councillor), Helen Ferguson (Councillor), Jonathan Clarke (Councillor), Fred Gittus (Councillor), Sue Dunn (Parishioner), Lisa Gleave (Clerk)

The Chairman, Michael Burt welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained this would be the last meeting before the elections.

**Action**

## **Open Forum**

Chairman declared an open forum at 7.30 pm. Robert Coles who works at Honey Hill Farm was in attendance to raise concerns over traffic speeding through the farm. He has been liaising with the Police who have collected relevant data which supports Mr Coles' concerns. Chairman explained that we are in the process of installing flashing VAS signs on Honey Hill and we will encourage more Police presence. It was agreed Mr Coles will forward the data collected to the Clerk. We will then discuss this in detail at our next meeting and will liaise with the Police. The Chairman thanked Mr Coles for bringing this to the Councillors' attention.

## **Parish Council Meeting**

1. Apologies for absence – None.
2. Declarations of Interest – None.
3. Minutes of last PC meeting held on 21 January 2015 – approved by all present and signed by the Chairman.
4. Matters arising from the Minutes of 21 January 2015
  - Vehicle Activated Speeding Signs – Proposed areas for speeding signs (ie 2 in Gt Saxham and 4 in Little Saxham) have been passed on to Claire Starling at SCC. We are waiting for the posts to be erected.
  - Bus Stops at Gt and Little Saxham. We are still waiting for confirmation of when works will start in Gt Saxham. The Chairman will complete the relevant forms for Little Saxham. Mike Burt
  - Play Area – The mats have now been cleaned and the play area is in order.
  - Symonds Farm Bridge – major repairs will begin on the damaged bridge on 30 March 2015 and is programmed to last 10 weeks.
5. Suffolk Police report – No Police Officer present and no report available.
6. St Edmundsbury Borough Council – Cllr Ian Houlder was in attendance. The Borough Council has not increased Council Tax again this year. It has been cutting back on staff and job sharing to save costs. The Theatre Royal and Art Gallery have suffered cost cuts from the Borough Council/County Council. The Borough is in consultation over a new waste depot in Compiegne Way to replace the site at Rougham Hill. This will free up the land at Rougham Hill which will come up for redevelopment. Ian Houlder's

Signed

Chair

Date

locality budget can now be applied more widely to other groups including specific items for Parish Councils. Simon Pickering at the Borough Council gives advice on raising funds for projects. The Town needs more parking spaces and a tariff review will take place next year. Although proving more popular as a venue, the APEX is still struggling to break even on costs and councillors suggested that a greater focus on performances for children would be desirable.

7. Suffolk County Council – County Cllr Terry Clements was not in attendance and his report was read out by the Chairman. Council Tax is to be frozen for the 5<sup>th</sup> year. SCC has saved in excess of £130m over the last 4 years. A county wide adult autism survey has been launched as part of SCC’s commitment to empowering adults in Suffolk to live independent, healthy and fulfilled lives. The survey can be completed by adults with autism or their carers (or both). The survey can be found online at [www.surveymonkey.com/s/adultautismsuffolk](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/adultautismsuffolk). Changes to children’s centres in nine areas across Suffolk will be made more accessible for those most in need. This will save up to £265,000, putting the services on a more sustainable footing. SCC is backing a proposal to develop a joint waste-transfer site, council depot and household waste recycling centre. The favoured option is to create a West Suffolk Operational Hub for all these important services on land at Hollow Road Farm in Bury St Edmunds. A consultation will take place between 6 March and 6 April 2015. Info available at [www.westsuffolk.gov.uk/wsoh](http://www.westsuffolk.gov.uk/wsoh). The Leading Lives Benefit Fund is giving grants of between £1,000 and £5,000 to Suffolk based charities and community groups who support people with learning disabilities, dementia, autism, and young people in transition and family carers. Criteria for funding and an application can be found at [www.leadinglives.org.uk](http://www.leadinglives.org.uk).
8. Highways matters –  
• Flooding at Twites Crossroads. Clerk has logged the problem with SCC and will continue to chase. Chairman read out SCC’s policy for flooding and we are following the correct procedures. Lisa Gleave
9. Play Area – As above.
10. Charitable Donations 2015/16 – We have received requests for donations from Homestart, St Eds News Talk, Headway and Age UK. The Chairman reiterated the Parish Council’s policy that it considers making donations where Parishioners directly benefit from certain services. No Councillors knew of any parishioners who receive support from the above so no donations were made at this time. It was agreed by all present that £50 be donated to St Nicholas Church and also to St Andrews Church for the use of their facilities for Parish Council meetings.
11. Election Timetable – The Chairman explained all Councillors will stand down on 7 May 2015. David Gordon-Lennox and Alan Page have confirmed they will not be standing again this year. Jennie Moody, Susan Dunn and Joanne Sanger have all expressed an interest in standing. The Clerk handed out the election packs and the Chairman confirmed the forms need to be submitted by hand to the Returning Officer after 30 March 2015 and before 4 pm on 9 April 2015. We need 7 Councillors. Our next meeting will take place on 14 May 2015 when Councillors will take up their positions. Carol and Helen will organise refreshments for the AVM. Carol Hall & Helen Ferguson

Signed

Chair

Date

12. Grass Maintenance 2015 Season – The Chairman confirmed for those that were not at the last meeting that McGregor Services will maintain the grass this year.

13. Finance:

- Cheques requiring approval – see separate list. Chairman ran through cheques and distributed a list. Agreed by all present, namely £70.49 Clerk's Expenses, £50 St Andrews Church, £50 St Nicholas Church and £24.00 SALC Election Briefing.
- Bank Reconciliation – Distributed by the Chairman.
- Financial Regulations to be carried forward.
- The Financial Risk Assessments will be reviewed at the next meeting as these were only reviewed in October 2014.

14. Correspondence (as per Agenda)

The Chairman ran through the relevant correspondence:

- Adopt a BT Telephone Kiosk for £1. Clerk to establish if the phone box in Gt Saxham is eligible.
- Information from SALC re The Electronic Summons
- Information from SALC re Transparency Code
- Information from SALC re Automatic Precept Referendums
- Elections Advice Bulletin
- Information from SALC re Councillor Travel Expenses
- Adoption of FH & St Eds Joint Development Management Policies
- Letter from SCC re Education and Learning Infrastructure Plan
- Financial Topic from NALC re Redemption of War Stock
- Section 137 Expenditure
- Flooding Information from SALC. Clerk to keep chasing re flooding at Twites Corner.
- Letter from FH & St Eds Councils re Local Democracy.

Lisa Gleave

15. Planning – Applications considered since last meeting or those for which a decision is required: None

16. Planning applications granted/refused: None.

17. Meeting dates 2015: AVM 14 May 2015, 18 June 2015 and 24 September 2015.

18. Village Events:

- Garden Party at Benton House, Gt Saxham - Sunday 7 June 2015 2.30 to 5 pm.
- Gt Saxham Quiz - 31 October 2015 at 6.30 pm Barrow Village Hall, Barrow.

19. Matters for consideration at next meeting:

- Traffic
- Phonebox

Signed

Chair

Date

20. Any Other Business – The Chairman thanked Alan Page and David Gordon-Lennox for their hard work and commitment during their time as Parish Councillors.
21. Date of Next Meeting – AVM 7.30 on 14 May 2015 at St Andrews Church, Great Saxham.

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             |
| David Gordon-Lennox | 01284 810259 | Ecgl42@hotmail.co.uk          |
| Carol Hall          | 01284 850302 | dancingbrave@hotmail.com      |
| Alan Page           | 01284 810790 | steffpage@btinternet.com      |
| Lisa Gleave (Clerk) | 01284 811986 | lisa.gleave@hotmail.co.uk     |

Signed

Chair

Date