

# THE SAXHAMS PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Meeting held on 19 November 2015 at St Nicholas Church, Little Saxham

### **Present:**

Councillors: Michael Burt (Chairman), Sue Dunn (Councillor), Jennie Moody (Councillor), Jonathan Clarke (Councillor), Carol Hall (Councillor) and Lisa Gleave (Clerk)

The Chairman, Michael Burt welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**Action**

1. Apologies for absence – Fred Gittus and Helen Ferguson.
2. Declarations of Interest – none.
3. Minutes of last PC meeting held on 24 September 2015 – approved by all present and signed off by the Chairman.
4. Matters arising from the Minutes of 24 September 2015
  - Bus Stop/kerbs in Little Saxham – carry forward to next meeting. Mike Burt
  - The bus stops at Gt Saxham have been completed. The Councillors are very pleased with the works, although there is still a drainage problem. Lisa  
Clerk to contact Highways to see what can be done to prevent mud build up at the bus stops and also in the layby near the pumping station. Gleave
5. Suffolk Police Report – There was no Police present and no report available.
6. St Edmundsbury Borough Council Report – Councillor Houlder was present. The BC is transferring lots of street lights to SCC who will be responsible for upgrading, maintaining and running them. Council Tax support grants will be reduced for empty properties next year. There are plans to upgrade the Bury St Edmunds bus station which will include café facilities. A full review of parking around Bury St Edmunds has taken place. More potential sites are being considered as well as charges, methods of payments/entry systems etc. The BC is working towards a “nil” increase in Council Tax rates next year, but it is not yet clear whether this will be possible due to support grants being considerably cut. Cllr Houlder reminded Councillors he has a small locality budget available for suitable community projects. The Rural Initiative Grant Scheme and Community Chest are also open for funding applications.
7. Suffolk County Council Report – Terry Clements was in attendance. GCSE results show Suffolk’s 16 year olds have performed better than the national figure since 2007. Raising educational attainment is a top priority and latest figures show its strategy is working and it is moving in the right direction to improve education in Suffolk. SCC is seeking views on its proposed school admissions policy for 2017/18. The consultation runs until 14.12.15. To have your say visit [www.suffolk.gov.uk/consultations](http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/consultations) or email [admissionsconsultation@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:admissionsconsultation@suffolk.gov.uk). You can write to Georgina Beard, SCC, Endeavour House, 8 Russell Road, Ipswich, IP1 2BX.
8. Highway matters – The white lines on the bends in Little Saxham have faded and the verges are being eroded away. The lines need reinstating. These works have been authorised by Highways and will be grouped with other similar works in this area. Clerk to email Terry Clements to see if the works Lisa  
Gleave

Signed

Chair

Date

can be expedited. It was pointed out the give way lines at both triangles in Little Saxham also need reinstating and this is becoming a safety issue. There are large potholes forming on the road leading from Gt Saxham to Symonds Farm. Clerk to report both these problems to Highways. Councillors asked Terry Clements to pass on their thanks to Highways for carrying out excellent repair works to Symonds Farm bridge.

Lisa  
Gleave

9. Correspondence –

The Chairman briefly ran through the correspondence. He asked Councillors to consider/discuss with Parishioners whether we should organise an event to celebrate the Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday. To be carried forward to the next meeting.

- Cities and Local Government Devolution Bill
- Various legal updates from SALC
- HM The Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebrations
- Email from SALC re Right of Appeal in the Planning Process
- Email from St Edmundsbury BC re Suffolk's Clean Sweep
- Guidance Notes re Church Security
- Message from Cllr Griffiths re Gypsy and Traveller Short Stay Stopping Sites
- Email from St Edmundsbury BC re Local Enforcement Plan Consultation
- Leaflet regarding Fit Villages.

10. Planning – Applications considered since last meeting or those for which a decision is required:

- DC/15/2165/HH – 1<sup>st</sup> floor extension, bay window and detached car port, Priors Farm, Gt Saxham. **No Comment.**
- DC/15/2230/FUL – Erection of new industrial building and link to existing building, Calor Gas Ltd, Newmarket Road, Risby. **No Comment.**

11. Planning applications granted/refused:

- DC/15/1641/HH – Single storey rear extension, Bella Vista Twites Corner, Gt Saxham – **Approved.**
- DC/15/1694/TPA – Tree Preservation Order, Flints Bury Road, Little Saxham - **Approved.**

12. Grass Maintenance 2016 Season - Councillors approved the quote from McGregor Services for grass maintenance in 2016. The churchyard in Little Saxham needs to be included next year as the volunteers currently maintaining it are stepping down. Clerk to obtain quote for churchyard.

Lisa  
Gleave

13. Budget and Precept for 2016/17 – The Chairman ran through the budget. We have Option A to increase the precept to £5,500 or Option B to increase it to £6,000. There is an ongoing reduction each year from the support we receive from the Borough Council and our reserves are running low. We can reclaim the fee for Clerk's website training and put in a grant claim for a new scanner/printer to enable us to comply with the Transparency code. We have budgeted £500 for a new laptop and £100 towards a new scanner/printer. We also have to factor in grass cutting charges for Little Saxham churchyard and

Lisa  
Gleave

Signed

Chair

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monies for an event to celebrate the Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday. It was agreed we need to build up our reserves and a precept of £6,000 (Option B) would be requested. We haven't increased our precept for several years. Clerk to complete relevant forms.

14. Finance

- Cheques (see attached list) - agreed by all present.
- Bank Reconciliation circulated and approved.

15. Matters for consideration at the next meeting:

- Bus Stops at Little Saxham

16. Village Events: None.

17. Any Other Business – A quote of £120 plus VAT for repairing the play area fencing has been obtained. This was approved by all present and works can start as soon as possible.

Jonathan  
Clarke

18. Date of next meeting – Thursday 18 February 2016 at 7.30 pm St Andrews Church, Great Saxham.

The meeting was closed at 8.25 pm.

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	dancingbrave@hotmail.com
Sue Dunn	01284 810803	suedunnfba@msn.com
Lisa Gleave (Clerk)	01284 811986	lisa.gleave@hotmail.co.uk

Signed

Chair

Date