

THE SAXHAMS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on 22 January 2015 at St Andrews Church, Great Saxham

Present:

Councillors: Michael Burt (Chairman), David Gordon-Lennox (Councillor), Carol Hall (Councillor), Alan Page (Councillor), Lisa Gleave (Clerk)

The Chairman, Michael Burt welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Action

1. Apologies for absence – Fred Gittus, Helen Ferguson and Jonathan Clarke.
2. Declarations of Interest – none.
3. Minutes of last PC meeting held on 2 October 2014 – approved by all present and signed by the Chairman.
4. Matters arising from the Minutes of 2 October 2014
 - Play Area – Carried forward.
 - Vehicle Activated Speeding Signs – Proposed areas for speeding signs ie 2 in Gt Saxham and 4 in Little Saxham were approved by all present. Clerk will now liaise with SCC.
5. Suffolk Police report – No Police Officer present and no report available.
6. St Edmundsbury Borough Council – Cllr Ian Houlder was not in attendance and no report was available.
7. Suffolk County Council – County Cllr Terry Clements was in attendance and his report was read out by the Chairman. 9 new Econ gritters have been purchased and a further 29 upgraded, improving the winter service provided across the county. Suffolk's energy-from-waste facility has been completed on time and on budget, fulfilling its purpose of putting the county's waste to good use. Not only will it make a big difference environmentally, it will save Suffolk tax payers £8million a year. SCC is seeking views on its proposed admissions policy for the 2016/17 school year; ensuring school places are offered to children in a fair way. The consultation will run until 27 February 2015. To have your say please visit www.suffolk.gov.uk/consultations. Alternatively write to Georgina Beard, Suffolk County Council, Endeavour House, 8 Russell Road, Ipswich, IP1 2BX. SCC discourages the use of sky lanterns and balloon releases on local authority owned land and at events licensed by the council. They pose a significant hazard to wildlife and property as they return to the ground.
8. Highways matters –
 - Work at Gt Saxham Bus Stop. Works pushed back to 30 January 2015. This is due to Suffolk Highways not sticking to the programme they have set themselves. Terry will make some enquiries. Road is also flooding again at Twites Crossroads. Clerk to request drains be cleared again.
 - Weeds in Layby Opposite Village Noticeboard in Gt Saxham. Clerk has established SCC is responsible and is liaising with them over re-

Lisa Gleave

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Signed

Chair

Date

surfacing/drainage. The Borough Council are responsible for the weed build up and they have been out and cleared it.

- Pavement/bus stop in Little Saxham. Clerk has made enquiries regarding installing a bus stop at Little Saxham. The Chairman will complete the necessary paperwork.
- The bridge has been knocked down by a large vehicle on the road up to Symonds Farm. Clerk has contacted Highways to find out what the strategy is for using this road as it is not suitable for heavy vehicles. The response we have received is not helpful and we are no further forward. Terry confirming bridge works are very expensive.

Mike Burt

9. Budget and Precept – The Chairman ran through the draft budget. We have option A to keep the precept at £5,000 or option B to increase it to £5,500. The Chairman explained we have no major plans for 2015/16. We can afford to keep it at £5,000. There is an ongoing reduction each year in the support we receive from the Borough Council. If we have to have an election then we would have to pay approx. £500. However, this is unlikely to happen. After a discussion it was agreed by all present that the precept would remain at £5,000. Clerk/Chairman to complete forms.

Lisa Gleave
Mike Burt

10. Play Area Matters - the annual inspection report has highlighted the fact the mats under the swings are slippery and require cleaning. Clerk to instruct McGregor Services to deal.

Lisa Gleave

11. Election Timetable – the Chairman explained the election will take place on 7 May 2015. Councillors can retire 4 days later. The annual meeting must take place between 11 and 25 May 2015. David Gordon-Lennox and Alan Page have asked to step down. Chairman encouraged all councillors, especially those who are stepping down, to identify other parishioners who may be willing to serve for the next term. Councillors should then notify the Chairman and the Clerk who would then be able to explain the election process to any interested parishioners.

12. Grass Maintenance 2015 Season – The Chairman ran through the quotes provided by 3 contractors. Following a discussion it was agreed McGregor Services would be instructed. Mr McGregor maintains Saxham Hall and there are significant advantages to using a local contractor. Clerk to instruct accordingly.

Lisa Gleave

13. Finance:

- Cheques requiring approval – see separate list. Chairman ran through cheques and distributed a list. Agreed by all present, namely £320 Clerk's wages and £350 Risby Village Hall Charity Trust (Stile magazines)
- Bank Reconciliation – Distributed by the Chairman.

14. Correspondence (as per Agenda)

- Letter from Suffolk County Council re Protection to Rail Track. Safety Barriers to be installed on A14 to Symonds Farm road to prevent people falling onto track.
- Letter from Suffolk Police re Speeding
- Planning Practice Guidance from SALC
- LAIS from SALC re Transparency Code (substitute for external audit)

Signed

Chair

Date

- Email from SALC re Development Benefits
- Info from SALC
- Letter from Joint Emergency Planning Unit (**Form to complete – Clerk to action**) Lisa Gleave
- Clerk/Councillor Election Briefings 2015.
- Neighbourhood Watch (Vacant Schemes). We will publicize this at AVM as The Saxhams currently have no coordinators and the scheme is vacant.
- Information from SALC re Parish Polls Consultation

15. Planning – Applications considered since last meeting or those for which a decision is required: None
16. Planning applications granted/refused:
- DC/14/1736/FUL – (i) Extend hard surface yard for storage/distribution of timber products (ii) Erect 2.4 m Security Fence, Symonds Farm. Applicant Geo E Gittus & Sun – Mr George Gittus - **Agreed.**
17. Village Events: None.
18. Matters for consideration at next meeting:
- VAS
 - Playground
 - Charitable Donations – if anyone knows of a charity directly benefitting any parishioners in The Saxhams then please let a Councillor know and we can consider making a donation at the next meeting.
 - Elections
19. Any Other Business – The Annual Village Meeting will take place on 14 May 2015 at St Andrews Church, Gt Saxham. An invite will go out to Parishioners in April's Stile magazine. Please bring any ideas for village events along to the next meeting.
20. Date of Next Meeting – 19 March 2015 at St Nicholas Church, Little 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