

THE SAXHAMS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on 23 June 2016

at St Andrews Church, Great Saxham

Present:

Councillors: Michael Burt (Chairman), Fred Gittus (Councillor), Sue Dunn (Councillor) and Lisa Gleave (Clerk)

The Chairman, Michael Burt welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Action

1. Apologies for absence – Helen Ferguson, Jonathan Clark, Carol Hall and Jennie Moody.
2. Declarations of Interest – None.
3. Minutes of last PC meeting held on 12 May 2016 – approved by all present and signed off by the Chairman.
4. Matters Arising from Minutes of 12 May 2016
 - White Lines in Little Saxham – Works have been approved and passed to the contractor to set a date. Terry Clements and Clerk continuing to chase.
 - Bus Stops in Little Saxham – Carry forward to the next meeting.
5. Suffolk Police Report - No Police were present but the attached Newsletter was provided. The community raised concerns over street begging in Bury St Edmunds Town Centre, youth anti-social behaviour at the Nature Reserve, Springfield Road, Bury St Edmunds and rural dwelling burglaries. Suffolk Police responded by sending out 7 warning letters/notices and making 3 arrests for persistent begging offences. Patrols are being conducted at the Nature Reserve and Police are working with the 3 High Schools. Patrols and Crime Reduction Work is being carried out in rural areas.
6. St Edmundsbury Borough Council – Councillor Houlder was present. He explained St Eds BC will decide next Tuesday whether to move forward with the West Suffolk Operational Hub project. Although the consultation period has ended and Hollow Road Farm in Bury St Edmunds is the preferred site this still needs to be approved by the Council before a planning application can be submitted. The brown bin scheme is on target. The Council has been working on a devolution proposal. This means introducing directly-elected Majors to combined local authorities and to devolve housing, transport, planning and policing powers to them. Young peoples' services are currently under pressure. The Magistrates Court in Bury St Edmunds is set to close in the near future.
7. Suffolk County Council – The Chairman read out Terry Clements' report in his absence. £10 million of road surfacing work will take place during spring and summer 2016. This will help avoid potholes forming in future years and they are particularly focusing on rural roads across the county. From 01.06.16 the new opening times for Suffolk's Household Recycling centres are: April – September – Monday to Sunday 9 am to 5 pm but closed all day Wednesdays. From October – March Monday to Sunday 9 am to 4 pm but closed all day Wednesdays.

Terry
Clements/
Lisa
Gleave
Mike Burt

Signed

Chair

Date

8. Financial Risk Assessment - The Chairman ran through the Risk Assessment in detail. Councillors present agreed they were satisfied the risks had been properly assessed and they agreed that suitable control systems are in place.

9. Annual Governance Statement 2015/16

The Chairman explained the accounts have been reviewed and approved by the Internal Auditor Nick Lee to make sure we are managing our accounts properly. He then explained the Annual Governance Statement and it was agreed Councillors were comfortable with the systems we have in place for managing financial risks. It was further agreed we have reviewed our systems of control and the Annual Governance Statement was read out and agreed by all Councillors present.

10. Annual Accounts 2015/16

The accounts were approved and the Clerk will now send off the accounts to the external auditors.

Lisa
Gleave

11. Planning Applications received since last meeting:

- DC/16/0848/HH – Two storey front and rear extensions, first floor side and single storey side extension and single storey veranda to side elevation. Rendering and cladding to external walls. St Nicholas House, Hargrave Road, Little Saxham.

The owner of St Nicholas House attended the meeting and ran through the plans for the above planning application. Following a detailed discussion it was agreed by all present that no comment would be made by the Saxhams Parish Council in respect of planning application DC/16/0848/HH. This has been scaled down significantly since it was first proposed and disputed by the PC several years ago.

12. Correspondence

1. Letter re The Centenary Fields Programme
2. Letter from Suffolk County Council re Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service
3. Information from SCC re Fostering Teenagers
4. Information from SCC re Grass Cutting
5. Countryside Access Consultation

The Chairman briefly ran through the correspondence.

13. Finance

- Cheques (see attached list) – circulated and agreed by all present.
- Bank Reconciliation circulated and approved. The Chairman ran through the figures.
- Grants to St Andrews and St Nicholas Church. It was proposed the Parish Council would make a grant of £100 to each of the churches for use of the facilities for Parish Council meetings during 2015/16. A grant of £50 is normally granted each year but this was overlooked in 2015.
- It was agreed Sue Dunn will be added as an authorised cheque signatory.

Signed

Chair

Date

14. Any Other Business

A resident from Twites Cottages was present. She raised concerns over speeding traffic along the Bury Road and the difficulties residents are having pulling out of their driveways. The grass needs strimming along the verges to the left of her property up to the white gates (approx. 30 metres). The Chairman addressed the speeding issues explaining why it is not possible to use flashing signs etc along this road. The only option we have is to request Police presence. It was agreed the clerk will write to the Police. The clerk will also request a quote from our grass contractors for strimming the additional verges.

Lisa
Gleave

15. Matters for Consideration at the Next Meeting

Play Area

Bus Stops Little Saxham

16. Date of Next Meeting: St Nicholas Church, Little Saxham 22.09.16 at 7.30 pm

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Signed

Chair

Date