

# THE SAXHAMS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2022

at St. Nicholas' Church Little Saxham

## Present

Councillors: Michael Burt (Chairman) Gill Hicks (Councillor) Carolyn Hopkinson (Councillor)  
Bob Jones (Councillor) Rosie Irish (Councillor) Helen Ferguson (Councillor)  
Michelle Thompson (Clerk)

1. Apologies: - Suzie Winkler (Councillor)

2. Declaration of Interest Nil

3. Minutes of the Last PC Meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> November 2021

The minutes of 24<sup>th</sup> November 2021 were approved by the Parish Council and signed by the Chairman.

4. Matters Arising from Minutes of 24<sup>th</sup> November 2021

- **Little Saxham Village Noticeboard Repairs**

Cllr Burt thanked Cllr Houlder for the grant from his Locality Budget of £250 to assist with the cost of refurbishment. A local handyman, Mr. Kidd, had been engaged to do the work at a projected cost of £535. The Clerk would contact Mr Kidd to establish a timescale.

**Michelle  
Thompson**

- **Drainage at Honey Hill near to The Cattery  
Lt. Saxham**

S.C.C. Highways had taken some action so that the flooding had been less serious during the most recent storms. The situation had improved so that this no longer needs to be an agenda item but would still need monitoring on an ad hoc basis

- **Drainage at Great Saxham Church Gate**

The matter is on-going and Cllr Winkler would be asked to report on the status at the next PC meeting

- **Nesting Boxes Situated in the Woods Near the Play Area**

Three nest boxes had been purchased and presented to Jonathan Clarke in recognition of his long service on the Parish Council. He has plans to site these near the play area and in the churchyard.

Signed

Chair

Date

• **Great Saxham Play Area**

The Parish Council continue to monitor the poor condition of the existing wooden benches. It is now noted as moderate risk in the monthly Play Area Reports. The Parish Council had approved in principle the cost of their replacement and Cllr Ferguson agreed to progress this.

**Michelle  
Thompson**

5. Suffolk Police Report

The Safer Neighbourhood Team Police report had been circulated but there were no matters specific to The Saxhams.

6. St Edmundsbury Borough Council – Councillor Ian Houlder

Cllr Houlder attended the meeting and briefed the Parish Council on the latest news. This is the last year of Council Tax harmonisation across West Suffolk Council to align Forest Heath with St Edmundsbury. To celebrate the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee, each Child in the Parish will be presented with a commemorative mug so numbers need to be confirmed to Cllr Houlder.

**Michelle  
Thompson**

7. Suffolk County Council - Councillor Karen Soons

Cllr. Soons summarised information from her recent monthly newsletters.

The continuing flooding under the Railway bridge in Little Saxham was discussed. Given the importance of this route Cllr Soons agreed to investigate why the problem had not been resolved and report back to the Parish Council.

*(For Further information please see the monthly Parish Newsletter for S.C.C.)*

**Michelle  
Thompson**

8. Planning Applications Received Since the Last Meeting

- **DC/21/1560/FUL** Householder Planning Application- Conversion of stable building to two holiday lets

Stables  
Lower Farmhouse  
Barrow Road  
Great Saxham  
Suffolk

Mr. W. Phizacklea

This application had been discussed at a previous meeting and No Comment returned

- **DC/22/0054/HH** - Householder Planning Application -a conversion of existing double garage into b. double garage

Signed

Chair

Date

Briars Mead  
Bury Road  
Little Saxham  
IP29 5LD

Mr Stewart Maciiness

Councillors agreed neither to support or object to the application but to make observations as follows

“The Parish Council observes that the proposed new garage is well forward of the existing building line for this and adjacent properties. The scale and proportions should therefore be scrutinised to ensure these do not affect the setting of the nearby listed properties and St Nicholas’ Church”

- DC/22/0053/EIASCR – EIA Screening under Regulation 6 (1) of the Environmental

Impact Assessment Regulations 2017 on the matter of whether or not the proposed development is considered that there are likely significant environmental impacts for which an environmental statement would be required – proposed new steel storage, processing and distribution facility.

Land off Newmarket Road  
Great Saxham  
Suffolk

AJN Steelstock

Councillors were informed that this development is associated with Symonds Farm on land adjacent to the A14. Risby Parish Council had contacted The Saxhams to suggest we liaise over our response as both parishes would be affected. The Chairman proposed that we contact Risby to agree to do this and look out for any associated formal planning application.

9. Planning Applications Approved / Refused since last Meeting: -

- **DC/21/1890/HH** Household Planning Application – Replacement greenhouse (following demolition of existing one)

Twites Barn  
Twites Corner  
Great Saxham  
Bury St Edmunds IP29 5JR

**Approved**

10. Finance

Signed

Chair

Date

Chq 408	Michelle Thompson – Clerk Salary	£370.02
Chq 409	SCC – Clerk Pension Contribution	£111.60
Chq 411	R. Irish (Gift for J Clarke re Parish Council)	£61.00
Chq 412	M Burt (two Padlocks for VAS)	£16.00
Chq 413	Gt Saxham PCC (Payment for use of Church)	£50.00
Chq 414	Lt Saxham PCC (Payment for use of Church)	£50.00

- £50 to each Church PCC was agreed for use of the buildings for Parish Council meetings
- Cheques – circulated and agreed by all present.
- Bank Reconciliation was approved and agreed
- Cllr Hopkinson is now a signatory to the bank account
- Trevor Brown was re-appointed as the Internal Auditor for the year end accounts
- The Chairman reminded Councillors that it is the practice at this time of year when the likely budget outturn is known to consider any bids for Charitable donations to organisations that support our local parishioners. Under Section 137 of the Local Government Act Parish Councils are allowed to spend a limited amount of money for purposes for which they have no other specific statutory power. This power is often used to award grants to local groups or organisations that benefit the community. For 2021/22 the maximum allowed is £8.41 per elector. No bids had been received or organisations proposed at this time.

#### 11. Correspondence

- Councillor’s contact details. In the light of some spurious emails that had been generated to Councillors drawing on information published on the website and in the Council minutes, the Chairman explained advice that had been obtained from SALC. Only names and members’ responsibilities need to be published. However, it is clearly practical that some means of contact be made available so the Clerk would obtain consent from each Councillor as to whether they wished any of their details to be published. SALC also recommend each Councillor use a separate Parish Council email if necessary though as this would not prevent the situation that arose, this was not considered necessary.
- Queen’s Platinum Jubilee. Councillors considered whether an event might be arranged in the parish. Some arrangements are already underway organised by Gt Saxham United Charities for a tree and

**Michelle  
Thompson**

Signed

Chair

Date

bench in association with RBL. Additionally there is a special event in June to celebrate 100 years of Gt Saxham Hall so no further events were suggested at the current time.

- Electrical Charging Points. The Parish had been contacted by SCC regarding local interest in Community Electric Charging points. Cllr Hopkinson pointed out that this may be of interest since it is not always possible to install your own in Listed properties. The Layby at Great Saxham Crossroads might be a possibility. The Clerk was asked to make further enquires with SCC as to eligibility and cost etc.

**Michelle  
Thompson**

Date of Next Meeting –to be advised. The Clerk would contact Councillors to determine the best date in May for the Annual meeting to be held in Great Saxham.

Contact details:

Michael Burt	01284 810134	<a href="mailto:mike_burt@btopenworld.com">mike_burt@btopenworld.com</a>
Carolyn Hopkinson	N /A	<a href="mailto:carolynhopkinson9@gmail.com">carolynhopkinson9@gmail.com</a>
Helen Ferguson	01284 811696	<a href="mailto:helen.alletson@btinternet.com">helen.alletson@btinternet.com</a>
Susan Winkler	N /A	<a href="mailto:suziewvs@gmail.com">suziewvs@gmail.com</a>
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Michelle Thompson (Clerk)	01284 765447	thesaxhamsclerk@gmail.com

Signed

Chair

Date