

# THE SAXHAMS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> November 2020

Virtual Meeting at 5pm via Zoom

## Present

Councillors: Michael Burt (Chairman), Helen Ferguson (Councillor), Suzie Winkler (Councillor)  
Gill Hicks (Councillor), Michelle Thompson (Clerk)

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the online meeting

1. Apologies: - Cllr Clarke and Cllr Irish
2. Declarations of Interest None
3. Minutes of the last P.C. Meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> October 2020

The minutes needed some adjustment and then would be circulated for approval by all Councillors.

4. Matters Arising from Minutes from 29<sup>th</sup> October 2020

- **Footpath from Little Saxham Village through to Great Saxham Playground:**

An initiative to identify a permissive path to connect the two villages of Little Saxham and Great Saxham is still on-going. As the Saxham Estate is alongside the area that might be considered, Cllr Burt and Cllr Hicks would investigate potential routes by walking with Cllr Winkler.

**Cllr Burt**

- **Great Saxham Notice board**

The Councillors discussed the possibility of refurbishment of the Great Saxham Noticeboard. It was also mentioned that the Little Saxham Noticeboard might also be considered at the same time.

The Clerk was asked to make enquires for someone to have a look at them and give us a quote.

**Michelle  
Thompson**

- **Great Saxham Village Sign**

The Parish Council has just applied for a locality grant from Cllr Soons to fund the refurbishment of the Great Saxham Village Sign.

**Michelle  
Thompson**

- **The Shooting Range between Barrow and Great Saxham**

Residents of The Saxhams have been concerned for a few months now about the noise level on a Sunday from the Shooting Range Area. There seems to be early morning noise on a weekly basis, especially on a Sunday. This seems to have eased off slightly but is still a concern and Cllr. Ferguson has kindly offered to monitor the situation. The Clerk was also asked to contact

**Michelle  
Thompson**

Signed

Chair

Date

once again, West Suffolk Council to gain more information about the terms of licence.

- **Drainage at The Cattery and St Andrews Church Gate**

Drainage near “The Cattery” at the top of Honey Hill, Little Saxham, has been an on-going issue which has unfortunately not been recognised by Highways. The drain is ineffective and causing flooding once more. The Clerk and Chairman have previously followed this up with a letter to Highways but have, unfortunately, had no luck. Cllr. Soons has suggested that if we passed the information to her, she will kindly follow it up for us with Highways. This has become a serious problem and especially with the bad weather conditions so we await a response.

**Cllr Burt**

The issue with the Drainage at St Andrew’s Church gate entrance is still on going. The Clerk has contacted Suffolk Highways once again after being refused funding in the past to see whether they can assist with this. Cllr Soons also offered her help and support. Cllr. Winkler will forward information to assist. Now awaiting a response.

**Michelle  
Thompson**

It was reported that there are a few large potholes occurring at the top end of Great Saxham Village also with the verges between the Church and Frizzlers Green are deteriorating quickly which is dangerous. It was suggested we contact Highway again and ask for assistance .

- **Little Saxham Photographic Project.**

A further grant towards the project would be considered once the likely final cost of producing the 2020 edition is known.

5. Suffolk Police Report

There were no particular items of relevance.

6. West Suffolk Council Report from Borough Councillor Ian Houlder

Cllr Houlder did not attend the Meeting and no report was provided

7. Suffolk County Council – Report from Karen Soons

Cllr Soons contributed to issues above and for further information

*(please see November Newsletter 2020 for more information)*

Signed

Chair

Date

8. Planning Applications Received Since the Last Meeting

**DC/20/1773/FUL**

Planning application- a two storey side extension to academy.  
Associated works and infrastructure

CLAAS. UK  
Saxham Business Park,  
Little Saxham Suffolk IP28 6QZ

West Suffolk Local Plan – Second Stage of Strategic Housing and  
Economic Land Availability Assessment. Closing date comments  
December 2020

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

**DC/20/1174/FUL**

Planning application – Temporary siting of a mobile home  
for on – site security guard

CLAAS. UK  
Saxham Business Park,  
Little Saxham  
Suffolk IP28 6QZ

*Approved*

**DC/20/1247/VAR**

Planning Application – Variation of Condition 2 of DC/16/2363/VAR to  
amend approved drawings to move drying equipment to outside the building

SYMONDS Farm  
Newmarket Rd  
Risby  
IP28 6RE

*Approved*

10. Finance

Cheques – circulated and agreed by all present.

Chq No: 373 M Thompson Clerks Expenses £25.59

Bank Reconciliation was approved and agreed by all. Some Income that had  
not been identified by the Council was received on the Bank  
statement. The Clerk was asked to investigate.

**Michelle  
Thompson**

Budget 2021/22 and Precept 2021/22 of £6,000 was approved by all  
Councillors

Consideration was allowed in the budget for provision for an Employer  
Pension contribution for Mrs Thompson (Parish Clerk). All agreed this

**Michelle  
Thompson**

Signed

Chair

Date

should be supported but it was suggested that the P.C. need to know to which organisation the payment will be made and how often. The Clerk and Chairman would look into this and report back.

The Parish Council had approved the addition of Cllr G Hicks to the list of Cheque Signatories at the last meeting on 29.10.20. The paperwork is now being processed by HSBC to set this in action.

11. Correspondence

Following many years of service as a councillor, Jonathan Clarke had informed the Chairman that he wished to step down from the Parish Council. The Chairman had acknowledged his contribution to the community over the years and suggested the P.C. will process his resignation formally as soon as the revised cheque signatories are in place.

12. Any Other Business

It was reported by Cllr Hicks that there had been “*Fly Tipping*” in the layby along the Bury Road just past the Little Saxham “S” Bend towards Chevington. The Clerk was ask to report this to West Suffolk Council During Lockdown, Great Saxham Telephone Box provided a useful “Hub for people to swap books, jigsaws etc.” The Chairman reminded councillors that the box was still active and any such use was unofficial. In the current circumstances, it was agreed to communicate this to those villagers involved so that they might allow the box to revert to its proper purpose.

**Michelle  
Thompson**

An observation had been made to the Parish Council that there were now mirrors on the bend at Little Saxham. These have been a huge benefit and the Parish Council are to investigate how they came to be situated there. The Clerk has been asked to make some enquires.

13 Date of Next Meeting – Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2021 via Zoom

The Chairman thanked everyone for coming and the meeting was declared closed 5.45 pm

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Signed

Chair

Date