

THE SAXHAMS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 24th November 2021

at St. Andrew's Church Great Saxham

Present

Councillors: Michael Burt (Chairman) Gill Hicks (Councillor) Carolyn Hopkinson (Councillor)
Bob Jones (Councillor) Rosie Irish (Councillor) Helen Ferguson (Councillor)
Suzie Winkler (Councillor) and Michelle Thompson (Clerk)
There was one Parishioner present

1. Apologies: - Nil
2. Declaration of Interest Nil
3. Minutes of the Last PC Meeting held on 23rd September 2021

The minutes of 23rd September 2021 were signed and approved by the Parish Council.

4. Matters Arising from Minutes of 23rd September 2021

- **Little Saxham Village Noticeboard Repairs**

Cllr Burt reported that the Parish Council had received two quotations and it was decided to ask a local handyman, Mr. Kidd, to refurbish the noticeboard at a cost of approximately £535. Cllr Houlder kindly offered the Parish Council a grant from his Locality Budget of £250 to assist with the cost.

- **Drainage at Gt. Saxham Church Gate and The Cattery
Lt. Saxham (update)**

Cllr. Burt commented that since the last Meeting he had been corresponding with two neighbouring Parishes, who also have concerns with the level of assistance that Suffolk Highways are providing. Even after meeting with the new Operational Highways Portfolio Member, Paul West action is awaited on both these issues.

The Chairman said that two years ago the kerb outside the Church Gate at Great Saxham was dropped, therefore causing drainage problems for the church and the property next door.

The drainage on the road near to Little Saxham Cattery remains a problem as well. This has been raised with S.C.C. Highways on a number of occasions including with Mr Paul West, the Cabinet member for Highways. These two outstanding flooding issues should really be rectified before Winter. It has been felt by all that the service provided by SCC Highways regarding these two matters has been very disappointing and that S.C.C Highways do not seem to have any solution to these longstanding problems. It has once more been raised with Karen Soons including photographic evidence.

**Michelle
Thompson**

**Cllr.
Winkler
and Cllr.
Burt**

Signed

Chair

Date

• **Nesting Boxes Situated in the Woods Near the Play Area** (*update*)

Acknowledging Jonathan Clarke's long service with the Parish Council. Cllr Irish has been looking into proposals of purchasing some nesting boxes to position in the woods near the Play Area (acknowledging his love for wildlife). A budget of up to £100 is being considered. Great Saxham United Charities are also considering placing nesting boxes in the woods adjacent to the Church so it would be important to liaise in this matter. Cllr Winkler has also very kindly offered to assist alongside Cllr Irish as she has a contact with a local craftsman in a neighbouring village. An update will be given at the next meeting

**Cllr. Irish
and Cllr.
Winkler**

• **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. Cllr Ferguson has suggested that there is maintenance needed and the Council agreed that if there were items of play equipment needing replacement then this could be done. Cllr Ferguson suggested that a party of volunteers could be formed to assist with any work involved.

**Cllr.
Ferguson**

5. Suffolk Police Report

The Police report was circulated but there was little that was specific to The Saxhams. Only with regard to the "Good Neighbourhood Scheme" and an email address is included to contact the Police for non-urgent matters.

6. St Edmundsbury Borough Council – Councillor Ian Houlder

Cllr Houlder attended the meeting and reported on the Council's finances which are set to break even. As a Council the organisation still follows strict Covid 19 Guidelines and the majority of the staff are working from home.

The Parish Council were informed that the Mildenhall Hub was progressing well.

He reported that parking in Bury St Edmunds has increased and shop vacancies in Bury Town Centre are below the national average. He also briefed the Council on the development of the Old Post Office Building which was coming along well. The Ground floor intended for two retail outlets with flats above. The Borough wanted to preserve the front of the building as it is classed as "a Heritage Asset"

Unfortunately, due to Covid the Bury Christmas Fayre had to be cancelled but several other events were being held in its place e.g. The

Signed

Chair

Date

Abbey Celebrations and Moyse's Hall Exhibition of the Mary Beale Collection.

Cllr Houlder informed the Council that the first metal whistle in England was found at West Stow Anglo Saxon Village

7. Suffolk County Council - Councillor Karen Soons

Cllr. Soons attended the meeting and several issues including the flooding were raised. Karen reassured the Council that these issues were being followed up and that talks with Paul West would take place. The Chairman mentioned that correspondence had taken place between us and other parishes about outstanding highways issues of concern. Adjacent parishes felt that some progress had been made recently and it was therefore agreed to persevere by providing further evidence to wait for another up - date from Highways.

Cllr. Soons also briefed the Parish Council on the progress of the Covid vaccination programme

Councillors also brought to her attention various Lorry Routes going through the villages and asked for an update at a future meeting.

Cllr. Winkler brought to the attention of the Council her concerns over the apparent rubbish dumping particularly along the A14 saying that it is unacceptable and asked who is responsible for this. Cllr Soons explained that it was the local authority.

She also expressed her concerns about the LED lights that were being installed for street lights and other lighting situated around the County expressing concern at the level of light pollution which might well affect the wildlife in the rural areas.

Cllr. Soons asked the Clerk to email her with all these concerns and she would then pass these on to the relevant people.

**Michelle
Thompson**

(For Further information please see the Attached November Parish Newsletter for S.C.C.)

8. Planning Applications Received Since the 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

Signed

Chair

Date

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

- **DC21/1560/FUL**

Planning Application Conversion of stable building to two lets

Stables
Lower Farmhouse
Barrow Road
Great Saxham
Suffolk

Mr. W. Phizacklea

PENDING

No Comment was made by the Parish Council

10.

Finance

Chq 406	Community Action Suffolk (website)	£ 60.00
Chq 407	McGregor Grass Cutting Sept and Oct	£564.00

- Cheques – circulated and agreed by all present.
- Bank Reconciliation was approved and agreed
- The Parish Council agreed the Budget and Precept for 2022/23 Cllr. Burt explained that there was no reason to increase the Precept for 2022/23 and outlined how the percentage works on the Council Tax of the Parish; so therefore, it remained at £6000. All Agreed.
- It was agreed by the Council at the last Parish Meeting in September to add Cllr Hopkinson as a signatory to The Saxhams Parish Council Bank Account. Forms have now been completed and signed and the Clerk will submit it along with the signed minutes.
- The Chairman confirmed that the Council was also looking into Online Banking.

**Michelle
Thompson**

11.

Correspondence

Play Area Monthly Report:- June. – Oct and Nov 2021 -This was circulated for information and once again the wooden benches were noted.

Queen's Green Canopy

Councillors were made aware of this national initiative which promotes the planting of trees in the Queen's Jubilee year.

Signed

Chair

Date

Queen's Platinum Jubilee

As there is a four - day Bank Holiday, the Parish Council might look into holding and funding some celebrations for the Village. This was favourably thought about and requires on - going discussions.

Grass Cutting Contract

It was agreed to renew the Grass Cutting Contract with McGregor Services for another financial year. The prices have increased slightly following the end of a 3 year contract but the Parish Council has been satisfied with their services.

12. Any Other Business

A discussion took place following up previous talks on a path between Little Saxham and Great Saxham Play Area. All accepted that this would be beneficial to both villages but the Annual meeting had confirmed that at the current time landowners within the Parish were unwilling to assist with any direct route for the project.

The Parish Council Website

This needed to be updated regularly to ensure the Parish Council complies with its statutory obligations and to inform residents more about what is happening in the Parish. There may also be better ways to present the web pages to promote events etc. The Clerk was asked to determine which contact details Councillors wished to publicise and to action this further.

**Michelle
Thompson**

Little Saxham Village Sign

Cllr. Jones suggested that it might be appropriate for Little Saxham to have a Village Sign, just as Great Saxham has one. Discussion took place on where it could be situated. Cllr Jones will make some initial enquires and report back to the Parish Council so that this might be taken forward.

Cllr Jones

Cycle Path

Cllr. Jones asked for an update on where we are on the Cycle Path from Barrow to Bury St Edmunds.

Cllr. Burt explained that the only option available would be on the North side of the road as outlined by Mr Gittus at the Annual Village meeting. It was proposed that the Parish Council should work alongside the landowner to see if we could push the project forward more quickly. This would be an agenda item at future meetings to determine what progress might be made.

The change to Wednesday evening for Parish Council Meetings seemed to work and so will be continued for the time being.

Signed

Chair

Date

Date of Next Meeting –Wednesday 16th February 2022 at St Nicholas Church Little Saxham at 7.30 pm.

The Chairman thanked everyone for coming and the meeting was declared closed 9.15 pm.

Contact details:

Michael Burt	01284 810134	mike_burt@btopenworld.com
Carolyn Hopkinson	N /A	carolynhopkinson9@gmail.com
Helen Ferguson	01284 811696	helen.alletson@btinternet.com
Susan Winkler	N /A	suziewvs@gmail.com
Gill Hicks	01284 810450	gillhicks@freenetname.co.uk
Rosemary Irish	01284 811669	rosie.irish.920@btinternet.com
Bob Jones	N/A	bobjoneschess@btinternet.com
Michelle Thompson (Clerk)	01284 765447	thesaxhamsclerk@gmail.com

Signed

Chair

Date