

THE SAXHAMS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 21st June 2023
at St. Andrew's Church Great Saxham

Present:

Councillors: Mike Burt (Chairman), Carolyn Hopkinson (Vice Chair), Helen Ferguson (Councillor), Gill Hicks (Councillor), Rosie Irish (Councillor), Suzie Winkler (Councillor), Bob Jones (Councillor), Michelle Thompson (Clerk)

Cllr. Burt welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked Cllr. Hopkinson for acting as Chair for the Village and Annual Parish Meeting in May

1. Apologies:- None
2. Declaration of Interest Nil
3. Minutes of the Last PC meeting 24th May 2023

The Minutes were approved by all and signed off by Cllr. Burt

4. Matters Arising from Minutes 24th May 2023

- **Great Saxham Playground – Update on Outstanding Issues**

Two benches, which were donated to the Play Area by Great Saxham United Charities as a gift for the Jubilee will be adopted by the Parish Council once they are positioned satisfactorily on the bank overlooking the area. The Parish Council are concerned to ensure the benches are secure such that they will not topple when in use and that further measures are taken to mitigate the risk of theft. Cllr. Hopkinson met up with a Parishioner who is assisting with this and the use of Metposts to achieve this was discussed. Councillors were concerned these might detract visually so a further meeting would be arranged to determine a way forward.

**Cllr.
Hopkinson
Cllr. Burt**

The poor condition of the existing wooden benches (listed under moderate risk) continues to be monitored through the monthly Play Area Report by the Council. The replacement of the feet would be progressed once the new benches are in place.

Cllr. Winkler had arranged for the repair of the basketball nets and stand. Work has been completed and is now awaiting installation which might also be arranged through a handy parishioner.

**Cllr.
Winkler**

- **Stile Newsletter – numbers required in Great and Little Saxham**

Signed

Chair

Date

Due to rising cost the Councillors discussed the number of Stile newsletters being distributed in each of the Parishes to determine whether there are any redundant copies being purchased. Cllr. Hopkinson would ask the resident in Great Saxham responsible for circulation to liaise with the Risby distributor.

**Cllr.
Hopkinson**

- **Clerk's Computer up-date**

The Clerk is very pleased with her computer and thanks extended to Cllr. Jones

- **Electric Charging Point – Great Saxham Layby**

There has still been no information received regarding the installation of an electrical charging point. Parish Clerk asked to send a further enquiry for an update.

**M
Thompson**

- **Speed Limit Feedback from S.C.C. on extension of 30 mph Limit**

In order to encourage lower traffic speed through Great Saxham, Councillors asked Karen Soons for further information about the “Quiet Lane” signs that had been erected on some local village roads. Karen explained that there were certain criteria and a process to be followed but if the PC or private funding might be available then it would be worth looking into. Further enquiries would be made with SCC.

Cllr. Burt

Cllr. Hopkinson reported that an Old Vehicles Road Rally had taken Place one weekend in June and that the Parish Council had written to them expressing their concerns about speeding. However, the organisers were very accommodating and it proved to be a great success. Cllr. Hopkinson suggested it would be nice if we wrote a letter of thanks. The Clerk was asked to send a letter to say thank you for their co-operation.

**Michelle
Thompson**

Road Closures:- Direct Table Foods

The business had not responded directly to the 3 letters sent to them by the Parish Council outlining the serious disruption, inconvenience and travel costs incurred by local drivers over the course of a whole year due to the road closures associated with a new gas main being installed on their behalf. Cllr. Jones was still keen to press home this message and encourage the business to make financial recompense to the local Community in some way to recognise the inconvenience suffered. He agreed to progress this and to involve Karen Soons who could represent the wider catchment area affected.

**Cllr. Jones
/Karen
Soons**

Village Sign for Little Saxham

Cllr. Jones will continue his research into a village sign for Little Saxham and look into different areas of funding that might be available.

Cllr. Jones

Police Report

Signed

Chair

Date

5.

Cllr. Burt reported that there were no matters to highlight.

West Suffolk Council – Report from Cllr Ian Houlder

6.

Cllr. Houlder gave a summary report noting that in twenty years this is the first time that the Conservatives have not led the Council. He advised that he had not been notified of the AJN planning application that was subsequently discussed but would investigate this further as it is located within his Council ward.

Suffolk County Council – Report from Cllr. Karen Soons

7.

Karen attended the meeting and sent a report

(Please see attached for any further information)

Planning Applications Still Outstanding

8.

- **DC/23/0805/HH**

Householder Planning Application - flat window replaced with bay window to front elevation

“The Conifers”

Twites Corner

Great Saxham

Suffolk

IP29 5JR

Applicant Mrs. Sue Major

No Comment

The Parish Council discussed the 2 following proposals and requested more time to understand developments associated with Symonds Farm. It was further requested that the Council obtain a greater understanding from George Gittus of the current extent and future expansion plans in and around Symonds Farm including the AJN application discussed later.

The Chairman suggested that George Gittus might be invited to attend a PC meeting in July to brief Councillors on this.

Cllr. Burt

- **DC/23/0586/CLP**

Application for lawful development certificate for proposed use or development - two farm worker dwellings approved under planning permissions E/90/1545/P and E/90/2545/P

Land West Off Papeley Cottage

Signed

Chair

Date

Symonds Road
Great Saxham
Suffolk
IP29 5JU
Applicant: Mr. George Gittus, Geo E Gittus & Sons Ltd

- **DC/23/0216/FUL**

Proposal Planning Application –

- a. one portal frame building for class E (commercial, business and service) and B8 (storage and distribution) use with palisade fencing
- b. demolition of existing agricultural buildings

21 Symonds Farm
Newmarket Road
Great Saxham Bury St Edmunds
Applicant Mr Mark Wells, Geo E Gittus & Sons Ltd

9. **Discussion regarding AJN Steelstock planning proposal**

- **DC/23/0657/FUL**

Planning application - new steel storage, processing and distribution facility (use class B2) and associated development including highway and drainage infrastructure, parking, fencing and landscaping
Land Off Newmarket Road Great Saxham Suffolk
Applicant: AJN Steelstock, GEO.E.Gittus & Sons, Dencora Construction

Residents were made aware at the AVM of this significant planning proposal for the development within The Saxhams of a new site for General Industrial use. There is likely to be adverse amenity impact (light/noise/traffic) to the settlements of Risby, Great Saxham and Little Saxham. 4 Councillors accompanied by the Parish Council chairman from Risby had made a site visit to the applicant's existing premises in order to understand their operations in some detail.

The Chairman explained that a number of individual residents had expressed opposition to the proposal with no views expressed in favour. WS Council had been asked to allow an extension on return of comments until the end of June.

Councillors debated the proposal and were especially concerned that there had been no public consultation. It was felt that few local residents would be aware that such a significant industrial site was being proposed so near to the settlements of Great Saxham, Little Saxham and Risby which would be unacceptably affected by increased noise, extra traffic and light pollution.

Signed

Chair

Date

Further means to communicate more generally such as a public meeting organised with Risby, further articles in the Stile magazine or a specific newsletter circulated to all local residents were discussed.

**Michelle
Thompson**

The Saxhams Parish Council then voted to **OBJECT** to this application.

10. Finance

Bank Reconciliation Considered and Approved by All

The Clerk reported that the Internal Auditor had conducted an Audit on 14th June and all procedures and controls were reported as satisfactory with just one recommendation outstanding. The Parish Council is advised to display a "Website Accessibility Statement" to demonstrate compliance with the website accessibility regulations. The Clerk was asked to contact the Webhost to arrange this)

The Accounting statements contained in the AGAR for 2022/23 were agreed and approved by all Councillors.

The Clerk is now to send the AGAR 23 to PFK Littlejohn by 1st July

Cheques:-

Chq 9	Mcgregors (Grass Cutting May)	£348.00
Chq 10	Clerks Expenses (May and June)	£ 61.60
SO	SCC Pension Fund Clerks Pension May	£ 37.83
SO	M Thompson Salary May	£125.43
SO	SCC Pension Fund Clerks Pension -June	£ 37.83
SO	M Thompson Salary June	£125.43

11. Any Other Business

There was no other business and the meeting finished at 9.00 pm.

The next Parish Council Meeting T.B.A

Contact Details:-

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