

THE SAXHAMS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 13th September 2023 at St.Andrews' Church, Great Saxham

Present:

Councillors: Mike Burt (Chairman), Carolyn Hopkinson (Vice Chair), Helen Ferguson (Councillor), Gill Hicks (Councillor), Rosie Irish (Councillor) and Michelle Thompson (Clerk).

1. Apologies:- Cllr. Winkler, Cllr. Jones
2. Declaration of Interest Nil
3. Minutes of the Last PC Meeting 20th July 2023

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

4. Matters Arising from Minutes 20th July 2023

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

Cllr. Hopkinson has been working alongside Mr. Gittus and his Service Team to make the two benches, which were donated to the Play Area by Great Saxham United Charities as a gift for the Jubilee, more secure, so they will not fall over; by re-mounting the back with a concrete base. This is progressing well and once satisfactory, will then be adopted by the Parish Council.

**Cllr.
Hopkinson**

Discussions took place on the overall condition of the existing Play Area Equipment, there are several areas of the wood that have begun to rot. The Councillors requested that enquiries should be made into getting the areas repaired and may also consider replacements as there are a lot of children in the village that make good use of the equipment and it would be a shame if this was not available to them. Cllr. Ferguson is to look into this.

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

**Cllr.
Ferguson**

The basketball nets and stand are now complete and the Parish Council have thanked Cllr. Winkler for all her hard work on this.

Signed

Chair

Date

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

The Clerk is to correspond with Risby Village Hall Charity to make sure the Parish Council is billed accordingly. The number of Stiles requested for the Parishes is 120 (including just a few spare).

**Michelle
Thompson**

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

The Council have expressed an interest in having “Quiet Lane” signs in Great Saxham from the Gates through to “Frizzlers Green” in order to encourage lower speed. Councillor Karen Soons has been working alongside the Parish Council to assist with their enquiries. As this section is a single track road with no white lines it should be suitable for this designation.

Cllr. Burt

The project needs to be sponsored by the Parish Council and although the current funding stream is allocated it may be possible for the Parish Council to pay for the necessary signage or if too expensive to wait for a further allocation of funds. First step is to register with the organisers at www.quietlanessuffolk.co.uk/contact

At the meeting in July Cllr. Soons reassured the Council that we are included in S.C.C. Speed Surveys, but emphasised she was not sure when this would be.

- **Road Closures: New Gas Pipeline for Direct Table Foods**

There has been no further major road closure apart from Honeyhill to complete the final stages of the piping. Cllr. Jones will continue to follow up any possibility of gaining compensation due to the protracted inconvenience to the community of the road closure.

Cllr. Jones

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

Correspondence has now been received about the next stages of the Electrical Charging Points and circulated to all. Councillors expressed concern that the Parish Council should know more about how usage would be monitored and what benefits might accrue to the local community. More information about this is available at www.greensuffolk.org/plug-in-suffolk

**Michelle
Thompson**

- **Lodge Farm Development Little Saxham**

The listed farmhouse and adjacent farmyard had been sold in two lots to the same buyer. The Parish Council would continue to monitor development plans closely.

- **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. An update will be provided at the next meeting.

Cllr. Jones

- **Proposal AJN Steelstock at the site of Newmarket Road**

The Councillors revisited, what had been discussed by George Gittus at the last meeting and the concerns were raised once more on the land proposed for the development of AJN Steelstock. Cllr. Burt outlined that Mr Gittus had already stated that this land had been considered for planning development previously.

The Parish Council's main concern was that the site is agricultural land and would now be allocated as available for general manufacturing purposes. Yes, there is the need to create jobs locally, but also to try and preserve land designated as countryside especially as it is understood that the land is being sold to AJN rather than leased.

When Councillors met AJN they were reassured that the fencing around the building will be high enough to attenuate noise, however this may not be the case in practice. Risby residents had similar concerns.

Cllr. Burt

The Chairman emphasised that AJN did not consider their planning application is dependent on a roundabout to route the traffic into the proposed site which is part of the approved Truckstop application. Mr Gittus had confirmed at the previous meeting that the roundabout was in the final stages of approval by National Highways.

In relation to this Planning Application the Council felt it would be beneficial to be able to correspond with residents, collect feedback and gain people's views on it and also with any future projects. It was suggested that a bulletin is prepared to be distributed with the Stile which would cover current issues. It was noted that if the Parish Council circulate such a bulletin via email, they will need to collect and hold individual email addresses and make a GDPR registration under the Information Commissioners Office. This would therefore enable the Council to inform the Parishioners of the village about the above proposal and also allow us to report back on other developments such as Lodge Farm in Little Saxham and also on the Barrow cum Denham Neighbourhood Plan.

Michelle Thompson

- **Chestnut Tree at Twites Corner**

Cllr. Hopkinson, at the last meeting, had mentioned that she had reported the Chestnut Tree at 1, Twites Corner, as the branches were dangerous. It was confirmed by the Chairman that the same tree had similar problems a few years back and it was eventually trimmed by SCC, but only below a

certain height.

Further enquiries have been made by Cllr. Hopkinson with West Suffolk Tree Officer and S.C.C to try and gain knowledge of who owns the land surrounding the tree. There are different avenues that she is now looking into and will report back at the next meeting. The Tree has been confirmed as having a T.P.O.

**Cllr.
Hopkinson**

5. Police Report

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

6. West Suffolk Council – Report from Cllr. Ian Houlder

Cllr. Houlder outlined that the W.S. Local Plan has not yet been agreed but he did point out that 220 extra houses were being considered in Barrow. The two main sites under discussion being Bury Road and the land along Hargrave Road. Land to the North of the village near the Primary School had been discounted as a preferred site.

He reported that Barrow- cum- Denham Parish Council had just completed a draft Neighbourhood Plan which was designed to look at the village needs as a whole and not just housing development needs.

Cllr. Burt did express local concerns about the volume of traffic coming through our parishes which would inevitably increase with more housing. Additionally he stressed that housing development must be supported by appropriate upgrades to facilities and infrastructure in the Key Service Centre of Barrow so that neighbouring villages such as Little Saxham and Great Saxham are not unfairly impacted.

Cllr. Houlder confirmed the deadline for comments was 23rd October 2023 and that any feedback from the Parish Council would be welcome.

Cllr. Burt

Cllr. Houlder informed the Parish Council that, following the change of leadership at WS Council, development on the Hub along Western Way had ceased meaning that the Old Leisure Centre would continue to undergo renovation.

7. Suffolk County Council – Report from Cllr. Karen Soons

Karen did not attend the meeting but sent a report.
(See attached)

8. Planning Applications Received since Last Meeting

None

9. **Planning Applications Approved / Refused since last Meeting**

- **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

Approved

- **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

Pending

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

Approved

- **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

Approved

10. Finance

i. **Bank Reconciliation:-** Considered and approved by all.

ii. **Payments:-**

SO SCC Pension Fund Clerks Pension	£ 37.83
SO M Thompson Salary	£ 125.43
BT GH retirement voucher T Bragg	£ 50.00
BT McGregors Grass Cut	£ 696.00
BT WS Council Election Fees	£ 81.91
BT Gallaghers Parish Insurance	£ 403.28
BT MT Clerks Expenses	£ 8.10

iii. **Parish Insurance**

The Chairman confirmed that the Parish Insurance for the following year has been approved and the payment sent.

11. Correspondence

Standing Orders, Financial Regulations, Code of Conduct, Risk Assessment, and Fixed Assets will be considered at the next meeting in November.

Cllr. Hopkinson enquired as to whether a letter of thanks had been sent to the Old Vehicles Society as they had been very accommodating on the day of their Rally back in June.

The Clerk confirmed that a letter of appreciation had been sent.

12. Any Other Business

There was no further business and the meeting finished at 8.35pm.

The next Parish Council Meeting will be on Thursday 16th November at 7:30pm in Little Saxham Church

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Signed

Chair

Date

Signed

Chair

Date