

THE SAXHAMS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 16th November 2022 at St. Nicholas' Church Little Saxham

Present

Councillors: Michael Burt (Chairman) Carolyn Hopkinson (Councillor)
Suzie Winkler (Councillor) Rosie Irish (Councillor)
and Michelle Thompson (Clerk)

1. Apologies: - Helen Ferguson (Councillor), Gill Hicks (Councillor)
Bob Jones (Councillor) Ian Houlder (WS Councillor)

2. Declarations of Interest None

3. Minutes of the Last PC Meeting

The minutes of 28th September 2022 were approved by the Parish Council and signed by the Chairman.

4. Matters Arising from Minutes of 28th September 2022

- **Drainage at Great Saxham Church Gate**

S.C.C. Highways Department have now completed the Drainage work outside the Church Gate Entrance. The PC are grateful to Cllr. Soons for her continued support with this issue and to Highways for the very extensive works completed.

It is now important to investigate where the existing route goes through the churchyard and meets up with the drainage channel through the car park to ensure that any future burials do not disturb matters. Cllr. Winkler has some photos of the initial direction of travel through the churchyard to form a basis for the investigation.

Cllr Winkler

- **Great Saxham Play Area**

The Council continues to monitor through the monthly Play Area Report - the poor condition of the existing wooden benches – listed under moderate risk. The Council had approved the replacement of the feet and Cllr Ferguson is dealing with this matter.

**Cllr
Ferguson**

Cllr. Winkler had arranged for the repair of the basketball nets and backboard and re-painting. Work has progressed, awaiting final installation.

Cllr Winkler

The Benches, kindly donated to the Play Area by Great Saxham United Charities as a gift for the Jubilee, have had the positioning raised due to concern about their location on a bank. The Chairman discussed

Signed

Chair

Date

this with the Charity concerned and investigation is in progress to move the benches down a little or cut away some of the bank to level off to ensure safer access to all. Once a safe and secure location is provided the PC would be content to add these items to their asset register and take on their continued maintenance.

Cllr Burt

- **Electrical Charging Points**

The Clerk reported at the November meeting that S.C.C. have completed the first stages of the procedure, to consider installation of Electrical Charging Points in the lay-by at Twites Corner Gt. Saxham and will contact us again shortly to provide an update.

Michelle Thompson

- **Clerk's Computer**

No more progress has been made but a further update will be given at the next meeting.

Michelle Thompson

- **Road Closure - Direct Table Foods**

This is an on- going concern and the Parish Council has expressed its concern on several occasions over the road closures between Little Saxham and Westley, for a new gas main to benefit Direct Table Foods on the Saxhams Industrial Estate.

Cllr Burt

Further correspondence is needed with Direct Table to discuss the inconvenience caused and to express the villagers concerns about the effect of the diversion route on traffic.

- **Lodge Farm Development**

The Chairman is to follow this up and will report back at the next meeting.

Cllr Burt

- **V.A.S. Option to Upgrade**

Still Outstanding. The Chairman is to liaise with other Parish Councils to discuss the options.

Cllr Burt

- **Little Saxham Village Sign**

Cllr, Jones is continuing with his enquiries into the possibility of having a village sign in Lt Saxham. Hopefully, Cllr Jones will give an up-date at the February meeting.

Cllr Jones

- **Transfer of Bank Accounts- Lloyds**

Signed

Chair

Date

The documentation has been received and passed to the Chairman for completing and signing. Due to transfer all funds at the beginning of January 2023

**Michelle
Thompson
/Cllr Burt**

5. Suffolk Police Report

There were no matters relevant to The Saxhams.

6. St Edmundsbury Borough Council – Councillor Ian Houlder

Cllr. Houlder was unable to attend so no specific report was given.

7. Suffolk County Council - Councillor Karen Soons

Cllr. Soons did not attend. A report was circulated to all prior to the meeting.

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

8. Planning Applications Received Since Last Meeting

None

9. Planning Applications Approved/ Refused Since the Last Meeting

- **DC/22/1441/HH** Household Planning Application – installation of Eight photovoltaic solar panels upon South facing stable roof and garage roof

Holly Lodge
Hargrave Road
Little Saxham
IP29 5LH

Approved

- **DC/22/0982/HH** Household Planning Application- Construction of pool garden, with pool equipment house and minor landscaping works

Saxham Hall
Cobbs Hall Road
Great Saxham
Suffolk
IP29 5JW

Applicant Mr. O. Winkler

Pending

Signed

Chair

Date

10. Finance

Chq 433	McGregors Grass Cut	£606.00
Chq 434	CAS (Website Hosting)	£ 60.00
Chq 436	MT Clerks Expenses	£ 16.81
Chq 437	MT Salary Clerk	£ 376.29
Chq 438	SCC Pension Fund	£ 113.49
<i>(Parish and Clerk Contribution)</i>		

- Cheques – circulated and agreed by all present.
- Bank Reconciliation was approved and agreed
- There was discussion regarding the amount of precept, considering various budget options. It was noted that the precept had been fixed at £6,000 since 2016/17, there would be inflationary pressures in the coming year and some costs related to the election in May. In view of these considerations the Precept for 2023/24 was set at £6,500 and the Budget 2023/24 was agreed by all present.

11. Correspondence

Rural Mobility in Parishes Survey - (deadline 16th Dec 2022)

Cllr Hopkinson has been corresponding with Community Action Suffolk on a Rural Service Survey over the last two months.

Cllr Hopkinson reported on a variety of facilities that our community could use, but was unaware of whether they were being used e.g. Prescription Delivery Service, Mobile Library Service, whether we have a Good Neighbour Scheme and if not, where was the nearest one. The nearest Doctors Surgery, School Bus Services and about Footways etc.

This was all discussed and agreed that Cllr Hopkinson would report back to Community Action Suffolk with the information discussed.

12. Any Other Business

Cllr Winkler expressed her concern over the speed of traffic going through the village of Great Saxham and pointed out that the 30mph sign limit finished just after the Lodge Gate and then resumes at the start of Hargrave Road. The Chairman said that it was because there were no dwellings either side of the road. However, it was expressed that this can be very dangerous for pedestrians, cyclist, farm animals etc. This is to be looked into.

**Cllr Burt /
Michelle
Thompson**

Signed

Chair

Date

The Lighting issue re LED lights at the Saxham Business Park – CLAAS UK was discussed and the Council are concerned about the environmental impact it is having. It was suggested to perhaps contact the company, expressing everyone's concern. Cllr Burt to look into this

Cllr Burt

13. Date of Next Meeting – Wednesday 15th February 2023 at St Andrew's Church Great Saxham at 7.30 pm
The Meeting Closed at 8.45 pm

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Signed

Chair

Date