

# THE SAXHAMS PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2023 at St. Andrew's Church, Great Saxham

### Present

Councillors: Michael Burt (Chairman), Gill Hicks (Councillor)  
Suzie Winkler (Councillor), Rosie Irish (Councillor)  
Bob Jones (Councillor) and Michelle Thompson (Clerk)

1. Apologies: - Helen Ferguson (Councillor), Carolyn Hopkinson (Councillor) Ian Houlder (WS Councillor) Karen Soons (SCC Representative)

2. Declarations of Interest None

3. Minutes of the Last PC Meeting

The minutes of 17<sup>th</sup> November 2022 were approved by the Parish Council and signed by the Chairman.

4. Matters Arising from Minutes of 28<sup>th</sup> February 2023

#### • **Great Saxham Play Area**

The poor condition of the wooden benches (listed under moderate risk) continues to be monitored through the monthly Play Area Report by the Council. The replacement of the feet has been approved and Cllr Ferguson is dealing with this matter.

**Cllr  
Ferguson**

Cllr. Winkler had arranged for the repair of the basketball nets and stand. Work has been completed and is now waiting for installation. A local resident had offered to assist so Cllr Burt would liaise over this.

**Cllr Winkler  
Cllr Burt**

Two new benches had been offered to the Parish Council by Great Saxham United Charities to mark the late Queen's Jubilee. Before adoption the PC wished to re-assess their position on a bank overlooking the Play Area in Great Saxham. The Parish Council will consider moving them or cutting away some of the bank to be more secure and to level off the ground to make them more accessible to all. Once adopted they will be included in the P.C. Asset Register.

#### • **Electrical Charging Points**

The Clerk reported that there has been no further progress and we now await an update from SCC regarding the installation of Electrical Charging Points in the lay-by at Twites Corner, Gt. Saxham

#### • **Clerk's Computer**

The Clerk reported that she has now received the computer and was

**Michelle  
Thompson**  
Date

Signed

Chair

transferring all files from the old Computer to the new ready for the new financial year. The new computer has a similar value to the existing unit and will replace it on the Asset Register.

- **Road Closure - Direct Table Foods**

This is on- going and the Parish Council has expressed its concern on several occasions over many months of road closures between Little Saxham and Westley, for a new gas main to benefit Direct Table Foods on the Saxhams Industrial Estate. Correspondence has been received from Direct Table Foods and their agent Utility Site Services. It is hoped that a meeting can be arranged with the company and a representative from SCC, to convey the concerns of our villagers and those in surrounding parishes regarding the inconvenience and increased cost of the diversion route. Cllr. Burt and Cllr Jones will contact Direct Table Foods once more to discuss this further and to determine whether the business would be willing to contribute to the community in some way to compensate for this inconvenience.

**Cllr Burt/  
Cllr Jones**

- **Lodge Farm Development**

The Chairman reported that there was no further development on this matter and that Cllr Burt will make some enquires and hopefully report back at the next meeting.

**Cllr Burt**

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

The Chairman has liaised with other Parish Councils to discuss the options with the outcome that it would be very expensive (about £25,000) to upgrade to a sign with number plate recognition. So this action would not be pursued currently.

- **Little Saxham Village Sign**

Cllr, Jones is continuing with his enquiries into the possibility of having a village sign in Lt Saxham. Funding is being looked into and Cllr Jones will give an up-date at the AVM meeting in May

**Cllr Jones**

- **Transfer of Bank Accounts- Lloyds**

The new Lloyds Account is now open and enquires are now being made into Internet Banking. The documentation has been received and passed to the Chairman for completion and signature.

## 5. Suffolk Police Report

There were no specific items to report.

Signed

Chair

Date

6. St Edmundsbury Borough Council – Councillor Ian Houlder

Cllr. Houlder did not attend the meeting and no report was available.

7. Suffolk County Council - Councillor Karen Soons

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

Planning Applications Received Since Last Meeting

8. • **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

**No Comment**

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

• **DC/23/0189/HH**

Householder Planning Application  
replace existing one metre wire fence with 2 metre, high timber fence alongside highway.

**No Comment**

“Crowswood Cottage”

Bury Road  
Little Saxham  
Suffolk IP29 5LG

The above application can be viewed by downloading it from the planning section.

9. Planning Applications Approved/ Refused Since the Last Meeting

- **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*

**10.**            Finance

Councillors agreed an annual payment of £100 to each Church PCC for use of the building and utility costs over the past year.

One of two batteries used in the VAS had been replaced at a total cost of £84.60. The PC would reclaim the VAT (£14.10) and recharge £23.50 each to Barrow PC and Westley PC.

Chq 001	Westcotec	VAS Battery	84.60
Chq 002	M T Expenses		15.60
Chq 003	Gt Saxham Church - Grant		100.00
Chq 004	Lt Saxham Church – Grant		100.00

- Cheques – circulated and agreed by all present.
- Bank Reconciliation was approved and agreed
- Trevor Brown was appointed as The Saxhams PC Internal Auditor for the year ending 2022/23

**11.**            Correspondence

**Stile Newsletter**

Notification had been received that the annual cost of the newsletter will double from £2.50 to £5 in the coming year. Although this still represents good value, it is appropriate to re-assess the number of copies distributed each month (currently 40 in Little Saxham, 100 in Great Saxham). On-going, Little Saxham would require 36 and Cllr Ferguson would assess how many were required for delivery to residents in Great Saxham.

**Cllr  
Ferguson**

**West Suffolk Local Plan**

The timetable for the consultation period on the local plan has been extended to later this year. A number of housing development sites have been identified in the village of Barrow and there will be further exhibitions over the coming months by prospective contractors. The Chairman encouraged all Councillors to attend where possible as these development plans will inevitably have an impact on The Saxhams through increased traffic and demands on infrastructure such as schools and GP Services. Once well-informed, The Saxhams PC would hope to give appropriate feedback to Barrow PC and WS Council in developing their plans.

**All Cllrs**

**Forthcoming Council Elections – 4<sup>th</sup> May 2023**

Cllr Burt reported on the Council Elections in May and went through some useful information to assist Councillors in the completion of their forms. The outline timetable is that the Notice of the Elections will be

Signed

Chair

Date

displayed from 22<sup>nd</sup> March and that the deadline date is 4<sup>th</sup> April 2023 at 4pm for all forms to be received by the Returning Officer at WS Council. The results will be announced on the 8<sup>th</sup> or 9<sup>th</sup> May 2023.

**12. Risk Assessment.**

This was presented to the PC and Cllr Burt. Explained that it would need adjusting accordingly to account for an Internet Banking facility

**Cllr Burt / Michelle Thompson**

**13. Any Other Business**

**Speed Limits.** Councillors queried whether any extension to the 30mph zones in each village would be possible. In particular the section of Great Saxham between the Lodge gates and Frizeller's Green might well lend itself to this or designation as a 'quiet lane' as had been seen elsewhere recently between Denham and Dalham. The Clerk was asked to investigate.

**Michelle Thompson**

**Speed sign.** The double bend sign on entry to Little Saxham from Bury St Edmunds had recently been destroyed in a traffic accident. This had been notified to SCC though the Police had no record of the incident.

**14. Date of Next Meeting – AVM followed by a Parish Council Meeting Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2023 at St. Nicholas' Church, Little Saxham at 7.15 pm**

The Meeting Closed at 8.45 pm

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Signed

Chair

Date