

# THE SAXHAMS PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 28th September 2022 at St. Andrew's Church Great Saxham

### Present

Councillors: Michael Burt (Chairman) Gill Hicks (Councillor) Carolyn Hopkinson (Councillor)  
Bob Jones (Councillor) and Michelle Thompson (Clerk)

1. Apologies: - Helen Ferguson (Councillor), Rosie Irish (Councillor)  
Suzie Winkler (Councillor)

2. Declarations of Interest None

3. Minutes of the Last PC Meeting

The minutes of 29<sup>th</sup> June 2022 were approved by the Parish Council and signed by the Chairman.

4. Matters Arising from Minutes of 28<sup>th</sup> September 2022

- **Little Saxham Village Noticeboard Repairs**

The noticeboard has now been installed. It stands a little higher than before to avoid re-use of the same mounting points and also now has a magnetic back board. The original dedication in gold lettering has also been renewed.

- **Drainage at Honey Hill near to The Cattery Lt. Saxham**

Future issues should continue to be logged on the SCC website

- **Drainage at Great Saxham Church Gate**

SCC Highways Department have started the work outside the Church Gate Entrance. Due to continued support from Cllr Soons, and photographic evidence from Cllr, Winkler it was realised that the work completed in 2014 had caused this problem. So, Highways have acknowledged this and work is ongoing.

- **Great Saxham Play Area**

The Parish 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.

**Cllr  
Ferguson**

Signed

Chair

Date

Cllr. Winkler had arranged for a handyman to assess the cost of repairing the basketball nets and stand. This is expected to cost approximately £120.

**Cllr  
Winkler**

The Benches that were kindly donated to the Play Area by Great Saxham United Charities as a gift for the Jubilee, have had the positioning raised as a concern, as they are situated on a bank. The Chairman discussed this with the Charity concerned and they are now looking into it, before being adopted and included in the PC Asset Register.

**Cllr Burt**

- **Electrical Charging Points**

The Clerk reported that they had received correspondence back from SCC in regard to the Electrical Charging Points being situated in the lay by at Twites Corner Gt Saxham. It is in the first stages of the procedure and we are now awaiting an up - date

**Michelle  
Thompson**

- **Clerk's Computer**

The Clerk had outlined that the computer purchased in 2016 was running slow. It was agreed to look into purchasing a newer model. Enquiries are being made and an 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 had expressed its concern over the road closures between Little Saxham and Westley for a new gas main to benefit Direct Table Foods on the Saxhams Industrial Estate on several occasions.

Further correspondence with Direct Table will be needed to discuss the inconvenience caused by the next phases of work from Westley crossroads to Oliver Road in Bury St Edmunds and from Little Saxham bends to the Saxhams Industrial Estate via Honey Hill.

**Cllr Burt**

- **Lodge Farm Development**

The Parish Council are minded to be proactive in engaging with the landowners via their agents Savills to understand future plans for the site of the farm and indeed the listed farmhouse as well.

**Cllr Burt**

- **VAS Option to Upgrade**

Still Outstanding. To contact the other Parish Councils to discuss the options.

**Cllr Burt**

Signed

Chair

Date

• **Transfer of Bank Accounts- Lloyds**

The Clerk explained that the Parish Council were in the process of transferring Banks, due to HSBC now charging for each cheque transaction made. It was agreed by all to transfer to Lloyds and that, at the same time, the Clerk should progress the move to on-line banking.

**Michelle  
Thompson**

• **Little Saxham Village Sign**

Cllr, Jones has been making enquiries into the possibility of having a village sign in Lt Saxham. This was discussed and some options were outlined including the involvement of someone in the village to produce the design. Cllr Jones will give an update at the November meeting.

**Cllr Jones**

5. Suffolk Police Report

There was nothing further to report back since the June Newsletter.

6. St Edmundsbury Borough Council – Councillor Ian Houlder

Cllr. Houlder attended the meeting and briefed on the latest news, saying there are elections next year and that the WS Council are keeping a careful eye on their Finances. He also outlined the Bus Route closures.

The Chairman once again thanked Cllr. Houlder for all his support throughout the year including financially.

7. Suffolk County Council - Councillor Karen Soons

Cllr. Soons gave a brief summary of progress with more detail available via her monthly newsletters.

Karen Soons was pleased to announce that through a combined effort finally progress had been made on the Flooding at Great Saxham Church Gate and work had been started. Cllr. Burt explained that SCC are digging a channel to take the piping through and into Church Car Park, then under the road. Cllr. Winker has been working with Highways and informed us that the Land owners up to Priors Farm should try to keep any ditches clear, to prevent any flooding.

Cllr Soons informed us that she has included links for the “Cost of Living Crisis” in her report and suggested sharing them. She also confirmed that the Covid Vaccine programme for the Winter has started.

She also kindly suggested that funds from her locality budget might be available to support the village sign project if this were to get underway. The Chairman and Clerk would follow this up.

**Cllr Burt /  
Michelle  
Thompson**

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

Signed

Chair

Date

8. Planning Applications Received Since 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

**No  
Comment**

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

**No  
Comment**

Saxham Hall  
Cobbs Hall Road  
Great Saxham  
Suffolk  
IP29 5JW

Applicant Mr. O. Winkler

9. Planning Applications Approved/ Refused Since the Last Meeting

**DC/22/0847/HH** Household Planning Application – detached two bay lodge with workshop

**Approved**

St Nicholas House  
Hargrave Road  
Little Saxham  
Bury St Edmunds  
IP29 5LH

- **DC/22/0889/VAR** Planning application - variation of condition 3 of DC/21/1560/FUL to remove time occupation restriction for holiday let

**Refused**

Stables Lower Farmhouse  
Barrow Road  
Great Saxham

Applicant Mr. W. J. Phizacklea

Signed

Chair

Date

10. Finance

Chq 429	Michelle Thompson – Clerk Salary	£376.29
Chq 430	SCC – Clerk Pension Contribution	£113.49
Chq 428	McGregors Grass Cut	£168.00
Chq 431	M Thompson Clerks Expenses	£ 14.55
Chq 432	Gallagher Insurance	£410.88

- Cheques – circulated and agreed by all present.
- Bank Reconciliation was approved and agreed
- The Clerk informed the Council that a VAT Refund had been received for £610.20

11. Correspondence

The Chairman confirmed that one of the auditor's recommendations was to update the Risk Assessment, taking into consideration any Data Protection issues. This was still outstanding. **Michelle Thompson/  
Cllr. Burt**

The Chairman Outlined the problem with regard to the overflowing bin situated at Twites Corner Bus Shelter at Great Saxham.

This is a regular problem, and on several occasions has been reported to WS Council - it seems to be used for "Fly Tipping". The bin is normally emptied during the standard bin collection cycle unless it appears to the collectors that it has been subject to fly tipping.

In this situation, WS Council must be contacted to allow their specialist team to attend. It was agreed to continue to monitor the situation.

The Chairman noted the poor state of the chevron signs on the dangerous bend at Lawner's cottage on the Chevington road in Little Saxham. He would log this with SCC. **Cllr. Burt**

12. Date of Next Meeting – Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> November 2022 at St Nicholas Church Little Saxham at 7.30 pm

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Michelle Thompson (Clerk)	01284 765447	thesaxhamsclerk@gmail.com
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Signed	Chair	Date
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Signed

Chair

Date