

THE SAXHAMS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on 13th September 2018

at St Nicholas Church, Little Saxham

Present:

Councillors: Michael Burt (Chairman), Jonathan Clarke (Councillor), Sue Dunn (Councillor), Helen Ferguson (Councillor) Suzie Winkler (Councillor) Jennie Moody (Councillor) and Michelle Thompson (Clerk) and Seven Saxham Parishioners

The Chairman, Michael Burt welcomed seven villagers to an Open Forum before the Parish Council Meeting commenced. Prior, to the meeting, many attended a site visit to Honey Hill farm the subject to a planning application on the agenda. Villagers were asked to express their views on this application and any other item on the agenda so that Councillors would be aware of local opinions on these matters.

Action

1. Apologies for absence – Rosie Irish and Mandy Cockerton

2. Declarations of Interest – Suzie Winkler on Item 10 Re: Application for Listed Building Consent – Saxham Hall - Replace areas on pitched roof from Lead to Welsh slate and Item 11 Dismantle of Umberello at Saxham Hall

3. Minutes of Last PC Meeting held on 14th June 2018 – The Minutes were approved by all and signed off by the Chairman.

4. Matters Arising from Minutes 14th June 2018

- Damage to Pillar near the Gate House
This has been reported to Suffolk Highways and now waiting investigation.
- Sign at Twites Corner to Symonds Farm advertising ‘Weigh Bridge’

**Michelle
Thompson**

The subject of a “Weight Restriction” or “Width Notice” was discussed from Twites Corner through to Symonds Farm at the last Parish Council Meeting (14.06.18) to discourage large vehicles from using the road by removing the sign at the crossroads for public weighbridge and suggesting new signage for weight and or width restrictions on this road (allowing for appropriate farm traffic) at both ends. Highways have confirmed there is no basis on which this restriction could be applied.

**Michelle
Thompson**

Signed

Chair

Date

- Signpost at Honey Hill Junction with Barrow Road at Little Saxham

This has been reported to Highways England is waiting investigation.

5. Suffolk Police Report

There was nothing of relevance to report that related to the Parishes of Little and Great Saxham.

6. St Edmundsbury Borough Council – Councillor Ian Houlder

Borough Councillor, Ian Houlder shared the Borough's development plans which included additional parking and housing for the town centre, this would encourage more visitors and increase revenue through parking charges and rental income. Through the merger with Forest Heath, they plan to dispose of their offices to build housing and for a new public service village along Western Way incorporating the sports centre site for additional parking. With a Multi Storey car park planned for the College site along Anglian Lane.

They are looking to revamp the Christmas Fair as not all retailers are benefiting from the increased footfall, as the stalls are concentrated on the Angel Hill and Abbey Gardens area. There will also be a review of the types and volume of retailers.

7. Suffolk County Council - Councillor Karen Soons

Karen Soons shared with us the continuous hard work that has been done for the benefit of special needs children and that funding had been granted for a further three years to assist with their needs and also those of young people.

She also went on to say how well the County had done in the G.C.S.E and 'A' Level results this year's particularly, with the introduction of the new grading system. 98% of pupils achieving between A – E this was above the National Level.

Following a major review, it was decided to introduce a phased change to school and post-16 travel policy, which will come into effect next September. This would provide children aged 4 – 16 years with transport to their nearest school with an available place.

Karen confirmed that work was to be carried out within the area to improve the quality and speed of Broadband and by 2020 it will provide a 98% coverage.

Karen shared that tourism was booming in Suffolk and that it was for the first time adding £2 billion to the economy. People were visiting Suffolk more and staying longer and this has resulted in a 6% increase in jobs with 42,428 people employed in the industry, with 13.6% of people in Suffolk employed in the tourism sector.

Signed

Chair

Date

8. Highway Matter

- Proposed Cycle Route Barrow – Bury St Edmunds

A project to create a cycle route from Barrow to Bury St Edmunds via The Saxhams would be a desirable long term goal requiring National Funding and co-operation from local landowners. Karen Soons was supportive and suggested Charlotte Ditchburn, the new CC Right of Way Officer would be a good point of contact.

**Michelle
Thompson**

- Chestnut Trees at Twites Corner.

Cllr Jonathan Clarke, Cllr Sue Dunn and Resident Mandy Cockerton had met with SCC Community Engineer, Antony Smith, to discuss issues of safety and ownership of these Trees. It was suggested that the adjacent land had once belonged to the Borough Council and therefore the parcel of land on which the trees stand may be their; to discuss the issues and ownership of these Trees; Cllr. Ian Houlder very kindly offered to email the appropriated persons concerned and the Parish Council are awaiting a response

**Michelle
Thompson**

- Re – Instate Little Saxham Village Sign

The Little Saxham Village sign was demolished in a road accident and has been reported to SCC. A timetable for its replacement has been set, so the Clerk will follow up on this.

9.

Parish Council Insurance - Hiscox Underwriting

Our Parish Council Insurance Renewal of £291.20 was due for the forthcoming year There was a slight increase from last year's insurance of £11.20 and was approved by the Parish Council.

Signed

Chair

Date

10. Planning Applications for Consideration at the Meeting: -

- DC/16/1723/OUT Application for Proposed Truckstop- Adj road from A14 to C629 Risby. Mr George J. Gittus and Sons.

Pending

In an open forum concerns were raised by those present, that the proposed Truckstop could create additional traffic through the village and cause damage to the roads. That the access is inadequate and it was pointed out that a facility already exists in Bury St Edmunds just off the A14.

- DC/18/1465/LB Application for Listed Building Consent- (i) Conversion of 4no barns to 6no dwellings and associated garages and (ii) associated work. As per the submitted schedules of works. Land at Honey Hill Farm, Little Saxham.

DC/18/1464/FUL (i) Conversion of 4no barns to 6no dwellings and associated garages and (ii) associated works as per the submitted schedule of works. Land at Honey Hill Farm Little Saxham.

Subsequent to the meeting, councillors approved via email the following observations on above Planning Application

Parish Council Observations

- The development is within the curtilage of and would have a significant adverse impact on the setting of Honey Hill Farmhouse which is listed as a late 16C dwelling
- 3 of the 4 barns addressed by the application are in current use for farming activities which are complementary to this historic and long-established rural setting
- A local farming enterprise currently providing employment for local people may be disrupted if the development is approved
- Re-development of these barns would require construction of replacement agricultural buildings. These would most likely be sited to the east of the development site which would have a negative impact on the landscape and neighbouring houses
- The scale of the development is disproportionate given that the village of Little Saxham itself has only 32 dwellings in total and there are only 4 houses nearby. There would be a significant increase in disturbance and light pollution from the introduction of 6 new dwellings to this part of the village.
- Little Saxham has no amenity open spaces or public footpaths to accommodate the activities of 6 additional families. The carriageway in this area of the village is in some parts single track whereby increased traffic is likely to lead to more traffic accidents

Signed

Chair

Date

- The existing barns provide significant ideal habitat sites for wildlife including bats, owls, swallows and house martins which would be lost irrevocably after development
- DC/18/1345/LB. Application for Listed Building Consent – Amendment to previously approved DC/17/2690/LB – Replace areas on pitched roof from lead to Welsh slate. Saxham Hall Cobbs Road Great Saxham. IP29 5JW.

No Comment by the Parish Council

- TPO/164(1992) Tree Preservation Order – no1 Beech (T1 on Plan, T5 on Order) – 40% Crown Reduction, Briars Mead, Bury Road, Little Saxham. IP29 5LD.

No Comment by the Parish Council

- **RE-CONSULTATION IN RESPECT OF PLANNING PROPOSAL**

- TPO/164(1992) Tree Preservation Order – no1 Beech (T1 on Plan, T5 on Order) – Fell, Briars Mead, Bury Road, Little Saxham, IP29 5LD.

Planning Applications Approved / Refused since Last Meeting:

- 11.
- DC/18/0588/FUL (i) Dismantle Umbrello (ii) Carry out necessary conservation work (iii) Re-construct Umbrello in new location on Saxham Hall Estate.
Pending
 - DC/18/0589/LB **Listed Building Consent** – Dismantle Umbrello (ii) Carry out necessary conservation work (iii) Re-construct Umbrello in new location on Saxham Hall Estate.
Pending
 - DC/18/081/HH 3 New Potash Cottage Chevington Road Great Saxham IP29 5JL. New Vehicular access and drive with off road Turning.
Approved
 - DC/18/1251/LB Application for Listed Consent – Single Storey extension and associated alternations, (ii) Alternations to South as East elevation fenestration and removal of ‘glazed bay’ (iii) Removal of weather boarding to East Elevation (iv) Replacement of concrete tiles with natural slate on north wing and (v) internal and external alternation as listed on schedule of works received 27/06/18. Churchfield Cottage Honey Hill Little Saxham IP29 5LA
Approved

Signed

Chair

Date

Drainage Issues

- 12.
- Great Saxham Church Gate Entrance: -This ongoing issue regarding the flooding at the gates of St Andrews Church was discussed and we are still in correspondence with Karen Soons and Suffolk County Council.
 - Pumping Station at Twites Corner: - An Anglian Water representative came out and inspected the site; finding that the manhole was blocked. After removing the debris and inspecting the main sewer, he concluded that the flow was restored and no further issues were found. Hopefully this has resolved the problem.
 - On the road North of Symonds Bridge: - there is continuous flooding and unfortunately, as yet we are unaware of what is causing it. The local farmer has been contacted and a request to carry out the drainage work has been suggested, whilst the repairs to the road are being done. (end of Oct 2018) It was requested to put notice of this road closure in the October issue of “The Stile”.

Finance

- 13.
- Cheques – circulated and agreed by all present
- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------|----------------|
| Mc-Gregors - Grass Cutting Jun/ Jul | £516.00 | Chq. No: - 303 |
| Mc-Gregors - Grass Cutting – Aug | £624.00 | Chq. No: - 306 |
| Michelle Thompson Clerk Salary | £346.00 | Chq. No: - 307 |
| I GOT SIGNS (dog Fouling Sign) | £ 26.93 | Chq. No: - 308 |
| Michelle Thompson - Clerk Expenses | £ 88.88 | Chq. No: - 309 |
- Bank Reconciliation was approved and agreed by the Parish Council

Correspondence

- 14.
- The Chairman briefly ran through the correspondence. It was agreed that another Dog Fouling Sign should be commissioned

Any Other Business:

Dog Fouling Bin:

- 15.
- Enquires we made, on request of a Councillor by the Parish Clerk, as to whether Great Saxham should have a Bin. This was discussed and put on hold for the time being.

Signed

Chair

Date

Dustbin Next to The Bus Shelter in Great Saxham

Unfortunately, there has been a number of non-residents of the village disposing of their rubbish in this bin; stopping in the layby emptying their rubbish and then continuing on their journey. It was therefore discussed whether the bin should be relocated in another part of the village to prevent this from happening. This situation is going to be monitored.

Purchase of Noticeboards for Great Saxham Parish Council Use

As a lot more, information is being published on the Village Noticeboard It was discussed and agreed as to whether the Minutes of each Parish Council Meeting could be provided through a link to the Parish Website where they could be obtained. The Parish Clerk's details will also be displayed for those parishioners who would prefer and copy sent.

Village Guide

It was discussed and decided that the Village Guide should be updated.

**Michelle
Thompson**

Farm Traffic Through Little Saxham Village

A number of complaints have been made to the council by residents of Little Saxham, relating to inconsiderate driving by contractors for Geo Gittus & sons and it was agreed that a letter would be sent outlining their concerns.

**Michelle
Thompson**

The Saxhams Parish Council gave thanks to the Winklers for all their time and efforts into improving the Great Saxham Park to Lower Farm bridleway.

Junction of Honeyhill to Barrow Road Little Saxham

There was a discussion centred around there being no indication of any right of way signage. This is being looked into with Highways.

**Michelle
Thompson**

Date of Next Meeting – Thursday 22nd November 2018 at St Andrews Church Great Saxham at 7.30 pm

The Chairman thanked everyone for coming and the meeting was declared closed 9.20 pm

Signed

Chair

Date

Contact details:

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

Signed

Chair

Date