

Gazeley Parish Council

Clerk: Mrs Karen Peck, email: parishclerk@gazeleypc.co.uk
Chairman: Mr Paul Kinnon, cllr.kinnon@gazeleypc.co.uk

NOTICE OF MEETING: Parish Council Meeting
TIME: 19.00
DATE: 12th March 2025
VENUE: Gazeley Village Hall

MEMBERS 7
VACANCIES 0
QUORUM 3

Minutes

In attendance: Councillor Kinnon (PK), Councillor Raithatha (SR) Vice-Chairman, Jolly (SJ), Connelly (RC), Moatt (JM), Grimwood (KG) and District Councillor Dicker (RD). 3 members of the public.

120325/1 CHAIRMANS WELCOME

The Vice Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for attending. The Chairman noted that the Council continue to make every effort to be as transparent as possible and continue communication channels to open positive dialogue.

120325/2 TO RECORD APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillor Chapman (LC) – work commitments.
County Councillor Noble – work commitments but a full report was forwarded to Council
All apologies were accepted.

120325/3 MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None were made.

120325/4 TO RECEIVE DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORTS

County Councillor Noble had sent a full report to Council prior to the meeting.
District Councillors Dicker covered Devolution and what this looks like for Suffolk, some discussion took place on the the parishes views, RD to take back to discussions.

120325/5 TO SIGN AND APPROVE MINUTES OF MEETINGS OF:

The Parish Council Meeting minutes of on 8th January 2025 were approved unanimously as a true and accurate record of the meeting.
Proposed SR Seconded KG

120325/6 OPEN FORUM FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (max 15 minutes)

Members of the public may make only one address to the Council of no more than five minute' duration and only concerning topics on the agenda. A question shall not require a response at the meeting nor start a debate on the question. The chairman of the meeting may direct that a written or oral response be given. A person shall raise his hand when requesting to speak and stand when speaking (except when a person has a disability or is likely to suffer discomfort). The chairman of the meeting may at any time permit a person to be seated when speaking A person who speaks at a meeting shall direct his comments to the chairman of the meeting. At the close of this item, members of the public will no longer be permitted to address the Council unless invited to do so by the Chairman.

A member of the public raised concerns over car parking increase costs in Bury St Edmunds.

120325/7 COUNCIL BUSINESS

- a) To update on Parish Council Banking arrangements
No update was provided in LC's absence, deferred to next meeting. **LC to provide information**
- b) Update on Tree Boarding Recreation Field
The Parish Council has raised the issue with the Rural Surveyor for Savills (Estates Associate) and they are conducting a full survey to assess the condition of the tree and recommend any remedial works and clarification of ownership.
- c) War Memorial
RC outlined in previous years an initiative to have a village War Memorial had been aborted. The Parish Council wish to ask the Parish on their current view of reconsidering this and potentially

reinstating this a community led. PC to provide a brief yes/no survey for the next addition of Gazeley Gazette, where the Parish can vote for or against. Completed entry can be posted at through the Village Hall Post Box (located on the outside of the building). **RC to action.**

- d) To review play area inspection report
There were no matters to note.

The Parish Council wished to thank the volunteers who took the time to clean the play equipment.

- e) Review of Asset Register and Parish Council Logistics

The Parish Council had reviewed the Asset Register and all land that falls under their ownership. The asset list and supporting map was agreed to be correct.

The plan marks the areas registered as comprising our village green under the commons registration legislation. The area marked VG37 was designated a village green in April 1975 when the Commons Commissioner directed SCC to register GPC as the legal owners of the land save for The Forge on the basis that it was "excluded" from what was then a current map of the village produced by SCC and agreed by the then Clerk to the parish council..

The remaining three areas of land, known, collectively as VG78, were also registered in 1975. GPC holds a registered title deed for VG37 dated 2009 however the Parish Council can't find an equivalent document for VG78 an omission we should seek to rectify so as to avoid any future attempt by others to acquire the land by adverse possession or other means.

The two areas of registered village common land CL42 land (opposite the village hall) and CL43 (land at Dalby's Plantation) are the responsibility of SCC and therefore outside our remit.

The Council will write to the Church Committee to restore the path surface after recent works.

- f) The Forge

The Parish Council had sought representation from West Suffolk District Council Planning Department, they were unable to attend but sent the following statement as an update for the Parish:

"An update for you regarding the Blacksmiths Forge as I am unable to attend your next Parish Council meeting. In terms of the Forge, I have no further update to provide than what was said in September; the last update I had from the agent was that the applicant was trying source a flint worker. As you are aware, the planning permission has been implemented, and is therefore open ended. The LPA at this stage cannot force the applicant to carry on with the building. However, I would recommend that if there are concerns here, the Parish Council make contact with our Enforcement Team noting the history of the site. In relation to Mill Meadows, I have been advised the following from our Planning Policy Team: The land was put forward to in the SHELAA in 2020 (the issues and options) by SCC for housing development. In the 2024 SHELAA, the site (SHELAA site reference WSR/23/1077) was included for residential development with an indicative capacity for five dwellings."

PK and Council to draft a letter to West Suffolk Enforcement Team noting the history of the site as advised.

- g) Mill Meadow

Update provided by County Councillor Colin Noble

"Mill Meadow is owned by two parties 1) the County Council, and, 2) the Gazeley School Trust. • The County Council have attempted at various points over the years to negotiate arrangements with the Trust to redevelop the site, this has proved to be complicated by legal matters. However, as of February 2025 SCC have now agreed the text of an arrangement with the Trust, which will mean an outline planning consent will be secured, followed by disposal. We expect this to be legally signed during March. Therefore, a planning application will come forward in 2025, followed by disposal of the land to an external developer. Realistically, this disposal will be in 2026. • The County Council has previously held pre-application planning meetings with West Suffolk District Council to discuss the principle of developing the site for housing. We understand this principle is accepted, and work had previously progressed as far as surveys and a layout, as per the attached. • Over the years, there have been approaches from other parties who have been interested in the site, including community groups, schools/academies/nurseries, private individuals. These approaches have consistently come to nothing, so SCC are confident external disposal for housing is the correct approach. I have asked for the site to be cleaned up."

The Council agreed to revisit and update the Community Priority List

- 120325/9

COUNCILLOR FORUM

SJ wished to thank the Clerk for the time and commitment taken to have all streetlights in the parish decarbonised.
JM requested the Parish Council thank the volunteers for the planting throughout the village, and comment on how beautiful it looks. **PC to express their thanks in the next edition of Gazeley Gazette.**
- 120325/10

FINANCE

To approve Bank Reconciliation to 28th February 2025

Jan

a) HMRC, Staffing and Expenses£462.54

Starboard Systems – Scribe Renewal 2025£504.00

Feb

HMRC, Staffing and Expenses£592.14

Gazeley Village Hall – Coffee Caravan£275.00

SP Landscapes – Play Area£480.00

Income

Interest - Jan and Feb£50.79

The bank reconciliation was approved and signed. The payments listed were noted as **APPROVED.**
Proposed PK Seconded RC
- 120325/11

DIARY DATES –14th May 2025 at Gazeley Village Hall

6.30pm Annual Parish Meeting

7pm Annual Meeting of the Parish Council

Meeting closed at 19.51

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K Peck

Parish Clerk & Responsible Finance Officer

Gazeley Parish Council

14.5.2025

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P Kinnon

Chairman

Gazeley Parish Council