

GAZELEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Gazeley Parish Council held on Tuesday 8th February 2022 in Gazeley Village Hall at 7.30pm

Present: Cllr Kevin Grimwood (Chair) (KG), Cllr Paul Beard (PB), Cllr Ray Francis (RF), Cllr Wesley Heaton (WH), Cllr Pat Spillane (PS), Cllr Robert Connelly (RC), and Cllr Judy Moatt (JM).

In attendance Lynne Francis, Parish Clerk, and 5 members of the public.

The meeting was opened by Chairman Cllr Kevin Grimwood who welcomed everyone to the meeting and indicated the exit routes from the building in case of an emergency.

22.2.1	<p>Public Forum</p> <p>The clerk was asked about the delay in obtaining a licence to site a bench on land in Highwood Crescent, as referred to in the minutes of the January meeting.</p> <p>The clerk replied that she had applied for the licence three months ago and had sent a reminder on 6th January. She will pursue this again.</p> <p>Churchwarden Simon Gash informed the council that he had received no reply to an email sent to the clerk to ask whether the parish council was going to discuss a donation to the church at tonight's meeting as it didn't appear to be on the agenda. The clerk replied that she hadn't received the email and asked which address it had been sent to. It transpired that it had been sent to an account that the parish council no longer uses because it had been hacked last year. The correct address is now gazeleypc@gmail.com</p> <p>The clerk was asked by another resident if she had published the draft budget for next year.</p> <p>The clerk replied that the council did not publish a draft budget as a matter of routine but she would send him a copy.</p> <p>The chairman noted that there are still several bills outstanding, for example the Energy and Maintenance bill for the current year, which could be substantial. Requests for donations will only be considered once the full picture emerges.</p> <p>The parish council was asked if it had made representation to the planning consultation for the new pipeline which is currently being laid around the village. The clerk replied that as the route for the pipeline skirted the village, the parish council had seen no need to object to it. The questioner noted that the substation being built near the road to Desninghall Cottages could be seen at the brow of the hill on approach to the village and asked if the parish council might ask for it to be moved to a less visible location.</p>
22.2.2	<p>Reports from External Bodies</p> <p>i) West Suffolk District Council – Cllr Roger Dicker reported that Suffolk councils were discussing devolution from the government in several areas. It had been generally agreed that Suffolk did not want an elected Mayor.</p> <p>Guidance has been published for celebrations with regard to the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.</p> <p>Cllr Dicker will consider any requests for funding for the purpose.</p> <p>ii) Suffolk County Council – Cllr Colin Noble had sent apologies. He had to attend an alternative meeting and had asked to be informed of anything that arose for his attention.</p>

22.2.3	<p>To receive apologies for absence.</p> <p>All councillors were present at the meeting.</p>
22.2.4	<p>To receive declarations of interest, pecuniary and non-pecuniary, in matters on the agenda.</p> <p>WH declared an interest in item 7ii on the agenda.</p>
22.2.5	<p>To approve the minutes of the meeting of GPC held on Tuesday 11th January 2022</p> <p>The minutes were approved unanimously and signed by the chairman.</p>
22.2.6	<p>Clerk's Report on outstanding issues and any correspondence to be brought to the attention of the parish council.</p> <p>The clerk had nothing to report that was not already on the agenda for discussion.</p> <p>An application for funding had been received from Moulton Pre-School – agenda item 7ii</p> <p>A copy email had been forwarded to the parish council between Councillors Andy Neal and Andy Drummond regarding future streetlight payments.</p> <p>It has been noted that there is an anomaly in the way that local parishes pay for street lighting between the two former district authorities that have now been merged.</p> <p>A review is being held into this at director and portfolio level and they are also looking into the role and relationship that the new West Suffolk Council should have with all parish and town councils.</p>
22.2.7	<p>Finance</p> <p>1 Authorisation of outstanding payments.</p> <p>The clerk presented the monthly finance report which is attached to the minutes.</p> <p>2 To acknowledge a request for funding from Moulton Pre-School. WH gave some background to the request. The pre-school has approximately 25 members, around 5 of those coming from Gazeley, and it is struggling financially, so any help that we could give would be greatly appreciated. It has been struggling for the past two years and needs an income of around £4000 a year to survive.</p>
22.2.8	<p>Highway Matters</p> <p>1 Construction of a fence at 48 Highwood Road causing an obstruction for motorists.</p> <p>The clerk had been informed that tenants at the above address had begun to construct a high fence outside the original boundary of the property taking in land that is believed to be owned by West Suffolk Council and Suffolk Highways. She had informed the district council in the first instance and asked if a planning officer could visit. The following day a close-boarded fence was constructed to the kerb, obliterating the view of motorists travelling from either direction on a blind bend. A parks officer contacted the clerk and confirmed that the land did belong to WSC and Highways. The clerk contacted the housing association which was unaware of the development and agreed to investigate.</p> <p>2 Continued narrowing of the road at the Blacksmith's Forge and the continuing redundancy of the bus shelter leaving passengers with nowhere to stand to await the arrival of the bus.</p> <p>Complaints had been put on the village Facebook page by parents whose children had to stand in the road in the rain waiting for their school bus.</p> <p>It seems that Suffolk Highways are awaiting the result of the application to demolish the forge before they are willing to address this problem.</p>

22.2.9	<p>Highway Matters</p> <p>1. DC/21/1557/HH - Installation of fence to front garden and repositioning of oil tank to front garden, 21 Moulton Road, Gazeley. This application was approved despite objections from the parish council and the district councillor supported their view. Several issues were raised in connection with the application which had evidently been disregarded.</p> <p>2. To note a breach of protocol by a planning officer in displaying an email from the clerk on a public website. The email had been covered by the usual notice forbidding it to be shared with anyone other than the recipient and could cause serious consequences for the clerk.</p> <p>3. To note the failure of the planning department to consult the parish council on an application for a two-storey extension on a house in Mill Road. The clerk had discovered this when a submission from the Newmarket Ramblers group on the application had been brought to her notice.</p> <p>4. To consider the following applications:</p> <p>i) DC22/0104/HH Single side extension following demolition of conservatory and ii) First floor side extension over existing extension. The parish council raised no objections to the application.</p> <p>ii) DC22/0115/FUL – a) Create store with shipping containers and b) Alteration of façade to existing retail unit c) Additional parking and landscaping. Land at Bury Road, Kentford. The parish council raised no objections to the application.</p>
22.2.10	<p>Blacksmiths Forge</p> <p>To review the current situation.</p> <p>It has been brought to members' notice that the owner of the forge is apparently in the process of selling the site.</p> <p>The next hearing into the proposed demolition of the building was due to be heard on 4th March but it is uncertain whether this will go ahead in the light of the proposed sale. The clerk will contact the legal department of WSC to see if the parish council can be represented at the hearing if it does go ahead.</p> <p>It was suggested that the clerk might inform WSC of the intended sale but she was reluctant to do so as she hadn't spoken to the owner herself.</p>
22.2.11	<p>Councillors' Reports</p> <p>PS confirmed that the move of the defibrillator had now been signed off by the ambulance service and was now fully operational at the village hall. Mary Beard and Ed Kirkham had volunteered to help monitor the equipment and give basic life support training sessions in the village hall for anyone who is interested. He has obtained a photograph of the original artwork for the footpaths map on the green. He is going to refurbish the sign in accordance with the original plan.</p> <p>JM has received complaints from local residents about the noise from the bottle bank when residents visit it late at night. KG observed that other villages claimed rent for the installation of recycling bins on their land. The clerk noted that the banks were now on West Suffolk land although they had been installed on parish council land for many years without any rent being paid.</p> <p>PB had issued the latest data from the SID. It did look as if speeds were slowly coming down although at least 25% of motorists were exceeding the speed limit of 30mph.</p> <p>He also referred to a letter that had been received from Suffolk Accident Rescue Service requesting a donation for their very valuable work. This will be considered along with other S.137 requests.</p>
22.1.12	<p>To confirm the date of the next meeting of the parish council.</p> <p>The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Tuesday 8th February 2022 in the village hall.</p> <p>The meeting closed at 8.25pm.</p>

PAYMENTS & RECEIPTS**FEBRUARY****2022**

Payments	Amount	Cheque No.	Receipts	Balance
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Receipts

Suffolk CC SID donation			£ 1,171.76	
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Balance of Accounts

Treasurer's Account 1	£ 4,141.70
Treasurer's Account 2	£ 80.43
Instant Access Account	£19,032.11

Total Balance of Accounts at 28.1.22	£23,254.24
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8.2.22

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