

GAZELEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Gazeley Parish Council held on Tuesday 11th January 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 6 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.

22.1.1	Public Forum No matters were raised in the public forum.
22.1.2	Reports from External Bodies No reports were received this month.
22.1.3	To receive apologies for absence. All councillors were present at the meeting.
22.1.4	To receive declarations of interest, pecuniary and non-pecuniary, in matters on the agenda. None declared.
22.1.5	To approve the minutes of the meeting of GPC held on Tuesday 9th November 2021. The minutes were approved unanimously and signed by the chairman.
22.1.6	Clerk's Report on outstanding issues and any correspondence to be brought to the attention of the parish council. The clerk confirmed that the new solar SID had been received from Elan City and was now at Cllr Beard's house awaiting the installation of the posts by Suffolk Highways. The county council grant towards the cost of the device has not yet been received. The clerk had applied for a license to install a new bench outside Highwood Court but has heard nothing further from WSC. The clerk had asked for an up to date quotation for replacing lamps in PC-owned posts but had not yet received a reply.
22.1.7	Finance i) Authorisation of outstanding payments. The clerk presented the monthly finance report which is attached to the minutes. Cheques were signed by Cllr Beard and Cllr Judy Moatt. ii) To set the precept for the year 2022-2023. The clerk had prepared a draft budget and she highlighted the areas in which costs were predicted to rise in the coming year. In view of the fact that energy prices are expected to rise considerably, it was difficult

	<p>to assess the likely cost for the following year as the invoice is usually received in March and is retrospective.</p> <p>Having considered the draft budget, councillors agreed to set the precept at £16,600 for 2022-2023, a rise of 5% on the present year.</p> <p>It was agreed that a decision on any payments under Section 137 would be considered once a clearer picture of the year-end balance emerges.</p>
22.1.8	<p>Highway Matters</p> <p>As stated in the clerk's report, Highways has confirmed receipt of an application to install larger posts to hold the new SID. Once approved, it will be passed to highway engineers to arrange for them to be put in place. Cllr Beard said that it would probably need two people to fix the device to the posts and Cllr Heaton volunteered to assist.</p>
22.1.9	<p>Planning Matters</p> <p>DC/21/1557/HH – Installation of fence to front garden and repositioning of oil tank to front garden. The parish council had objected to the application. It was noted that the artist's impression of the new fence bore no resemblance to the actual installation that had already taken place. The oil tank had also been installed before permission had been given.</p> <p>Elsewhere in the village, residents had been obliged to reduce the height of fences fronting the road to 1 metre. It was feared that a precedent might be set whereby other residents might also choose to transfer their oil tanks to the front of the property, spoiling the street scene entirely.</p>
22.1.10	<p>Blacksmiths Forge</p> <p>The owner of the forge had appealed against the demolition order that had been served on the building. The case had been heard at Ipswich Magistrate's Court on 7th January and the case had been deferred until 4th March to allow for the owner to supply further information. In the meantime the order was in abeyance. The clerk understands that it is now for the court to decide on a time-line for the case to come to a conclusion.</p> <p>KG was very unhappy about the continuing lack of a bus shelter. He reported that elderly people had been seen standing in the road in the rain waiting for a bus so there is clearly a safety issue with this. Some months ago the clerk had asked for a temporary shelter to be installed on the opposite side of the road but Suffolk Highways had not responded to the request.</p> <p>It was suggested that a representative from the parish council should attend the hearing on 4th March.</p>
22.1.11	<p>Councillors' Reports</p> <p>RC noted that representatives from All Saints' Church were present at the meeting and were waiting for a decision on the parish council's contribution towards the maintenance of the churchyard for next year. KG replied that at the moment the PC was waiting to see what the energy bill from the county council would be before payments outside the PCs fixed costs were considered. RC replied that the church's donation could just be rolled forward to the following year and RF replied that the donation to the church and other organisations were not part of the PCs fixed costs. The maintenance of the churchyard was the responsibility of the church and the parish council were just making a donation towards that cost.</p> <p>The clerk confirmed that donations to outside organisations came under LGA 1972 Section 137 and that maintenance of the pond at the junction of The Street and Moulton Road also came under the same heading because it wasn't owned by the parish but it was maintained by the parish council because of the position it was in and if it became overgrown it could hinder visibility at the junction.</p> <p>JM noted that runners travelling through the woods are not wearing high viz. clothing and are a danger to traffic and themselves. It is believed that they are affiliated to the Barrow Academy. The clerk will make them aware of our concerns.</p>

	<p>WH reported that the public footpath at the rear of the church is still strewn with hedge cuttings which present an obstacle to walkers and dogs. The clerk will inform Suffolk Highways.</p> <p>He also confirmed that he had written to Highways, as a local resident, asking them not to divert traffic through Gazeley when there is a problem on the A14. This had happened recently and it had resulted in very large lorries trying to navigate Moulton Road and getting stuck for long periods.</p> <p>PB had issued copies of the latest data from the SID which shows some improvement in the speed of traffic travelling through the village. He noted that the new SID will record the speed of traffic passing it from either direction.</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**JANUARY****2022**

Payments	Amount	Cheque No.	Receipts	Balance
	£			
Thomas Ball Fencing	40.00	1232		
	£			
Gazeley Village Hall, Hire.	231.00	1233		
Gazeley Village Hall Coffee	£			
Caravan	105.00	1234		
	£			
Bright Sparks, Defibrillator wiring	305.69	1235		

Receipts

Interest				
December			£	0.15
January			£	0.16

	£			
Totals	681.69		£	0.31

Balance of Accounts

	£
Treasurer's Account 1	4,823.39
	£
Treasurer's Account 2	80.43
Instant Access Account	£17,860.51

Total Balance of Accounts at 11.1.22 **£22,764.33**

11.1.22