

GAZELEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Gazeley Parish Council held on Tuesday 10TH January 2023 in Gazeley Village Hall at 7.30pm

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

In attendance Lynne Francis, Parish Clerk, District Councillor Roger Dicker and 3 members of the public.

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

23.1.1	Public Forum It was noted that the Parish Council meeting had not been included on the parish newsletter this month.
23.1.2	Reports from External Bodies Cllr Roger Dicker reported that a review is being undertaken into the availability of public buildings that will be used as polling stations in the forthcoming elections. The Police and Crime Commissioner is undertaking a survey about future funding of the police service in the county. The Council is intending to install six more fast electricity charging points in the district. In line with their Environment Action Plan, from April 2023 West Suffolk Council will cease using Glyphosate weedkiller except in exceptional and recordable cases. Under a new devolution deal with the government there are plans to directly elect the leader of Suffolk County Council who will be directly accountable to the electorate. Cllr Dicker still has some available funding in his Locality Budget. Any requests for donations towards the forthcoming Coronation celebrations on 6 th May should be submitted by 5 th March.
23.1.3	To receive apologies for absence. All councillors were present at the meeting.
23.1.4	To receive declarations of interest, pecuniary and non-pecuniary, in matters on the agenda. None declared.
23.1.5	To approve the minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 8th November 2022 The minutes were approved unanimously and signed by the chairman.
23.1.6	Clerk's Report on outstanding issues and any correspondence to be brought to the attention of the parish council. The clerk reported that she had received a letter from Savills to inform the parish council that an inspection of the playing field will be carried out on Tuesday 7 th February. A request that the parish council cover the cost of the hiring of the village hall for the visits of the Coffee Caravan has been received. This would be for 11 months from April to March 2024 at a cost of £252. Suffolk Accident Rescue Service has also requested a donation from the parish council. The clerk has asked if there will be a cost for the inspection of the children's playground next year but has not yet received a reply.

<p>23.1.7</p>	<p>Finance</p> <p>i. Authorisation of outstanding payments. The payments were approved, and the corresponding cheques were signed by JM and PB.</p> <p>ii. Monthly Finance Report. The clerk gave the monthly finance report which is attached to the minutes.</p> <p>iii. To consider the draft budget and to set the precept for 2023-2024 The clerk had provided councillors with copies of a draft budget for consideration. As with last year, it is difficult to ascertain the final cost of energy and maintenance for the current year, as it is billed retrospectively, or for the next year. It was agreed that the clerk would contact the county council to discuss the various ways of reducing the cost of street lighting going forward. S.P. Landscapes has advised the clerk that the cost of grounds maintenance for the village green and the pond will rise by 10%.</p> <p>The clerk had received requests for donations from All Saints’ Church and SARS and a request has been made that the parish council might cover the cost of hall hire for the visits of the Coffee Caravan for the next year. It is considered that this is an important service, both for the practical advice available and also giving residents another opportunity to socialise with their neighbours on a regular basis.</p> <p>It was agreed that a donation for the maintenance of the churchyard will remain the same as last year, at £600, a donation of £100 was approved for SARS and the cost of hiring the hall for the Coffee Caravan will be covered at a cost of £252.</p> <p>After considering all the information available, it was agreed that the precept should be increased to £20,500 for the year 2023-2024. This represents an increase of 25.31% on last year at a cost of £14.87 for an average band D household.</p>
<p>23.1.8</p>	<p>Planning Matters</p> <p>To consider the latest developments on the Blacksmiths Forge application. Report on the meeting of the Development Control Committee held on 7th December. Cllr Connelly. The meeting was held to determine the outcome of the planning application and was approved with support from the district councillor. It is noted that the owner has the statutory three year period in which to commence the renovation and also that a large part of the green and the village bus shelter has now been fenced off for safety reasons for nearly two years.</p> <p>One of the conditions of approval is that the developer produce a method statement detailing arrangements for the delivery of plant and materials and parking around the site.. Access to any part of the green would necessarily need the permission of Gazeley Parish Council as there is no curtilage attached to the forge.</p> <p>The clerk will write to the district council to ask that the gable wall of the building next to the bus stop could be made safe immediately so that residents can again have use of the bus shelter. For the past two years elderly people and schoolchildren have been forced to wait on the road with no shelter in inclement weather.</p> <p>The clerk will also look at the legal expense clause in the Council’s insurance policy in the event of legal advice being sought in connection with the development.</p>
<p>23.1.9</p>	<p>Hut at the Playing Field – Report on current condition and to agree a plan of action for necessary repairs.</p> <p>At a previous meeting it had been reported that damage had been caused to the roof of the hut and that the doors and windows had been broken into. KG and Philip Jaye had cleared the hut but it was still full of debris from surrounding trees. The hut is included in the lease of the playing field and it is important that</p>

	it be made secure as soon as possible. It was suggested that quotations should be sought for the repair or, alternatively, volunteers could be sought to do the work.
23.1.10	<p>Councillors' Reports</p> <p>RF agreed to meet the Savill's representative at the playing field on 7th February.</p> <p>WH asked if there had been any progress on the report of a dog attacking a member of the public on the public footpath behind the church. The clerk replied that now that the police were aware of the problem with dogs at the site, any further incidents should be reported to them.</p> <p>PB had circulated the latest stats on the SID in the vicinity of The Street. 90% of vehicles had been travelling at under 30 mph going away from the centre of the village. Speeds recorded on Higham Road are still high however.</p>
23.1.11	<p>To confirm the date of the next meeting of the parish council.</p> <p>The next meeting of the parish council will be held on Tuesday 14th March in Gazeley Village Hall at 7.30pm.</p>
	The meeting closed at 8.30pm.

Signed.....
Chairman

Date.....

PAYMENTS & RECEIPTS

January

2023

Payments	Amount	Cheque No.	Receipts	Balance
	£			
Mrs L Francis, Printing Ink	46.60	1092		
	£			
Gazeley Village Hall	168.00	1093		
Receipts				
Interest			£ 10.27	
	£			
	214.60		£ 10.27	
Balance of Accounts				
Treasurer's Account				£ 8,277.40
Instant Access Account				£15,647.91
Total Balance of Accounts at 10.1.23				£23,925.31

10.1.23

