

# GAZELEY PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Meeting of Gazeley Parish Council held on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> July 2022 in Gazeley Village Hall at 7.30pm

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

**In attendance** Lynne Francis, Parish Clerk, District Councillor Roger Dicker (RD) and 6 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.

<b>22.7.1</b>	<b>Public Forum</b> <p>Questions were asked about the planning application for the re-building of the forge. 'Has the owner applied for Building Regulations approval and has he engaged with the local authority to obtain agreement in principle for the change of use, otherwise we could be going round in circles'. The Chairman confirmed that the parish council does not have the answer to those questions at the moment, it has just received the planning application for consideration. It was confirmed however that the new owner has had conversations with the planning officers with regard to the application but we are not privy to the details.</p> <p>Another resident expressed a wish to see the forge back how it was in the past and asked that the parish council look favourably on the application because the site has always been a dump and he felt that the new owner was going to try to tidy it up. He had not had sight of the plans as yet though. The same resident also advised the council that there was a broken manhole cover behind the seat on Mill Road. This could be very dangerous in the dark. The clerk will report it to highways.</p> <p>Another comment was made on the application for the forge, in that it makes allowance for two cars to be parked at the front of the site. It was noted that although the plan allowed for the parking of two vehicles, in reality a one bedroom dwelling could house a couple, with the implication that the number of vehicles could double to four. The Chairman noted that planning rules allowed for one parking space per bedroom at a property.</p>
<b>22.7.2</b>	<b>Reports from External Bodies</b> <p>i) West Suffolk District Council – Cllr Roger Dicker reported that he really had nothing to add to his reports given at the last two meetings in the village, including the Annual Parish Meeting. Consultations on the Local Plan are coming to an end. Cases of Covid are rising again and more grants are being awarded. Community Chest grants are being awarded to local groups that are trying to re-start after the Covid lock-downs. He was pleased to note that the Jubilee celebrations had gone very well in Gazeley and he had been pleased to make donations to both events in the village.</p> <p>ii) Suffolk County Council – Cllr Colin Noble had sent apologies. He had to attend an alternative meeting but had sent a monthly report which had been forwarded to councillors.</p>
<b>22.7.3</b>	<b>To receive apologies for absence.</b> <p>Apologies were received from Cllr Pat Spillane who was away from home.</p>

22.7.4	<p><b>To receive declarations of interest, pecuniary and non-pecuniary, in matters on the agenda.</b> None declared.</p>
22.7.5	<p><b>To approve the minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council, held on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2022</b> The minutes were approved unanimously and signed by the chairman.</p> <p><b>To approve the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting, held on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2022.</b> The minutes were approved unanimously and signed by the chairman.</p>
22.7.6	<p><b>Clerk's Report on outstanding issues and any correspondence to be brought to the attention of the parish council.</b></p> <p>The clerk reported that the new posts for the solar powered SID had now been installed.</p> <p>The Internal Audit had been carried out by Bobby Bennett and the clerk asked for approval to send a small gift of gratitude for her services. This was unanimously approved.</p> <p>Paul Wiseman had sent details of his solicitor's address to the clerk for correspondence regarding an access licence to install the scaffolding on the green and for any other purpose during the re-building works. The clerk had sent the licence to his solicitor by registered post and had received proof of delivery but had had no response. She had followed this up by email to the solicitor and again had received no response.</p> <p><b>Correspondence</b> The following issues have been brought to the parish council's attention by local residents:</p> <p>The cricket hut is in a dilapidated state. The roof on the left-hand side has collapsed; the lock has been broken for a long time and the hut is full of old chairs and tea urns etc. The parish council is asked to rectify the problems. <i>Cllr Grimwood agreed to meet Phil Jaye to transfer the contents of the hut to the shipping container.</i></p> <p>The gate at the corner of the field is inaccessible by wheelchair. <i>The gap in the fence at this point is not an official entrance to the field. That is on Dalham Road.</i> <i>The clerk noted that WSC had previously agreed to install a proper gate at that point but had abandoned the plan for financial reasons. She will make further enquiries.</i></p> <p>Dog Fouling. It has been noted that this has increased considerably in recent weeks, particularly on footpaths and pavements. The area around the green in particular is badly affected. <i>This has always been a problem in Gazeley. Consideration has been given to installing a dog waste dispenser but the feeling is responsible dog owners will dispose of their refuse and obey any notices whilst the usual offenders will go on ignoring any attempts to tackle the problem. Action can and will be taken if offenders can be identified but it is accepted that this is very difficult to prove.</i></p> <p>Dogs on Public Footpath at the rear of the church. The clerk had received a report that two dogs from Gazeley Stud had been out of control and intimidating walkers on the footpath. She had tried to contact the stud manager but had been unable to do so. She will report the matter to Suffolk Highways Footpaths and Rights of Way officer.</p>
22.7.7	<p><b>Finance</b></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 chairman gave the monthly finance report which is attached to the minutes.</p>

	<p>iii. Internal Audit Report</p> <p>The Internal Audit has been completed with no major issues identified.</p> <p>The clerk informed the council of recommendations to be considered in the future.</p>
<b>22.7.8</b>	<p><b>To Adopt the new LGA Model Councillor Code of Conduct 2020.</b></p> <p>The councillors had been supplied with a copy of the code of conduct which was adopted by the unanimous decision of the council.</p>
<b>22.7.9</b>	<p><b>Planning Matters</b></p> <p>To consider application <b>DC/22/2197/HH</b> – Two storey extension with new porch to west elevation, extension to south elevation and balcony to east elevation. 5 Needham Street, Gazeley.</p> <p>RF commented that the new extension would mean that the house would dwarf the semi-detached cottage next door. At present, extensions to both cottages were set back from the building line but the proposed extension would be in line with the front elevation of number 5, spoiling the symmetry of the site. It was noted that there was plenty of space at the rear of the property.</p> <p>After some discussion the clerk was authorised to send the comments to the planning officer.</p> <p>Application <b>DC/22/0994/FUL</b> – <b>Rebuild, extension and conversion of forge to create two dwellings.</b></p> <p>The Old Blacksmiths, The Street, Gazeley.</p> <p>In view of the importance of giving careful consideration to this application given its prominence in the centre of the village and the recent history of the site, the Chairman suggested calling an open meeting for members of the public to give their views on the proposals. The period of consultation ends on 26<sup>th</sup> July so the clerk was asked to request an extension of the deadline to enable us to arrange such a meeting, possibly on 9<sup>th</sup> August, the second Tuesday of the month.</p>
<b>22.7.10</b>	<p><b>Blacksmiths Forge</b></p> <p>There was nothing further to add at this stage.</p>
<b>22.3.11</b>	<p><b>Councillors' Reports</b></p> <p>KG noted that the grass cutting around the village is very poor. Grass on Highwood Crescent, for example, was so high in places that the cutters couldn't cope with it.</p> <p>The clerk noted that apart from Tithe Close, which is designated as a recreational area, the other areas of the village, managed by WSC, are cut more infrequently than in the past.</p> <p>RD commented that most of the villages in the old Forest Heath area are upset about it.</p> <p>The only answer is to contact the council to complain. The clerk will pass on the complaints to the Director of Operations at WSC.</p> <p>KG also said that people who attended the Highwood Road Jubilee event had told him that they were upset about the parish council's donation towards grass cutting at the church this year and that he hadn't agreed with it himself.</p> <p>WH agreed about the poor quality of the village grass cutting and he also brought up the condition of the footpath at the rear of the church. The landowners were failing to clear the path and the area is now very overgrown.</p> <p>PB confirmed that the new SID posts are in place and WH agreed to help him install the equipment.</p>
<b>22.7.12</b>	<p><b>To confirm the date of the next meeting of the parish council.</b></p> <p>The next ordinary meeting of the parish council will be held on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2022 at 7.30pm in the village hall.</p>

**PAYMENTS & RECEIPTS****JULY****2022**

<b>Payments</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Cheque No.</b>	<b>Receipts</b>	<b>Balance</b>
	£			
BHIB Insurance	967.12	1077		
	£			
SALC Subscription	342.22	1078		
	£			
S.P. Landscapes May/June	240.00	1079		
	£			
S.P. Landscapes Pond, May	276.00	1080		
	£			
Mr P. Jaye	1,100.00	1081		
	£			
All Saints' PCC	300.00	1082		

**Receipts**

Interest		£	0.22
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£			
<b>3,225.34</b>		<b>£</b>	<b>0.22</b>

**Balance of Accounts**

	£
Treasurer's Account	£5,291.11
Instant Access Account	£25,632.91

<b>Total Balance of Accounts</b>	<b>£30,924.02</b>
<b>10.6.22</b>	

12.7.22

