

GAZELEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Gazeley Parish Council held on Tuesday 8TH November 2022 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, and 7 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.

22.11.1	Public Forum It was noted that a lot of rainwater had collected at the bottom of Moulton Road recently which suggested that a drainage gulley might be blocked. The clerk will report it to Highways.
22.11.2	Reports from External Bodies Cllr Colin Noble and Cllr Roger Dicker had both sent apologies.
22.11.3	To receive apologies for absence. All councillors were present at the meeting.
22.11.4	To receive declarations of interest, pecuniary and non-pecuniary, in matters on the agenda. None declared.
22.11.5	To approve the minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 13th September 2022 The minutes were approved unanimously and signed by the chairman.
22.11.6	Highway Matters To receive an update on Community Speedwatch from Alison Mejia, with particular reference to the increase in traffic being directed through Gazeley from the A14 on a regular basis. Alison gave a comprehensive report on the activities of the Gazeley Community Speedwatch Group. She began by asking if there could be a more prominent sign indicating the playground in Stubbins Lane after a car was seen entering the area at speed. Many walkers use the road to and from the playground and the road is very narrow. A Community Engagement Officer had recently attended a session with volunteers to hear reports from the group and to note the various areas of operation in the village. No speeders were detected that day although the officer had a radar gun which gave advance warning to approaching motorists so that they slowed down. The Speedwatch volunteers were on duty for nine days in October and there was a mean speed average of 37mph over the period. Unfortunately some volunteers were abused by a member of the public. This was reported to the police.

	<p>Contd.</p> <p>The area of greatest concern is Higham Road. A huge volume of traffic is being directed through Gazeley from the A14, mainly because of roadworks at present, but often when an accident occurs between Higham and Newmarket. The traffic is travelling very fast with no regard to the narrow width of the road and the verges near the river are being eroded by the number of lorries and also farm vehicles. This has resulted in a large volume of mud being deposited on the road, which is especially dangerous for anyone on two wheels. It seems that the route through Gazeley and Moulton is regularly being used as a rat-run and problems often occur with large vehicles trying to negotiate Moulton Road which is very narrow in parts.</p> <p>The parish council was asked if a large sign could be erected near the village sign on Higham Road to warn motorists that they are entering 30mph zone. At present the first sign is outside the first house on Higham Road. The clerk will talk to the County Councillor again to see if any funds could be made available for the purpose.</p> <p>Alison was thanked for her considerable time and effort in setting up and supporting the Community Speedwatch Group.</p>
22.11.7	<p>Clerk's Report on outstanding issues and any correspondence to be brought to the attention of the parish council.</p> <p>The clerk has asked Thomas Ball to replace the broken post on Church Green. He had pointed out that at least 8 more posts should be replaced but a decision on that has been deferred until the budget commitments become clear.</p> <p>The poster of Matthew Hancock on the notice-board was covered with an anti-vax poster by someone protesting about the Covid vaccination clinic being held in the village hall. RF had removed it.</p> <p>Correspondence</p> <p>Churchwarden Simon Gash had written to the parish council to request funding for churchyard maintenance for 2023. The budget and precept will be finalised in January.</p> <p>A complaint had been received about the amount of shingle being scattered on the pavements from houses with shingle drives. This is causing a hazard to pedestrians, especially in the darker evenings.</p> <p>A report had been received about a blocked drain at Moulton Road. The clerk will contact Highways.</p>
22.11.8	<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. Budget projections The clerk had received a report about the current situation regarding energy and maintenance costs relating to the street lighting/highway electrical equipment that we own. There have been unprecedented increases in electricity energy costs since the beginning of the financial year. The Street lighting Systems Manager confirmed that in the first five months of the year the costs had increased by 102% over the same period last year and this may increase further over the remaining 7 months of the year.</p>

	<p>Contd/ The maintenance costs are also increasing and they are anticipating an increase of approx. 12-20% on last year's costs.</p> <p>S.P. Landscapes has advised the clerk that their costs will increase by 10% next year.</p> <p>Next year is also election year and a contested election could cost the parish £3,000 which must be included in the budget.</p> <p>The clerk will issue a draft budget as soon as the picture becomes clearer so that the precept for 2023-2024 can be set at the next meeting in January.</p>
22.11.9	<p>Planning Matters To consider the latest developments on the Blacksmiths Forge application. The applicant has issued an updated plan with no provision for parking on the site. The new plan includes space for 6 refuse bins, two bike stores and two charging points for electric vehicles.</p> <p>Suffolk Highways has raised no objection to there being no on-site parking provision and takes the view that on street parking would not create concerns in relation to highway safety. This does concern councillors however, as the cars would be parked right next to the bus stop and could obscure visibility for vehicles exiting Stubbins Lane or The Chequers. Both of these circumstances are covered in the Highway Code where it states that parking should be avoided in these areas. There is also the question of safety for schoolchildren and other passengers who use the bus if there is no room for the bus to pull in.</p> <p>The application will be reported to the Council's Delegation Panel on 15th November and may then be referred to the Development Control Committee on 7th December. If the application is referred to the Committee then the parish council will have the opportunity to address the Committee. Cllr Connelly agreed to make the representation.</p> <p>The clerk had asked if the applicant could take down the gable end of the building to the level of the wall plate so that the safety fencing can be removed from around the bus shelter. He has declined to do so and prefers to await the outcome of the application.</p>
22.11.10	<p>Councillors' Reports</p> <p>KG commented on the flooding on Higham Road as referred to earlier in the meeting.</p> <p>PS reported that the grass in front of the cottage next door to The Chequers isn't being cut with the rest of the green. The clerk will contact S.P. Landscapes.</p> <p>WH noted the amount of nettles and weeds that have taken over the paths in the village. Dogs from Gazeley Stud have continued to menace walkers on the public footpath there.</p> <p>PB had issued copies of the latest data from the two SIDs. Location: Ashley Road, 12.9. – 1.11.22, 54.63% of vehicles travelling over the speed limit. Location: Mill Road, 3-12.9.22, 77% of drivers travelling within the speed limit on entering the village but 62% exceeding the limit on exiting the village.</p>
22.11.11	<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 10th January 2023 at 7.30pm in the village hall.</p>

PAYMENTS & RECEIPTS**November****2022**

Payments	Amount	Cheque No.	Receipts	Balance
	£			
Community Action Suffolk	60.00	1087		
	£			
S.P. Landscapes, Sept and October	240.00	1088		
	£			
S.P. Landscapes, Pond	276.00	1089		
	£			
SALC Payroll Services	54.00	1090		
	£			
Mrs L Francis, Poppy Wreath	25.00	1091		
Receipts				
Interest			£	0.90
	£			
	655.00		£	0.90
Balance of Accounts				
				£
Treasurer's Account				9,787.13
Instant Access Account				£15,635.97
Total Balance of Accounts at 10.10.22				£25,423.10
8.11.22				

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