

# GAZELEY PARISH COUNCIL

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## **Minutes of the Meeting of Gazeley Parish Council held on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> September 2021 in Gazeley Village Hall at 7.30pm**

**Present:** Cllr Kevin Grimwood (Chair) (KG), Cllr Paul Beard (PB), Cllr Ray Francis (RF), Cllr Pat Spillane (PS), and Cllr Judy Moatt (JM).

**In attendance** Lynne Francis, Parish Clerk, District Councillor Roger Dicker 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.

<b>21.09.1</b>	<p><b>Public Forum</b></p> <p>The parish council was asked when the Gazeley Civic Pride Awards for this year would be presented. The clerk confirmed that there were three recipients for the award this year and arrangements would be made for them to be presented as soon as possible.</p> <p>Alison Mejia, the village Speedwatch Co-ordinator, said that the training for the volunteers had not yet happened but she has been in contact with the Community Engagement Officer and hopes that a date will be confirmed within the next week.</p> <p>Rev.Chris Childs asked whether the parish council would give any financial support to members of the community who wished to organise events to recognise the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations next year. The chairman confirmed that the parish council had always supported the community in this way for past celebrations and would do so again if asked.</p> <p>Cllr Dicker also confirmed that applications could be made for a grant from his locality budget.</p>
<b>21.09.2</b>	<p><b>Reports from External Bodies</b></p> <p><b>West Suffolk District Council.</b> Cllr Dicker reported that there was considerable unrest amongst the taxi drivers in the district about the new rules that require all cabs to be wheelchair enabled. The Mildenhall Hub had to be closed recently after a chemical spillage but no-one was hurt in the incident.</p> <p>Cllr Dicker had no further news with regard to the Blacksmith's Forge.</p> <p><b>Suffolk County Council.</b> Cllr Noble was unable to attend the meeting but asked to be informed of anything to be brought to his notice. He had attended a meeting in the village at the end of last month to discuss requirements for funding to supply another speed indication device in the village and to hear residents' concerns about the very high speeds recorded on our existing device. He undertook to contact Suffolk Highways to look at the condition of signage in the village and to consider what further signage was required to remind motorists to slow down. He has also requested that Suffolk Police undertake enforcement work in the village.</p> <p>The county council has started the process of looking at next year's budget and awaits the results of the comprehensive spending review to be undertaken by the government.</p> <p>The social care reforms recently announced are extremely welcome and we await to see the details of how this will impact the social care system in Suffolk.</p>

<b>21.09.3</b>	<p><b>To receive apologies for absence.</b> Apologies had been received from Cllr Robert Connelly and Cllr Wesley Heaton.</p>
<b>21.09.4</b>	<p><b>To receive declarations of interest on matters on the agenda.</b> None declared.</p>
<b>21.09.5</b>	<p><b>To approve the minutes of the meeting of GPC held on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> July 2021</b> The minutes were approved and adopted and signed by the chairman.</p>
<b>21.09.6</b>	<p><b>Clerk's Report on outstanding issues and any correspondence to be brought to the attention of the parish council.</b> The clerk reported that several residents had commented on the growth of nettles around the pond site at the junction of Moulton Road and The Street. S.P. Landscapes had been due to visit the site for routine maintenance but a resident had cut them back in the meantime.</p> <p>The replacement bench for the green at Tithe Close had been purchased and was currently being held at Mr Wybrew's house until he can install it. The position of the bench should ideally be placed further along the path away from overhanging trees.</p>
<b>21.09.7</b>	<p><b>Finance</b></p> <p>i. <b>Authorisation of outstanding payments.</b> The clerk presented the monthly finance report, which is attached to these minutes, and the invoice cheques were signed by Cllr Beard and Cllr Spillane.</p> <p>ii. <b>To consider a request from All Saints' Church to contribute to the cost of repairs to the churchyard wall, tree works in the churchyard and the repair of the lawnmower.</b> The chairman regretted that although the parish council could contribute to the maintenance of the churchyard, it couldn't contribute to any other works at the church. The sum of £800 had already been paid to the church this year to help with that maintenance. RF asked if the PCC had considered approaching other bodies for grants, as had been the practice in the past when extensive renovations were carried out at the church in recent years. The clerk stated that although the balance in the account seemed to be healthy at present, much of the money was already allocated within the budget for the current financial year and one of our priorities was to support the installation of traffic calming measures this year. The parish council considers all requests for help when next year's budget is drawn up in November of each year before the precept is set.</p> <p>iii. <b>To consider a request from Rev. Childs to fund the hire of the village hall for the visits of the Coffee Caravan from October to January 2022.</b> The parish council unanimously supported the request.</p>
<b>21.09.8</b>	<p><b>Highway Matters</b> <b>To review the meeting held at the village hall on 28<sup>th</sup> August to discuss traffic control measures and to discuss the purchase of an additional radar speed device.</b></p> <p>It was agreed that the meeting had been very useful in that it allowed residents to put their case to Cllr Colin Noble and to inform him of the unacceptable level of speeding in the village. He had explained the position with his separate Highways and Locality budgets and that they had to stretch between eight villages but he had agreed to take residents' concerns to the police and to Suffolk Highways and ask them to carry out an audit of signage throughout the village. He had also agreed to fund 50% of the cost of a new speed device. The clerk had obtained literature from Elan City and it appeared that a solar-powered device would cost just under £2000 with extra for brackets etc. The clerk had been informed that Suffolk Highways must approve the installation of the device and install the post for it which would have to be higher and of a larger diameter than the current posts for the battery powered device.</p>

	<p>Cllr Beard, who maintains the current SID, agreed to talk to the company and obtain an exact quotation and the clerk agreed to contact Suffolk Highways with regard to the installation and the likely cost involved.</p>
<b>21.09.9</b>	<p><b>Planning Matters</b> To consider the following planning applications:</p> <p><b>DC/21/1579/HH, Single storey rear extension, 2 Windmill Cottages, Mill Road, Gazeley</b> No objections were raised to the application.</p> <p><b>DC/21/1557/HH, Retrospective application, installation of a 1.8 metre fence to front garden to conceal an oil tank, 21 Moulton Road, Gazeley.</b> The parish council objects to the proposal because the fence is out of proportion and character with other fences in the area and is above the regulation height of 1metre for a fence fronting the road, spoiling the street scene of the area. In recent years two families had been obliged to reduce the height of fences when the rule had been pointed out to them.</p> <p><b>DC/21/1621/HYB Hybrid application, Anglian Water Pipeline and infrastructure.</b> The parish council had no comments to make on the application.</p>
<b>21.09.10</b>	<p><b>Communications</b> <b>1 To consider a suggestion that a designated Facebook page should be created for parish council notices and other bulletins as necessary.</b> Councillors agreed that it would be desirable to have a parish council Facebook page for the above reasons and also agreed that comments should be deactivated to avoid any unwarranted comments and unfair criticisms, as had been the case with the community page in the past. Cllr Spillane agreed to set the page up.</p> <p><b>2 To discuss the possibility of holding parish council meetings in a hybrid format to enable members of the public to join the meeting remotely if they wish.</b> It was agreed that this would be a very good idea and Cllr Beard will hold a trial run at some point when the village hall can be made available.</p>
<b>21.09.11</b>	<p><b>Councillors' Reports</b></p> <p>Cllr Judy Moatt reported that the monthly coffee mornings had resumed in the village hall and it had been very good to see so many people getting together again after such a long time.</p> <p>Cllr Spillane reported that the Events Newsletter had been taken over by Rev. Childs, with his help, as Charlene Vandenbroucke is returning to France. He also reported that the slide nuts were again undone at the playground and he will inspect them again. It seemed likely that someone had tried to remove the slide at some point.</p> <p>Cllr Francis asked Cllr Dicker if the recent changes to the planning laws would affect our district. Cllr Dicker replied that work on the Local Plan is carrying on as usual.</p>
<b>21.09.12</b>	<p><b>To confirm the date of the next meeting of Gazeley Parish Council.</b> The next public meeting of the parish council will be held in Gazeley Village Hall on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> October 2021. The meeting closed at 8.30pm.</p>
	<p><b>Signed.....Chairman                      Date.....</b></p>

	<b>Monthly Financial Report</b>
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**PAYMENTS & RECEIPTS**

**SEPTEMBER**

**2021**

Payments	Amount	Cheque No.	Receipts	Balance
S.P Landscapes July	£ 111.00	1218		
Mr P Jaye	£ 500.00	1219		
Thomas Ball Fencing	£ 60.00	1220		
Glasdon UK Ltd.	£ 625.13	1221		
S.P. Landscapes August	£ 111.00	1222		

**Receipts**

Interest August		£ 0.15
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<b>Totals</b>	<b>£ 1,407.13</b>	<b>£ 0.15</b>
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**Balance of Accounts**

Treasurer's Account 1	£ 8,353.03
Treasurer's Account 2	£ 80.43
Instant Access Account	£ 17,859.75

**Total Balance of Accounts**  
**16.8.21**

**£  
26,293.21**

14.9.21