

GAZELEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Gazeley Parish Council held on Tuesday 13TH September 2022 in Gazeley Village Hall at 7.30pm

Present: Cllr Paul Beard (PB) (Chair), 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 (RD) 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.

The Chairman then asked everyone present to observe a one-minute silence in memory of H.M. Queen Elizabeth II, whose death was announced on Thursday 8th September 2022.

22.9.1	Public Forum A resident of Mill Road reported that her property had been badly flooded during the recent storms. Considerable damage had occurred and the cost of repair may run to five figures. The property is adjacent to a sewage station so it would probably have to undergo professional decontamination treatment. Suffolk Highways had attended the property within an hour of the problem being reported and had discovered that the drains in the area had been blocked. The clerk was instructed to find out when the drains were last cleared and when they were scheduled to be inspected in the future. It had been suggested by one of the workers that the nearby pond had probably been the cause of the problem but the clerk confirmed that the pond wasn't actually connected to the drainage system in the area, it was just a soakaway and when we have torrential rain as we had on the night in question it overflows, thus adding to the problem whilst not actually being the cause of it.
22.9.2	Reports from External Bodies i. West Suffolk District Council – Cllr Roger Dicker reported that he really had nothing new to report this month. Usual proceedings at the council had come to a halt following the news of the Queen's death. Cllr Dicker had attended the proclamation of the accession of King Charles III in Mildenhall and reported that hundreds of people had been present. The Community Chest has been opened up for groups to apply for funding. ii) Suffolk County Council – Cllr Colin Noble had sent apologies. He had to attend an alternative meeting and asked to be informed of any matters needing his attention.
22.9.3	To receive apologies for absence. Apologies were received from Cllr Wesley Heaton, who was away from home and Cllr Robert Connelly, who had been detained on family business. Their apologies were accepted by the parish council.
22.9.4	To receive declarations of interest, pecuniary and non-pecuniary, in matters on the agenda. None declared.
22.9.5	To approve the minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 12th July 2022 The minutes were approved unanimously and signed by the chairman.

22.9.6	<p>Clerk's Report on outstanding issues and any correspondence to be brought to the attention of the parish council.</p> <p>The clerk had contacted the planning officer to ask for an update on the progress of the forge application but had received no reply to date.</p> <p>She had also sent an email to Building Control to ask if the fencing could be removed from around the bus shelter in view of the fact that scaffolding was now protecting the gable end of the building.</p> <p>She had received no reply to date.</p> <p>Correspondence</p> <p>An email had been received from the resident of Mill Road with regard to the recent flooding and this had already been discussed during the public forum.</p>
22.9.7	<p>Finance</p> <p>i. Authorisation of outstanding payments.</p> <p>The payments were approved and the corresponding cheques were signed by JM and PB.</p> <p>ii. Monthly Finance Report.</p> <p>The clerk gave the monthly finance report which is attached to the minutes.</p> <p>iii. Half-Year finance Report</p> <p>The clerk had sent a report to all councillors on the financial position at the half-way point in the financial year. No issues were raised.</p> <p>iv. To Consider a quotation for the replacement of 8 damaged posts around the village green.</p> <p>The clerk had contacted a local contractor to ask for a quote to replace a damaged post on church green. He had replied with a quotation of £948 for the replacement of 8 posts that had rotted and needed replacing as soon as possible.</p> <p>The clerk noted that the council had reserved funds in the budget for repair and maintenance so it would be possible to cover the cost of the work.</p> <p>There was some surprise that so many posts had already rotted and some members questioned the wisdom of replacing like with like if they had such a short shelf-life.</p> <p>It was suggested that the posts should be removed altogether but the clerk said that that would only result in people parking on the green again.</p> <p>After some discussion, the clerk was authorised to ask the contractor to replace the post that was already down and further consideration will be given to the matter when next year's budget will be discussed.</p> <p>v. To discuss a request for a temporary bus shelter on the east side of The Street.</p> <p>A resident had complained about the continuing lack of a bus shelter in the village, as children and the elderly are forced to wait in the road in inclement weather. She had asked if the parish council could fund the installation of a temporary shelter on the other side of the road until the safety fencing around the shelter on the west side of the road could be removed.</p> <p>It was thought that the first course of action should be to pursue the removal of the fencing from around the shelter again as the scaffolding is protecting the gable end of the forge to some extent.</p> <p>The clerk agreed to follow this up and noted that there were no funds available in the budget to cover the cost of a shelter. Suffolk Highways had been asked to provide a temporary shelter a year ago but had not responded to the request. It was thought that they had been waiting to see if the forge would be demolished under the S215 order for its demolition that was in place at the time.</p>
22.9.8	<p>Highway Matters</p> <p>There was nothing further to add to the discussion relating to drain clearance that was held earlier in the meeting.</p>

22.9.9	Planning Matters A decision on the Blacksmith's Forge is still pending. The planning department has received a structural survey from the applicant and an amended block plan and floor plan but no further information is available.
22.9.10	Councillors' Reports JM reported that she was still receiving complaints about the height of fencing at the corner of Highwood Road and Highwood Court. There are also a lot of vehicles parked around the property which also restrict vision on the corner. PS reported that the trunk had split on a tree outside 9 The Green. The clerk will obtain a quote for having it inspected and dealt with. It was also noted that a branch of a tree near the road on Tithe Close green had broken and was hanging down. The clerk will inform WSC. PB had issued copies of the latest data from the new SID and it was agreed that the results were generally encouraging with 75% of vehicles travelling within the speed limit and nearly 90% travelling under 35Mph.
22.9.11	To confirm the date of the next meeting of the parish council. The next meeting of the parish council will be held on Tuesday 8 th November 2022 at 7.30pm in the village hall.

PAYMENTS & RECEIPTS**September 2022**

Payments	Amount	Cheque No.	Receipts	Balance
	£			
One Suffolk - Website host	60.00	1083		
	£			
S.P. Landscapes July/August	240.00	1084		
	£			
L. Francis Rent of Office Apr-Sept	104.00	1085		
	£			
Mr P Jaye Grass Cutting Final	500.00	1086		
Receipts				
Interest			£ 0.85	
	£ 904.00		£ 0.85	
Balance of Accounts				
				£
Treasurer's Account				1,450.95
Instant Access Account				£25,633.98
Total Balance of Accounts				£27,084.93
9.8.22				

13.9.22