

GAZELEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Gazeley Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 13th June 2017 in Gazeley Village Hall at 7.30pm

Present: Cllr Martin Hooker (Chairman), Cllr Judy Moatt, Cllr Tom Morgan and Cllr Kevin Grimwood
In attendance: Lynne Francis (Clerk) and 12 members of the public.

17/6.1	Welcome – The Chairman welcomed members of the public to the meeting.	
17/6.2	To receive apologies for absence – Apologies were received from Cllr Charlene Vandenbroucke and Cllr Hilary Appleton.	
17/6.3	To receive Declarations of Interest on matters on the agenda - None declared.	
17/6.4	Parish Council Vacancy, To formally co-opt Mr Simon Gash as a member of Gazeley Parish Council. – Mr Gash was co-opted as a member of the Council. 1. To receive signed Acceptance of Office Form – Received and signed by the Clerk. 2. To receive signed Declaration of Interests form – Received and signed by the Clerk.	
17/6.5	Election of Vice-Chair – Resolved , That Cllr Judy Moatt be elected as Vice-Chair, proposed by Cllr Morgan, seconded by Cllr Gash.	
17/6.6	To approve the minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council, held on 9 May 2017 - Resolved. That the minutes be adopted as a true record of the meeting, proposed by Cllr Moatt, seconded by Cllr Grimwood.	
17/6.7	To note the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 23 May 2017 – Noted and signed by the Chairman.	
17/6.8	To receive reports from external bodies: 1. County Council Report – Cllr Noble had sent apologies. He had informed the Clerk that he was aware of the condition of the road surface on the Highwood Estate but budget constraints meant that only potholes would be dealt with, in order of urgency, for the foreseeable future. 2. District Council Report – Cllr Rona Burt had also sent apologies but had sent a monthly report which was read to the meeting. There is nothing further to report about the Hatchfield Farm application. An application to fell trees at 50 The Street may have to go to Committee in view of the fact that they are protected by a Tree Preservation Order. Cllr Burt confirmed that the new Hopkins Homes development will be registered as Sperrink’s Close and not the marketing name of Octavia Gardens. The Clerk has applied for a licence to site a bench at Mill View. Simon Collin is dealing with this and will contact her shortly. Consultations on a possible merger with St Edmundsbury Borough Council will commence this week. The Locality Budget application for new signage at Tithe Close is complete and will be submitted this week.	
17/6.9	Civic Pride Awards – To note and record the Civic Pride Awards for 2017 and to approve the purchase of three wooden frames for the certificates and suitable parchment paper for same. The Chairman confirmed that there had been two winners, the first for the team of ladies who had established the regular monthly coffee mornings to raise funds for the roof repair at All Saints’ Church, Jenny Johnson, Pam Wybrew, Diana Bedson and Mary Briggs and the second to the Parish Clerk, Lynne Francis, for her long service to the Parish Council, All Saints’ Church and Dalham & Gazeley WI. Resolved. That the purchase of the necessary frames and parchment be approved. Proposer, Cllr Hooker, seconded, Cllr Moatt. Carried unanimously.	

17/6.10	<p>Finance</p> <p>1. Authorisation of outstanding payments – The accounts were approved and the cheques were signed by Cllr Moatt. Cllr Vandenbroucke will countersign them later.</p> <p>2. To consider proposals for the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The updating or replacing of the Parish Council laptop – Resolved. That the current laptop should be replaced with a maximum spend of £500. Proposed by Cllr Gash, seconded by Cllr Morgan. 2. The purchase of a laminator for Parish Council Notices – Resolved. That a laminator should be obtained for the purpose. Proposed by Cllr Hooker, seconded by Cllr Gash. 3. The purchase of an extra grit bin to be placed at the entrance to Tithe Close where sand is currently deposited. Resolved. That the grit bin should be purchased, Proposed by Cllr Hooker, seconded by Cllr Moatt. 4. To consider an application for funding the installation of Broadband/WiFi and a permanent video projector for Gazeley Village Hall. The initial outlay for the installation of Broadband and WiFi will cost £900, which will be reduced to £741 for the second year of the contract. The Chair of the Village Hall Committee, Mrs Maureen Barrett-Small has asked all the village groups to consider supporting the proposal with mixed reaction so far. After exploring all the options Cllr Hooker proposed that the Parish Council should donate the initial £900 for the installation of Broadband and the first year of the 2 year contract, and a further £500 towards the purchase of the projector. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Moat and a vote was carried by a majority. 	
17/6.11	<p>Clerk's Report</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Grass cutting at the recreation ground. On being asked if the grass could be given a closer cut, S.P.Landscapes had pointed out that in order to achieve this, the grass would have to be cut more regularly and with a different mower. At present the contractors cut the village grass in line with the number of cuts they do for Forest Heath amounting to 12 cuts per year. To achieve a lower cut, the number of cuts would have to be increased to 16 cuts per year on a two-week cycle rather than the current three week cycle. The Clerk was instructed to obtain a quote for the increase in the number of cuts per annum. 2. Over-grown trees at footpath through Gazeley Stud. The situation has been reported to SCC. Report ref. 4186784. 3. Over-hanging trees at The Old Rectory. The Clerk has written to the owner to ask that the trees be cut back so that the branches do not obstruct the footpath. 4. Bench at Mill View. The organisers of the monthly Coffee Morning had asked the Clerk to make the necessary arrangements for a bench to be installed on grass at Mill View which is owned by FHDC. She has applied for a licence and is awaiting a reply. 	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>
17/6.12	<p>Planning</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To consider applications DC17/0959/LB and DC/17.0954/HH – The erection of a single-storey outbuilding (following demolition of an existing outbuilding) The Hutch, Stubbins Lane and for Listed Building Approval for same. No objections were raised to the proposal. 2. To consider application DC/17/0938/TPO – To fell five trees that are currently Listed under a Tree Preservation Order, 50 The Street, Gazeley. Resolved. That the Clerk should respond in terms that the Parish Council fully supports the upholding of the TPO and that no tree should be felled for reasons other than disease or safety and that any trees that are felled for those reasons should be replaced with new trees of a suitable variety. Proposed Cllr Gash, seconded Cllr Hooker. Agreed unanimously. 	<p>Clerk</p>

17/6.13	<p>Benefice Remembrance Service, Sunday 12th November 2017. To consider a proposal that the Parish Council should be officially represented at the service and should provide annual wreaths for the memorial in All Saints' Church. Proposed Cllr Hooker, seconded Cllr Morgan. Resolved. That two wreaths should be provided each year at an approximate cost of £25 each.</p>	
17/6.14	<p>Tendering Process To approve a draft tender document. Approved with minor adjustments to be made.</p>	Cllr Hooker
17/6.15	<p>Councillors' Reports</p> <p>Repair Works at the Blacksmith's Shop Cllr Grimwood had spoken to the owner with limited response. He agreed to approach him again about removing all the remnants of wood and items of furniture that still litter the front of the site.</p> <p>It was noted that after several verbal requests had been made to remove earth spoil from Village Green land, Mr Hatton had still not removed it. The Clerk was instructed to write to him with a formal request to carry out the work without further delay and to report on any progress made at the July meeting.</p> <p>Maintenance work at the children's playground – Cllr Morgan reported that the work had now been completed to a reasonable standard.</p> <p>Cllr Judy Moatt relayed a message from Phil Jaye to ask whether any plans were being made for the resumption of football or cricket on the playing field. The point was made that a management committee should be formed to deal with all matters concerning the playing field but so far no-one had come forward in that respect. In the meantime, it was important to keep the grass in good condition. A drain cover near the bottle bank in Highwood Crescent is broken. A broken BT manhole cover has still not been repaired. Cllr Grimwood volunteered to follow up his earlier report to BT and ask that the cover be repaired as soon as possible.</p> <p>Cllr Hooker – Pub update. Cllr Hooker had spoken to Pat Spillane to ask how the renovations were coming along and whether there was any prospect of the business opening in the near future. Mr Spillane had authorised him to inform the Parish Council of the following:</p> <p><i>The renovation and building work is coming along well, with completion of all the major repairs. We're currently in the process of re-fitting the bar, building a few more partitions and completely re-wiring the building, which in all shouldn't take that long.</i></p> <p><i>We are still planning to re-open with a focus on a daytime, cafe-style offering, aimed primarily at walkers and cyclists. We're currently building a marketing database for promotional purposes.</i></p> <p><i>However, the launch of our new venture is severely hampered by the ever-increasing state of dilapidation of the Blacksmith's Shop on our doorstep. This situation is increasing our reluctance to commit to an opening date.</i></p> <p><i>Gazeley's Blacksmith's Shop has become a landmark and is gaining notoriety far afield. This only dampens our confidence in making a positive first impression on our new customer base. We would greatly appreciate any assistance or support from the Parish Council regarding the worsening state of the Blacksmith's Shop. We've taken up the matter with our local MP and Forest Heath Planning Department to try and resolve the situation.</i></p>	<p>Cllr Grimwood</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Cllr Grimwood</p>

	<p>Cllr Hooker then drew attention to the fact that no-one was responsible for checking and maintaining the defibrillator since John Chambers left the Parish Council and he asked for a volunteer to take his place. Cllr Grimwood agreed to take on the responsibility.</p>	
17/6.16	<p>OPEN FORUM</p> <p>A suggestion was made that perhaps a working party could be formed to help remove the rubbish from the front of the Blacksmith's Shop but it was felt that this would not be a good idea as the structure is not stable and any volunteers would be putting their safety at risk.</p> <p>It was noted that there was no lock on the main gate to the Recreation Ground. Cllr Hooker agreed to purchase a lock and chain to secure the site.</p> <p>Cllr Morgan has obtained some cable ties to be used as a bird deterrent on the swings and will fit them this week.</p>	<p>Cllr Hooker</p> <p>Cllr Morgan</p>
17/6.17	<p>The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Tuesday 11th July at 7.30pm in Gazeley Village Hall.</p>	
17/6.18	<p>Close of meeting. 9.16pm.</p>	

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	FINANCIAL REPORT JUNE 2017	
Payments	£	Bank Balances
S.P. Landscapes, April	£ 185.40	
S.P. Landscapes, May	£ 185.40	
S.P. Landscapes, pond work	£ 1362.00	
Mr M Hooker, Award frames	£ 20.00	
Mr M Hooker, Laminator and pouches	£ 35.47	
Receipts		
Interest	£ 0.55	
Treasurer's Account		£ 4915.14
Instant Access Account		£ 12467.14
Total Balance		£ 17382.28
13.6.17		