

# GAZELEY PARISH COUNCIL

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## **Minutes of the meeting of Gazeley Parish Council Held in Gazeley Village Hall on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2016**

**Present:** Cllrs Judy Moatt (Chair), Kevin Grimwood, Tom Morgan and Hilary Appleton.

**Also Present:** Parish Clerk, Lynne Francis and 5 members of the public.

**16/4.1 Apologies for absence:** Councillors Vini Mallen, John Chambers and Charlene Vandenbroucke had sent apologies which were accepted.

**16/4.2 Declarations of interest in matters on the agenda:**  
None declared.

### **16/4.3 Reports from external bodies**

#### **i. County Council Report:**

A monthly report had been received from Cllr Noble and circulated to all councillors.

#### **ii. District Council Report:**

Councillor Rona Burt had sent her monthly report which had also been circulated to all councillors. There was nothing further to report about Hatchfield Farm. There is a meeting for members next week on the future of the Mildenhall air base.

The next consultation on the Local Plan started on 4<sup>th</sup> April and runs to 8<sup>th</sup> June.

Cllr Burt has agreed to donate £750 from her Locality Budget to go towards the VAS sign.

Discussions on devolution are continuing.

### **16/4.4 To approve the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2016.**

The minutes were confirmed as a true record of the meeting and signed by the Chairman.

### **16/4.5 Clerk's Report and any other matters arising from the minutes**

#### **i. Clerk's Report and correspondence**

- Victor Parsons has completed the installation of oak posts around the green to protect the grass from further damage.
- S.P. Landscapes will be cutting the playing field at three week intervals until further notice at the agreed rate of £150 +VAT per cut.
- Impress Express has quoted £22.50 + VAT for each of the three playing field ownership signs.
- Section 106 payments for Sperrink's Close. The Clerk confirmed that the agreed payments are £60,905 for Education and £3,500 for public transport. Both amounts will be paid directly to Suffolk County Council.
- Moulton PC has placed an order for the VAS sign.
- Potholes on Higham Road are due to be repaired shortly.
- Mrs Sue Gould of Rosemount Lodge has volunteered to be a point of contact for anyone requiring help with the defibrillator. This information has been included in the next newsletter.

- Tom Johns has informed us that there will be no Grow & Show this year but he hopes to organise more shows in the future if support is available.
- PCSO Becky Simpson has left the post to become a police officer. Sgt. Jason Francis will be covering this area. Inspector Mark Shipton has been appointed as the new Locality Inspector for Forest Heath.

An email has been received from Peter Hatton, owner of the forge. He confirms that the caravan has now been taken away and that he hopes to undertake the necessary repairs to the building as soon as possible.

## ii. Other Matters Arising

Cllr Grimwood reported that the grab lorry had been unable to remove the rubbish from the field as arranged because the grass was too wet. The removal will have to be completed when the grass has had a chance to dry out.

### 16/4.6 Finance

#### i. Authorisation of outstanding payments:

The following outstanding accounts were authorised and the cheques signed by the chairman.

The Clerk will arrange to have them countersigned by Cllr. Vandembroucke.

A new bank mandate has been requested to add further signatories to the account but it has not yet arrived.

Newsletter printing - Newprint	£ 64.00
V.S.Parsons, fencing	£1,733.56

**At 12.4.16, the total balance of both Parish Council accounts stood at £18405.29**

A copy of the final accounts for the year had been sent to every councillor and a full report will be given with the signing of the Accounting Statement at the AGM next month.

### 16/4.7 Signage

**Resolved** –That the Clerk place an order for the three signs at the playing field and a further ownership sign to be placed at the entrance to the recreation ground in Stubbins Lane. This sign should read “This area is under the management of Gazeley Parish Council. Contact details are on the village notice-board.” Another sign should be purchased banning dogs from inside the children’s play area.

### 16/4.8 Planning

i. To consider application DC/16.0556/HH – Construction of a wall to the front boundary (following the removal of the existing hedge) at 25 Moulton Road, Gazeley.

The Parish Council reviewed the application and had no objections to the development.

#### ii. Rural Parishes Alliance.

To consider recent correspondence from the RPA in the light of proposed changes to the planning system.

After deliberations over the past two years, Cllr Bill Rampling had informed members of the alliance that he has concluded that there is a unanimous view amongst the rural parishes that we are no longer part of the planning process and our views are being disregarded as being irrelevant. The term 'planning' is no longer relevant, that the local authorities are being led by development control and that the 'planning' aspect of development has been lost in the process. In this situation, the leaders of the alliance are not sure how best we should move forward in the light of the latest Local Plan consultation but it has been suggested that members endorse this view and that of SALC by writing to the Department for Communities and Local Government and copying the correspondence to MP Matthew Hancock.

Gazeley Parish Council agreed that all the issues had been covered by SALC and the RPA in their submissions to the government and they were happy to endorse them.

#### **16/4.9 Councillors' Reports**

**Cllr Grimwood** was unhappy with the costs of cutting the playing field. He was of the opinion that the solution was to purchase our own equipment and manage the ground with a group of volunteers. A discussion ensued with doubt being expressed that there would be enough volunteers with enough commitment to do this on a regular basis. The Clerk stated that the onus is on the Parish Council to keep the field in good order under the terms of the lease. As no sport is being played there at the moment the arrangement with S.P. Landscapes should be enough to keep the grass maintained in the short term.

**Cllr Judy Moatt** asked that members of the public be requested to keep their dogs on leads so that they can ensure that they do not foul the pavements.

She suggested that a letter be sent to Rev. Canon Stephen Mitchell on his retirement to express our thanks and good wishes for the future to him on his retirement in May. This was unanimously agreed.

The monthly coffee mornings are a real success with more visitors attending every time.

Cllr Moatt had received a request from the organisers for help with the fees for hiring the village hall. This was agreed.

- **It was therefore resolved** that from now on the Parish Council will cover the hall fees as it was agreed that this was an important social occasion and attended by people of all ages from all over the village.

#### **16/4.10**

**The Annual Parish Meeting will be held at 7.30pm on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> May in the Village Hall and this will be followed by the AGM of the Parish Council.**

The meeting was closed at 8.10pm.

#### **PUBLIC FORUM**

Issues raised:

Why has a road sign warning of the presence of children been placed near Tithe Close?

The Clerk surmised that it might be because Highways had informed us that they were unable to move the 30mph sign further out of the village at that point but Tithe Close is a recreation area where children frequently play.

A piece of what looked like tarpaulin or corrugated iron had been dragged to the MUGA equipment on the recreation ground because the earth around the equipment was very muddy, making it unusable. It was agreed that it had to be removed for reasons of safety and in the absence of a volunteer coming forward to remove it, Cllr. Judy Moatt agreed to do it herself.

Brambles are overhanging a wall near the Manor House and are a hazard to anyone walking along the path in the dark.  
Several residents had been unhappy to find that their brown bin had not been emptied because some items of kitchen waste had been included and this is not allowed under the new scheme.

Signed.....  
Chairman

Date.....