GAZELEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Gazeley Parish Council held on
Tuesday 9th July 2019 in Gazeley Village Hall at 7.30pm.

Present: Cllr Kevin Grimwood (Chair), Cllr Paul Beard, Cllr Ray Francis, Cllr Judy Moatt, Cllr Pat Spillane and Cllr Charlene Vandenbroucke.

In attendance: Lynne Francis (Clerk), District Councillor Roger Dicker and 4 members of the public.

PUBLIC FORUM

During a meeting held by the Greener Gazeley Group, there had been a discussion on whether certain areas of the village might be designated as wildlife areas. It was agreed that consideration should be given to this in the future, taking into account that the various greens and verges in the village are owned by either the Parish Council, West Suffolk Council or the County Council.

19.7.1 To receive apologies for absence.
All members of the Council were present at the meeting.

19.7.2 To receive Declarations of Interest, pecuniary and non-pecuniary on matters on the agenda. – None declared.

19.7.3 To receive reports from external bodies.

West Suffolk Councillor Roger Dicker reported that a lot of investment has gone into the new Mildenhall Hub. It will be a centre for various services, including health services, which will be grouped in one centre for easy access.

Consideration is being given to creating a roundabout at the traffic light system near Glasswells in Bury St Edmunds.

Another new initiative is the West Suffolk Rural Task Force which will be looking into the provision of better community policing, housing and other services in the district.

Plans are being considered for a solar panel farm near Snailwell, Freckenham and Chippenham. Comments from the community are invited.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Dicker for attending the meeting.

19.7.4 To approve the minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council, held on Tuesday 11th June.

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

19.7.5 Clerk’s Report

The area of grass at the entrance to Carpenter’s Close has not been cut recently as the contractors were wrongly informed that it had been designated as a re-wilding area.

The Council has been informed that this area should be cut at the same time as the other greens and verges in the village that are in the ownership of West Suffolk Council or the County Council.
West Suffolk Council has been alerted to a scam targeting local residents, informing them that a council tax refund is due to them and asking for their bank account details.

Following complaints with regard to the height of a fence in the front garden of a property in Stubbins Lane, the Clerk had spoken to the resident and informed him of the maximum height of a fence at the front of a property and he is seeking advice from the planning department.

19.7.6 Correspondence.
There was no new correspondence to be brought to the notice of the Parish Council.

19.7.7 Finance
i. Authorisation of Outstanding Payments
The Clerk gave the monthly financial report and payment of the outstanding accounts was approved. The cheques were signed by Cllr Spillane and Cllr Judy Moatt.

ii. VAT claims for the Gazeley Play Park Project.
Following comments made at the last meeting, the Clerk had sought advice from SALC on the claiming of VAT payments in respect of the new play equipment, funds for which had been raised by the Play Park Community Team. The Team has not raised sufficient funds to cover the VAT payment and it had generally been assumed that the Parish Council would be able to order and pay for the new equipment, making up the shortfall from the Parish Council’s account and re-claiming the VAT.

It had recently come to the Clerk’s notice that in similar situations in other councils, the ruling had been that they could not claim the VAT on money that was not their own, ie raised by another group outside of the PC, and it could be considered as tax evasion by transferring the money to the Parish Council so that they could place an order and recover the VAT.

It seems that the issue is not as simple as first assumed and The Clerk will seek further clarification of the rules from HMRC.

19.7.8 Recreation Ground
i. To review the annual inspection report.
As reported last month, two matters had been highlighted: The edges of the rubber matting around several pieces of equipment were coming loose in places and the gate to the playground was closing too quickly. Cllr Grimwood and Cllr Francis will inspect the rubber matting and have a look at the gate to see how it can be adjusted.

Work had been carried out on the rubber tiles two years ago by Playmaintain. The Clerk will check to see if the same areas had come loose again.

19.7.9 Pond area at the junction of Moulton Road and The Street.
To consider how the Greener Gazeley Group might help with the maintenance of the area.

The leader of the group, Mrs Linda Johns, reported that the Suffolk Wildlife Trust had advised them that the centre of the area was so fertile that it has become choked with vegetation and it could benefit from a complete overhaul. She had put a notice on Facebook to gauge interest in becoming part of a team of volunteers who would maintain the area on a regular basis although she was aware that similar initiatives had failed in the past. She will report back to the Parish Council in September.
19.7.10 Councillors’ Reports

Cllr Judy Moatt has received complaints about the many cyclists and runners who travel rapidly through the village without any high viz equipment so that motorists and pedestrians don’t see them coming. It is thought that many events are organised by Barrow Academy and the Clerk was asked to contact them to pass on those concerns.

It has been noted that someone has left some large pieces of cardboard next to the recycling bins in Highwood Crescent. The Council will not remove items unless they have been placed in the bins.

Cllr Spillane is seeking volunteers to refurbish the telephone/defibrillator box. Cllr Dicker commented that Kentford Parish Council has used the services of Community Payback, a team of workers who have received community service orders.

Cllr Charlene Vandenbroucke reported that Cllr Dicker was able to award £300 from his Locality Budget to the Play Park Project.

Cllr Grimwood is concerned that Higham Road is becoming more dangerous all the time with large lorries destroying the roadside banks. The road is only one car width in places. Some of the lorries are going to the chicken farm in Lidgate. There are several Highways matters that are causing concern at the moment and the Clerk will invite Cllr Noble to attend a meeting as soon as possible to be made aware of those concerns.

19.7.11 To confirm the date of the next meeting of the Parish Council.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held in Gazeley Village Hall at 7.30pm on Tuesday 10th September.

The Clerk’s Annual Review meeting will be held in the village hall on Tuesday 13th August. Press and public excluded.

Signed........................................................               Date............................................
Chairman
## Financial Report

### July 2019

### Payments £ Balance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>S.P. Landscapes June</td>
<td>£96.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Saints’Church</td>
<td>£400.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mrs L Francis, printer ink</td>
<td>£29.99</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr P Beard, laptop licence etc.</td>
<td>£75.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mrs S Prigg, Internal audit</td>
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<td>Gazeley Village Hall</td>
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**Total** £ 755.99

### Receipts £

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<td>Interest</td>
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**Total** £0.72

### Bank Balance@ 26.6.19 £

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<td>Treasurer’s Account 1</td>
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<td>Treasurer’s Account 2</td>
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<td>Instant Access Account</td>
<td>£16,509.30</td>
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**Total balance of accounts** £20,053.69

9.7.19

Signed..................................................Chairman

Date....................................................................

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