

GAZELEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Gazeley Parish Council Held in Gazeley Village Hall on Tuesday 13th September 2016

Present: Cllr Judy Moatt (Chair), Cllr Kevin Grimwood, Cllr Hilary Appleton, Cllr Tom Morgan and Cllr Charlene Vandembroucke.

Also Present: Parish Clerk, Lynne Francis, District Councillor Rona Burt and 5 members of the public.

16/9.1 Apologies for absence: Cllr John Chambers. Cllr Vini Mallen had informed the Clerk that he expected to be late in attending the meeting due to other commitments. In the event, he did not attend.

16/9.2 Declarations of interest in matters on the agenda:
None declared.

16/9.3 Reports from external bodies

i. County Council Report:

There had been no report from Cllr Colin Noble this month.

ii. District Council Report:

Cllr Rona Burt gave her monthly report.

The Secretary of State has turned down the Hatchfield Farm application. This has raised concerns at the local authority with regard to the Local Plan and a revised timetable will have to be agreed for its completion.

A Public Consultation on a Vision for the future of RAF Mildenhall was released on 6th September and the consultation closes on 11th October. There will be two drop-in sessions for residents and local businesses to attend, one at the Council Chamber, Forest Heath, on 29th September 4pm – 8pm and The Jubilee Centre, Mildenhall, on 5th October, 4pm – 8pm.

Devolution – Leaders of the participating authorities in the Norfolk/Suffolk devolution will consider the results of the extensive consultation and will forward their conclusion to the Secretary of State.

A copy of Cllr Burt's full report will be circulated to all members of the Parish Council.

Cllr Burt has taken on extra responsibilities at the district council and as a result she felt that she could only commit to attending parish council meetings on a bi-monthly basis in future.

Cllr Vandembroucke asked if there had been any more progress on the forge. Cllr Burt replied that a letter had been sent to the owner on 19th August informing him that he had a period of three months in which to make the building safe and remove the fencing surrounding it. If he fails to comply with this request then the next step would be prosecution.

16/9.4 To approve the minutes of the meetings held on Tuesday 12th July 2016.

The minutes were amended to include Cllr Mallen in the list of those present and to record apologies from Cllr Tom Morgan who said he had in fact informed the Clerk that he would be unable to attend.

Cllr Vandembroucke queried a note that posts for the speed device had to be installed at 4 metre intervals. There has to be a distance of 100 metres from the speed limit sign to the post.

The minutes were amended, agreed and signed by the Chairman.

16/9.5 Clerk's Report and any other matters arising from the minutes.

i. Clerk's Report and correspondence

- The Clerk reported that she had again contacted the county council with regard to the condition of the footpath which runs through Gazeley Stud.
- Highwood Court – a street light outage has been reported and Cllr Burt was informed about the overgrown vegetation on the land in front of the development. Some work had been done to clear ivy from the tree trunks but Cllr Burt felt that more could be done and she would pursue this. Cllr Grimwood drew attention to the similar conditions of trees on the green in Highwood Crescent.
- The Clerk asked that the number of Parish Council newsletters be reduced to four per year as it was difficult to find enough new material to make it interesting on a bi-monthly basis. The Events Committee newsletter is issued every month and the clerk felt that the ideal solution would be to combine the two with the church newsletter in a similar format to the one issued in Moulton. The Parish Council agreed and Cllr Appleton suggested that a meeting be arranged to discuss all the options for an improved publication.
- An email had been received from a new resident of the village who regretted the absence of a meeting place for local residents as the pub is still closed. The Clerk had invited him to a future parish council meeting to air his views.
- An email had been received from Mr Sam Raithatha requesting permission to hold a bonfire event on the recreation ground in Stubbins Lane. Mr Raithatha was present at the meeting and he was invited to outline his plans for the event. He confirmed that there would be no fireworks as they had to be organised by a professional but there would be a bonfire and a repeat of the recent pop-up pub that had been so successful. (Approximately 200 people had attended) Councillors felt that this would be a good event for the village. The Clerk commented that bonfire events had ceased in the past because local residents had added unsuitable items to the bonfire and these had been left to the parish council to clear up afterwards.

Resolved: It was agreed in principle that the event could go ahead on the condition that the insurance provisions were agreed by the Clerk and that all evidence of the bonfire must be removed from the site afterwards.

ii. Other Matters Arising

There were no further matters arising from the minutes.

16/9.6 Finance

i. Authorisation of outstanding payments:

The following outstanding accounts were authorised.

Mrs L Francis, BACS payment to Newprint	£ 64.00
Mrs L Francis, Clerk's expenses April - September	£126.00

At 9.8.16, the total balance of both Parish Council accounts stood at £18,158.51

16/9.7 Planning Matters

DC/16/1191/FUL – Planning Application, car showroom and associated car parking with new access. Land at Bury Road, Gazeley. The Parish Council had no objection to the proposals.

DC/16/156.FUL – Planning application, 2 semi-detached two storey dwellings. Amendment to previously approved detached dwelling. Plot 2, Former Sperrinks Nursery. The Parish Council had no objection to the proposals.

16/9.8 Consultation on the future of Mill Meadow Pupil Referral Unit, Gazeley

Suffolk County Council has decided to consult broadly on the future of the Unit.

In November 2015, the school had been judged by Ofsted to be inadequate and requiring special measures. Action had been taken to rectify the situation but the Education and Adoption Act 2016 requires the Secretary of State for Education to make an Academy order in respect of a maintained school in England.

The Academy Trust subsequently decided that it did not want to pursue sponsorship of the provision and therefore the local authority proposes to reallocate the 24 places at the school to alternative provisions located within West Suffolk.

Gazeley Parish Council has been invited to contribute to the consultation by Friday 7th October.

All Saints' PCC has also been invited to respond as it has a financial interest in the site in the event of a future decision to sell it if it is no longer required for educational purposes.

It was suggested that members of the Parish Council hold discussions with representatives of All Saints' PCC before formulating their response.

Resolved: That this suggestion should be pursued by councillors.

16/9.9 Councillors' Reports

- **Playground maintenance** – Cllr Morgan.

Cllr Morgan had obtained two quotes for remedial work at the playground. He had circulated the quotes to all councillors. Cllr Morgan proposed that the second of the two quotes should be accepted. This was seconded by Cllr Grimwood.

Resolved: That the quotation of £2909.26 + £581.52 VAT be accepted for the work.

- **Cllr Grimwood** – It was confirmed that all the remains of the demolished huts on the playing field have now been removed. The cricket square has been mown on a regular basis. Complaints have been received about the number of cars parking outside the village hall on some Tuesday nights, mainly during the meetings of the WI. Some cars are parking two abreast, reducing the width of the pavement for pedestrians. The number of potholes in Highwood Road is increasing with existing potholes becoming worse. Village roads have been left in a mess after the collection of bales of hay from the fields by contractors.
- **Cllr Vandenbroucke** – Speed Indication Signs. It was agreed that ideally four posts are needed for the installation of the signs. Cllr Vandenbroucke had done a lot of work in identifying the best places in which to place the posts and she was also seeking advice from Cllr Bill Rampling at Moulton in this regard. A quotation of £156, per post, for the installation has been obtained from P & P Property Maintenance. It was agreed that the site near the school should be a first priority with the second somewhere near the church for traffic approaching from the opposite direction.

Resolved: That the quote be accepted but that only two posts should be installed at this stage. Any further action should be reviewed at a later date. Cllr Appleton expressed thanks to Cllr Vandenbroucke for the considerable work that had gone into her report.

- **Cllr Vandenbroucke** enquired about the responsibility for cutting the various public footpaths around the village. The Clerk informed her that they are cut once a year nowadays by the county council. A complaint has been received about brambles encroaching on to the footpath at the training yard in Moulton Road. The pond at the junction of Moulton Road and The Street is in need of some clearance work.
- **Cllr Appleton** – The Public Footpath sign has come down at the rear of Tithe Close.
- **Cllr Judy Moatt** – Large branches from trees at the playing field have come down. It is uncertain whether this is the Parish Council’s responsibility or that of the Dalham Estate. The Clerk will make enquiries.

16/9.10

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Tuesday 11th October at 7.30pm in the village hall.

PUBLIC FORUM

It was noted that a huge pothole has opened up in the lay-by opposite the pond near the water tower.

No further issues were raised and the meeting was closed at 9.26pm.