

# GAZELEY PARISH COUNCIL

NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2016/17

## THE PARISH COUNCIL

Gazeley Parish Council meets in the Village Hall on the second Tuesday of every month, except August, at 7.30 pm. Village Residents are welcome to ask questions in the Open Forum section at every meeting.

### Members of the Parish Council

Mrs Judy Moatt	01638 750151
Mrs Hilary Appleton	01638 750725
Mr John Chambers	01638 552587
Mr Kevin Grimwood	01638 552317
Mr Tom Morgan	01638 750406
Ms Charlene Vandenbroucke	01638 815259
Mr Martin Hooker	01638 555199

### Parish Clerk:

Mrs Lynne Francis 01638 750170

Email: [gazeleypc@aol.co.uk](mailto:gazeleypc@aol.co.uk)

Parish Council Website: [www.gazeley.onesuffolk.net](http://www.gazeley.onesuffolk.net)

### District Councillor

Mrs Rona Burt. 01638 712309

Email: [rona.burt@forest-heath.gov.uk](mailto:rona.burt@forest-heath.gov.uk)

### County Councillor

Mr Colin Noble 07545 423795

Email: [colin.noble@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:colin.noble@suffolk.gov.uk)

### Member of Parliament

Mr Matthew Hancock 01638 576692

Email: [matthew.hancock.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:matthew.hancock.mp@parliament.uk)

## VILLAGE CONTACTS

### **Village Hall Bookings:**

Mrs June Lewis 750062

### **Dalham & Gazeley W.I.**

Mrs Lynne Francis 750170

### **Gazeley History Society**

Mrs Hilary Appleton 750725

### **Table Tennis Club**

Mr Tony Wilkinson 552221

### **All Saints' Church**

Rev. Rosemary Rycraft 750783

[Rosemaryrycraft121@gmail.com](mailto:Rosemaryrycraft121@gmail.com)

### **Suffolk Police**

Sgt. Jason Francis 101



## NEWS FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL

Gazeley Parish Council is pleased to confirm that Mr Martin Hooker has been co-opted to fill the vacant position on the parish council.

The parish council has agreed that in future this newsletter will be issued on a quarterly basis. This is partly because there isn't always enough 'news' to make it sufficiently interesting and also to avoid duplicating information with the Events Committee Newsletter and other village publications.

Since the last newsletter was published, several issues have been concerning some Gazeley residents who have taken to social media to air their complaints. This is the up to date situation as we know it on those issues.

### Mill Meadow PRU

Mill Meadow School has not formally closed yet. Following a public consultation on the matter, Suffolk County Council's cabinet agreed to recommend closure to the Secretary of State at a meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> January. The School Organisation Team is currently liaising with the Department for Education regarding the final decision from the Secretary of State, which has not yet been received. Obviously no decision on the future of the site can be made until notice of formal closure is received and if and when that happens, Suffolk CC will be having discussions with the trustees of the educational trust which is a part owner of the site.

There were only a very few children at the school by Christmas and these were found alternative placements with other providers. The staff are also working at other schools. The property team will be responsible for maintaining the safety and the security of the site until its future is decided.

The original school in Gazeley, housed in what is popularly known as “The Ark”, was a church foundation school and was run by a charitable trust. The trustees were (and are) the vicar and churchwardens of All Saints’ Church but the trust is independent of both the Parochial Church Council in Gazeley and the Diocese of St. Edmundsbury and Ipswich. No part of the site on which the PRU stands is owned by All Saints’ Church and therefore it would not benefit from any future sale of the land.

If, in the future, a decision is taken to dispose of the site, then Gazeley Parish Council and residents of the village will be informed and invited to comment in the usual way.

### **Planning – Section 106 Payments**

Section 106 payments are a mechanism which makes a development proposal acceptable, in planning terms, that would not otherwise be acceptable to a local authority.

Some residents were aggrieved on hearing that the Section 106 payments, in respect of the development on the former Sperrinks Nursery site, had been allocated to Moulton Primary School and not to Gazeley.

In fact, the money was apportioned as follows:

**Bus Stop Contribution:** the sum of £3,500 for the upgrading of the two bus stops that are located close to the development on The Street and Higham Road, Gazeley in order to provide sustainable transport links to the development.

**Education Contribution:** the sum of £60,905 for the provision of additional school places and associated facilities at Moulton CEVC Primary School whose catchment area includes Gazeley.

**Full details of the Section 106 agreement relating to the development are available to view on the West Suffolk website:** [www.westsuffolk.gov.uk/planning](http://www.westsuffolk.gov.uk/planning)



### **Speed Indication Device (SID)**

The SID, which we share with Moulton, has now been installed. The siting of the posts which hold the device has been governed by rules laid down by Suffolk County Council, who were also responsible for installing the equipment. At the moment we have two posts; one situated opposite the school and another one in the middle of the village near the churchyard. The device will be moved between the two. If this proves to be effective, the parish council will consider other suitable sites to accommodate the SID.

There is hardly a village in West Suffolk where residents don’t complain about speeding traffic and there are no foolproof ways to stop it. Suffolk Highways has stringent rules about the siting of speed signs, sleeping policemen and other devices and they are not always possible to install.

### **The Blacksmith’s Shop**

The current situation is that the owner of the Blacksmith’s Shop, or the forge, on the village green has been served with a Section 215 notice by the Planning Enforcement Officer which requires him to carry out the necessary repairs to the corner of the building within the next six months and to remove the metal hoarding surrounding it.

### **No. 50, The Street**

Planning permission has been granted for the demolition of No. 50 The Street, Gazeley (Popularly known as Daphne’s), and for the construction of four new dwellings. The original application for development of the site included a plan to convert the existing building into two houses and this was approved by the parish council.

The present developer applied to demolish the building and this was challenged by the parish council who would rather have preserved it if possible.

They did request that if permission were to be given for demolition then the two new houses which faced the road should be of a similar style and material to the original building.

We have just heard that they have agreed to comply with our request. Although it was not a listed building, it is interesting to note that it was a village shop for many years and before that, a pub called The Carpenter’s Arms.



### **Facebook.**

Following a series of comments on the Gazeley Village Community Facebook page regarding parish council matters and the perceived shortcomings of the parish council, residents are kindly requested to contact a parish councillor or the Parish Clerk if they have any queries on such matters. It is very unfair to insinuate, on a social media site, that councillors haven’t been doing their job properly when you are not in full possession of the facts, which are easily obtained by contacting the parish council direct. All the contact numbers are on this newsletter, the parish council website and the notice-board.



**Finally, a very warm welcome to our new vicar, Rev. Rosemary Rycraft, who was installed at a special service in All Saints’ Church on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> January followed by a reception at the village hall.**