

GAZELEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Gazeley Parish Council held on Monday 8th January 2024 at 7.30pm in Gazeley Village Hall

Present: Cllr Laurence Chapman, Chair, Cllr Robert Connelly, Cllr Kevin Grimwood, Cllr Stuart Jolly, Cllr Sam Raithatha and Cllr Judy Moatt.

24.01.01 Chairman's Welcome

The meeting was opened by the Chairman, Cllr Laurence Chapman, who welcomed everyone to the meeting. He informed the members of the public that the meeting was being recorded to ensure the accuracy of the minutes.

24.01.02 To receive apologies for absence

Apologies had been received from Cllr Kinnon, who is away from home at the moment.

24.01.03 To receive Declarations of Interest, pecuniary and non-pecuniary, on matters on the agenda.

None declared.

24.01.04 To receive reports from external bodies and to take questions or comments from members of the public on those reports and on any other matter on the agenda.

a) District Council – Cllr Roger Dicker had sent his apologies. The Chairman confirmed that the district council has received the parish council's application for funding to up-grade the streetlights in the ownership of the parish. Cllr Dicker had confirmed that funds are available in his locality budget for local projects and it was suggested that an application could be made to help with the cost of repairs at the play park. Cllr Dicker has already agreed to award the sum of £150 to help with the costs of the regular Community Lunches which are held in the village hall.

b) County Council – Cllr Noble had also sent apologies. Comments had been made on Facebook about the flooding on Kentford Road and a similar issue with Higham Road. The parish council had already been in discussions with Highways about these and other issues and Cllr Noble had noted that all new matters should be entered into the Highways reporting tool on the County Council's website.

c) Public Forum

Residents at 12 Tithe Close reported that their garden had been flooded on 5th January, when water drained off the fields next to their house. The garden has been flooded on more than one occasion since 2003 and on one occasion flood water had also entered the house. They fear that the situation with drainage is getting worse. The residents have been told by both Strutt & Parker and Savills, land agents for the Dalham Estate, that nothing can be done about the situation.

Before 2003, there was no drainage ditch running alongside the property and after pressure from the residents the estate carried out some improvement works on the field to help alleviate the problem but it still persists and the residents fear that more houses on Tithe Close may be at risk.

It was noted that comments had been made on Facebook about the lack of progress on the forge. The owner was present at the meeting and he confirmed that he was now living in the area and would be moving on with the project within the week.

Questions were raised about problems with various lighting units in the village and it was noted that three lights were now out on Tithe Close. However, lighting engineers had been seen around the village so it was hoped that the problems were being addressed.

24.01.05 To approve the minutes of the Meeting of Gazeley Parish Council, held on Monday 11th December 2023.

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

24.01.06 To receive the Clerk's report on outstanding issues and any other matters that may have arisen since the publication of the agenda.

There was nothing new to add to matters that are already being dealt with.

24.01.07 Finance Matters

a) Authorisation of outstanding payments and the signing of the monthly schedule of payments. Only one cheque was presented for payment this month, £1.00 to The Dalham Estate, the annual payment due under the lease agreement on the playing field.

b) Monthly Finance Report.

The Chairman gave a report on the balance of accounts at today's date.

c) To finalise the budget for 2023-2024

The Council considered the draft budget which Cllr Connolly estimated to total £21,514.

This did not include the following discretionary payments:

All Saints' Church - for churchyard maintenance, a one-off payment of £1700.

British Legion Wreath - £25

SARS - £100

Rental of the village hall for the visits of the Coffee Caravan - £231

Total draft budget - £23,570.

d) To set the precept for 2023-2024

It was agreed that the precept should remain at £20,500, the same as last year, with the balance being met from reserves.

24.01.08 To review the Standing Orders of Gazeley Parish Council – Deferred to the next meeting.

Cllr Connolly noted that Moulton has adopted the revised NALC model standing orders for 2023, the first revision since 2018. He agreed to circulate the revised standing orders for review and discussion at the next meeting.

24.01.09 Councillors' Reports

Cllr Grimwood reported that the SID statistics show that 97% of vehicles are travelling through the village within the 30mph speed limit. He had circulated the information to councillors.

24.01.10 To note items for inclusion on the next agenda or for publication.

To report back on flooding issues including any feedback received from Savills.

24.01.11 To confirm that the next meeting of Gazeley Parish Council is scheduled to take place on Monday 12th February 2024 at 7.30pm in Gazeley Village Hall. Refreshments will be provided from 7.00pm.

The meeting closed at 8.20pm.

Signed..... Date.....
Chairman

PAYMENTS & RECEIPTS

January 2024

Payments **Amount** **Cheque No.** **Receipts** **Balance**

The Dalham Estate £ 1.00 1281

Receipts

Interest December £
33.18

Total £ 1.00 £
33.18

**Balance of Accounts
8.1.24**

Treasurer's Account	£ 757.00
Instant Access Account	£ 29,146.18
Total Balance of Accounts	£ 29,903.18