

**NOTES OF THE SHIMPLING ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL ON 29th APRIL 2013 AT 7.30pm**

Those present; Chairman: Mr.V Humphries

Parish Councillors: Gerry Shrimpton, Jackie Saunders, Sue Salmon, John Pawsey and Trisch Jackson.

Those in attendance: County Councillor Richard Kemp and District Councillor James Long, PC Darren Marshall and PCSO S Hemmett.

Clerk: Marian Peck and fifteen visitors.

1. Welcome and apologies for absence: Mr Vince Humphries welcomed those present. Apologies for absence received from Mike Thew, John Sinclair, and Glenda Peck.

2. The minutes of the previous AGM held on 30th April 2012, which had been circulated, were agreed and signed.

3. Matters arising: The tree at the junction of Gents Lane will be replaced this autumn.

4. Chairman's Report: Mr Vince Humphries began by saying he'd found himself not only on the Council, but Chairman and Ken had been a hard act to follow. He reported the verge in Gents lane had been dealt with, village pot holes repaired and the verges in Barnfield tidied. Unfortunately, the debate over the coalhouse continues. Dog fouling and bins had been discussed, but as general opinion among residents did not favour providing bins due to costs involved, it was decided not to proceed with this issue.

A Play Area sign was erected in Hallifax Place to alert motorists to reduce speed and there was a badger problem at the Play Park, advice was taken from the Suffolk Wildlife Trust.

The horse chestnut tree in Rectory Lane had to be removed and the PC intended to replace it, but local residents felt it was safer not to do this and have better visibility exiting from the lane.

A number of planning applications had been reviewed by councillors during the year

There was a broadband survey to try to get Suffolk CC to give this area priority for B/b speed upgrading.

The PC continued to work closely with the Village Hall committee with respect to funding and maintenance.

Mr Humphries concluded by thanking County and District Councillors, Richard Kemp and James Long for their continued support and advice. He also thanked PCSO Hannah Partington, all the Parish Councillors who work hard on behalf of the community, special thanks to the clerk, Marian Peck for her hard work and all those parishioners who continue to volunteer year on year, to help keep our village clean and safe for everyone.

5. Financial Report: Marian Peck gave a financial report. Income for the year was £8359.68 and expenditure £7613.93. She thanked The Hallifax Trust for donating £1000 towards new lighting in the village hall and a further £200 towards the cost of the Village Jubilee celebrations. A Shimpling Carnival account added £246.12, to the Jubilee fund, together with a £30 donation from a resident and £100 donation from the East of England Co-op. Cllr Richard Kemp provided commemorative mugs at a cost of £84, from his Locality budget.

An explanation was given for the higher than usual rise in the Precept for this year, apart from rising costs, some funding that has previously been available, may not be in the future.

Ken Durant asked why it was necessary to put the precept up by 50%, Marian Peck said it had not been increased by that level, the figures were £4830 to £6500, which is approx 30% not 50%.

6. County Councillor's Report: Councillor Kemp began reminding those present that dialling the police on 101, is charged at premium rates, something he has taken up with the Police & Crime Commissioner. He thanked Mr Humphries, the Councillors, the clerk and the previous Chairman, Mr Ken Durant for their work during the year. He outlined efficiencies, rather than cuts to services, saving 24.9K.

A poor year for education in Suffolk; the Schools Organisational review required further scrutiny, an independent commission to look at educational attainment, aspiration and employability within the County, showed results were lower than the national average. Matthew Taylor has been tasked with improving educational attainment. Raising the Bar initiative showed the county had slipped to 142 out of 151 for GCSE's and third from bottom for primary schools.

New head of Children Services, Sue Cook, has been appointed.

Surveying of sites began after contracts were signed with BT Openreach, towards providing better broadband speeds, hopefully by March 2014.

The Cabinet to investigate re-introducing the eXplore Card for 16-19 yr olds, withdrawal had caused some hardship among students. Discussions with bus companies are ongoing.

The proposed merger of fire services with Cambridge & Peterborough did not go ahead, as the financial benefits were insufficient to proceed.

County Care homes are to be divested as part of a 25 yr contract with Care UK.

Tim Passmore was elected as the new Police and Crime Commissioner. SCC has an additional responsibility hosting the Police and Crime Panel. Further information:

<http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/your-council/decision-making/police-and-crime-panel-joint-committee>

Industrial and Provident Society now runs 44 libraries in Suffolk, ensuring they remain open with paid staff. So far library services are only protected for 2yrs.

Rural areas pay more for services, than towns.

In answer to a question: Elected councillors monitor Police & Crime Commissioners.

7. District Councillor's Report: Councillor James Long commented that the VH was a real asset to the village. Babergh and Mid-Suffolk continued working in tandem, to reduce cost through efficiency savings, while retaining services at a higher than adequate level. Redundancies had saved £1.8m, reducing staffing levels by 50% across the two councils. He re-iterated Cllr Kemp's observation, that it was dearer living in rural areas, but a small amount of extra funding had been achieved for 'sparse areas'.

Babergh had achieved 5/5 in the Clean Britain Awards. 400 tons of textiles had been recycled.

Modifications to council properties have benefitted older and less able residents. 80 households were prevented from becoming homeless.

There was continued support for the voluntary sector -140 projects, with additional external funding of £3.6m.

99.33% of calls to Babergh DC were answered promptly, before being passed quickly to the relevant department. He concluded by congratulating Vince Humphries, the Parish Councillors and the clerk for their work on behalf of the Parish.

Asked about parking charges in Sudbury, Mr Long replied that it was necessary to have charges to allow turnover at car parks. Charges are under review and should be cost effective. However, too high an increase could cause more on-street parking.

8. Reports: i) **Hallifax Trust:** Mrs Jenny Pine outlined the objectives of the Trust and gave a list of the 5 current Trustees. In 2012/13 grants were, once again, made to Lawshall School to provide music lessons for year 3 and 4 children, with an end of year concert. 5 bursaries were given to students studying away from home and 5 living at home.

Applications should be received by September, in time for the October meeting.

ii) **Shimpling and Alpheton WI:** Mrs Mary Tuffen reported that there were currently 25 members. A Resolution had been passed, unanimously, for additional government funding to provide more midwives. She added that it had been necessary to hold the annual garden meeting indoors, due to cold weather. Mary listed some of the speakers, who had visited during the year. The branch had celebrated its 63rd anniversary in November and there had been enjoyable trips to Bressingham Gardens in a 1947 coach and the Black Lion, Long Melford, for a meal. She concluded by saying that details for WI are available in the Parish Magazine, for anyone interested in joining.

iii) **Shimpling and Alpheton PCC:** Graham Bonson reported that a further year as a united parish with Alpheton had been enjoyed, with two services a month in each church and people from both parishes making up the PCC, which with the addition of three new members, is now up to full strength.

A Home group offers fellowship, prayer and bible study, twice monthly.

One of the highlights of the year was the Grand Harvest Fete, hosted by Alice and John Pawsey, was both enjoyable and financially very successful, in spite of terrible weather. Other fundraising events included coffee mornings, the Munch Club, a film talk, Harvest Supper and village markets.

Following the retirement of Ian Friars, there is now an interregnum, likely to last for many months, until a new rector is selected. Services continue as normal, with the help of retired clergy living locally.

A new church website shows full details of services, other activities and contact details.

iv) **The Play Park:** Trisch Jackson reported that the planting of trees will now be left until the autumn.

Dave Campan has been very helpful in ensuring the site has been kept clean, especially with the badger problem - thanks to Linda and Dave Campen, for ensuring the area is kept clean and tidy.

There are no problems with any pieces of play equipment and Trisch urged those present to look for items that could provide exercise for adults, though probably only one piece of equipment could be afforded.

v) **The Village Hall Committee:** The AGM for this committee was incorporated into the meeting. A report, including finance, was circulated to those present, listing activities and those proposed for the forthcoming year.

Mike Fahie-Wilson began by thanking Hallifax Trust for their generous donation towards the new lighting.

Improvements to the hall had been good, but more are needed, especially insulation to the back room. Lettings of the hall remain fairly constant and events are arranged by the committee, approximately monthly. He thanked all the committee, also to Steve Cornelius for his work on the website and Sarah Smith for the Newsletter. As there

were no questions for the treasurer, the financial report was accepted following a proposal by Ro Northcott and seconded by Vince Humphries.

He asked that the new committee, Jackie Beaver, Richard Blyth, Bernard Essery, Vince Humphries, Stan Milsom, Marian Peck, John Reynolds, Cathy Reid, and Jackie Watson be elected en bloc. Proposed by Ken Durant and seconded by Mary Tuffen and agreed.

It was proposed that the VH report be accepted, proposed by Suzanne Dobney and seconded by Stan Milsom.

9. Police and Neighbourhood Watch: PC Darren Marshall reported that there were 11 crime reports during the year, 2 burglary dwelling, 1 shed, 0 vehicle crime, 3 assaults (same address), 3 thefts, 1 criminal damage and 1 drug offence. Oil thefts are a problem in the local area.

Crime prevention advice was available and shed alarms can be purchased for £8 at Sudbury police station.

The next SNT Priority Setting meeting will be held on Tuesday 21st May, 6-7pm at Cockfield Village Hall.

Mike Fahie-Wilson asked if any of the oil thieves are ever caught. Response: 2 were caught last week.

People were urged to be vigilant and report anything suspicious. Emergencies on 999, non emergency 101.

10. Other Matters: a) The telephone kiosk, purchased by the Parish Council needs to be painted inside and out, but the weather has been too wet. Mike Fahie-Wilson could not understand why the kiosk had been retained, though several people disagreed.

Concerns were raised by Mr Blows, re safety issues regarding turning out of his drive and would like to see the box moved. He is willing to pay for this. Re-locating could be a problem, so it was decided this would be discussed at the next Parish Council meeting, then further consultation with Mr Blows.

b) Shimpling Celebrates: Marian Peck outlined the events planned for the Bank Holiday weekend and hopes that residents will join in and continue the community spirit enjoyed last year during the Jubilee celebrations.

c) Broadband improvements: A survey showed that 30% of residents have poor broadband services and these results were sent to the CC. The aim is to provide better speeds of a minimum 2mps for 98% of users. There is no guarantee, but areas such as this should get priority. Notification is unlikely, but it should possibly be by 2014/15

11. Any Other Business/12. Questions from Members of the Public: As questions had been taken throughout the meeting these two items were taken together.

a) Graham Bonson asked if the precept had not gone up by 50% as stated on the bill, where has the rest of the money gone? Babergh will be asked to clarify. (see note below)

b) Ken Durant had received a letter of thanks from the Hospice, for the donation of £75 from sales of the pantomime DVD.

c) Coalhouse: There were questions about the problems with the coalhouse: response was that the owner is not keeping it tidy and it appears to be in a poor condition. Marian Peck gave the requirements for a listed building. Babergh has been approached to see what can be done and DC James Long is pursuing the issue with them.

Date: The next Annual Parish meeting will be held on Monday 28th April 2014 at 7.30pm.

The meeting closed at 9.36pm.

NB. Babergh re-assessed Band D properties, showing the PC increase as 50%, but that was not the amount received as the precept, which is misleading