

SHIMPLING PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 10th NOVEMBER 2008.

Five Councillors were present with Ken Durant in the Chair. In attendance were County Councillor Richard Kemp, and the Clerk. Also present was PCSO Julia Bignell,(part time) and Mr Thew.

Apologies for absence were received from District Councillor J. Long and Mrs S. Salmon.

Due to the resignation of Mr J Massey a vacancy existed on the Council, which had been advertised for the statutory period but without result. The Council, therefore, arranged to co-opt Mr Michael Thew, of The Old Post Office, The Street, Shimpling who was willing to serve on the Council.

He was proposed by Mr G. Shrimpton, seconded by Mr K. Deeks, and all were in favour; Mr Thew then joined the other Council members.

The minutes of the meeting on the 8th September were approved and signed.

PCSO Bignell then gave a very brief crime report in that there was only one crime reported in the period and that was the theft of keys from a motorcar, which was itself stolen during the night from the drive of a house in The Street. It was also reported that as yet PC Marshall had not been able to carry out any vehicle speed checks in the village but the matter was in hand.

The Clerk reported that the External Auditors Report for 2007/8 had been received and whilst there were no comments on the council's financial and governance statements they raised issues on procedures with regard to the Intermediate Audit Questionnaire that had been completed as part of a 5% random selected sample of Councils with an income or expenditure up to £200,000.

The Clerk presented the budget for 2008/9 that gave details of the income and expenditure for the first six months of the financial year along with the estimated outcome at the end of March 2009. This was followed by brief discussions on the possible budget for 2009/10 and the level of precept needed. However it was decided that a special meeting should be held for this purpose on the 11th December when more details would be to hand on which to base the budget.

Certain items of correspondence were then discussed including the notification that Shimpling qualified for a £2719 allocation of the S106 Recreational Contribution for the benefit of the village. The Council also approved the persons nominated as Trustees of the Halifax Trust for the next four years. (Declaring an interest Mike Thew did not take part in this matter) A proposal by the Suffolk Preservation Society to employ a Community Planner who would then be available to assist any parish in planning matters, at the Parish's expense, was not supported.

The Chairman thanked members of the Council for their help in distributing the forms for the Housing Needs Survey to every house in the parish. It is now understood that just under 50% have been completed and returned to SuffolkAcre by the due date – a more than average response.

Following notification of the S106 award, as mentioned above, the Council discussed the possibility of obtaining a further grant to enable at least a first stage Children's Play Area being installed in the village. A meeting with Babergh will be arranged to further this item.

County Councillor Richard Kemp read out his brief report covering :-

- (i) The Suffolk Fire & Rescue Draft Action Plan for 2009/10.
- (ii) Suffolk County Council signing up to the Charter for Older People's Rights.
- (iii) Stansted Airport's proposal to expand from 25 to 35 million passengers a year.
- (iv) The Local Government Review was recently called into question, with doubts over whether the restructuring would continue in light of the current economic climate.

The meeting closed at 9.15pm. The next meeting will be on 12th January 2009 at 7.30pm.