

SHIMPLING PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 12th JANUARY 2009.

Six Councillors were present with Ken Durant in the Chair.
In attendance were County Councillor Richard Kemp, and the Clerk.

Apologies for absence were received from District Councillor J. Long.

It was reported that no one as yet had applied to become a Councillor in place of Mr Deeks.

It was agreed that a token of appreciation for his contribution as Councillor for nearly 12 years would be purchased and presented to him.

The minutes of the last meeting and the special meeting on the 11th December 2008 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

PCSO Bignell who was unable to be present, had e-mailed to say that there had only been two crimes reported during the period namely the theft of diesel and the theft of industrial chemicals in December.

The Clerk gave details of the income and expenditure since the last meeting, confirming that it was generally in line with the budget.

The final draft of the budget for 2009/10, which had been discussed at the last meeting, was presented and the increase in the precept that was required, was approved, proposed and seconded, with all in favour.

Mr M. Thew was appointed as a signatory for the Parish Council cheque account in place of Mr Deeks.

It was agreed that this year the Council would donate the usual amount to charity but make a more substantial donation to just the East Anglian Air Ambulance and the Suffolk Accident & Rescue Service.

Certain items of correspondence were then discussed including an invitation to join the "Improve the Countryside" scheme from the Access Suffolk Group. As it was not clear exactly what was involved, nor was a pilot study attached, it was agreed that the Council would not join the scheme at present.

Other correspondence tabled, covered Advice on opportunities arising from the 2012 Olympics; Communities in Control regarding changes to Members Code of Practise; Tim Yeo MP reply to Richard Kemps complaint about the increased administrative burden being placed upon Parish Councillors, and three documents in relation to the Suffolk County Council Charter for Older People, namely the "Talk about Suffolk" magazine, a new "Suffolk Charter for Older People" and the "Year of Opportunity Winter Newsletter".

It was reported that the Village Hall has suffered again from bad condensation on occasions, particularly when the hall is occupied and the heating is on. It was proposed that investigations would be made to determine how the external one-brick walls of the hall could be insulated successfully to overcome this problem.

The Chairman reported that whilst some preliminary costings had been obtained for equipment for the proposed Children's Play Area, no progress had been made with the

site for it. Babergh had been approached but required the submission of a full proposal including details of where it would be sited in the village. A sub-committee has been formed to progress this project.

Additional check prices were being obtained for the new notice boards and it was hoped to place an order within a week or two, however it appears that delivery will take about four weeks.

Richard Kemp reported that the Local Government Review announcement has been delayed until the end of February and that consultations regarding the proposed Incinerator Project were still proceeding.

The Council considered the Planning Application that had been received regarding the change of use of two outbuildings at Malting Farm into holiday lets. Whilst it was aware that if granted it could become a precedent, it was also concerned as to whether there was sufficient parking provision and about the potential hazard of vehicles reversing out into the road. It was thought that a limit should be set on the number of vehicles allowed in connection with the lettings but no formal proposal was made.

Mr R. Rush and Mrs S Salmon then left before the Council considered the Planning Application for the change of use, of a barn at Shimplingthorne, into a small assembly unit for shopping trolleys for elderly and disabled people.

Due to the lack of information in the application it was considered necessary to call a special meeting when the Applicant could provide further information and local residents could raise any concerns they may have about the proposal.

The meeting then closed.