

SHIMPLING PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 14TH JANUARY 2008

Six Councillors were present with Ken Durant in the Chair. District Councillor James Long, the Clerk and one member of the public were also present.

An apology for absence was received from Ken Deeks, and Joe Massey was welcomed back after his illness.

The minutes of the November meeting were approved and signed with no matters arising.

Police representative PCSO Lucy Rout presented details of the five crimes that had take place since the previous September, which compares with three crimes during the same period the previous year. In November an attempt had been made to break into a workshop at Hall Farm, however the culprits were arrested by a passing patrol car. There was also a motor vehicle taken without consent and it later crashed, the offender has been dealt with; and at the end of September manhole covers were stolen from the AWA depot in Aveley Lane. The other two incidents related to an indecent communication and an aggravated trespass at the local Suffolk Hunt Meet. PCSO Rout, who is a member of the Babergh West Safe Neighbourhood Scheme, explained how the scheme worked although she was not one of the actual team covering Shimpling.

The Clerk gave details of the income and expenditure for the period since the last meeting and confirmed that it was generally in line with the budget. The Council confirmed the precept for 2008/9 as resolved at the last meeting and the P2 Precept form was duly completed and signed. It also resolved to make the usual charity donations, as budgeted, to Hanover AtHome, Optua and the East Anglian Air Ambulance. A quotation from Lark Valley for grass cutting in 2008 showing a minimal increase over 2007 was being considered but would have to be subject to review if the SCC P3 Footpath Grant scheme was reduced or withdrawn this year. The verges where the daffodils bloom along Cockfield Road will be cut within the next ten days.

It was confirmed that Planning and Listed Building applications for extensions to Cromwell House and Walnut Cottage had been refused.

Certain other items of correspondence, which had been previously circulated, were discussed and the Council decided to decline the invitation to nominate a Warden as part of the proposed Baberghood Watch Scheme to act as the eyes and ears of the District Council and report any issues, such as abandoned cars, for action by Babergh. The members considered that the present scheme, where anybody was able to either report it directly or through a Parish Councillor or the Clerk, has worked perfectly satisfactorily in the past.

The Council had received a letter from a resident, who had been in touch with the Suffolk CC Passenger Transport Dept., listing his proposals for extending the route of the Mulley's 375 bus service further into Bury St Edmunds and beyond Glemsford. He was also suggesting introducing a late evening bus, once a week, back from Bury St Edmunds. The Council considered that if such modifications were possible, they could

offer positive improvements to the existing service, which would be very welcome to the people relying on these buses for their shopping.

Whilst not being aware of any cost or ramifications of such changes the Council agreed to write to SCC Transport Strategy Manager giving it's support to the proposals.

The site for the new hedge on the Village Hall boundary had now been cleared and tidied up ready for the planting of the beech hedge scheduled for the 20th January.

A Table Tennis table had now been purchased for use in the Village Hall along with accessories, another steel cabinet for storage and a small heater for the Storeroom. It is hoped that after an initial open day a regular table tennis session can be started up and also facilities for people to hire the hall privately and use the table.

The Council had received a request for Dog Waste bins to be provided in the village. These are available from Babergh and can be installed for approx £100 each and with a waste removal service of £30 each per year. On the basis that at least three bins would be needed, the Council considered that the initial outlay plus say £90 per year for the emptying service was not really justified. Dog walkers are expected to collect their dog's waste anyway and could then equally well put it in their own black bin.

It was agreed that the question of whether another notice board for general use could be installed was dependant upon a suitable site being found, and investigations are in hand.

Under any other business the Council considered complaints about a vehicle being parked on the bend at Little Chad causing a safety hazard, and about the verge being cut up on the bend in front of Barn meadow. It will discuss these items with the Authorities concerned.

Finally the Chairman announced that the annual review of the internal audit would take place at the next meeting.

The meeting closed at 9.00pm. The next meeting will be on 10th March 2008 at 7.30pm.