

SHIMPLING PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 3rd MARCH 2008.

Seven Councillors were present with Ken Durant in the Chair.
County Councillor Richard Kemp and the Clerk were also present.

The minutes of the January meeting, and a special meeting held on the 7th February, to discuss a planning application, were approved and signed with no matters arising.

There were no police matters or any crimes to report.

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 approved and resolved to accept the final draft budget for 2008/9; it also agreed to increase the insurance cover for the contents of the Village Hall by 20% upon renewal on 1st April which will bring it more in line with the current cost of replacement.

The Council voiced strong objections to a planning application for the erection of a four bedroom detached dwelling & garage in the garden of 'Glencoe', and Babergh Planning Control were notified accordingly.

Certain items of correspondence, which had been previously circulated, were discussed.

The Council decided to take part in the 'Spring Clean Suffolk' project by organising a work party for Sunday morning the 6th April to litter pick the main street and other areas.

Two further invitations to donate money to local charities had been received but the Council resolved that they be considered, along with other requests normally received throughout the year, at a more suitable time towards the end of the year. Letters will be sent to these charities advising that no donations will be made at this time but recorded for future consideration.

The Chairman and Clerk would accept an invitation from Babergh to attend an event of the 9th April when the Housing Panel will be hosting "Local Homes for Local People, which will include a tour of some existing schemes and an afternoon seminar on a range of 'affordable' issues.

As part of the Audit Review for 2008, the Chairman stated that he and the Clerk had earlier carried out a review of the Council's Administration Procedures and Financial Standing Orders, which had been adopted in 2002, and recognised that certain minor adjustments were necessary to bring them up to date.

The Risk Assessment document for 2008, which had been circulated to members earlier, was then considered and it was accepted that it covered all foreseeable risks and that the Overall Assessment was 'Low Risk'.

The Chairman then carried out a review of the effectiveness of the Council's system of internal control and the members of the Council concluded that the Council maintains an adequate and effective system of internal control in accordance with proper internal audit practises.

County Councillor Richard Kemp presented a brief report, concerning the School Reorganisation Review, the County budget for 2008 in which the Council Tax element was only increased by 3.75%, and the latest information on the Unitary bids in that only 5 out of the 9 met all the criteria and now Norfolk & Suffolk would be the subject of a Boundary Review over the next eight months.

Councillor Rush drew Richard Kemp's attention to a hazardous situation on the lane between Bridge Street and Lavenham, where a deep ditch runs along very close to the edge of the road and occurred just after a nasty bend. It has been the possible cause of a number of accidents over the last few months and Mr Rush was seeking County Council action to reduce or remove this hazard.

Earlier in the evening Mr Rush had proposed, and the Chairman seconded, a vote of thank to Sarah Smith, and others concerned, in the improved production of the Shimpling News.

The meeting closed at 8.50pm. The next meeting will be held after the Annual Parish Meeting, which will commence at 7.30pm, on the 12th May 2008.