

## SHIMPLING PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 8<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2008.

Five Councillors were present with Ken Durant in the Chair.

In attendance were County Councillor Richard Kemp, District Councillor James Long, and the Clerk.

Also present (Part time) was Police Constable D. Marshall.

An apology for absence was received from Mrs S. Salmon and Mr G Shrimpton.

The minutes of the meeting on the 7<sup>th</sup> July were approved and signed.

The Clerk read out the crime report received earlier, which indicated that there was only one crime reported in the period and that was the theft of a motorcar from the drive of a house in The Street. The vehicle was later recovered and the person responsible dealt with.

PC Marshall who was standing in for PCSO Bagel advised the Council of the imminent change in the Safer Neighbourhood Teams which are to be reduced, in the Babergh district, from 15 to 10 with effect 12<sup>th</sup> October. This would not result in the number of PC's or PSCO's involved in a team, but each team would cover a bigger area. Discussions took place regarding the speed of vehicles through the village again. PC Marshall agreed to try to arrange for some police speed checks to be undertaken.

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, with the exception of the receipt of an additional donation from the Village Hall Committee, and the unexpected 50% reduction in the P3 grant for cutting the grass on certain footpaths this year.

The Clerk reported that the Council's insurance renewal had been received which included an extra item of cover for legal expenses. The Council agreed to take on the extra cover in view of today's litigious society.

The Clerk confirmed that Planning Consent had been received for the change of use for the outbuilding at Giffords hall and a rear conservatory at Linden House. The Council had also considered, and had no objections to, the applications for new dwellings at The Oaks and on the land east of Treyarnon. It had also received a notification that there may have been a breach of planning control in respect of the Maltings Farm outbuildings.

Various items of correspondence were discussed including, the reduction in SNT's, Suffolk Walking Day 2009, and SCC's proposal for a new Footpath No 12, as an alternative to using the private drive to Shimpling Park Farm, and the diversion of a section of Shimpling to Alpheton Footpath No 9.

The Parish Council had had a meeting with SuffolkAcre's Enabling Officer with regard to carrying out a Housing Needs Survey in Shimpling. It was agreed that this should take place and questionnaires would be delivered to all households during October.

The Clerk gave a summary of the present situation with regard to the Local Government Review being carried out in Suffolk and gave details of the Boundary Committee's proposal that there should be two Unitary Authorities. These would be one for Ipswich & Felixtowe and a sizable section of the adjacent rural area, to be called North Haven, and one for the rest of Suffolk, possibly without the Lowestoft area that would come under a single Norfolk Unitary Authority. At this stage despite attending several meetings the Chairman and Clerk were unable to indicate what affect this would have on the existing parish councils. It is understood that it would be up to the new Unitary Authority, selected by the Secretary of State in 2009, to decide what would be the form of the new 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> tier of local government, when it comes into effect in April 2010.

County Councillor Richard Kemp read out his brief report covering the Local Government Review, The future Waste Core Strategy, SCC's receipt of an award for Level three of Equality Standard, and that the Fire Service will be testing electric blankets again this year. In the past ten years they have tested nearly four thousand blankets and almost half of them have been found potentially lethal and condemned.

The Chairman drew attention to the dirty state of the bus shelter and asked for volunteers for a work party to be arranged within the next week or so.

The meeting closed at 9.40pm. The next meeting will be on 10<sup>th</sup> November 2008 at 7.30pm.