

Notes from the Parish Council meeting held on 10th November 2014

Present: John Pawsey (Chairman), Councillors Sue Salmon, Trisch Jackson, Jackie Saunders, Mike Thew and Gerald Shrimpton. County Councillor Richard Kemp was in attendance. Also present was Lucy Gregory (Clerk) and 1 guest.

Apologies received from a member of the safer neighbourhood team and District Councillor James Long.

Matters arising:

a) Flooding Slough Hill: despite the ditches being cleared at the bottom of Slough Hill flooding is still a problem. Councillors believe that the concrete at the bottom of Slough Hill is actually causing the problem and perhaps there is a blockage under resident's driveways. John Pawsey has tried to contact one of the residents several times to arrange a meeting but has had no response. Highways have also written to residents with no response. Richard Kemp is going to ask highways to write to residents again and John Pawsey is going to try to contact residents also. Sue will forward the contact numbers she has for residents to John.

b) Halifax Brick Wall: John Pawsey met with Mr. Armstrong and explained that the council have done everything they can to help and unfortunately there is nothing more they can do.

c) Village Hall finance report: the finance report was circulated prior to the meeting and councillors were all happy.

Neighbourhood plans: Nick Price from Hartest attended the meeting and gave Shimpling Parish Council a presentation on Neighbourhood plans. Nick explained that a neighbourhood plan was a statutory planning document which had the potential for power. When creating a neighbourhood plan you are not always restricted to one parish, potentially 2 parishes could join together to create a plan. Nick explained that Hartest have been meeting every month for 2 years to create a plan and they are still not finished. Something Nick continually expressed was the need for community support throughout the planning process. Hartest sent out a questionnaire to everyone in the parish to gain information from the community so the plan could be as accurate as possible. Nick explained that having a neighbourhood plan could potentially save village assets in the future and possibly protect key areas of land. However, it is also a potentially costly and time consuming process. Councillors would like to express their thanks to Nick for coming along and sharing information on neighbourhood plans. The Clerk will include this item on the agenda for the councils meeting in January so that it can be discussed further. A questionnaire will be looked into in order to help gather information from the parish. Hartest's questionnaire is available to view online which may provide Shimpling with some more information.

Police Report:

a) Crime report: no police were present at the meeting however Debbie Rudd emailed the clerk prior to the meeting to say that no crimes had been reported in Shimpling between 01/10/14 and 31/10/14.

Chairman's Report: John Pawsey informed councillors of the work he had been doing outside meetings. He has been speaking with Patrick Scrivens regarding footpath number 7 and he has been dealing with the goal posts in Hallifax Place and the brambles beside the bottle banks. Each will be explained later in the minute notes.

District Councillors Report: James Long was unable to attend the meeting and so no report was given.

County Councillors Report: Richard Kemp has circulated 2 reports since the last meeting. Expanding on these reports Richard informed councillors of the £100,000 available to get Suffolk moving. He explained the money was available to get more people exercising with swimming clubs, walking clubs and other exercise groups. Richard informed councillors Suffolk have secured £350,000 Signs of Safety funding to improve the quality and effectiveness of work with children and families and a new recycling service has also been launched allowing you to recycle even more at home.

Planning:

The Brindles, Aveley Lane: the council received a letter to say planning permission had been granted. This was noted and accepted.

Primrose Cottage: councillors also noted and accepted that permission was granted at Primrose Cottage.

Finance:

a) Financial Report: the bank statements had been delayed and so the clerk will circulate the financial report to councillors as soon as the bank statements are available.

b) 2015/16 Budget: the budget was discussed and a few changes are to be made. Councillors would like to increase clerk remuneration by 2% and increase the budget for village hall maintenance. The clerk will adjust the budget and circulate it for it to be confirmed at the next meeting in January.

c) Precept: Councillors agreed to increase the precept by 2% for the next financial year.

Correspondence: Vince Humphries emailed to say he was stepping down with immediate effect.

- a) Energy workshop:** an invitation to an energy workshop was circulated however no one could attend. The clerk has forwarded to the village hall committee to see if they can attend. It was felt this may be interesting so the clerk will contact the organisers for more information. Councillors also suggested that perhaps if meetings can't be attended by anyone on Shimpling Parish Council surrounding parishes could be contacted and information could be shared from those who could attend.

Matters for discussion:

- a) S106 Money;** wording for the information poster regarding the S106 money was adapted and agreed. The clerk will send the poster to Nick Elliott, the website and the newsletter so that it can be circulated throughout the village.
- b) Shimpling Community Poster;** the community poster was circulated and agreed. The clerk will send this to the website and the newsletter so that it can be circulated throughout the village.
- c) Babergh Community Achievement Awards;** councillors would like to put forward Mr. and Mrs. Watson for the award who do lots of work behind the scenes for the village. The clerk will circulate the nomination form to councillors so that the nomination can be formally made.
- d) Red Cross donation;** red cross have written to the council to ask for a donation. Their information will be added to the folder of donations so that councillors can consider everyone at year end and make a decision in March.

AOB

a) Footpath number 7; Chris Cook has strimmed footpath number 7 to make it more passable. Patrick Scrivens at Suffolk County Council has emailed to say he is closing his case on the footpath as he doesn't think it is a problem. Councillors can't do anymore and would invite residents to send complaints to Patrick Scrivens at Suffolk County Council. Patrick can be contacted via email: Patrick.scrivens@suffolk.gov.uk

b) Vacant councillor position; Ken Rush has contacted the council and put his name forward for the vacant councillor position. John is going to contact Mr. Rush and invite him to attend the councils meeting in January.

c) Goal posts on the playing field; John has been to look at the goal posts and believes that both posts can be repaired. He has been in contact with a company that can supply the parts needed and will place an order with them so the goal posts can be repaired.

d) Area of grass beside the bottle banks; John is going to have the brambles cut now that the blackberries have all gone. Once it has been cut it should be able to be maintained throughout the year.

e) A134; Gerry is going to speak to Richard Kemp about the accidents that continue to occur along the A134 between Lavenham and Cockfield.

f) Pot holes – Recycling banks at The Bush; the council received a complaint regarding the pot holes at the recycling banks at The Bush. The complaint was forwarded to highways and they have said a repair will take place in the next 4 weeks.

g) Dementia friendly village; Jackie wanted to raise the idea of Shimpling becoming a dementia friendly village. It was pointed out that lots had been done in the past for the younger members of our community and perhaps it was now time to look at older residents. Trisch explained that the WI had already responded to a letter regarding dementia and had put Shimpling forward to host an information evening regarding dementia. All councillors agreed this was an important item and wanted it to be put on the agenda for the next meeting in January so that it could be discussed in further detail.

h) Confirm suggested meeting dates for 2015; the meeting dates for 2015 were circulated and confirmed. The council will continue to meet every second Monday of every other month.

Date of next meeting: Monday 12th January 2015.

Please note these are only notes from the meeting held by the Parish Council on the 10th November and these notes have not been confirmed. If anyone would like more information on any matters discussed or would like to bring something to the councils attention then please contact the clerk, Lucy Gregory on 01284 828573 or the chairman, John Pawsey on 01284 827317.