

Notes from the Parish Council meeting held on 9th March 2015

Present: John Pawsey (Chairman), Councillors Trisch Jackson, Mike Thew, Gerry Shrimpton and Sue Salmon. Also present was Lucy Gregory (Clerk), District Councillor James Long, County Councillor Richard Kemp and 2 members of the public.

Apologies received from a member of the safer neighbourhood team and Councillor Jackie Saunders.

Matters arising:

a) Flooding Slough Hill; Richard Kemp spoke to Paul Gant regarding this matter and Paul feels Suffolk County Council have done enough. Councillors do not agree and so John Pawsey will look to get some quotes to have the ditches cleared. John will forward the quotes to Richard Kemp and an application for funds from the locality budget can be made.

b) Neighbourhood plans; Lucy and John will look to adapt Hartest questionnaire. Once the questionnaire has been adapted and approved it will be circulated via the village newsletter and online for parishioners to fill in. In order to help with the percentage returned councillors will collect completed questionnaires from parishioners on a set date.

Police matters:

a) Crime report; no police were present at the meeting so Lucy will circulate the crime report when she has it.

Chairman's report; Since the last meeting John has had meetings at Slough Hill to try and resolve the flooding issue, which is reported in section 3.1 of these minutes. He has also been to the playing field in the village a repaired the goal posts and has had the brambles on the green area by the bottle banks cut.

District Councillors Report; James Longs report included information on Baberghs decision to not increase council tax however council house and garage rents will be increased by 2.7% which will equal an average increase of £2.41 per week. Sheltered communal service charge will be increased by 5% however sheltered heating and utility will be decreased by 8%. It is important to note that these changes will not be applicable to a percentage of people who are on benefits.

County Councillors Report; Clerk to circulate Richards full report. Points highlighted included the County Councillors decision to freeze council tax for the fifth year in a row. This years budget has identified savings of £38.2 million. Training is to be given to budding composters from the Suffolk Waste Partnership and every school in Suffolk has now received their second risk rating letter. A county wide Autism has been launched to help Suffolk County Council learn more about Autism and what's important for those living with it.

Planning: No applications.

Financial Report:

a) Income and Expenditure Report; unfortunately the bank statements had been delayed. Clerk will circulate financial report as soon as the statements arrive.

b) 2015/16 Budget; there were a few questions surrounding some of the calculations within the budget. Gerry is going to look through the budget with the clerk for it to be finalised.

c) Donations; Councillors agreed that £50 would be given to each of the charities that wrote to the council this year asking for donations. These charities were: Magpas; Age UK and Red Cross.

It was also decided that £50 would also be given to the charity SARS. The Clerk will send out cheques this financial year.

Correspondence: Emails circulated to members; Clerk attended a course on elections and by elections and found it very useful.

Matters for Discussion:

a) S106 money; Nick Elliot has sent the council a formal application for the S106 to be used. The clerk will look to fill this form in and will correspond with Trisch before sending completed form off. John will get another quote for the fencing to be completed and will revise the current quote the council have.

b) Neighbourhood Speed Watch Scheme; Shimpling has taken part in speed checks before however there were questions over the validity of the results due to the times of day the speed checks were taking place and the places the speed checks were taking place. The Council would welcome parishioners thoughts on the speeds used throughout the village to help determine if looking into taking part again would be useful.

AOB:

a) Dementia friendly village; Jackie sent her proposal to the chair and clerk prior to the meeting. John read the proposal to councillors however councillors felt it would be more helpful to defer this item until the next meeting when Jackie will be able to give the proposal herself and explain it further.

b) A134; Gerry has received facts and figures for how many accidents have occurred along the A134 in the last few years and this was circulated to councillors prior to the meeting. However, since the new 'anti slip' road surface has been laid there appears to be far less accidents. Gerry explained that it was possible that highways would put up an accident black spot sign to help make drivers more aware of the dangers along that road.

c) Byelaws and Dog Control course; Trisch confirmed to the council that when dog fouling is concerned parishioners only responsibility is to report it to Babergh.

d) Vacant Councillor Position; Clerk to email Ken Rush and see if he is still interested in the vacant position. However with elections coming up in May each of the seats on Shimplings council will be available so anyone is welcome to apply. Nomination forms can be collected from the Clerk and must be handed into Babergh no later than 4pm on Thursday 9th April.

e) Goal posts on playing field; John has repaired the goal posts on the playing field so they are more usable and safe.

f) Area of grass beside the bottle banks; John has had the brambles cut right back at his own expense. They look much better and the clerk will now ask Chris Cooke to maintain them. Thanks are given to John for arranging and paying for this work to be done.

g) Village Hall Lease; the current lease to the village hall runs out in August 2016. Clerk and Chair will meet with the original deeds and current lease so that they can be revised. The action will be discussed at the next meeting which will be the AGM.

h) Nomination papers; Clerk handed out the nomination papers to the councillors in attendance. It was explained the papers are their responsibility however the clerk is happy to take all of the papers to Babergh together but councillors must have returned their forms to the clerk by the 31st March.

i) Village Spring Clean; Clerk invited councillors to attend the village spring clean on the 29th March at 10am at the village hall. After last year's success it would be great to see the same numbers. Clerk will advertise on the community Facebook page.

j) Bus Timetable; the clerk to the council had been contacted by a parishioner who wanted to make the council aware that the bus timetable has fallen over and she also felt it would make sense to move the timetable from the entrance of Hallifax Place and put it at the bus stop. Councillors agreed this would be a sensible action to take. The clerk will contact Richard Kemp to find out who is responsible for the time table.

k) Annual Parish Meeting; councillors agreed it would be helpful for parishioners to send in their questions for the annual parish meeting at least 24 hours before the meeting to allow councillors to prepare the most helpful answers. Clerk will advertise this fact on the community Facebook page and via the website and email.

l) Village Hall budget; Stan and Marion from the village hall committee attended the meeting to advise the council on what work needs to be carried out to the village hall so the council could allow for this in their budget. It was explained the inside of the hall could do with painting throughout as could the exterior of the building. Estimates for this have been given. The car park needs more gravel, specifically at the entry point as there is now a dip where the gravel should meet the tarmac drive. The grounds need general maintenance, hedges to be cut, weeds to be killed etc. and the exterior walkways around the building are crumbling and so they would need to be replaced. The council agreed to £2000 being ring fenced in the budget to help with the costs of the work that was deemed essential in the next financial year.

Date of next meeting: Monday 11th May 2015 and this will be the AGM.

Please note these are only notes from the meeting held by the Parish Council on the 9th March 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.