

Meeting of Shimpling Parish Council

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

31st May 2016

Shimpling Village Hall, 7.30pm

MINUTES

Present:

Chair: John Pawsey

Councillors: Jackie Saunders, Ken Rush, Sus Salmon, Gerry Shrimpton

District Councillor: James Long

County Councillor: Richard Kemp

Clerk: Jenny O'Reilly-Turner

1. **Village Reports:** The following village organisations gave a full report into their activities for the past year, copies of which are available on the Shimpling PC website. Below is a summary of their work and achievements:

- 1.1. **Hallifax Trust** - Jenny Pine spoke about the background and history of the Hallifax Trust and its priorities for the coming year in the fields of education and in particular the links between the Trust and the primary school in Lawshall and the provision of individual bursaries for those under the age of 25.
- 1.2. **Womens' Institute** - Ro Northcott spoke about the projects and activities in which he WI has been involved and what they are looking forward to this coming year, including charity events and a newly-established regular craft afternoon.
- 1.3. **Village Hall Committee** - Marian Peck described the extensive work of the VHC this year and reminded all present about Shimpling Celebrates on Saturday 25th and Sunday 26th June, including the Kart Race and Mike Thew's Quiz Night as well as the VHC AGM to be held on Tuesday 28th June.
- 1.4. **Alpheton and Shimpling PCC** - Richard Blyth gave a report about the work of the PCC and reminded those present about the walk around Shimpling Park Farm and the address from Rev Lawson on the first Sunday in July at 3pm.

2. **County Councillor Annual Report** - Richard Kemp spoke on various matters (a full report is available on the PC website):

- 2.1. **Council Tax** - although the general rate did not go up, the Council Tax was increased by 2% to cover work in the adult social care sector.
 - 2.2. **Devolution proposals for Norfolk and Suffolk** to have a joint elected Mayor are receiving currently a positive response from Suffolk but less so from Norfolk. It is understood that business rate supplements will be used to finance the project but that saving need to be made at county level by e.g. cutting staffing costs.
 - 2.3. **Suffolk County Council's strategic priorities** are currently:
 - 1.1. raising attainment in schools
 - 1.2. increasing economic growth
 - 1.3. maintaining roads and infrastructure
 - 1.4. supporting the vulnerable in the community
 - 1.5. empowering local communities
 - 2.4. **Locality Budget** has now been cut to under 10% of £12,000 and funds are available upon application for village signs, play areas etc.
 - 2.5. **Magistrate Court closures** - despite a number of responses and extensive consultation, currently the Court at Bury St Edmunds is due to close which leaves just that at Ipswich for the whole of the county.
3. **District Councillor Annual Report** James Long spoke on various issues including (a full report is available on the PC website):
- 3.1. **Council Tax** increase of 3.5% which means a 9.6pence per week increase on a Band E property
 - 3.2. **BDC has started to build and sell its own houses** and currently there are 27 across the district. Grants of up to £20,000 are available to help first time buyers onto the property ladder under right to buy mobility funds.
 - 3.3. **Community Infrastructure Levy** and contributions to local communities from developers equivalent to around £90 per square metre of development which comes back to the community for investment in wider opportunities for local residents.
 - 3.4. **Provision of solar panels on council houses** in Babergh has significantly dropped the costs of utility bills of residents
 - 3.5. **Bin collections** - there appears to be better communication with regard to collections scheduled for Bank Holidays etc.
4. **Chair's Report - John Pawsey spoke on a number of matters including (a full report is available on the PC website):**
- 4.1. **Questionnaire** - the process was unfortunately put on the 'back burner' after so few responses earlier in the year
 - 4.2. **Coal House** - and maintenance of the area around it
 - 4.3. **Bottle Banks** - the grass seeding has proven to have been successful and the area is looking smarter
 - 4.4. **Planting trees at the playground** - these provided shade and decoration for future generations and have been well received

- 4.5. **Potholes** - some appear to have been resolved but there are still ongoing issues
- 4.6. **Flooding on Slough Hill** - it would appear that there has been some diversion to the flooding but it remains to be seen whether it has been fully resolved
- 4.7. **Donation of £200 for PCC War Memorial** - John Pawsey thanked the members of the PCC for all their work and efforts in arranging the memorial.

5. Open Forum Questions were asked by parishioners on the following topics:

- 5.1. **Village Clean-up** - It was noted that this had not taken place this year but that in the future this should take place earlier at the start of March so that any rubbish etc in verges is easier to see and retrieve
- 5.2. **Cutting of verges** - it was noted that this ought ideally to take place before the daffodils come up on the verges leading into the village as otherwise the daffodil heads are chopped off.
- 5.3. **Potholes throughout village** - ongoing issues were noted, particularly on the road just before the turning to Shimpling Park Farm, Slough Hill and Rectory Lane. Those present were reminded about the online reporting function for potholes provided by SCC: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/roads-pavements-and-verges/potholes/report-a-pothole/>

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.20pm