

Meeting of Shimpling Parish Council

Monday 11th November 2016

Shimpling Village Hall, 7.30pm

MINUTES

Present:

Chair: John Pawsey

Councillors: Sue Salmon, Katie Haselhurst, Gerry Shrimpton, Dan Sharpstone, Ken Rush

County Councillor: Richard Kemp

District Councillor: Richard Long

Clerk: Jenny O'Reilly-Turner

1. **Apologies for absence:** The following apologies for absence were received in advance of the meeting: Jenny O'Reilly-Turner and James Long (District Cllr) and these were accepted by the Council.

2. **Disclosure of Members' Interest(s):**

a. **To receive disclosure of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests including gifts of hospitality in excess of £25:**

There were no declarations of members interests.

b. **To consider requests for dispensation for the agenda item(s) under discussion:**

There were no requests for dispensation for any of the agenda items under discussion.

3. **Approval of minutes of previous meeting:** The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 10th October were amended by JP to include a line about committee members being given only 24 hours to agree the financial figures, which was not enough time to consider and therefore sign them. This amendment was accepted by the Council and signed by the Chair. These minutes will be given to JORT and in due course a full copy of the hand-written amendments to the Minutes will be available for inspection and will also be scanned and placed on the PC website.

4. **Clerk and Chair meeting:** JP and SS met with JORT two weeks prior to this PC meeting to discuss the agenda and help to get the relevant documents to Cllrs in good time, a minimum of one week prior the meeting was agreed. Unfortunately, this did not happen for this meeting, but JORT's personal circumstances should be taken into consideration. JP has a diarised to meet with SS and JORT two weeks prior to the next meeting.

Public Participation Session

Mr Johnston raised the issue of a tree preservation order to be put on a large oak on Gents Lane. Mr Johnston explained that the TPO would be put on a tree if there was a danger to the tree in the area.

More discussion on this later.

Chair's Report:

- a. **Village Hall lease renewal – information only – to provide an update on the lease renewal process** – JP explained that this is still ongoing.
- b. **Village Hall rear door** – JP spoke to Stan Milsom regarding the door. It was decided that the best solution would be to purchase a new handle to go on the outside of the door that had been damaged by a previous break in attempt. SM will do this.

Weeds in the VH car park: JP contacted Chris Cooke of Lark Valley Landscapes who will spray the weeds annually or bi-annually, dependent on growth at a cost of approximately £30.
- c. **Re-painting the phone box** – JP has purchased the paint and will deliver it to David Campan to paint when the weather allows.
- d. **Hedgerow cutting:** KR will speak to Mark Richards who owns the hedge in question on Aveley Lane to ask if he can cut it or to arrange for it to be cut back as it currently causes a restriction along the road.
- e. **WI daffodil planting by village sign:** It is unclear who the owner is of this land. JP will ask Mr Deeks and Charles Pugh if that the PC would be glad to volunteer helpers for the planting and find some finances to go towards the cost of the bulbs.
- f. **Village Hall committee minutes:** These were circulated to the PC committee on 4th November. It was agreed that Cllrs would take it in turns to attend the VH meeting. Ken or Gerry will attend the next one on 19th January 2017.
- g. **To confirm and renew the terms of the Halifax Trust trustees:** moved to agenda for January 2017 meeting as no details available.
- h. **Sue Salmon as bank signatory:** SS confirmed she had not yet received the bank mandate form from JORT
- i. **Oil Tank Break in:** JP asked if we had been made aware of this at Steve Cornelius. Council confirmed they had been made aware.

5. **Co-Option** – There were two candidates present; Liz Brunwin and Mike Atkins. Both gave statements to the committee. A secret ballot took place where LB won 4 votes to 2. KH agreed to email LB all of the necessary paperwork. LB immediately took a seat as a newly co-opted Cllr.
6. **District Councillor's Report** – Cllr Long was absent from the meeting.
7. **County Councillor's Report** – Cllr Kemp had made his monthly reports available and these will be posted on the PC website. Matters under consideration this month in the report and discussed at the meeting are:
 - a. Deadline of Friday November 18th to give highways repairs feedback
 - b. Hedges – RK was copied into that email and has noted that KR has trimmed some
 - c. RK visited Gents Lane with Highways to look at the confusing junction. The result of the meeting is that they will draw up a scheme (paid for out of RK's local budget) which will be shown to the PC to agree.
 - d. Old Rectory Lane – Road surfaces are not high on the highways agenda but it will be repaired and patched in due course. SS confirmed yellow markings on the road.
 - e. Speed of vehicles in the village – Speed Indicator devices are available at the cost of about £2,000 for two devices. RK has a local highways budget which could finance a large portion if not all of this cost. Cllrs agreed there was an interest and asked RK to find out if money from his budget would be available.
 - f. Devolution – the vote is next week at the CC meeting. RK believes there will be a narrow margin but he plans to vote against.

8. Police Report

- a. **Circulated 7th November, nothing specific to Shimpling.**

9. Clerk's Financial Report

- a. Entire report to be postponed to next meeting due to absence of Clerk JORT. GS has emailed comments to JORT which have not yet been responded to. These queries will require discussion and amendment prior to the next meeting.
- b. There are a few outstanding cheques which cannot be signed as they are with JORT. JP will arrange to visit JORT to sign them out of the meeting. All Cllrs agreed to this exception.
- c. Budget: Initial budget discussions were due to take place. Due to the absence of the JORT this was unable to happen. It was agreed that in order to make progress a one off sub-

committee would be created to discuss the budget. KH, JP and GS will form this meeting on a date to be decided. DS suggested caution on sub-committees but it was agreed that under these exceptional circumstances, this was unavoidable.

- d. GS commented that there were considerable reserves in the Council's bank accounts and that we may need to consider how these should be allocated in the future. Suggestion of a website entry asking the community for ideas on those reserves.
- e. Procurement: JP suggested that we offer 3 year contracts for any tenders. This was agreed by all Cllrs.
- f. Playground inspections: a rota will be set up for all Cllrs to inspect the playground equipment at regular intervals. The insurance document will need to be checked to understand how often this will need to be and what the inspection should comprise of.
- g. Update on road surface: SS has noticed yellow markings on the road on Rectory Lane which suggested that repairs were imminent.
- h. Website update – transfer of Shimpling pages to PC site: JP attended the VH meeting and they agreed that this had been a sensible solution.
- i. Transparency Code: To be moved to next meetings agenda

10. Correspondence received:

- a. **Dog fouling** – Various options were discussed including dog bins, more posters and local awareness, dog control orders and Paws on Patrol scheme. Clls GS, LB, SS and DS felt that more signage and awareness should be the first step. KH felt dog bins would be used, but happy to start with raised awareness.
- b. **Tree preservation order – Gents Lane:** Mr Johnston explained a little more about the TPO and the need for this order to be placed on this specific oak in Gents Lane. JP explained that owners do not have to be contacted in advance of a TPO being placed. DS asked if all trees should be looked at under the TPO. The council unanimously agreed that there were no objections to placing a TPO on this specific tree and JP would draft a letter to Mr Pizzey explaining that this was the council's position.
- c. **Speeding traffic** – the Council had received an email from a Shimpling Street resident about speeding sugar beet lorries at the top of Slough Hill. KR said that on the day in question they had had more than usual numbers of temporary drivers due to demands from the sugar beet factory driving and that they had possibly not been so sensitive to the speed limit in the

village as his own drivers who were constantly monitored for speeding by a tracking device. The situation had also been made worse by the local Hunt meeting on the same day just outside the village. JP suggested that KR might visit the resident in question to explain the situation. KR agreed to do this.

11. Planning

- a. **Allocation of land by Babergh in the village for possible future development** – It was confirmed that the site had been rejected based on poor relationship to facilities. It was considered that this matter is now closed.

12. AOB - JP asked that AOB be added back to the agenda for forthcoming meetings.

13. Next meeting date – Monday 9th January 2017

Meeting called to close by JP at 8.55pm.