

Shimpling Parish Meeting
Draft Minutes of Annual Meeting of the Parish
Monday 14th May 2018, 7.30pm in the Village Hall

Present:

Councillors: Liz Brunwin (Chair), Katie Haselhurst (KH), Dan Sharpstone (DS), Ken Rush (KR), Gerry Shrimpton (GS), Colin Johnston (CJ).

County Councillor: Richard Kemp (RK)

District Councillor: James Long (JL)

Clerk: Stuart Palmer (SP)

Public: Nine members of the public attended

1. Minutes of last annual meeting:

These were confirmed on 25th May 2017.

2. To receive reports for representatives of the parish):

a. Chair's Report:

The Chair read the report of the previous Chair:

When I took over from Chair in May last year, I was hoping for a quiet year. However, we have had several planning applications ranging from one to five houses, tree lopping and house extensions. So we have been kept busy. Thankfully I have had good support from other councillors to keep us up to date with all the regulations regarding planning.

In the past year the Play Park has been regularly checked and has had some maintenance done, which included replacing the swing seats and the zip wire seat.

Potholes are still a problem in the village. Please keep reporting them on the Babergh website, and hopefully they will be mended soon.

We have been trying to get the village Dog Poo Bins, which at times, has been difficult, to say the least. However, hopefully you will see at least one in the village soon.

As well as trying to purchase a Speed Indicator, which has proved a lot harder than first thought.

The daffodils looked lovely when out. Thank you to everyone who gave up some time to plant all the bulbs.

Thanks also go to all those who helped with the litter pick in the village.

I would like to thank my fellow Councillors, Our Clerks Stuart and Linda, James Long and Richard Kemp, our District and County councillors, the village hall committee, WI, and all the other village groups for all their hard work over the past year and long may it continue.

I would like to thank the people of Shimpling for an interesting and somewhat surprisingly busy year, and for the last 15 plus years of being part of Shimpling Parish Council.

Keep up the good work! Sue Salmon

b. Finance Report

Change of Parish Clerk The new Proper Officer, Responsible Finance Officer and Parish Clerk is Mr Stuart Palmer. Appointed of 12th March 2018 replacing Mrs Linda Goodban. I am sure the whole parish would like to thank her for her service over the last year.

Total Income for last financial year was £8212.70 including the precept and interest. The Parish Council made payments to a total of £11539.48 using reserves of £3332.95. Funds of £5501.79 were carried forward this year.

There was no borrowing last year. No tenancies entered into. The lease on the Village Hall runs to 2024.

There were no s106 or CIL money made to the council. Two payments were made under S137 to Lawshall Pre-School and Shimpling WI.

Budget for this year: The precept was set at an average increase of 1.5% resulting in an income of £7106.00. Total income for year estimated at £7110.00. A Budget was approved in November 2017 of £8375.00 meaning £1265 may need to be drawn from reserves.

Internal Controls. All finance practices follow the Financial Regulations adopted by the council and published on our website. They are managed by the Responsible Financial Officer and supervised by the councillors of the council

Audit: The Audit for last year will commence on 11th June, once again, Suffolk Association of Local Councils is to be appointed. PFK Littlejohn LLP have been appointed to carry out the external audit of small local councils.

Planning The Clerk has been busy working on planning applications submitted in the village on behalf of the Parish Council.

c. District Councillor James Long:

James Long spoke on various issues as summarised below. A full copy of his report can be found on the PC website.:

Babergh District Council has 43 Councillors, over the last year the political representation has changed slightly, as shown below:

May 2017

29 Conservatives
8 Independents
3 Liberal Democrats
2 Independent Conservatives
1 Labour
43

May 2018

24 Conservatives
8 Independents
3 Liberal Democrats
6 Independent Conservatives
2 Labour
43

There has also been a change of Conservative Leader; Jennie Jenkins, resigned and John Ward elected. The Council works on a Leader Cabinet System.

Babergh moved to Endeavour House Ipswich, leaving the Hadleigh offices in Corks Lane vacant as they left last August. There is an access to a number of Babergh services in Sudbury Town Hall.

Babergh's Council Tax increased by 3.25%, which sees the smallest category of properties rising by £3.33 over the course of a year. The largest properties rise by £10.00 per year. There will be a 1% decrease in Council Tax Rent (i.e., 90p per week). This is a government commitment. Babergh's percentage of the full Council Tax is just 10%. Babergh continues to have further cuts in core funding from Central Government – this will drop to zero by 2019/20. Babergh is an area of high cost housing with relatively low wages. In August 2016, the average cost of a property was 10% higher than the national average. However, on a brighter side, Babergh's unemployment rate was 3.2%, unlike the national average of 5.1%.

Babergh and Mid Suffolk were runners up in a National Council of the Year Award, albeit they are still two separate sovereign councils. There has been an increase of 1,600 garden waste customers and 67 new commercial waste customers. We recycle 43-63% of our waste. The Local Plan (5 year Land Supply) to be submitted for inspection in Spring 2019. After three decades, the first council house was built in Babergh – more to be built.

d. County Councillor Richard Kemp

Cllr Kemp gave his 24th annual update to the village which is summarised below. A full version of his report is on the PC website.

Budget Setting

We have a statutory responsibility to set a balanced budget. You can read our budget through the link below. You can also find out more about the budget setting process and what plans we have to help us deliver budget savings. Elected members approve all budgets of the authority and monitor expenditure and income throughout the year. The County Council scrutiny committee independently monitors how we go about our business and the decisions we make.

Budget setting is conducted through a process of consultation and open meetings. Every year in the Autumn, the cabinet considers budgets for their particular area of responsibility and recommends appropriate capital and revenue budgets to Full Council. Papers and minutes from the full council and council committees can be found on the [Suffolk Committee Minutes](#) website.

The Full Council then meets to approve the budget in February.

The funding for the budget comes from a number of sources including council tax, government grants as well as specific grants, fees and charges. Central government's continued focus on reducing the deficit has meant a reduction in local government funding over the past few years.

The Government's plan is that in future business rates and council tax will be the key sources of finance for local budgets. It will therefore be essential for Suffolk to generate housing growth to increase the council tax-base, and to increase the size of the local economy and hence the business rate tax-base.

Suffolk has been chosen to be part of the Business Rates Retention Pilot for 2018-19 and this will enable the County, Borough and District Councils to be at the forefront of working with Central Government in shaping this change.

The County Council has frozen its share of general council tax since 2010 and has made savings of more than £236m in the amount that it spends on delivering essential public services. Unfortunately, in 2018-19 it has been necessary to increase the level of general council tax by 2.99% in order to reach a balanced budget.

Suffolk County Council spends just under £500 million a year, over 60% of which is used to provide care for elderly people, children in need and education and skills for the next generation. That money also goes on repairing our roads, protecting us from fire and rogue traders and supporting people to live healthier lives. Additional money is invested in delivering major infrastructure projects like improving Suffolk's access to high speed broadband, building new roads, and creating new river crossings in Lowestoft and Ipswich. We set detailed financial targets for all of our services and we monitor spend against those targets throughout the year. We are also re-designing the way that we deliver services through a series of transformation programmes. These programmes are not just about the delivery of savings. They are intended to focus action on how the Council's services can be delivered differently in order to provide better outcomes for individuals and the community at lower cost.

You can find out more about our budget, how it is spent, the savings we have made and our transformation programmes on our [council tax page](#) and in our [Business Plan](#).

Locality Budget

Funds of £8,000 were allocated for 2017/18 together with a balance of £3,210.50 c/f from 2016/17 gave a total balance of £11,210.50 for the year 2017/18 from Locality Budget for Melford Ward, which includes Long Melford, Glemsford, Hartest, Lawshall, Boxted, groups based in Sudbury area serving these parishes. Funds have been distributed throughout the year as detailed below;

Long Melford: Melford Movies for movies and training; Parish Council for grit bin; Long Melford Football Club for repairs to club room, Business association posters for Suffolk day; Stage hire for Street Fair; Advertising for Olde Christmas; new signs for Library.

Lawshall: Insurance for the Mother and Toddler group; Leadwork and floors for All Saints Church Primary School PTA for new building for pre-school; Mini bus hire for transport to the Summer Fete; Parish Council for tree cutting.

Hartest: Used funds for neighbourhood plan; tests on trees on the green

Glemsford: Used funds to provide casing for hedge cutting

Sudbury: Groups in Sudbury that support local parishes who received funds: Sudbury Rowing club for replacement slipway; Wool town association events calendar and accommodation directory; Suffolk coalition for disabled people (advice service for disabled people).

Further commitments have been made to support Long Melford Business Association Village Website and Walkie Talkies for Suffolk Trail festival.

As in previous years the locality budget has been used to support many groups and organisations as they offer a diverse range of activities, facilities and services within the communities of Melford Ward.

Throughout the year Suffolk County Council has promoted and supported several campaigns in order to promote wellbeing, community caring and awareness and responsibility for the environment. These campaigns include:

Hands off your mobile Campaign:

Our road safety campaign message could not have been made much clearer to drivers, as highways chiefs signalled their support in no uncertain terms.

Electronic traffic signs lit up in Ipswich with a 'Hands Off!' warning to any motorists tempted to use their mobile phones behind the wheel. By joining the official campaign Facebook page, more than 1,500 people have made their own visible commitment to never use a hand-held phone or similar device while driving or riding a motorcycle. The Hands Off campaign was launched following number of serious and fatal road crashes which happened as a result of a driver being distracted by their mobile phone.

Road Safety Campaign to educate young drivers and motorcyclists:

A campaign by Suffolk County Council aimed to educate young people to keep safe on Suffolk's roads. The campaign, RoadSafe, which launched at the Suffolk Show at Trinity Park, hosted talks, demonstrations, workshops and a virtual reality simulator to help raise awareness of road dangers. Nationally, per mile ridden, motorbike riders in Suffolk, are around 38% more likely to be killed in a road traffic collision than those in cars.

Campaign to recruit School Governors:

Suffolk County Council launched its Govern Suffolk Schools campaign in June 2017.

The campaign will look to address the 450 school governor vacancies that existed across Suffolk. This equates to 10% of the governing population. The campaign was looking to recruit Suffolk residents to 'put their skills into Suffolk schools' to benefit the lives of children and young people across Suffolk

Thank You

I would like to take this opportunity to extend a wholehearted and sincere thank you to the many people throughout Suffolk who not only help and support me in the role of County Councillor but also help support the communities they live and work in.

Volunteers in the form of groups or individuals of all ages and abilities continue to contribute invaluable support to our communities with their dedication and commitment in such a wide variety of ways, I applaud and thank you all for the amazing difference you make - Where would we be without you?!

e. Police Report

There was no police presence or report submitted despite requests by the clerk. One member reported that Farm Watch App still reported several thefts in the area to farms and equipment and reminded people to be vigilant.

f. Village Hall – Marion Peck

The village hall committee continued to hold regular meetings to ensure good maintenance of the hall and surrounding area, manage booking and arrange social events for the village. It was also used twice as a polling station last year. A window has been replaced, curtains updated and a new projector purchased. Work parties have made great efforts to clean and maintain the grounds and equipment. A new inventory has been carried out. Both toilets were redecorated

Social events have included a Chinese Evening, Coffee Morning, Quiz Night and a talk from and RAF veteran. The VH joined with Alpheton Village Hall for two events for the first time.

The Committee is happy to consider free use of the hall for charities and welcomes new ideas for use of the hall. The VH committee are raising money for a defibrillator for the village, raising £700 so far. Thanks were sent out to the many contributors to make the village hall a success.

g. WI – Stephanie Eady

The WI had another busy year. Membership has remained steady. A number of interesting speakers have presented subjects such as Tudor costumes and hanging baskets. There was a successful outing to Holkham Hall. In September the WI helped plant 2500 daffodil bulbs around the village and the lovely results could be seen in the spring. Thanks were sent to the PC for contribution for the bulbs.

h. Halifax Trust – Jenny Pine

The Halifax Trust provides grants and bursaries prioritised as follows:

- The primary school serving the parish of Shimpling for special benefits of any kind not normally provided by the LEA.
- Bursaries for people under 25 who either attended Shimpling school or whose parents live in Shimpling
- If there are funds in any year not required for the above, it may be used for charitable purposes for the general benefit of the residents of Shimpling.

Two meetings were held during 2017/18 and bursaries and grants distributed to:

- Lawshall Primary School for music project
- Nine Bursaries were awarded for studying away from home and four living/studying from home were approved for payment.
- There were no applications for 6th form travelling costs.

Finance – All investments are regulated by Charity Commission and managed by CCLA with good performance. Annual income is in the region of £12,000. Applications for grants should be received by 30th September with notices appearing locally.

i. PCC of St Georges Church – Graham Bonson

Alpheton and Shimpling Parochial Church Council is a team of nine led by Rector The Reverend Matthew Lawson The PCC do everything relating to the churches in Alpheton and Shimpling. There are two lovely Grade 1 listed buildings to maintain including recent work to the roof and trees costing several thousand pounds. The churchyards need a lot of work and thanks are given for the volunteers who assist with this task.

Weekly services are held at the 1st and 3rd Sundays at Alpheton and 2nd and 4th Sundays and Shimpling. Most of the money for the church comes from the same small group of volunteers so money is also raised by holding events such as a coffee morning, Spring and Christmas markets and film and quiz nights as well as other events.

The PCC is always looking to welcome new worshippers and volunteers and welcomes feedback about their events to know what they could do more or less of.

More information can be found at www.alphetonandshimplingchurches.org.uk

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 8.30pm.

Draft