

# Shimpling Parish Council - Meeting Minutes

**Monday 13<sup>th</sup> July 2015, Shimpling Village Hall**

## Present:

Chairman: John Pawsey

Councillors: Trish Jackson; Sue Salmon; Mike Thew; Gerald Shrimpton; Ken Rush; Jackie Saunders

County Councillor: Richard Kemp

District Councillor: James Long

Clerks: Lucy Gregory and Jenny O'Reilly-Turner

Also in attendance were various members of the public

1. **Apologies for absence** – none received as all Councillors were present

## 2. **Approval of minutes from last meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2015 were approved and signed.

## 3. **Matters arising:**

### 3.1. **Flooding Slough Hill**

Jackie Saunders said that in her view, as water was pouring out of the ditch in even the hottest and driest weeks of the year so far, it would tend to suggest that the issue is with the mains itself. John Pawsey is still to contact Anglia Water and will do so very shortly.

**Action: JP to contact water board**

### 3.2. **Neighbourhood Questionnaire**

Around 15 returns were received from around 500 possible distributed – a return of 5% - which councillors noted was at least a start to an informal discussion about the future of the village. The results will be collated and published in more detail so as to ensure that there are no duplicate responses so that a clearer vision of the views of the villagers can be ascertained.

A member of the public who had also written in with questions about the reasons behind the Questionnaire asked about future aspirations of such an exercise and asked whether this would lead to the adoption of a large-scale Neighbourhood Plan which could be very costly and time

consuming. John Pawsey explained in response that the Questionnaire had been more of an exercise in starting the process of engaging with the village residents, rather than something on a larger-scale and he noted that if however there was sufficient interest from enough people in the village in developing a more formal Neighbourhood Plan, then perhaps a committee could be formed, chaired by a Parish Councillor, to take this further if desired.

**Action: JORT to consider results of the questionnaire in more detail and present to PC with copies to RK and JL and results in due course to be published in newsletter and onto website.**

#### **4. Police matters:**

##### **4.1. Crime report**

No representative from the Police attended the meeting and no crime report had been received, despite email correspondence from Garry Austin since that last meeting confirming that he would endeavour to attend.

Richard Kemp stated that his understanding was that the Police had made the operational decision not to attend meetings of this nature in the future and the District Commander in Sudbury claims not to have the resources to send officers to Parish meetings.

**Action: JP will respond to Garry Austin's email to seek clarification**

#### **5. Chairman's report**

Issues in John Pawsey's report related to the quote for play park fencing and the need to ring Anglian Water about the flooding at Slough Hill and these are dealt with under the respective headings in these Minutes.

#### **6. County and District Councillors' reports**

##### **6.1. Suffolk County Council**

Richard Kemp referred to his monthly reports dealing with issues such as gas works in Clare, new parking scheme at West Suffolk Hospital for staff; Colin Noble's forthcoming appearance in Haverhill on 18<sup>th</sup> July for Q&A sessions, Raising the Bar, take-up of free health checks and support for young carers in the county.

He also raised the issue of potholes on Rectory Lane and correspondence that he had received stating that on 28<sup>th</sup> January, 10 potholes had been filled, but concerns were raised that these works had either not been done or not been completed adequately.

**Action: RK to chase pothole correspondence and seek clarification**

## **6.2 Babergh District Council**

James Long noted that since the last PC meeting, the first full Council meeting had taken place and that BDC now consists of 1 Independent Councillor, 3 Liberal Democrats, 8 Independents and 31 Conservatives. He is no longer the Chair of the Council as this has now been taken over by Jennie Jones.

## **7. Planning**

No new applications have been received, but John Pawsey explained that his application concerning Land South of Shimpling Park Farm has been temporarily withdrawn, as it was felt that the terms of it were too open-ended and difficult to understand.

## **8. Financial Report**

### **8.1. Income and Expenditure report**

These had been circulated prior to the meeting to all Councillors and no feedback or comments had been received.

## **9. Correspondence**

### **9.1. Letters**

Mr Shayer has written to the PC as part of his response to the Neighbourhood Questionnaire, raising concerns about mobile phone coverage, the Police no longer attending PC meetings and the future of the Coal House. His letter was circulated to all councillors in advance and other his suggestion of a tree planting scheme (mentioned elsewhere in these Minutes), it was felt that his concerns were in any event reflected in current PC discussions on these themes and therefore no separate action would be required at this stage.

**9.2. Emails circulated to members:** dealt with under AOB

## **10. Matters for discussion**

### **10.1. Play park fencing (\$ 106 money)**

A second quote for fencing has not yet been arranged and Councillors were asked to recommend anyone whom they thought might be suitable to approach.

**Action: Councillors to pass on contact details of any suitable individuals who could provide an alternative quote**

## **11. Any other Business:**

### **11.1. Dementia Friendly Village**

Jackie Saunders has spoken to Ro Northcott of the WI and was told that they would investigate options and then feedback. Trish Jackson noted that the original funding for the scheme in the region may now no longer be available but it was unclear whether this was the same project as that which the WI was referring.

**Action: Jackie Saunders to seek clarification from the WI**

### **11.2. Village Hall Lease**

John Pawsey noted that Ashton Graham solicitors had dealt originally with the lease which will itself expire in August 2016. It was felt that Mrs Richards ought to be contacted well in advance of the expiration of the lease in order to begin the renewal process so that it can be completed sooner rather than later to as to ensure smooth continuity. Despite this, there does not appear to be anything of direct concern in the lease but councillors noted that it would be of assistance if an clause could be inserted which would allow for the making of any improvements although this could be part of a general provision which requires the users of the building to keep it in good repair.

**Action: John Pawsey will write in August 2015 to Mrs Richards to commence the process of renewing the lease**

### **11.3. Potholes in Shimpling Street and Old Rectory Lane**

These matters are noted elsewhere in these Minutes.

### **11.4. Community Tree Planting scheme**

It was felt that Mr Shayer's earlier suggestion by letter that a community tree planting scheme be launched in the village. A representative is coming to the village in August to complete a tree stock count and it was felt that a general invitation be issued to anyone else who would like to become involved in the process or indeed the wider scheme.

**Action: notice to be placed to the above effect in the next edition of the parish newsletter.**

### **11.5. Road safety**

It was felt that there had been a general decrease in incidents of speeding and accidents since the roads had been re-surfaced. It would seem that 'blackspot signs' can be obtained

from the County's Road Safety Officer if it was felt that they were needed. No further action would be needed at this stage.

#### **11.6.Children walking to Lawshall School**

Jenny O'Reilly-Turner in her personal capacity explained that free home to school transport provided by Suffolk County Council for her two children was about to be removed as County had deemed the Slough Hill route from the village to Lawshall School was "not unsafe" to walk, a decision which she intended to challenge particularly in light of the growth of the school from September which is likely to lead to an increase in school-run traffic on the route. Richard Kemp noted that he had assisted in a number of similar applications to the Council. Councillors agreed to assist where possible in providing evidence which could be used to support her application.

#### **11.7.Confirmation of new Clerk**

Thanks were given to Lucy Gregory for her efforts, work and extensive contributions to the role of Clerk to the PC and Jenny O'Reilly-Turner was named and confirmed as the new Clerk to Shimpling Parish Council to take effect from today's date.

##### **11.7.1.Hedge at bottom of Slough Hill**

Sue Salmon noted that the hedge at the bottom of Slough Hill at the junction needs cutting back as it is starting to overhang the road which affects drivers' visibility.

**Action: John Pawsey will liaise with the Richards**

##### **11.7.2.Utility vehicles on Halifax Place**

Jackie Saunders noted that she had received an email from a resident at the bottom of Halifax Place who had said that utility vehicles do not come all the way down to the end of the road. It was however unclear as to the extent of this problem.

**Action: Jackie Saunders to investigate and find more evidence as to the scale of the problem.**

##### **11.7.3.Oil Syndicate information**

Trish Jackson noted that there had been a mention of an oil syndicate in the Questionnaire responses and that she had some information about other local arrangements and that a poster about this would be put up in the Village Hall if anyone was interested in pursuing it.

#### **11.7.4.Concerns about “HDH” local survey**

A member of the public raised concerns about a printed questionnaire from a company called “HDH” which purported acting on behalf of Babergh District Council which was received at around the same time as the Neighbourhood Questionnaire, but which appeared to be more concerned with commercial interests. James Long confirmed that as far as he was aware, BDC had little to do with it and that it was not a survey being carried out on behalf of the Council. John Pawsey and James Long recommended to residents that rather than complete they survey, it could better be recycled.

**There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8:40pm.**

**Next meeting:** The next Parish Council meeting will be held in the Village Hall at 7.30pm on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> September 2015.

**Jenny O’Reilly-Turner**

Clerk to Shimpling Parish Council

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