

Shimpling Parish Council
Minutes of Meeting of the Council
Monday 9th September 2019, 7.30pm in the Village Hall

Present:

Councillors: Liz Brunwin (Chair), Katie Haselhurst, Mike Atkins, Gerry Shrimpton, Colin Johnston, Ken Rush, Dan Sharpstone

County Councillor: Richard Kemp **District Councillor:** Stephen Plumb and Michael Holt

Clerk: Stuart Palmer

1. **Apologies for absence:** All present
2. **Declarations of Members Interest(s):**
 - a. **To receive disclosure of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interest(s) including gifts of hospitality in excess of £25:** Nothing raised
 - b. **To consider requests for dispensation for the agenda item(s) under discussion:** None disclosed

Public Participation session

One member of the public attended. He raised the issue of the petition organised to help prevent cuts to bus services. HE asked if members had signed it. The chair agreed to re-circulate the petition to member.

Before Item 3, the Chair invited members to go outside while it was still light to look at the proposed work to the pathway around the Village Hall as it would be subject to discussion at item 9.

3. **Approval of minutes of the previous meeting:** Members agreed that minutes of the meeting held on 7th July 2019 were a true and accurate record. The minutes were duly signed by Chair of the meeting.
4. **Chair's report:** The Chair of the Council reported that she had contact from three residents regarding the following issues:
 - Stolen traffic bollards, flooding outside their home, parking Gents Lane residents' cars, the feasibility of a taxi share service and school bus passes. The chair thanked Cllr Richard Kemp for his assistance with two of the issues. All the issues had been dealt with, although there was an unrealistic expectation from residents of what powers the Parish Council (PC) had.
 - The chair also reported that she and several other councillors had met with representatives of the Planning Department of Babergh District Council, the planning authority, in August in response to a letter sent in March 2019 which had not received a satisfactory response. This meeting had given the PC some insight into the intricacies faced by the planning department although there were still some queries that remained unresolved.
5. **District Councillors report:** Cllr Stephen Plumb gave the following update:
 - A briefing note was published by the District council on the 2nd Tuesday of the month and is available to the clerk.
 - Cllr Plumb reported that the draft joint local plan was out for consultation until 30th September. One member said that he intended to make a personal response but asked if the PC would make a response. The Chair said that the PC would make a response and invited his assistance.
 - He reported that Crews continued to 'bed in' the new refuse routes. He invited feedback to him before 18th September as he was to attend a meeting on progress.
 - The improvements to leisure facilities was ongoing in Hadleigh and Sudbury.
 - He invited parishes to ensure their contact details were up to date so that the District Council could stay in touch.The Chair thanked Cllr Plumb for attending and supporting the above planning meeting.
6. **County Councillors report:** Cllr Richard Kemp gave his report as follows;
 - Suffolk County Council (SCC) confirmed plans to close children's centres. Of the 38 centres, 2 would close whilst a further 13-19 could be repurposed.
 - SCC pension funds will move away from fossil fuels.

- SCC Cabinet has agreed a new model for specialist Speech and Language Education.
- A new Carbon Strategy had been agreed to meet a commitment to be Carbon Neutral by 2030.
- A consultation has been launched on a new Northern Bypass
- He reported that there had been a lot of confusion caused on the introduction of new procedures on school bus passes.
- Two new Lorry watches had been launched in an effort to improve road safety.
- Red House care home in Sudbury had won the Suffolk Care home Olympics

7. **Police report;** No report received. The new county wide newsletter available was dated August and is available online: <https://www.suffolk.police.uk/sites/suffolk/files/constablescounty-august2019online.pdf>

There is an opportunity to receive crime information via Police Connect. Go to www.suffolk.police.uk/services/police-connect and register.

8. **Public Transport:** Cllr Shrimpton reported he continued to work on the inconsistencies in the provision of public transport to the village. He had had a response from Connect Bus who reported that one of the issues was recruiting enough bus drivers. Cllr Evans has still not replied to the PC letter. The Clerk was actioned to chase this up

Clerk's Note: The letter has now been received and circulated so the action has been cancelled.

9. Village Hall

- **Village Hall Committee** – Member of the council attended the recent VHC and reported an update:
- The Chair invited the Parish Council representatives on the Village Hall Committee to give an update on the Village Hall following a recent meeting. One councillor reported that the main concern he had was finance. The electricity direct debit had increased substantially in the last year and the accounts were showing that expenditure far exceeded revenue. He was concerned that they would run out of funds if this continued. Two new groups were using the hall on a regular basis but the Village Hall Committee were still finding it difficult to attract further rental revenue as well as new committee members. The Clerk pointed out there was some risk to the Parish Council if the Village Hall Committee was not able to make ends meet as there was no money in the Parish Council budget to support the Village Hall Committee and the Village Hall apart from a small maintenance budget. Members said that they would like to see a budget for 20/21 from the Village Hall Committee showing the basic running costs and how these costs could be covered by income. The chair expressed appreciation for the work done by the Village Hall Committee and their efforts to increase the use of the Village Hall.
- . She also added that the Treasurer had expressed a desire to stand down but no one had volunteered to take on the role. Cllr Shrimpton offered to help the Village Hall Committee with some brief work on a basic budget if they felt it would be useful to them.
- **Action: Chair to contact VHC to make the offer**
- The Chair further reported that she had met with the Chair of the Village Hall Committee to discuss their priorities for the Village Hall over the next four years. Their year one priority was to refurbish the path along the car park side of the Hall. Quotes would be needed for this work but an estimate had been given of between two thousand and two thousand five hundred pounds. One councillor pointed out the side path was not in too bad a condition but that the end path had been broken up and left as rubble. It looked dangerous. The council was asked their view on the Village Hall Committee priorities.
- Resolution 1 - To refurbish and renew the path at the side and back of the car park as requested by the Village Hall Committee. One councillor supported this proposal but every other councillor declined. The reasons given were the reasonable state of the path, costs of increase to the village precept to raise the £2000-£2500 to pay for the work and the existence of deed drawings to support the area leased to the Parish Council.

- Resolution 2 - To refurbish and renew the damaged path at the end of the Village Hall. This was estimated to cost nearer to the £1000 earmarked for maintenance and was seen as being much more urgent due to the condition of the path. This was passed unanimously.
- **Action: Chair to feed back to Chair of VHC decisions of the PC in relation to the path.**

10. Responsible Finance Officer's Finance Report:

10a) The Clerk and RFO gave the following update to the meeting: Balances as follows:

| | |
|-------------------|-------|
| Treasures Account | £2259 |
| Business Account | £8219 |
| Including CIL of | £2952 |

The Clerk reported he had submitted claims for recycling and a VAT claim of £876. The Clerk offered to take questions on finances but there were none.

10b) Budget spending update. The Clerk prepared and submitted a budget spending sheet at 5 months into this financial year. He reported all lines were either in line with predicted or slightly underspent. He did not anticipate any issues at this stage. He ran through several items and invited questions.

10c) There were no payments made outside the meeting.

10d) The following accounts were approved for payment:

| | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| • Clerk's gross salary payment | £300.73 |
| • HMRC Tax payment | unknown |
| • Admin and Expenses payment | £18.90 |
| | (Local Government Act 1972 s 112) |
| • Lark Valley grass cutting | £516.00 |
| | (Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 & 10) |

The clerk reported that the finance manager at SALC was on holiday so he was unable to get the Tax obligation prior to the meeting. The PC were asked to authorise the gross figure of £300.73 and he would approach the chair with the breakdown and issues cheques when the officer returned from leave. This was approved.

11. **Clerks Report:** Full copy of the clerk's report was circulated to members prior to the meeting. The following matters were considered for resolution:

- Summary of Progress:** During this period (July – Sept) the clerk worked under the given time frame of 4hrs per week (7 hours under). He prepared and attended an extra planning meeting. Despite the extra meeting he had taken some leave and reduced hours to stay within budget
- Speed Indicator Device - He** took receipt of adjusted SID and replaced it in village
- Pension Regulation.** In compliance with an action from the internal Audit, he registered the PC with the Pensions Regulator
- March Meeting.** – He has a longer holiday booked in February than he was expecting so would like to put the March meeting back one week from 9th March 2020 to 16th March 2020. This was agreed.

Other updates covered elsewhere in the meeting.

12. Playground:

- **Playground Maintenance.** The repair to the Aerial Slide has been completed at a cost of £600 plus VAT. As there is only £500 in the budget for the playground, it was agreed to use CIL money to refurbish the play equipment
- **Resolved:** £600 plus VAT to be taken from CIL to pay for Aerial Slide refurbishment

13. Speed Indicator Devices(SID):

Covered above

14. **Correspondence Received:** None received other than covered by Chair above.

15. Urgent Matters to be brought to the attention of the council

Nothing urgent raised

The Public Participation session was re-opened and any member invited to question or comment. One member reminded the meeting that the last day of the village service was 2nd November so asked for any update to be circulated before then as the PC did not meet again until after that date.

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 9.00 pm.