

Shimpling Parish Council
Minutes of Meeting of the Council
Monday 11th March 2019, 7.30pm in the Village Hall

Present:

Councillors: Liz Brunwin (Chair), Katie Haselhurst, Mike Atkins, Gerry Shrimpton, Colin Johnston, Ken Rush, Dan Sharpstone (from 7.50pm)

County Councillor: Richard Kemp

District Councillor: James Long

Clerk: Stuart Palmer

1. **Apologies for absence:** Cllr Sharpstone notified and apologised that he would attend late. Noted and accepted.
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

Four members of the public (MOP) attended. One member of the public stated that the confidential item at agenda 18 would need the support of the whole village to fight it. The Chair explained that the item under discussion was confidential as it contained commercially sensitive information but would be made available to the whole village once it was possible without detriment to planned actions.

3. **Approval of minutes of the previous meeting:** Members agreed that minutes of the meeting held on 6th February 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 gave the following report:
 - The Chair had organised a new sign for the playground which David and Linda Campan have kindly put up for us. Also liaised with Halifax Place resident who had an issue with dogs in the fenced in area.
 - Noticeboards in Slough Lane, Old Rectory Road and at the bottom of the pathway to the Village Hall have been upgraded or replaced by Laurence Rooke and Ted Pine with our grateful thanks.
 - She and two councillors met with some members of the VHC.
 - She had attended Babergh Liaison Meeting in Sudbury.
 - She had dealt with correspondence regarding grit bins and pot holes at the bottom of Old Rectory Lane and Little Chad.
 - She had organised and attended annual Village Clean Up day. Thanks to Village Hall Committee for providing refreshments.
5. **District Councillors report:** Cllr James Long gave the following update:
 - The full council meeting on 19th Feb 2019 agreed a rates increase of 3.15% which worked out a roughly £5 per year increase for a Band D property.
 - He also stated that council house rents would decrease by 1% and there would be no increase in rents for garages.
 - He encouraged residents to contact the District Council using their call centre on 0300 1234000.
 - Babergh and Mis Suffolk Council had won an award for one of its databases.
6. **County Councillors report:** Cllr Richard Kemp gave the following report:
 - Suffolk County Council (SCC) Children Services satisfies CQC in its latest inspection.
 - The precept (rates) had increased by 2.99% with £15.5 allocated to the most vulnerable people across the county.
 - SCC were going to cut funding for CAB but the Health Authority have agreed to fund the gap of £184,000 for 2019/20.

- SCC have awarded the contract to run its recycling centres to FCC Environment.
- SCC hopes to create 300-400 Special Education Needs (SEN) places in the county.
- Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service are promoting Register My Appliance at www.registermyappliance.org.uk.

Cllr Sharpstone joined the meeting and confirmed he had nothing to disclose in relation to the agenda and did not need any dispensations.

- 7. Police report;** No report received. The only newsletter available was dated January and included 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 was making slow progress trying to contact the right people. He would work with the Clerk to write to neighbouring villages to gauge the level of support for an additional bus service for Shimpling and others. Cllr Kemp suggested contacting 'Go Start' to see if they could help.

Action: Cllr Shrimpton and Clerk to write to neighbouring villages on a proposed new route to gauge level of support

9. Village Hall

- **Village Hall Committee** - The chair reported that she and others had met with the VHC to discuss and agree a maintenance programme for the Village Hall. The Chairs of both groups have agreed to meet annually in September to discuss what needs to be done so it can be included in the budget and the village Precept collection.
- **Village Spring Clean** – Cllr Brunwin recorded her thanks to the VHC for providing refreshments.

10. Responsible Finance Officer's Finance Report:

10a and b) The Clerk and RFO gave the following update to the meeting: The Parish Council have a balance of **£984.03** in the current account. There are payments to be made at this meeting to a total of **£969.00** leaving a balance of about **£15.03**. The recycling money we received is still in the business account but when transferred over it gives us an operating balance of £942.48 when transferred to the current account. He was not expecting any further receipts so this has to last us until the end of this financial year on 31st March. The Business account balance stands at **£5937.79**. This includes **£3256.29** of CIL receipts that is ringfenced spending. Therefore our business balance stands at **£2681.50**. However, he would be claiming back the **£3341.98** we spent on the SID machine from Cllr Kemp's locality budget and the VAT. If successful that will leave a final forecast of £6023.39. We had budgeted for taking a further £1200 from reserves for this year but it may not now be needed. On the current forecast, given the estimates above, our reserves will increase slightly to around £6529. This is due mainly to covering the £1000 spend on Village Hall refurbishments and other costs (total **£2543.45**) from unplanned CIL receipts and the unbudgeted claw back of unclaimed recycling funds.

10c) The payment to L.Rooke for noticeboard material was acknowledged at **£244.00**

10d) The following accounts were approved for payment:

To consider the following items awaiting authorisation:

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| • Clerk's Pay | £290.00 |
| • Admin and Clerk's expenses | £46.40 |
| • HRMC re Tax | £72.60 |
| • SALC re Election Briefing | £30.00 |
| • Information Commissioner registration fee | £40.00 |
| • Annual charge for newsletter publication | £460.00 |
| • Sign for playground | £30.00 |
| • SALC re 3 months payroll services | £18.00 |

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:

- a) **Summary of Progress:** During this period (Jan-March) the Clerk had worked beyond the given time frame of 3hrs per week (13 hours over). This is mainly as a result of the extra planning meeting and attending an Election Briefing. The Clerk's time sheet was authorised.

Other updates covered elsewhere in the meeting.

12. Playground:

- **Playground Inspection:** Following an earlier action, the Clerk inspected the Village insurance policy which stated that items that are insured and the PC are responsible for must be maintained. A further inspection was recommended for the Aerial Runway play equipment.
 - **Playground Maintenance.** Two quotes had been obtained to inspect and update the Aerial Runway:
 - Caloo To replace spring and to attend site and dismantle and inspect the runway cable - £666.00
 - FLP To attend site and re-tension Aerial cableway and re-commission - £420.00
- The meeting agreed that the work was necessary and should come from CIL money if possible rather than further reducing reserves. Cllr Haselhurst offered to contact Dales for a third quote.

Action: Clerk to contact cheapest supplier and arrange for work as quoted.

13. Speed Indicator Devices(SID):

The Clerk gave an update on the council's decision to purchase one or more SIDS for the village:

- Device has been paid for out of reserves and delivery is expected on 22nd March.
- Clerk contacted Cllr Kemp to reclaim the funds to pay for it. He passed on to finance at SCC and they have made contact with Clerk to get bank details.
- Clerk will install when it arrives.

14. **Parish Council Elections** – The Clerk gave notice of the Parish Council elections on 2nd May 2019. He said notices would go out on 12th March when the pre-election period opened. All existing councillors have received their nomination forms and returned them to the Clerk. He has an appointment with the Monitoring Officer to deliver them on 15th March. Anyone else wishing to stand for a seat on the council can get information from the notices or the Clerk.

15. **Correspondence Received:** Nothing received

16. Planning :

No new applications received.

The Clerk gave updates on the following planning applications:

- a) The Croft, Gents Lane, Shimpling - Application Appeal awaits
- b) Land South of the Street, Shimpling – Application for 2 residences approved
- c) Maltings Farm, Shimpling – Refused
- d) Midway Farm Barn, Shimpling - Granted

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

No matters for the PC.

The Public Participation session was re-opened and any member invited to question or comment. No further comments were received.

The public were then excluded for the confidential item to be discussed

18. Confidential Item:

In 2017 a planning application for five houses was submitted on a site at Land South of The Street (field behind the Village Sign). The Parish Council objected to this and Babergh refused planning permission. The applicant then gave notice to appeal, while at the same time, submitting a further application for two bungalows on the same site. The Parish Council wrote another letter of objection to this proposal while working on a further document to submit to the Appeal Inspector. No sooner was this letter sent to the appeal than Babergh gave a decision granting planning permission for the two bungalows. The applicant then withdrew his appeal against the 5 house decision.

The Parish Council is particularly concerned about the impact that the granting of outline planning permission will have for the green in front of the developer's site. This is an Area of Visual and Recreational Amenity (AVRA) and is recognised as an area of public space by Babergh. The applicant plans to build a private road across the green from The Street and proposes to move the Village Sign, create another entrance through the hedge and cut down a tree. This will transform an area which has remained largely as it was shown on the 1839 Tithe Map.

The Parish Council has sought legal and professional advice over the past 18 months about ways of securing the green as a parish asset. It feels that the developer's proposals for the land (which he does not own) threatens the AVRA and is contrary to one of Babergh's own policies, CN03.

Given the rules within the planning system, the Parish Council has no right of appeal against Babergh's decision to grant permission for the two bungalows. The changes to the green were included within these proposals.

Resolved: to write to the developer making it clear that the Parish Council do not give consent to the moving of the Village Sign.

Resolved: to write to Babergh District Council, setting out our considered views on the planning decision and seeking answers to a set of questions.

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 9. 30 pm.