

Shimpling Parish Council
Draft Minutes of Meeting of the Council
Monday 14th January 2019, 7.30pm in the Village Hall

Present:

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

County Councillor: **District Councillor:** James Long

Clerk: Stuart Palmer

1. **Apologies for absence:** , Katie Haselhurst and Richard Kemp. 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

Three members of the public (MOP) attended. One member of the public noted that bus services was on the agenda and added that a community service called "dial a ride" serviced Lawshall but not Shimpling.

3. **Approval of minutes of the previous meeting:** Members agreed that minutes of the meeting held on 12th November 2018 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 been liaising with David Campan who helped her deal with a report that chicken carcasses had been dumped on the bonfire heap. He stated there was no evidence of the problem but put up signs to prevent it happening.
 - Following a request to cut the verges of the Street to the A134 before the daffodils blossomed the chair arranged for them to be cut. J. Pawsey volunteered to do this, however, when he got to the verges the daffodils were already evident. He and the Chair have scheduled the verge to be cut in November.
5. **District Councillors report:** Cllr James Long gave the following update:
 - Following a question from the public, Cllr Long reported that following the boundary changes there will be two district council seats up for election in Chadacre Ward in May. There are potentially three candidates if all three existing candidates stand.
 - The District Council are exploring options to reduce use of single use plastics including considering 'on street' recycling bins.
 - The district council are now responsible for gambling licences in the district.
 - The next full district council meeting is on 22nd February in the evening. People are encouraged to attend.
 - Cllr Long stated that his communication by email problems should be resolved this week.
6. **County Councillors report:** Cllr Richard Kemp's update was read by the clerk:
 - Make time for wellbeing and consider those that need help in winter. A joint message from Suffolk Public Health, Suffolk Mind and the Samaritans urged people to make time for their own wellbeing as well as those around them during the festive season. Around 60 people die in suicide each year in Suffolk with the festive season being a particularly challenging time for some people. Further information is available on the healthy Suffolk web site.
 - The County Council budget will be set in February, Council Tax will increase by 3.99% in 2019/20 including a 1% Social Care Precept. Some services are planned to be cut.

7. **Police report;** No report received. The only newsletter available was dated November and there was nothing still of relevance to the meeting. The community constable has agreed to attend the annual meeting in May.

8. **Public Transport:** Cllr Shrimpton reported inconsistencies in the provision of public transport to the village. He stated that the service was inadequate in the village. He had written to the County Council who commission and subsidise services for more information. One councillor suggested that local bus timetables should be published in the village newsletter to raise awareness. This was accepted. The council resolved to support Cllr Shrimpton in his efforts to gain further information about service provision in an effort to improve the provision to the village. One councillor stated that SCC had proposed cutting the production of bus timetables and relying solely on online publication.

Action: Bus Timetables to be found and published in newsletter.

Resolved: To support Cllr Shrimpton to gather further information on services in order to attempt to improve service to the village.

9. Village Hall

- **Village Hall Committee** - The VHC had not met since last meeting
- **Village Hall Committee section on PC Website-** The clerk reported that this was now complete.
- **Village Spring Clean** – In agreement with the VHC the annual village spring clean had been set for 3rd March 2019. Cllr Brunwin agreed to complete a risk assessment for the activity.

Action: Cllr Brunwin to complete a risk assessment for the village spring clean. .

10. Responsible Finance Officer's Finance Report:

10a) The Clerk and RFO gave the following update to the meeting: I am happy to report the finances look in good shape. I have just received a VAT refund of £519.24 giving us a balance of £1778.13 in our current account. The recycling money we received is still in the business account but when I transfer that over it gives us an operating balance of £2705.58. I am not expecting any further receipts so this has to last us until the end of this financial year on 31st March. Of course, we have budgeted for taking a further £1200 from reserves for this year but it may not now be needed.

10b) The budget paper agreed at the last meeting was re-circulated and confirmed as £9519 for 2019/20.

10c) The precept set at £9519 at the last meeting was confirmed after the clerk RFO confirmed the tax base had been set at 185.40. To raise enough money to cover the budgeted spend, the Parish Council must raise a precept of £9519. This will mean that there will be no planned need to use the diminishing reserves.

The precept for 2019/20 of £9519 divided by the tax base of 185.40 will mean a Band D house holder will contribute : £51.34 per year, up from £38.66 this year. Representing a £12.68 per year increase.

10d) The Precept forms were signed of by the RFO, the Chair of council and councillors Shrimpton and Johnston.

10e)The following accounts were approved for payment:

To consider the following items awaiting authorisation:

- **Clerk's Pay** **£243.20**
- **Clerk's expenses****£12.60**
- **HRMC re Tax** **£60.60**
- **The Play Inspection company** **£90.00**

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 (Nov-Jan) I have worked beyond the given time frame of 3hrs per week (4 hrs over). This is mainly as a result of receiving several planning applications to deal with and holding an extra meeting. The Clerk's time sheet was authorised.

Other updates covered elsewhere in the meeting.

12. Playground:

(a) Playground Risk Assessment Following an earlier action, Cllr Haselhurst completed a risk assessment on the playground. This was resolved to be accepted and adopted by the PC and retained for inspection.

(b) Playground inspection report. Following the annual inspection of the playground the PC had received a thorough inspection report. All discovered risks were set out and rated as LOW or VERY LOW. The report was discussed with the council. Some members felt there was no need for further action due to the low risks. However other members felt that matters needed further action.

Action: Clerk to contact the Play Inspection Company and ask if they can inspect at height and get a quote to inspect the Cable Runway

Action: Clerk to review insurance to find the position with cover of equipment identified with low risks.

13. Speed Indicator Devices(SID):

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

- SCC had installed 3 traffic poles in the requested locations for SIDS to be sited. That is the end of their involvement in this project.
- Cllr R. Kemp has agreed to fund the project up to £3000 from his locality budget.
- 2 quotes for SIDS devices have been received following recommendations from clerks in nearby villages that use the devices.
- Westoco £2800 per device
- Swarco £2634 for the device and 3 fixing kits.
- The clerk recommended that the PC purchase the Swarco device including 3 fixing kits so that it can be moved between the 3 sites. The battery pack lasts up to 4 weeks. Arrangements will have to be made to remove the device, charge the battery and replace it. A volunteer could be found to do this or the Clerk could do it. However this would add un-budgeted running costs. He had seen this device working and it was slightly cheaper.

Resolved: Clerk to purchase SWARCO SID and claim reimbursement from Cllr R Kemp.

14. Correspondence Received: The Chair referred to a further communication on Grit Bins from a parishioner requesting more grit bins in the village:

The clerk stated that he had looked at this and sent information to all councillors. He had included the policy in the recent newsletter

Suffolk County Council have recently updated their policy in relation to grit piles by roads. They will no longer replace grit piles as they are not environmentally friendly as the salt leaches into the water table. They will only replenish official grit bins. Parish Councils can apply for grit bins but not if the road is on a Priority 1 or Priority 2 road.

The Street and Slough Hill are on a P2 route. Whilst Little Chad is not salted by SCC as part of any of their salting routes, there is an existing grit bin at this location.

Since P2 routes are only salted at times of severe or prolonged freezing conditions, motorists should follow national and local advice regarding driving in the winter. On most occasions when gritters turn out, the roads in the village will not be treated (even if they are on a P2 route), leading to a marked change in driving conditions when, for example, one turns from the A134 on to the Street.

For more information on what roads and gritted, please see:

<https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/check-which-roads-are-gritted/>

The meeting was asked where a grit bin would be useful and used that was not on a priority 1 or 2 route. Old Rectory Lane was requested.

Action: Clerk to investigate if the council can apply for a Grit Bin in Old Rectory Lane and explore costs for the village.

15. Planning :

The meeting resolved to support the following planning application:

15a) Midway Farm Barn, Bury Road, Shimpling IP300JL – DC/18/05347 – Application for extension and conversion of barn for residential use.

The application was circulated prior to the meeting as usual. An extension to the consultation had been granted until 18/01/19. One councillor said he had no objections to the application. He noted it was a restoration project using the existing footprint of existing buildings. He pointed out his support was limited to this application and was concerned if further applications extended the size or number of buildings on the site. The application was discussed and no objections raised. The PC resolved to support the application.

Action: Clerk to write to the LPA with a letter of support for the application.

The Clerk gave updates on the following planning applications:

- a) White House, Shimpling – Application for extension granted
- b) The Croft, Gents Lane, Shimpling – Application refused by LPA
- c) The Bush PH, Shimpling – Letter of objection re planning appeal sent
- d) The Old School, The Street, Shimpling – Application granted.
- e) Malting Farm, Shimpling – Still awaits
- f) Land South of the Street, Shimpling – Awaits
- g) Land fronting North East of Gents Lane – Appeal lodged but not yet sent to PC for consultation.

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

No matters for the PC. One member sought advice on sending a neighbour a letter as a resident rather than as a councillor. Advice given.

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 9. 02 pm.