

**Shimpling Parish Council**  
**Minutes of Meeting of the Council**  
**Monday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2022, 7:30pm at Shimpling Village Hall**

**Present:**

**Councillors:** Liz Brunwin (Chair), Katie Haselhurst, Mike Atkins, Gerry Shrimpton

**District Councillor:** Cllr Stephen Plumb

**County Councillor:** Cllr Richard Kemp

**Clerk:** Natasha Byford

1. **Apologies for absence:** Cllr Nathalie Brown and Cllr Michael Holt sent their apologies.
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:** Cllr Atkins disclosed an interest in item 15b, planning for Quince Cottage as this was his property, as this was just an update on the application rather than any decisions to be made, this was not an issue.
  - b) **To consider requests for dispensation for the agenda item(s) under discussion:** None received
3. **Public Participation session**

No members of the public (MOP) attended.
4. **Approval of minutes of the previous meeting:**

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> November 2021 were approved.

**Action: Clerk to publish these on the website and Social Media.**
5. **Chair's report:**

Chair Brunwin gave the following report:

The Chairman reported that it had been quiet since the last meeting in November. She had received thanks from several villagers for the donation from the Parish Council for the village Christmas tree. Our thanks go to Laurence Rooke, Ted Pine and Karenza and Mark Jackson for their help in putting up and tree, supplying the electricity and removing it in early January. Christmas in the village had felt more normal this year with events taking place at the Village Hall (thanks to the church and Village Hall Committee) although the East of England is currently experiencing a surge in Covid infections.

The Chairman reported that we are waiting for the Quiet Lanes Sign to be put up. Unfortunately, these could not be fixed it to the current telegraph pole.

We are still looking to improve the layby next to the recycling banks and hope to have an update on this at the next meeting in March.

BT had informed us in December that they had done the necessary groundwork for the installation of Wifi and are expected to connect to the Village Hall in January.

Disappointingly, Bernard Essery has reported that the tenant for The Bush has withdrawn although he is actively looking for a new tenant.

The Village Hall Committee are busy working on the events to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in June. The Parish Council would be discussing the possibility of planting a tree as part of the

Queen's request to 'plant a tree for the Jubilee.'

Several people have expressed interest in the Parish Councillor vacancies, and it is hoped that we will have the vacancies filled very soon. Unfortunately, no one has come forward to take on the role of Chairman when the Chairman steps down in May and she urged councillors to reconsider as Babergh have informed us that if we cannot vote in a new Chairman in May, this will cause issues, in particular, setting our Precept next year.

- 6. District Councillors report:** Cllr Stephen Plumb had his report, which was sent out to members prior to the meeting and is in Appendix A below. In addition to this, Cllr Plumb reported that approval has been granted for the new medical centre in the old lorry park next to Waitrose in Sudbury. Cllr Plumb noted that all Babergh and District Council meetings from the 13<sup>th</sup> will be virtual until March. Cllr Plumb also reminded members that they had some locality budget left for spending. Members discussed the idea of a chair with arms for the Village Hall, which would be more suitable for the elderly or disabled.

**Action: Cllr Shrimpton to look into chairs and get an idea of costs for this.**

Cllr Plumb left the meeting.

- 7. County Councillors report:** Cllr Richard Kemp read out a summary of his report, which was circulated to members prior to the meeting, and is in Appendix B below. Cllr Kemp also let members know that we were still waiting for the results of the heavy transport road survey, which the PC had commented on.

Cllr Kemp left the meeting.

- 8. Crime matters:**

The new county wide newsletter available was dated December 2021 and is available online: <https://www.suffolk.police.uk/your-area/snt-newsletters>

The Clerk reported that the October newsletter was circulated to Councillors along with the papers for the crime update. Operation Sceptre - the knife crime awareness week happened in mid November. Whilst knife crime levels are thankfully very low in our policing area, in November, I removed almost 200 knives including swords, daggers and many kitchen knives out of our knife amnesty bin which is permanently available to use outside the front of Sudbury

police station. Remembrance events were able to happen again this year. The Police Cadets have distributed 600 'Don't call on us this Halloween' posters and patrolled the area. AFC Sudbury, made it to the first-round proper of the FA Cup with a home tie against Colchester United on 5 November.

**9. Village Hall:**

**a) Village Hall Committee** – No update from the VHC. The Chair updated members on queries regarding insurance of hall hirers without insurance.

**b)** The Chair gave an update regarding Wifi in the Village Hall, unfortunately it does not look like any of the works have been carried out.

**Action: Clerk/Chair to chase up these works**

**c)** Members received the quotes regarding the electrics in the Village Hall. Three quotations were considered and it was agreed to go with R&Z Electricals for the price of £1,478.25. It was raised that we should ensure that the materials are invoiced to the Parish Council in order to claim back the VAT on it.

**d)** Members discussed possible tree planting for the Queens Platinum Jubilee, it was agreed Members agree this in principle, with a fund of up to £250. Members would like to plant a Norwegian Spruce tree on the Village Green.

**Action: Cllr Haselhurst to pinpoint the tree location and Chair Brunwin to check costings of plaque for this.**

**10. Responsible Finance Officer's Finance Report:**

**10a)** The Clerk gave a finance report, details of which were circulated to members prior to the meeting, and stated which invoices (please see below) needed to be paid.

Leaving balances as follows:

Treasurers Account	£2,294.29
Business Account	£36,215.19
Including CIL of	£1,970.63
Earmarked Reserves of	£5,850.00
General Reserves of	£4,655.09
COVID Grant of	£21,192.70

**10b)** To acknowledge payments made outside the meeting

- **BHIB Insurance** **£697.57**  
(LGA 1972, s.111)
- **Lark Valley Willow – Grass Cutting** **£171.60**  
(Open Spaces Act 1906 ss. 9-10)
- **Christmas Tree** **£45.00**  
(LGA, 1972, s.145(1)(a))
- **John Reynolds – Guttering Materials** **£450.00**  
(Open Spaces Act 1906 ss. 9-10)
-

- **Shimpling Village Hall (PCC hire)** **£28.50**  
(LGA, 1972, s.145(1)(a))
- **John Reynolds – Guttering Labour** **£150.00**  
(Open Spaces Act 1906 ss. 9-10)

**10c)** The following amounts were approved for payment:

- **Clerk's Net salary after Tax** **£316.50**
- **HMRC Tax payment** **£79.00**
- **Clerk's expenses** **£8.55**  
LGA 1972 s. 111 (ancillary Powers)

The above payment schedule was approved by members.

**10d)** The Clerk noted that the PC have received money of bank interest 30p.

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

**11a) Summary of Progress:** During the period (1<sup>st</sup> November – 2<sup>nd</sup> January), the Clerk worked 1 hour under the given time frame of 4 hours per week, this included, meetings, minutes, agendas, actions from that, chasing of the WIFI, organising the insurance policy, researching the co-option procedure, Village Hall paperwork, as well as general administration. This also included taking 8.75 hours of annual leave over the Christmas period. The Clerk's record of work was reviewed and accepted.

## **12. Budget**

Members approved the recommendation that the precept for 2022/23 would be set at £10,413.00.

The Clerk and Chair signed Precept application to be sent to Babergh District Council.

**Action: Clerk to send the precept form to Babergh District Council**

## **13. Footpaths:**

The Chair gave an update regarding the guttering overhanging Footpath 7, advising that the guttering works were done and looked good.

## **14. Recycling:**

Members were reminded that they previously agreed to go ahead with Quote £465 plus VAT to make good to potholes and surface area with crushed road planings and that funding for this work this would be taken from the Covid grant fund – however the contractor that quoted this is recently retired. Members discussed that we should attempt to get more quotations for these works. **Action: Clerk to contact various contractors to try and get some more quotes for these works**

**15. Planning:**

The Clerk gave an update on planning applications:

Planning Decisions:

- a. DC/21/05379 - Giffords Hall, Hartest Hill, Shimpling, Suffolk IP29 4EX - Full Planning Application -  
Change of Use of office to holiday let to be used in conjunction with vineyard business – Granted
- b. DC/21/06321 - Quince Cottage, Bunkers Hill, Shimpling, Suffolk IP29 4HX - Householder Application - Erection of annex for disabled family member - Approved

**Planning Applications:**

- c. DC/21/06587 - The Gannocks, Old Rectory Lane, Shimpling, Suffolk IP29 4HG - Full Planning Application - Full Planning Application - Change of Use of agricultural land to residential curtilage and construction of a domestic workshop/studio.

Members agreed not to comment on this application.

**16. Christmas Tree**

Members agreed to pay for the Christmas Tree in the Village out of the Covid Fund.

**17. Covid19 Emergency Fund**

Members suggested to fund one bench for the Village Green out of the Covid Fund and see if we can get funding from elsewhere for the second.

**Action: Cllr Shrimpton to look into costings for a bench**

**18. Land South of The Street:**

The Chair gave an update and a site meeting has been confirmed for the 25th January.

**19. Grants:**

It was raised that the PC could potentially apply for more grant funding, members were keen to try and get some funding for one bench for the Village Green. **Action: Clerk to look into potential funding options for this**

**20. Local Plan:**

Chair Brunwin reported that Colin attended the meeting on the PCs behalf and discussed some issues, the inspector has now raised issues about the Joint Local Plan with Babergh and all further meetings are postponed.

**21. The Bush:**

Chair Brunwin gave members an update regarding The Bush, is looking for a new tenant as the previous interested party has withdrawn.

**22. Litter Pick:**

Members agreed to Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2022 for the annual village litter pick

**Action: Clerk to post on Social Media, Chair to send out via Village round robin.**

**23. Correspondence Received:**

- Correspondence received from a resident regarding signage from the bridleway to Chadacre Road. It was discussed and thought that this may be more for County Council Locality Budget.

**Action: Clerk to ask Richard Kemp regarding this matter.**

- It has also been brought to the Parish Councils attention that there is a licencing application for Mount Farm Vineyard, which has received a petition with 12 signatures from local residents.

**24. Urgent Matters to be brought to the attention of the council**

Nothing to report

**There being no further business the meeting concluded at 8:45pm.**

## **Appendix A: District Councillors Report:**

### **An update on Covid-19 in Suffolk**

Thank you to everyone who has helped to support the Covid-19 response this month, which has seen the Government revert to Plan B and our NHS colleagues ramping up the vaccination rollout in a race against time to combat the spread of the Omicron variant. We continue to use our social media channels to keep everyone informed and to share messages from our NHS and public sector partners – including information on vaccinations and boosters, FAQs and eligibility and advice for residents on protecting themselves and others. We are ready to support our most vulnerable residents and communities through the Christmas period and beyond as case numbers continue to rise, with information on our website and across our social media channels regarding how to access help. We also await further information from the Government regarding the further financial support for businesses announced this week, so we can distribute funds to those eligible across our districts as soon as possible. We also continue to provide regular bulletins giving a snapshot of the current Covid-19 situation in Suffolk - along with case numbers and updates on the work being carried out as part of Suffolk's Local Outbreak Control Plan. You can find the bulletins through Working Together, the monthly Councillor Update or via the Suffolk County Council website.

### **Babergh and Mid Suffolk leaders offer thanks and urge residents to get boosted now**

The leaders of Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils, Cllr John Ward and Cllr Suzie Morley, are amongst Suffolk public sector leaders sending a joint message to Suffolk residents.

### **Free bus and taxi services across Suffolk for all those travelling for a vaccination**

People in Suffolk can today take advantage of free bus and taxi rides to get to their vaccination appointment or to a vaccine drop-in clinic.

### **Help is at hand this Christmas**

Suffolk residents can still seek support over the festive period, with help available for anyone who is selfisolating, facing financial difficulties or struggling with their health and wellbeing. This includes Home, But Not Alone, which provides assistance with obtaining groceries and medication to those unwell with Covid, or self-isolating, who cannot arrange delivery of these items themselves or don't have friends or family to help out. Anyone in genuine need of help can call the service – staffed on weekdays between 9am and 5pm – on freephone 0800 876 6926. It will remain open on Christmas Day, Boxing Day and over the festive bank holidays for emergency calls only.

### **Blueprint for districts' future development to progress**

Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils have welcomed a decision by Planning Inspectors to allow work on their Joint Local Plan to continue – meaning the councils can ensure the right developments happen in the right places at the right time.

### **Work begins on carbon-cutting solar carport schemes**

Works have begun on installing solar carports which will help power and slash the carbon emissions of two council-owned leisure centres - as part of council plans to tackle climate change.

### **School's Out schemes support families through the Christmas holidays**

Hey Presto! Magic, circus skills, football, swimming, and outdoor cooking, are amongst the fun activities on offer from Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils and partners during the Christmas school holidays.

### **Scheme to support new small businesses marks successful six months**

A pilot scheme to support small businesses in Babergh and Mid Suffolk has been hailed a success as it reaches its six-month milestone.

### **Councils urge National Highways to 'unblock Copdock'**

Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils have submitted a joint response to a consultation by National Highways on proposed improvements to the Copdock Interchange – urging the creation of a new link road to keep business traffic flowing freely.

### **New medical centre for Sudbury gets green light**

Councillors have given the green light to a new three-storey GP surgery and pharmacy for Sudbury, helping to futureproof healthcare for the town. Read the full story "You must pay!" Council's warning to developers Babergh District Council secured an out-of-court settlement of £163,590 in unpaid Community Infrastructure Levy from developers Marden Essex Ltd.

### **Funding for Brooklands Primary School expansion given the go-ahead**

A Community Infrastructure Levy bid from Suffolk County Council to help finance further school places in

Brantham received the green light, with Babergh's cabinet approving £345,360 towards the expansion.



## **Appendix B: County Councillors report:**

### **COVID-19 UPDATE - Summary**

Latest SCC information is available here: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/coronavirus-covid-19/>

Latest Government advice is available here: [www.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://www.gov.uk/coronavirus)

Vaccination Appointments can be booked here: [www.sneevaccine.org.uk](http://www.sneevaccine.org.uk)

### **Cabinet Meeting**

The Cabinet met on the 7<sup>th</sup> December and voted unanimously to approve additional investment in highway drainage and footway infrastructure. £10m has been approved to replace broken pipes, as well as new installations, and £10m has been approved to increase the maintenance of selected footways. The Cabinet also voted to approve Suffolk County Council's new Housing Joint Venture. The Council wish to enter a contractual agreement with a private developer, aiming to deliver up to 3,000 new homes across Suffolk.

### **Scrutiny Meeting on SEND Report**

The Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Committee met to discuss the damning SEND report, which outlined the various failings of the local service in dealing with children with special needs and disabilities. A new report from the SEND services was presented, which included the progress of improving the service. This included extended training, newly appointed managerial posts, and new accountability structures to help deal with the issues outlined in the previous report. Our Group brought up issues of a lack of representation in their ideas, and asked for a wider pool of representatives.

### **Children's services and adult care at the heart of Suffolk County Council's new budget plans**

Suffolk County Council has outlined how it plans to spend money on public services in 2022/23.

- More money to support children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND)
- Extra resources for adults in need of care
- Additional funds to prevent flooding and fix footpaths

Under the proposals, the council's budget for 2022-23 would rise by 4.5% (from £598.2 to £625.4m). This additional money is generated by a 2.99% increase in Council Tax, and an increase in grants received from the Government.

Regarding Council Tax, the proposed 2.99% increase would be made up of a 1.99% increase in general Council Tax and a 1.00% increase dedicated to funding adult care.

### **This means costs for a household would look like:**

- Band D property: £27.60 per week (80 pence per week increase from 2021-22)
- Band B property: £21.47 per week (62 pence per week increase from 2021-22) (Band B properties are the most common in Suffolk)

The budget proposals will be presented at a Scrutiny Meeting on Tuesday 11 January 2022, with the final budget discussed at a Full Council meeting on 17 February 2022.

The Scrutiny meeting will be available to stream on Suffolk County Council's YouTube channel, and public questions can be submitted in advance, details available at [www.suffolk.gov.uk](http://www.suffolk.gov.uk)

### **Significant Investment in Fire-fighting Equipment**

Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service has recently added to its lifesaving kit – cementing the service's commitment to protecting its staff and Suffolk residents. A significant investment has enabled improved digital radios, smoke hoods and smoke curtains to be provided to every crew in the county.

This equipment can be used in a range of incidents, with it already proving invaluable in Lowestoft, when two occupants were rescued after a kitchen fire. Although crews are ready to attend emergencies with this new kit, it's important that every home has its own lifesaving equipment – smoke alarms, which should be fitted and tested regularly.

For more information, visit: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/councilnews/show/significant-investment-in-firefighting-equipment-secures-safer-future-for-suffolk>

### **Free Bus and Taxi Services for All Travelling for a Vaccination**

Stuart Keeble, the Director of Public Health at Suffolk County Council, expanded the 'Vaxi Taxi' service to all members of the public. The original campaign was for those who were strictly eligible, but the Council has opened up the offer to anyone who needs it, in order to get to their appointment for a first, second or booster vaccination.

For a list of the taxi companies who have signed up to the scheme, please visit [www.suffolk.gov.uk/GetVaccinated](http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/GetVaccinated) - or for further information, go to <https://sneevaccine.org.uk/>

### **'Support Social Care' Campaign**

A new campaign was released in December aimed to help the public understand more about the Social Care sector in Suffolk. The campaign wants to celebrate the care professionals, and asks the public for a little patience and flexibility whilst the Council navigates through another tough winter.

Every day, Suffolk receives 551 calls from people on adult social care, and on Christmas there will be around 1,200 care home staff working to ensure Residential and Nursing Homes have a good Christmas.

You can support for Social Care on social media by using the hashtag #SupportSocialCare, or by offering to collect a neighbour-in-need's prescription, or simply paying them a visit.