

**Shimpling Parish Council**

**Minutes of Meeting of the Council**

**Monday 11<sup>th</sup> July 2022, 7:30pm at Shimpling Village Hall**

**Present:**

**Councillors:** Katie Haselhurst, Gerry Shrimpton (Chair), Nathalie Brown, Mike Atkin, David Dunkley

**County Councillor:** Cllr Richard Kemp

**Clerk:** Natasha Byford

- 1.1 Election of Chair:** The Clerk opened the meeting and welcomed those in attendance. Cllr Haselhurst stepped down as Chair last week. The Clerk then asked for nominations for election of a new Chair. A nomination was received for Councillor Shrimpton to Chair the council. This was seconded by Councillor Brown. There being no other nominations, this proposal was voted on and confirmed. Councillor Shrimpton signed the acceptance of office declaration.

**Action: Clerk to send the declaration of acceptance of office to the monitoring officer**

- 1. Apologies for absence:** Cllr Brunwin, District Cllr Plumb and District Cllr Holt sent their apologies, these were 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:** None received.
- b) To consider requests for dispensation for the agenda item(s) under discussion:** No disclosures were made.

**3. Public Participation session**

One member of the public (MOP) attended.

It was asked whether the PC would donate a sum of money towards Chadacre fete which will be held on the 24<sup>th</sup> September. The costs that required funding were the portaloos hire, printing, serving and catering and a climbing wall. Cllr Kemp said that he would fund the portaloos for the event out of his locality budget.

**Action: Cllr Haselhurst to apply for the locality budget for the portaloos.**

Members discussed and decided to give a donation of £750 towards this event, from the Covid fund.

**Action: Clerk to write a letter stating that the PC will make a donation and make payment of £750.**

It was also asked whether members would consider funding a permanent structure table tennis table in the playground. This is something that would be a PC asset. Members thought this was a good idea. It was noted by Cllr Kemp that Babergh DC may have some funding available for this.

**Action: Clerk to look into the table and get quotes for the September meeting.**

**4. Approval of minutes of the previous meeting:**

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2022 were approved.

**Action: Clerk to publish these on the website and Social Media.**

**5. Chair's report:**

Cllr Haselhurst gave the following report from her last couple of months as Chair:

On behalf of everyone in Shimpling, I would like to thank the Village Hall Committee for a wonderful Jubilee weekend. There were a huge range of events laid on to suit all ages. It was lovely to come together again and celebrate as a community. An awful lot of planning and hard work went in to creating a memorable weekend of celebration.

The final stages of works have been taking place to connect WiFi in the village hall. It has been a long process, so it's great that we are approaching the home straight. The hire of the hall will be available with full wifi access in the next few weeks. We hope that this will be an attractive option for people wishing to hire the facilities and will enable the PC to move towards paperless meetings.

We have taken delivery of a beautiful wooden bench, which will be placed and secured near to the village sign shortly.

**6. District Councillors report:** The Clerk read out a summary of their report and this is in Appendix A below.

**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 added that he would look into the GoStart bus as a resident couldn't get any transport earlier in the week.

**8. Crime matters:**

The new county wide newsletter available was dated May 2022 and is available online:

<https://www.suffolk.police.uk/your-area/snt-newsletters>

The Clerk reported that the May newsletter was circulated to Councillors along with the papers for the crime update. Nothing Shimpling specific. Some new arrivals on the force. May saw national mental health awareness week with an ex-Vets group meeting in Rodbridge Country Park weekly and a Grow your Community group who meets weekly in Belle Vue Park. More community speed watch groups are out, speeding is still the biggest community complaint. Volunteer cadets have been busy and there is a Crucial Crew event planned for a couple of years time for 1000 youngsters. Cllr Haselhurst reported that there had been a burglary in Alpheton an attempted breakins in Shimpling. The whatsapp group for the Village has been a great asset in helping gather information regarding this and just warning everyone to be aware. It was also reported that there is an abandoned car in the Village, this was reported to the police who don't deal with this and then reported to Babergh.

**Action: Clerk to email Babergh and see if there is an update on this.**

**9. Village Hall:**

**a) Village Hall Committee** – Update given from the VHC PC representative Cllr Brown as below;

The Village Hall Committee AGM was held at the end of May. Marian stood down as Chair, but will remain to do hall bookings and day to day finance. Nathalie Brown was elected as the new Chair and two new members joined the committee, Carol Squire and Jim Lucas. I look forward to working with them on our new committee.

After a number of years with no changes to hire rates, it was agreed that there should be two increased charges, one for residents, £8 ph and for all other hirers, £10 ph.

Our electricity supplier has changed from EON Next, who wanted to renew our contract with a 30% increase, to EDF, who gave a better option. Thanks to Nathalie for sorting this thorny problem!

For the purposes of organising Platinum Jubilee events, the VHC was expanded to the Jubilee Committee. A comprehensive programme was agreed and volunteers helped to run and organise individual events, ensuring everything ran very smoothly. Running totals for events helped to plan and cater efficiently and we were able to benefit with some very helpful discounts. Feedback from all events has been really positive and we are still being congratulated on the variety offered and for being inclusive of all ages. From the Children's party to the Big picnic, everything went to plan and it was great to see the village, with all it's bunting and decoration, celebrate together. I've been told, we probably managed to organise more events than any other local village.

Thanks to both the Hallifax Trust and the Parish Council for the financial support, which allowed us to make all events free of charge. except for the Bar b q at the pub. Together with a couple of donations the VHC made up the deficit of £50, over budget.

**b)** The Clerk gave an update regarding Wifi in the Village Hall, we believe all of the external works have been carried out and we expect the inside works to be carried out on the 15th July.

**Action: Clerk to keep up to date and keep chasing these works**

**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.

The Clerk stated which invoices (please see below) needed to be paid.

Leaving balances as follows:

Treasurers Account	£2,496.70
Business Account	£35,981.42

Including CIL of	£3,941.26
Earmarked Reserves of	£11,291.92
General Reserves of	£4,698.00
COVID Grant of	£14,062.13

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

- **Litter and Dog Bin Emptying** **£96.74**  
(Public Health Act 1875, s.164)
- **Replace 2 high level lights for VH** **£275.25**  
(LGA 1972, s.133)
- **Lark Valley Grass Cutting** **£876.00**  
(Public Health Act 1875, s.164)
- **SALC Internal Audit** **£243.60**  
(LGA 1972, s.111)
- **Jubilee Donation to VH** **£499.01**  
(LGA 1972, s. 145(1)(a))

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

- |                                              |                |
|----------------------------------------------|----------------|
| <b>Lark Valley Grass Cutting</b>             | <b>£666.00</b> |
| (Public Health Act 1875, s.164)              |                |
| • <b>Clerk's Net salary before Tax</b>       | <b>£354.35</b> |
| • <b>HMRC Tax payment</b>                    | <b>£88.40</b>  |
| • <b>Clerk's expenses (Fuel, ink, paper)</b> | <b>£65.99</b>  |
| LGA 1972 s. 111 (ancillary Powers)           |                |

The above payment schedule was approved by members.

**10d)** The Clerk noted that The Council have received money from bank interest 31p and 29p.

**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 (2<sup>nd</sup> May – 3<sup>rd</sup> July), I have worked 2 hours 30 mins over the given time frame of 4 hours per week, this included organising all the paperwork for the May and July meeting, agendas, actions from that, chasing of the WIFI, organising

payments, as well as general administration. The Clerk's record of work was reviewed and accepted. Members thanked the Clerk for her hard work and suggested that the Clerks hours may need to be increased.

**Action: Clerk to add this to the agenda for the September meeting.**

## **12. Email Addresses**

Clerk updated members with a quotation for a shimplingpc.gov.uk domain name and email addresses, this would be £480 plus VAT for the first year and £430 plus VAT for the second year. Cllr Dunkley let members know that there was no uniform way that other Councils were doing this and that there were no rules regarding emails, just guidelines. Members discussed the .gov.uk email addresses and it was felt that it was quite expensive. It was agreed for Cllr Dunkley to complete a Risk Assessment regarding the email addresses and bring this back to the September meeting.

**Action: Cllr Dunkley to complete a Risk Assessment regarding email security.**

**Action: Clerk to send Cllr Dunkley the data protection policies and to add this item to the September agenda.**

## **13. Footpaths:**

Members discussed the quotation of £1,850 plus VAT received (4 quotations were requested by Cllr Haselhurst but only 1 was received) to improve the footpath that leads from Nigels Way to the fields behind Halifax Place and decided to go ahead with this. These improvements would be from the end of Nigels way footpath, turn left and up to the chicane and would be type 1 stone, so hardstanding but draining. Clerk to get this booked in as soon as possible. Members agreed to ask Babergh DC for funding as Cllr Kemp suggested and if they can't assist with funding then to take this from the CIL fund.

**Action: Clerk to take Contractor up on their quotation and get the works booked in as soon as possible. Clerk to ask Babergh DC for funding for this project.**

It was noted that the strimming around this area had not been done for a while and a near neighbour had just done it themselves.

**Action: Clerk to check with Lark Valley to see if it is on their list to strim and if not to get a quotation for this to be done.**

## **14. Projects:**

Cllr Shrimpton informed members that he had written to Mrs Richards to ask permission to look into updating the Village Hall and the car park. It was noted that the Village Hall hadn't been updated since the early 90s. Cllr Shrimpton noted there were plenty of grants and funding about that we could apply for. It was agreed to wait until we had a response to then see what could potentially be done. If permission were to be granted then that would give a few options, if

permission wasn't granted then we would be limited to changing the internal layout. The lease on the Village Hall is up for renewal in 2024.

**Action: Clerk to add this to the September agenda**

A second project that was mentioned was updating the playground. It was noted that the playground equipment cost £45,000 new and was now 10 years old. Cllr Haselhurst suggested a new piece of play equipment in the play area would be good. It was agreed that Cllr Haselhurst ask the local children what other equipment they may like in the playground.

**Action: Cllr Haselhurst to ask children what other play equipment they may like in the playground and report back. Clerk to add this to the September meeting agenda.**

**15. Planning:**

The Clerk gave an update on planning applications:

Planning Decisions:

- a. AP/22/00010 Land Opposite To Stone Cottages, Bury Road, Shimpling, Suffolk - Appeal - Application for a Lawful Development Certificate for an Existing Use or Operation or activity including those in breach of a planning condition. Town and Country Planning Act 1990: Section 191 as amended by section 10 of the Planning and Compensation Act 1991. Town and Country Planning (General Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015 - Conversion and use of former second world war building as a dwellinghouse – Still in progress
- b. DC/22/01730 - Land Adjacent The Bush The Street Shimpling Suffolk IP29 4HU - Discharge of Conditions Application for DC/20/03069- Condition 7 (Landscaping Scheme) and Condition 9 (Agreement of Materials) – Approved
- c. DC/22/02240 - Flint Barn , Thorne Court, Shimpling Road, Shimpling Bury St Edmunds Suffolk - Application to determine if Prior Approval is required for a proposed Change of Use of Agricultural Buildings to Dwellinghouses (C3) and for building operations reasonably necessary for conversion. Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 as amended Schedule 2, Part 3, Class Q - Conversion of barn to form 1No. Dwelling.- Prior approval given subject to conditions
- d. DC/22/02190- Chadacre Hall Chadacre Shimpling Bury St Edmunds Suffolk IP29 4DT - Discharge of Conditions Application for DC/22/00474 - Condition 3 (Landscaping Scheme) – Approved with Conditions
- e. DC/22/01834 - Aveley House, Aveley Lane, Shimpling, Part In The Parish Of Alpheton IP29 4HB - Planning Application - Erection of 1No detached holiday let - Refused

### **Planning Applications:**

- f. DC/22/03414 - 2 West View, Gents Lane, Shimpling, Bury St Edmunds Suffolk IP29 4HP -  
Householder Application - Erection of single storey side, rear and front extensions and front dormers (following demolition of existing garage) – Members discussed this application and noted the lovely views from this property and decided not to comment on this application.

### **16. Covid19 Emergency Fund**

Members were updated from the Village Hall Committee regarding the donation towards the Platinum Jubilee Celebrations. It was previously agreed to donate £500 towards the Platinum Jubilee Celebrations. The receipts came to £499.01 and this has been paid.

The Halifax Trust have asked for a grant towards a Village Fete. This was discussed in item 3.

### **17. Benches:**

The Clerk updated members that the bench had been delivered and was in the Village Hall being stored. Members discussed the bench location. We need to ask David Barnbrook to install it for us.

**Action: Cllr Haselhurst to speak with David to see when he could do this.**

### **18. Tree Planting:**

No update.

**Action: Clerk to add this to the September meeting agenda.**

### **19. Playground:**

Clerk reported that we have had a quotation from Eastern Play Services in order to complete the matting under the swing and a few other items that were picked up in the risk assessment. We also have a quote from Mortimer Contracts. These quotes were discussed and it was agreed to go with the supply and replace caps on climber and for the swings to be raised, supply soil seed and mats to repair the surface for £310 plus VAT.

**Action: Clerk to go ahead with the works quoted by Mortimer Contracts and tell Eastern Play Services that we can't accept their quotation.**

Concerns over the note that the fence was coming to the end of its useful life were raised and discussed. Clem installed the fence originally so it was suggested we get his comments on this.

**Action: Clerk to contact Clem and ask him for his comments on the playground fence.**

**20. Bridleway Signage:**

Cllr Atkins gave an update and informed members of two quotations for this signage. After a site survey, it was discovered that there was no place to put this signage that wouldn't be on highways land. Members discussed this and decided to go through the route of asking Babergh whether the PC can get a license to install this signage on highways land and if not if this is something they could do and provide us with a quotation for this.

**Action: Clerk to update Sue Salmon on this and email Babergh to see if they could assist with this.**

**21. Laptop:**

Clerk informed members than she had some issues with the laptop, doing lots of updates and being incredibly slow. Dave did a clean up for us on it and checked a few things. He recommended an SSD for it, the quote was given to members and members agreed this was reasonable and to go ahead.

**Action: Clerk to contact Dave and go ahead with this upgrade on the laptop.**

**22. Correspondence Received:**

Clerk informed members about an email regarding fires at Hallifax Place. It was discussed and decided their was very little to PC could do as it has already been passed on to the correct department within Babergh.

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

None received.

**There being no further business the meeting concluded at 9:00pm.**



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

### Praise for 'ambitious' councils from local government peers

Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils are looking to learn from other authorities to further improve their services to residents.

### Shaping social housing for the future

Councillors at Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils will consider the future of social housing this month – with a blueprint for quality and sustainable homes in safe neighbourhoods for tenants.

### Councils' commercial property arm makes £6m profit in 2021/22

Babergh and Mid Suffolk's commercial property company CIFCO made a £6m profit last year – generating £3.75m in net income for the councils to plough back into services, according to a report published this week.

### A rural fleet transformed: Babergh and Mid Suffolk's HVO journey towards net zero carbon emissions

Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils, along with their waste collection provider Serco, are leading the way when it comes to transitioning from standard diesel to Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO), after becoming the first rural councils in the UK to start the switch to the new fuel back in September 2021.

### Plans to revitalise Hamilton Road Quarter revealed

Ambitious plans to regenerate the area around Hamilton Road, Sudbury, could be taken to the next level if proposals are approved by Babergh District Council cabinet.

### Plans for employment land in Hadleigh ready for next stage

An initiative to bring new workspaces to Hadleigh will move to the next stage if Babergh District Council agree a proposal for the sale of part of the land for local retail/ roadside uses to fund the wider scheme development.

## Appendix B: County Councillors report:

### COVID-19 UPDATE - Summary

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

For information on supporting Ukrainian refugees in Suffolk, email: [refugeesupport@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:refugeesupport@suffolk.gov.uk)

Welcome Guidance for Ukrainians arriving in the UK:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/welcome-a-guide-for-ukrainians-arriving-in-the-uk>

### Apology made after investigation finds Suffolk County Council failed to provide occupational therapy for a SEND child

Suffolk County Council has made a formal apology and paid compensation following an Ombudsman investigation.

Suffolk County Council has made a formal apology and paid compensation of £6,350 to a family of a child with special educational needs after an Ombudsman investigation found the council did not provide occupational therapy.

The Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman carried out a review after a complaint was made by the parent of a child with SEND from Lowestoft. The complaint, dating back to 2020, related to the council's failure to ensure that the child received occupational therapy support set out in the child's Education, Health and Care plan. Without this support, the report said, the child's mental health deteriorated and the child became unable to stay in mainstream schooling.

As a result of this investigation, the council has paid compensation and issued a formal apology. The Ombudsman also made four recommendations relating to the way Suffolk County Council delivers SEND services, which are being urgently implemented. SEND services in Suffolk are currently undergoing a wide-scale reform to improve provision. This all-encompassing programme of reform was implemented from September 2021 and progress includes significant new recruitment, increased SEND budget, the provision of 879 extra special school places and strengthened communication practises, and improvement is being seen. At a national level, a recent Government Green paper concluded that the current national SEND system is not performing well, and is consulting on proposals for reform.

In the report, the Ombudsman recognised the extent of work ongoing by Suffolk County Council to improve the way SEND provision is delivered, and welcomed the commitment to widespread review and reform. The Ombudsman has given the council four months to complete the recommendations made. The case, and the progress made, will be reviewed by Suffolk County Council's Audit Committee on September 15, 2022.

It is the council's duty to ensure the delivery of the provision set out in the Education, Health and Care plan even when this is provided by partners.

### Suffolk launches £150,000 Match Funder scheme for community action on the climate emergency

A £150,000 fund has been opened to applications from not-for-profit organisations looking to deliver community-based carbon reduction projects in Suffolk. The Suffolk Climate Action Community Match Fund will be provided by the Suffolk Public Sector Leaders group as part of its work to address the climate emergency.

The new fund is available to charities, community interest companies, parish councils, voluntary groups and other not-for-profit organisations whose projects contribute to Suffolk's Climate Emergency Plan and support our vision for Suffolk to become carbon neutral by 2030.

The projects funded could include improving the energy efficiency of buildings, promoting walking and cycling, using sustainable/recycled materials, or raising awareness of climate change through events, among others.

The fund will support up to 50% of costs (up to a maximum of £10,000) for projects that can demonstrate support from others in the community in the form of contributions from multiple other sponsors for the remaining project costs.

Community fundraising platforms online can be a great way of promoting a project and drawing in donations from sponsors; once sufficient community sponsorship has been raised, a full application to the Match Funder scheme can then be submitted.

To register an initial expression of interest for your project, to check that your project is eligible for the Match Funder scheme, or if you are developing an idea and need some advice, please contact David Walton by email at [david.walton@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:david.walton@suffolk.gov.uk)

### **Suffolk looks closer this modern Slavery Awareness Week**

The Suffolk Safer Stronger Communities Board (SSCB) is raising awareness of Modern Slavery this week as part of a local campaign. The campaign, 'Suffolk Looks Closer' will support people to spot the signs of Modern Slavery and empower them to report any concerns.

Modern Slavery is an umbrella term used when someone is coerced or forced to do something they don't want to do and another person gains from this exploitation. Victims of Modern Slavery are held against their will and are often unseen and unheard. They can be of any age, gender, nationality and ethnicity. It is often hidden in plain sight, making it harder to recognise victims. People are often unable to escape because of fear for their own lives or for the lives of their family, or because they don't know who to turn to or who to trust. 40.3 million people worldwide are estimated to be victims of Modern Slavery.

There are five main types of Modern Slavery, but the focus recently was labour exploitation and sexual exploitation. Labour exploitation is when victims are forced to work against their will for long hours and for little or no pay, in poor conditions and under verbal or physical threats of violence to them or their families. Sexual exploitation is when victims are pressured or manipulated into sexual activity. Victims are primarily women and children, but men can be affected too.

The Modern Slavery Network, which reports to the SSCB will be hosted a number of community events in Bury St Edmunds, Lowestoft, Sudbury and Ipswich, where people were able to speak to representatives from Suffolk Police, Suffolk County Council and local District and Borough Councils.

### **Big steps being taken on long road to reforming special educational needs**

*By Councillor Rachel Hood, Cabinet Member for Education, SEND and Skills, at Suffolk County Council.*

It has been a year since we commissioned a review into Suffolk County Council's special educational needs provision. I wanted to use this opportunity to explain to you our progress and where we are. In July 2021, a team from Lincolnshire County Council analysed the work we do within SEND. They made nine recommendations which we immediately started to implement. Since then, a huge amount of work has been done to improve what we do. In fact, we have greatly widened our improvement plan to encompass all of SEND, rather than the focused review carried out by Lincolnshire. Some of our key improvements include more effective communication to families, 42 new members of staff to bolster capacity and further recruitment is planned with an additional £1.1million, new staff training, strengthened SEND data and greater partnership work.

Another piece of work which is making such a difference to the lives of hundreds of Suffolk families is the opening of new SEND places. So far 500 new places have opened with another 325 due to open between now and 2024. Planning for the next round of new units and placements is also already underway. The growth in numbers of children with SEND, especially those with EHCPs (around 6,400 in Suffolk), means we must continue to build new specialist places, either aligned to mainstream schools or as new special schools. I have visited some of the new units and seen first-hand what a difference that can make. Children and young people often have very different needs and we must

ensure that we provide them with the right education in the right place. Sometimes mainstream schools allow SEND children to flourish, whereas other children are happier and do better in a specialist unit. In Suffolk we, rightly, offer a mix of provision.

I am confident with the progress of reform taking place, but this is not an easy or quick reform. We have a long way to go and I recognise that many families are still unhappy with the provision they have. I can only offer my reassurances that this is priority of the council and the team is working incredibly hard to improve our services. The provision of special educational needs has challenges nationally. A recent Government Green Paper concluded that the current system of SEND provision is not working as well as it should. A consultation is now open after which the Government will present national reform measures. Here in Suffolk, we have already embarked on an all-encompassing reform of the services we offer, but, of course, we are limited to a certain extent by the parameters of the national system in which we operate. An issue within Suffolk, which is also acutely felt nationally, is a shortage of education psychologists, speech and language therapists and occupational therapists. We continue to address this and work with our colleagues in the NHS who provide this provision, but this shortage will take time and effort to rectify, especially if not supported by national plans.

I also want to add reassurance that our reform progress is being monitored by other people. A recent visit by colleagues from the Department for Education reported they were happy with the pace and content of reform. SEND reform has also been reviewed by the Education Scrutiny Committee twice since the Lincolnshire Review. The committee is made up of cross-party councillors who, quite rightly, robustly hold us to account on everything we do. We also work daily with the Suffolk Parent Carer Forum, who are our link to families and help us co-produce our work, and with whom we have many constructive and honest conversations. We are grateful for the work of these volunteers.

Finally, I just want to thank staff within the SEND team, who share my determination to turn around this provision. We are unified in our desire to make sure all children and young people in Suffolk get the best start in life. Staff are working really hard to make very positive improvements to the way we do things.