

Shimpling Parish Council
Minutes of Meeting of the Council
Monday 12th July 2021, 7:30pm at Shimpling Village Hall

Present:

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

District Councillor: Cllr Stephen Plumb, Cllr Michael Holt

Clerk: Natasha Byford

1. **Apologies for absence:** Cllr Brown sent her 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:** Nothing to disclose.
 - b) **To consider requests for dispensation for the agenda item(s) under discussion:** None received

3. Public Participation session

One member of the public (MOP) attended.

4. Approval of minutes of the previous meeting:

The minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting (AGM) held on Wednesday 5th May 2021 were approved.

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

5. Chair's report:

Chair Brunwin gave the following report:

It's been relatively quiet since our last meeting.

I attended a short webinar course on managing good performance which was although fairly basic, was useful.

I also attended Village Hall Committee AGM via Zoom and I can report that Nathalie Brown has agreed to replace Colin Johnston who was one of the PC representatives on the committee following his move from the village.

Nathalie and I also met regarding the wildflower planting initiative and she has kindly agreed to take this forward.

Work has now started on the land next to the village green. I received correspondence from a representative of one of our residents concerned that the developers were in breach of their planning conditions. This was reported to Babergh Planning Enforcement who admit that there are some breaches but it seems little that they will do about it.

I feel frustrated that we continually have to chase both the district and County Councils (most recently for a response regarding the recycling bank lay-by and planning enforcement) and I thank our District and County Councillors for helping us to get responses for us.

Footpath No 7 has now been refurbished and has been reopened. My thanks go to Colin Johnson and Gerry Shrimpton for their hard work on this. I have received many positive comments from the local community so I think this project has been very much appreciated and was a job well done. I would also like to extend our thanks to Saffron West who very kindly agreed to allow the contractors to access the footpath from her land in order to get the job done. As some of you may be aware, Saffron's father, Nigel, died suddenly last year and later in the meeting I will be putting forward a suggestion to name the footpath after him.

Thanks also go to Colin Johnson for his hard work on gaining Quiet Lanes status for Gents Lane. This has now been approved and is awaiting signage.

Our thanks also go to Laurence Rooke for their help in fixing the door frame of the telephone box and for repointing the village sign.

Finally, it is my sad duty to report that, following his move to Northern Ireland, Colin Johnson will be leaving Shimpling Parish Council. I know that I speak for all those on the Parish Council when I thank him for all his hard work and commitment to our local community during his time with us. Colin has a wealth of expertise in planning and I know that we have all learnt so much from him which will help us with future planning applications. It's important to mention at this point that despite requests, Babergh offer little help training councillors on planning matters so we are all novices in this very complicated area of expertise. We now have a vacancy on the Parish Council and would welcome applications from anyone living in the village who could bring expertise in this or any other area which will help the village.

The District Councillors said they would assist in finding suitable training courses for Councillors.

6. **District Councillors report:** Cllr Stephen Plumb and Cllr Michael Holt had nothing more to add to their report, which was sent out to members prior to the meeting and is in Appendix A below.
7. **County Councillors report:** Cllr Richard Kemp was not present but a summary of his report, which was circulated to members prior to the meeting, is in Appendix B below.

8. **Crime matters:**

The new county wide newsletter available was dated June 2021 and is available online:

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

The Clerk reported that the June newsletter was circulated to Councillors along with the papers for the crime update. There have been new officers joined the team. There has been a couple of notable arrests and investigations arising from the Sudbury Safer Neighbourhood Team initiative. Community engagement events have started up again and the volunteer Police Cadets are back to face to face

meetings. District Councillor Holt said he would try to set up another meeting with our local Police representative. Cllr Rush reported that there had been Suffolk Farm Watch and Guardian Club set up in order to keep an eye on local farms, he felt the rural crime team had had much more success in the last 12 months. The issue of hare coursing came to a head when a group were arrested locally but members shared their disappointment at the light sentences the perpetrators were given. The issue of fly tipping locally was also noted.

Action: Cllr Holt to try and set up a meeting with our local Police representative.

9. Village Hall:

- a) **Village Hall Committee** – Cllr Shrimpton gave a quick update on behalf of the Village Hall Committee, to say they had held a meeting on the 15th June. They had been cleaning the hall regularly. The bookings had been less frequent. The closing balance was around £1,500 and opening balance was around £1,400. The cart race has had to be cancelled. The VH Committee would like to accept the PCs offer to pay for the storage boxes which have been purchased. It was noted the budget review for the VH maintenance will be discussed by the PC in October. Cllr Brown has agreed to replace Cllr Johnston as he has resigned from the Parish Council.
- b) The Clerk informed members that we paid business rates of £14.05.
- c) The installation of Wifi in the Village Hall was discussed again and it was decided to go ahead with this.

Action: Clerk to check if previous quotation still stands.

10. Responsible Finance Officer's Finance Report:

- 10a) The Clerk updated members, noting that the PC have received a further £8,000 in Covid Grant funding (on 5th May 21).
- 10b) The Clerk informed members to note the Zoom Subscription invoice has altered from what was reported at the last meeting from £59.95 to £71.94. Members approved taking this amount from the Covid Grant Fund.
- 10c) 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 | £3,857.03 |
| Business Account | £40,079.15 |
| Including CIL of | £1,689.00 |
| Earmarked Reserves of | £7,295.00 |
| General Reserves of | £4,655.09 |
| COVID Grant of | £27,338.13 |

10d) To acknowledge payments made outside the meeting

- **Zoom Subscription** **£71.94**
(LGA 1972, s.111)
- **SALC Audit Fee** **£292.80**
(LGA 1972, s.111)
- **L.Rooke – Phone Door and Village Sign** **£160.00**
(LGA 1972, s.111)
- **Babergh Litter & Dog Bin Emptying** **£96.74**
(Litter Act 1983, ss. 5-6)
- **SALC Elearning Intro to Planning** **£16.80**
(LGA 1972, s.111)
- **Babergh – VH Business Rates** **£14.05**
(LGA 1972, s. 133)

10e) The following amounts were approved for payment:

- **Clerk's Net salary after Tax (N. Byford)** **£389.92**
- **HMRC Tax payment (N. Byford)** **£97.60**
LGA 1972 s. 111 (ancillary Powers)
- **Lark Valley Willow – Grass Cutting** **£774.00**
(Open Spaces Act 1906 ss. 9-10)
- **SALC Training (Managing Performance)** **£30.00**
(LGA 1972, s.111)
- **Earthworks – Footpath 7 works** **£6042.00**
(Public Health Act 1985 s. 164)
- **Village Hall Storage Boxes** **£162.00**
(LGA 1972, s. 133)
- **BA Home Maintenance (footpath step)** **£150.00**
(LGA 1972, s.111)

The above payment schedule was approved by members. It was noted that there was a saving on the storage boxes and on the step for the footpath opposite The Bush.

10f) Members discussed and agreed to take the extra cost on SALC internal audit of £54 (it was £244 rather than £190) out of the Covid grant fund.

11. Audit:

11a) The Clerk went through the Audit Action Plan 2021 and members signed this off as addressed and closed.

- 12. 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:

Summary of Progress: During the period (19th April – 4th July), I have worked within the given time frame of 4 hours per week, this included preparing and sending the external audit, the actions from our Annual General Meeting and normal duties. I have taken 4 hours annual leave. The Clerk's record of work was reviewed and accepted.

13. Footpaths:

- 13a)** The Chair gave an update regarding Footpath 7 which runs from The Street round to Gents Lane, and thanked Cllr Johnstone and Cllr Shrimpton for their hard work with this project. It was noted that the brambles can get out of control there.

Action: Chair to speak with Chris Cooke to check this is on the strimming list

- 13b)** Members considered the quotation of £592 plus VAT and the second quotation that they received of £600 including VAT to add guttering to the overhanging buildings beside Footpath7 in order to protect the crushed granite. It was decided to go ahead with the £600 including VAT quote.

Action: Clerk to email both contractors to thank them and proceed with the £600 including VAT quote.

- 13c)** A member suggested naming Footpath7, this was discussed and agreed that it should be named 'Nigels Way' and that this would be a lovely way of remembering Nigel West who owned the building next to the footpath and who died suddenly last year.

Action: Clerk to contact Mrs Ross to thank her for use of the space and inform her of the Council's intention to erect a sign and name the footpath after her father.

Action: Chair Brunwin to look into carved stones and investigate ideas to bring to the next meeting.

- 13d)** The Chair informed members that a step has been added to the Footpath opposite The Bush; thanks were expressed to Ben Hutchinson and it was reported that the step was sturdy and looked good.

14. Recycling:

The Chair informed members that we had received two quotes for improving the lay-by and recycling area. In line with our Financial Regulations, we require a further quote and this will be sought in the coming weeks before a final decision is made.

The Chair informed members that the paper bank taken away as it is no longer viable for them to continue with the service. This has been chased as it was noted that the bin was extremely full.

Action: To get a further quotation for the recycling bank works.

15. Planning:

The Clerk gave an update on planning applications:

Planning Decisions:

- 15a)** DC/21/01797 - Primrose Cottage, The Street, Shimpling, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, IP29 4HS - Listed Building Consent - Erection of single storey rear extension (following the demolition of existing extension) - Granted
- 15b)** DC/21/01796 - Primrose Cottage, The Street, Shimpling, Buy St Edmunds, Suffolk, IP29 4HS - Householder application - Erection of single storey rear extension (following the demolition of existing extension) - Granted
- 15c)** DC/21/01886 - Giffords Hall Hartest Hill Shimpling Suffolk IP29 4EX - Application to determine if Prior Approval is required for a Proposed. Change of Use from Offices (B1a) to Dwellinghouses (C3) Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 as amended Schedule 2, Class 3, Part O - Change of Use to Holiday Let – Refused
- 15d)** DC/21/02336 - Land South Of The Street The Street Shimpling IP29 4HS - Discharge of Conditions Application for DC/18/04254 - Condition 13 (Agreement of Materials) – Granted
- 15e)** DC/21/02438 - Home Farm, Chadacre, Shimpling, Suffolk IP29 4JD - Application to determine if Prior Approval is required for a proposed Erection, Extension or Alteration of a Building for Agricultural or Forestry Use. Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 as amended Schedule 2, Part 6 - Erection of agricultural storage building (following demolition of existing building) – Decided Formal Approval Not Required

Planning Applications:

- 15f)** DC/21/03538 - Home Farm Chadacre Shimpling Suffolk IP29 4JD - Full Planning Application – Construction of new bulk grain store building with associated bulk lpg tanks, erection of an extension to existing open Dutch barn, construction of drainage swale/lagoon and infill of existing cut with excavated materials. (following demolition of existing workshop, redundant livestock area associated with old dairy and bulk grain store building)

This application was discussed, it was noted that Natural England were happy with the application and that there had been a noise survey done. There were also no near neighbours to consider. Members agree to support the application.

Action: Clerk to write letter to planning to support this application.

16. The Bush

The Chair informed members that the Bush Inn hoped to open in July.

17. Covid19 Emergency Fund

- 17a)** Members were asked to consider paying the utility bills for the Village Hall from October 2020 to May 2021. This was agreed.

17b) To receive applications from the emergencies fund.

The Village Hall have submitted the following invoices:

- Water bill £62.85
- Electric bill £316.23
- Cleaning £20

These invoices were discussed and members felt that the cleaning invoice was fine and could be paid. Concerns were raised over the large electricity bill for the period when the hall had been closed. It was agreed in principle to pay these bills once we have an accurate amount.

Action: Cllr Shrimpton to look into this and get an accurate breakdown of each invoice.

18. Quiet Lanes:

The Chair gave an update on Quiet Lanes and noted that Quiet Lanes status for Gents Lane was all agreed, we are just awaiting the small sign to be put up. There has been a lot of favourable comments regarding this. Thanks were expressed to Cllr Johnston for all his work with this.

19. Old Rectory Lane:

It was discussed whether the PC could apply for Quiet Lane status for Old Rectory Lane and unfortunately due to the application deadlines and the fact that some of the road is unadopted, this would not be possible.

20. The Coal House:

The PC raised concerns over the Coal House, it was noted that in previous years, the Parish Council had sent a letter and email to the owner but had and received no response. Members expressed concerns over the deterioration of the Coal House and Cllr Plumb suggested that we wait on the assessment for the building to see whether it qualified for the at-risk register.

Action: To add this to the next meeting agenda when we know more following the assessment

21. Stone Cottage:

Members expressed further concerns that the garage which had previously been converted to living accommodation without consent was still being lived in. Cllr Plumb suggested he may be able to assist us with the enquiries on this.

Action: Cllr Hasselhurst to send paper trail of previous correspondence regarding this matter to Cllr Plumb

22. Halifax Trust:

Members were pleased to confirm the appointment of Stuart Palmer as a new Trustee of the Halifax Trust.

Action: Clerk to send a letter to Halifax Trust to confirm this appointment

23. Correspondence Received:

- None received (other than that regarding Land South of The Street which was discussed previously).

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

Chair Brunwin wanted to mention that Cllr Johnston had attended the Teams meeting regarding the Joint Local Plan and that there were a lot of technical issues with this. Due to the number of complaints, it has been rescheduled to September and will be doing this in one stage now, rather than two. The PC put forward comments that had been ignored. The PC are concerned about the two green spaces on The Street and the alteration of the Parish boundary. It was suggested we await to hear the time and date of the next meeting and then decide who the representative for the Parish will be.

Cllr Haselhurst updated members that there had been a new valuation for the village hall and that this had increased.

Action: Clerk to update asset register to show new valuation

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

Appendix A: District Councillors Report:

- An update on Covid-19 in Suffolk

Regular bulletins continue to be produced to give a snapshot of the current Covid-19 situation in Suffolk - along with updates on the work being carried out as part of Suffolk's Local Outbreak Control Plan. You can find the bulletins through existing fortnightly updates for councillors, or via the Suffolk County Council website.

An update on the vaccine rollout can be found on the SNEE NHS COVID-19 Vaccination Service website. We continue to play our part in response to the pandemic, alongside public sector colleagues within the Suffolk Resilience Forum, supporting in the event of local outbreaks as well as continuing to offer support to our communities and businesses. Please see the council website for more information.

- Councils' Joint Local Plan examination to reconvene in September

Hearing sessions for the examination of our councils' Joint Local Plan are expected to resume again in September following a change of date – enabling them to be fully inclusive, whilst also ensuring public safety during the COVID-19 pandemic.

It is anticipated that the Stage 1 sessions, originally scheduled for June and July, will now take place over a concentrated period from September, with Stage 2 hearing sessions in mid-Autumn as originally planned.

- Next steps for councils' biodiversity and climate change plans agreed

Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils have given the go ahead for £97k for projects aimed at boosting biodiversity and tackling climate change across their districts.

Find out more

- Local leisure centre to benefit from green initiative

Councillors on Babergh District Council cabinet recently agreed funding for a new, more energy efficient, pool water cleaning system at Kingfisher Leisure Centre in Sudbury.

The new system is expected to reduce Kingfisher's annual carbon emissions by between 6.4 and 8.6 tonnes, and, if successful, will be considered for the three other council-owned leisure centres across both Babergh and Mid Suffolk.

- New 'virtual' high street supports market town's recovery

Shopping in Hadleigh is now just a click away thanks to the launch of new Virtual High Street sites. Over 100 new businesses have signed up to new sites in Hadleigh and Stowmarket, joining over 130 already signed up to the platform in Sudbury.

- Joint Overview & Scrutiny Committee approves CIFCO plans for 2021/22

Councillors on Overview & Scrutiny have approved CIFCO's annual business plan ahead of its review by Full Council, with the property investment company having now brought in more than £5.4m to help fund services and projects for residents in Babergh and Mid Suffolk.

- Councils to provide financial lifeline for local projects

Don't forget! Applications are now open for Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils' Locality Awards funding – enabling communities to improve facilities, learn new skills and work towards becoming environmentally sustainable.

- Celebrations to mark Armed Forces Week

The council proudly flew the flag for our Armed Forces last month with a range of events to show support for our service personnel.

- CIL funding supports future investment in Babergh

The latest Community Infrastructure Levy round sees housing growth in Babergh fund £346,000-worth of vital improvements, including the transformation of a village hall, as well as the expansion of a local secondary school, following agreement by councillors last month.

- Belle Vue Park entrance on the agenda

Plans to realise the full potential of a new entrance for Belle Vue Park, including a new café and fully accessible toilets for visitors with disabilities, are to be considered by Babergh District Council's cabinet in July.

- Boost for business as new workspaces agreed for Hadleigh

Businesses in Babergh could benefit from new workspaces at a key location in Hadleigh following a decision from Babergh District Council to progress the development of 1.5 acres of allocated employment land.

- Changes agreed to social housing allocation system to ensure fairness and consistency

Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Council cabinets both recently agreed amendments to Gateway to Homechoice - the lettings system used to allocate social housing across the local authority areas of Babergh, Braintree, Colchester, East Suffolk, Ipswich, Maldon and Mid Suffolk.

The changes have been made in response to national legislative and policy changes, including a new Code of Guidance issued by the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government in December 2020, and will ensure that key decisions can be made fairly and consistently by all Gateway local authorities.

- Performance update

Cabinet members for Babergh District Council recently considered the latest performance reports, highlighting the council's outstanding response to the pandemic, whilst continuing to deliver against the Corporate Plan. The full report provides an insight into what service areas have achieved over the last quarter and is available to view on the council's website.

Appendix B: County Councillors report:

- COVID-19 UPDATE - Summary

Latest Government advice is available here: www.gov.uk/coronavirus

- One jab is half a job - why you should get your second vaccination

Men aged between 20 and 49 are being urged by health bosses to 'finish the job' and get their second COVID vaccination, as figures showed they lag behind.

Analysis from public health at Suffolk County Council shows that in the 20-49 age groups, 75% of eligible females have had their first vaccine dose and 42% have also had their second dose. But in the same age range, 66% of eligible males have had their first vaccine dose and just 27% have had their second.

The figures come as Suffolk Resilience Forum unveiled a new video promoting the message 'One Jab Is Half A Job' to promote the importance of everyone getting fully vaccinated.

'One Jab Is Half A Job' can be viewed on the Suffolk County Council YouTube page.

To book a vaccination go to the Suffolk and North East Essex Care Group website or call NHS 119.

- Review of SEND provision

Suffolk County Council has commissioned an immediate independent review into Special Educational Needs and Disability provision. There has been a lot of concern expressed by parents and carers about this area of service, with high levels of dissatisfaction being publicised, particularly through the group Campaign for Change (SEND Suffolk). A multi-agency team from Lincolnshire will carry out an independent review into the way parents and carers are communicated with and kept informed of their child's SEND provision in Suffolk.

The review will focus on the processes, communication protocols and family-facing elements of SEND services within Suffolk County Council. It will not look at specific cases or the provision given to specific children. The review started in June and will be completed within six weeks.

The report, with any recommendations, will be published on Suffolk County Council's website, shared with those who contributed to it and also scrutinised, in public, by the council's Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Committee.

- Boundary Commission Review: Suffolk parliamentary constituencies

This review seeks to regularise the size of constituencies across the country, the proposals are for a significant re-shaping of the current Suffolk constituencies. The boundary commission are consulting on their initial proposals for an eight-week period, from 8 June 2021 to 2 August 2021. They encourage everyone to use this opportunity to help shape the new constituencies – the more responses received, the more informed their decisions will be when considering whether to revise our proposals. The consultation portal at www.bcereviews.org.uk has more information about their proposals and how to give your views on them.

- Highways: Overgrown paths and footways, potholes

After extra rainfall, the last month or so has seen exuberant growth of foliage alongside roads and paths. Staff and contractors are out and about cutting footpaths and verges but are playing catch-up. If there are particular problems these can be reported through the online highways reporting tool: <https://highwaysreporting.suffolk.gov.uk/> or contact me direct.

A number of significant road repairs have been done recently but potholes continue to be reported. This is an area where SCC has significant budget constraints and often does not have the funds to do the repairs that residents would like to see. The Council is seeking a better highways funding settlement from central government, as well as reviewing its contract with Kier which expires September 2023.

- Bus back better

This initiative by central government is essentially a reaction to Covid 19, but on closer inspection it may lead to re-regulation of bus services - which could be a positive move for rural Suffolk.

The de-regulated services we have at present have led to the decimation of rural services, as this policy makes it unlawful to cross subsidise routes, i.e., if an operator makes profit on a busy route, they cannot use that money to subsidise a loss-making route elsewhere. This policy was originally aimed at cities and towns where multiple operators were competing, this was never a problem in rural areas. Re-regulation will mean that an operator can cross-subsidise once again, this should allow for greater choice and service to our rural community.

The offer from government asks for a plan from participating authorities, to bid into a central pot, to help fund not only this renewal of services, but also government are offering 4000 zero emission electric buses that can also be bid for.

We have asked the conservative administration how many of these zero emission buses will we secure for Suffolk, I am disappointed they would not commit to any number, as the small print in the government offer asks for up to 30% of the cost of each Bus bid for. With this being the case, it is highly likely that the most of these buses will end up in a large town or city. On a population split, Suffolk ought to be able to secure 40 of these Buses, if they were focussed in say Ipswich or Lowestoft, we could radically reduce emissions as well as encourage much needed "modal shift" in transport.