

Shimpling Parish Council

Minutes of Meeting of the Council

Monday 12th September 2022, 7:30pm at Shimpling Village Hall

Before the meeting started, the Clerk proposed that the Council observe a minute's silence in memory of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

Present:

Councillors: Katie Haselhurst, Gerry Shrimpton, Nathalie Brown, David Dunkley, Liz Brunwin (Chair)

Clerk: Natasha Byford

- 1.1 Election of Chair:** The Clerk opened the meeting and welcomed those in attendance. Cllr Shrimpton stepped down as Chair last week. The Clerk then asked for nominations for election of a new Chair. A nomination was received for Cllr Brunwin to Chair the council. This was seconded by Cllr Brown. There being no other nominations, this proposal was voted on and confirmed. Cllr Brunwin 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 Richard Kemp, Cllr Stephen Plumb, Cllr Michael Holt all 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

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 11th July 2022 were approved.

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

5. Chair's report:

Cllr Shrimpton gave the following report from his last couple of months as Chair:

Over the last couple of months, we have seen the installation of our much-awaited bench at the end of Nigel's Way. Many thanks to Dave Barnbrook for his efforts in securely siting. We have also seen at last the installation of Wi-Fi in the village hall.

However, on the downside we continue to be unsuccessful in obtaining agreement on the siting of the 'Quiet Lane' sign in Gents Lane despite repeated and unanswered correspondence with Keith Sampson Traffic Regulation Officer.

Also, on the downside we regrettably accepted the resignation of Mike Atkins after about 4 years of valuable and conscientious service. His contribution will be greatly missed. but we look forward to his return when time and commitments allow. So, thanks Mike and we look forward to seeing you back in the not-too-distant future.

Overshadowing everything is the sad passing of our Queen of the last 70 years I am sure the villagers of Shimpling will join the council in expressing our condolences to the Royal family for their loss and our gratitude for all she has contributed to our lives for the past seven decade.

6. District Councillors report: Was sent round prior to the meeting and had no questions raised. The report is in Appendix A below.

7. County Councillors report: Was sent round prior to the meeting and had no questions raised. The report is in Appendix B below.

8. Crime matters:

The new county wide newsletter available was dated June 2022 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. Nothing Shimpling specific. Suffolk Constabulary was represented at a lot of events over the last couple of months including the Suffolk and Hadleigh shows, ITFC Community days and a fundraiser at AFC Sudbury. They have been to local secondary schools interviewing year 10 students and collectively staged a drink driving RTC scenario.

9. Village Hall:

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

The Village Hall are now on the new energy prices and is getting a smart meter installed on the 20th September. Bookings for Pilates seems popular and looking at adding more things to benefit the Village such as Zumba, games and movie nights. The harvest supper in the hall is

booked for the 1st October and there will be a shanty evening in January. The kitchen has been redecorated and Cllr Brown will chase up fixing or replacing the rotten fire door.

b) The Clerk gave an update regarding Wifi in the Village Hall, this is installed and up and running! It was discussed that the wires possibly require some sort of boxing in and that the password should be changed at least yearly.

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	£1,083.31
Business Account	£34,732.91
Including CIL of	£3,941.26
Earmarked Reserves of	£11,284.61
General Reserves of	£4,698.00
COVID Grant of	£12,518.12

10b) To acknowledge payments made outside the meeting

- **Donation to Shimpling & Alpheton PCC £750.00**
(LGA 1972, s. 145(1)(a))
- **Laptop SSD works £126.84**
(LGA 1972, s.111)
- **Laptop Support (yearly) £120.00**
(LGA 1972, s.111)
- **Zen Internet £13.81**
(LGA 1972, s.111)
- **Ace Fire £183.00**
(LGA 1972, s.133)
- **Shimpling VH Kitchen Redecoration £295.00**
(LGA 1972, s.133)

10c) The following amounts were approved for payment:

- **Lark Valley Grass Cutting £582.00**
(Public Health Act 1875, s.164)
- **Clerk's Net salary after Tax £335.75**
- **HMRC Tax payment £84.00**
- **Clerk's expenses (Notebook&Fuel) £12.55**
LGA 1972 s. 111 (ancillary Powers)
- **Training for Cllr Dunkley (Item 21) £156.00**
(LGA 1972, s.111)

- **Zen Internet** **£38.99**
(LGA 1972, s.111)

The above payment schedule was approved by members.

- 10d)** The Clerk noted that The Council have received money from bank interest 32p and £1.17. Received this week (and so not in time to update the figures) were the Precept £5,206.50 and recycling credit of £163.27 has been filled in.

- 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 (4th July – 4th Sept), I have worked 30 minutes over the given time frame of 4 hours per week, this included organising all the paperwork for the September meeting, agendas, actions from the July meeting, organising payments, as well as general administration and taking some Annual Leave. The Clerk's record of work was reviewed and accepted.

11b) Members discussed increasing the Clerks salary, following a successful yearly review. This was agreed and increased to SCP 12 at £11.73 per hour.

11c) Members discussed increasing the Clerks hours from 4 to 5 per week. It was agreed that this would go ahead and the Clerks hours would be for 5 hours per week.

- 12. SID**

Members discussed the renewal contract for the SID and it was agreed to renew the Silver Membership. It was noted that it may be worth having the Gold Membership as the SID gets a little older.

Action: Clerk to renew this.

- 13. Email Addresses**

Cllr Dunkley went through the Risk Assessment he had prepared regarding Council email security. It was thought that there was a small risk there, however there would still be a small risk even with a more secure provider as we would never have full control. The cost outweighed the risk for a small organisation like the PC. It was decided to keep monitoring the situation, as things can change and to add the Email Addresses Risk Assessment to our annual review process.

Action: Clerk to add the Email Risk Assessment to the annual reviews.

14. Footpaths:

Clerk updated members that we are awaiting Mortimer Contracts to do this works, the last update they sent was that it was looking like October time for the work to be carried out. It was requested that Nigel's Way has a monthly strim in the growing season. It was also requested that we get a quote for a one off clearing of the ditch beside Nigel's Way.

**Action: Clerk to get quote for monthly strim of Nigel's Way during the growing season.
Clerk to get a quote for a one off clearing of the ditch beside Nigel's Way.**

15. Projects:

a) Only the Village Hall and Playground were discussed as larger projects in the Village.

b) Cllr Shrimpton informed members that he has still not received a firm decision from the owner of the land. Members discussed that this may mean that only indoor projects would be possible and that the PC should attempt to seek advice from an architect. Lots of ideas were discussed, including the provision of more parking spaces.

Cllr Brown said reported she had a meeting regarding making the Village Hall more energy efficient.

Actions: Cllr Brown to talk to John Stebbings and Clem Warner regarding architecture and parking. Cllr Shrimpton to talk to David Barnbrook and Tony Heighes regarding the same.

Cllr Haselhurst reported that she had asked via the WhatsApp group regarding what children (and parents) may like on the playground. A few suggestions came back, a willow maze, bouncy pillow, trampoline, basketball hoop, seesaw, table tennis. It was discussed and agreed that the PC should look into the basketball hoop that's attached with a football goal and get some quotes for this.

Action: Cllr Haselhurst to get quotes for the football goal with hoop as well as considerations for flooring for the basketball area.

c) Members discussed the idea of outside table tennis and received the 4 quotations for this. It was felt that it could be problematic to play if it was windy and there was a discussion on whether the PC would provide bats and balls or whether people bring their own. The possible location in the play park was also discussed. It was also noted that the VH have a table tennis table that isn't used. Members decided to try and open up the Village Hall with the table tennis table set up, maybe on a Saturday morning and see if there was much uptake for people playing it between now and the beginning of next year and if there was then to revisit the idea of an outside table tennis table.

16. Planning:

The Chair 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 – Appeal in progress
- b. 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) – Awaiting decision
- c. DC/22/02240 - Flint Barn Thorne Court Shimpling Road Shimpling Bury St Edmunds Suffolk - Discharge of Conditions Application Condition 1 (Detailed Photographic Recording), Condition 4 (Electric Vehicle Charging) and Condition 5 (Cycle Storage) – Action required
- d. AP/22/00071 - Aveley House Aveley Lane Shimpling Part In The Parish Of Alpheton IP29 4HB - Planning Application - Erection of 1No detached holiday let. – Appeal Lodged

Planning Applications:

None

17. Covid19 Emergency Fund

We have paid the £750 donation to Alpheton and Shimpling PCC towards the running costs of the Fete. It was also mentioned that the bus stop was looking filthy and members agreed to getting quotes to have this cleaned and agreed this could come from CIL or Covid Fund.

Action: Chair Brunwin to get a quote to get the bus stop cleaned.

18. Benches:

Cllr Shrimpton updated members David Barnbrook kindly installed the bench for us, the PC thanked David for doing this and reported it looked lovely and the bench was great quality.

19. Tree Planting:

Cllr Haselhurst reported that she was awaiting quotes for the Cherry Tree. Members agreed that if the quote was for less than £150 that Cllr Haselhurst could go ahead and purchase the tree as members were mindful of the timings regarding planting such trees. This was agreed to be funded from the Covid Grant.

20. Playground:

The Clerk reported that we are still awaiting the agreed works (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) from Mortimer Contracts to go ahead. Hopefully this will be done soon.

Concerns about the deterioration of the fence raised and discussed. Three contractors had been asked to quote and so far we have only received one full and one estimate. Members discussed and decided it would be nice to get the work done quickly and that the Clerk should ask Gary Cann whether he could give a more detailed quote. Cllrs agreed that the work to go ahead so long as his quote came in under £700.

Action: Clerk to speak with Gary Cann regarding the final quote and if under £700 then go ahead and approve this works.

Cllr Haselhurst also brought up the idea of booking in the playground inspection with Mortimer Contracts as we know how busy they are. It is due in early March.

Action: Clerk to book in the playground inspection with Mortimer Contracts now for the end of February 2023.

21. Bridleway Signage:

The Clerk gave an update that the PC would need to buy the license and then purchase signs and install, within the guidelines they set out. Cllrs discussed and were concerned regarding the implications of not only installing these signs on highways land but also insuring them and the PC against any risks and also the concerns that Highways did not deem the signs necessary. After much debate, it was decided that we would go back to the resident who had raised the issue to inform her that Highways had advised that they did not feel that the signs were necessary but that the PC would pay for the licence (or licenses) and add the signs to their asset list and insurance and maintain them, if the resident was prepared to purchase and install the signage (within the guidelines set out by Highways).

Action: Clerk to find out if we would require 1 or 2 licenses (ie 1 license per sign or 1 for the project) and to update the resident of the PC's decision on this matter.

22. Training:

Members discussed and agreed to go ahead with the SALC training for Cllr Dunkley.

Action: Clerk to go ahead with payment for this.

23. Budget:

Volunteers for the budget working group on Tuesday 1st November at 9:30 in the Village Hall were asked for. Cllrs Shrimpton, Haselhurst and Dunkley volunteered.

24. AV Equipment:

Members discussed purchasing second hand AV equipment for the Village Hall. This was agreed and noted that we couldn't get quotes as this was second hand equipment and so like for like quotes were unavailable. It was agreed to take this cost from the Covid fund and hoped that this would bring new opportunity for revenue within the Village Hall. Members requested quotations for installation of the equipment and Cllr Brown has someone to get a quote to install this. Members agreed that if installation costs were less than £500 then to go ahead and get this done and the PC would take this from the Covid Fund. Cllr Shrimpton suggested that the Village Hall Committee could make a donation towards this.

25. Correspondence Received:

None.

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

Cllr Shrimpton reported that we were getting nowhere with the Quiet Lanes sign and so it was agreed to try and collect the sign and put it up ourselves.

Action: Clerk to contact Quiet Lanes team to see if we can collect the sign.

Cllr Shrimpton asked members on their thoughts regarding a story board of the history of Shimpling and map of Shimpling that could perhaps be placed near the bench. Members agreed this would be a good addition to the village.

Action: Cllr Shrimpton to look into this and get quotes.

Cllr Haselhurst noted the PC Cllr vacancies and it was suggested that a message goes out via the Village WhatsApp group and on the round robin email.

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 9:15pm.

Appendix A: District Councillors Report:

How your council can help you with the cost of living

Support packages to combat the cost of living, energy bills and council tax are all available through Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils, with residents urged to check they are receiving the support they are entitled to.

Councils set to lead the way in transforming tree planting for generations

Tree coverage across Babergh and Mid Suffolk is set to increase to help tackle biodiversity loss and climate change, after a pioneering council-commissioned tree canopy survey identified key planting locations and significant benefits.

New parents again invited to apply for a free tree

Babergh and Mid Suffolk's popular Tree for Life scheme, which offers a free tree for new parents, is open once again for 2022 applications.

Don't lose your vote – residents across the districts urged to check their voter registration details

Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils have started the Annual Canvass of Electors and are asking residents to check the electoral registration details for everyone eligible to vote at their address.

Switch onto the Digital Skills Programme for businesses

Business owners in Babergh and Mid Suffolk can take advantage of free workshops to help boost their confidence online by accessing the Councils' Digital Skills Programme.

Simple scheme to buy solar panels returns for Suffolk residents

Solar Together Suffolk, a group-buying scheme which has helped over 1,500 homes in Suffolk to install solar panels and batteries, is now open for new registrations.

Suffolk Waste Partnership backs national campaign to raise awareness of safe battery disposal Suffolk Waste Partnership is backing a nationwide campaign urging people to safely dispose of old batteries in a bid to avoid starting fires in refuse vehicles and waste processing facilities.

Putting Suffolk on the big screen

Babergh and Mid Suffolk leaders have joined colleagues from across the county to agree steps to continue to attract filmmakers to the region – putting Suffolk on the big screen and bringing in millions to the local economy.

Councils awarded £60k for gum busting clean up

West Suffolk Council and Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils are among the first of 40 council areas to receive cash from chewing gum manufacturers to help remove gum from the street.

Gipping Construction appointed to deliver new homes at Corks Lane, Hadleigh

Work to transform the former headquarters of Babergh District Council in Hadleigh into new homes is now underway.

Statement regarding investigation into procedural irregularities during Babergh Planning Committee meeting

The outcome of an investigation into procedural irregularities that forced the adjournment of a Babergh planning committee meeting.

Appendix B: County Councillors report:

COVID-19 UPDATE - Summary

For information on local support during the Cost-of-Living Crisis, visit:

<https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/coronavirus-covid-19/suffolk-advice-and-support-service/>

Latest SCC COVID 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

Suffolk Waste Partnership backs National Campaign to raise awareness of safe battery disposal

Suffolk Waste Partnership is backing a nationwide campaign urging people to safely dispose of old batteries in a bid to avoid starting fires in refuse vehicles. The Partnership has signed up to the Stop Battery Fires Campaign launched by national safe electricals recycling group **Material Focus**, which aims to raise awareness of how householders can properly recycle batteries and electricals.

Batteries, or electricals containing batteries, that end up inside bins or recycling and waste lorries with other materials, get crushed in the waste or recycling process. This can result in them being punctured and self-combusting, setting fire to dry and flammable waste and recycling around them.

In June a fire at the Materials Recycling Facility in Great Blakenham, near Ipswich, which recycles waste from across Suffolk, is suspected to have been started by a battery dumped with household recycling. The fire was located deep within nearly 400 tonnes of waste and took firefighters and staff nearly two hours to extinguish.

Electricals containing batteries that tend to be discarded the most are smaller, frequently used and often cheaper electricals like toothbrushes, shavers, chargers and toys. Lithium-ion batteries are responsible for around 48% (more than 200) of all waste fires occurring in the UK each year according to the **Environmental Services Association**, the trade body representing the UK's resource and waste management industry. These fires cost some £158 million annually to waste operators, fire services and the environment. Yet the Material Focus survey found 45% of householders are unaware of the fire risk if they do not safely dispose of batteries hidden inside electrical items.

Go to **Recycling Bring Banks** on the Suffolk Recycling website to find your nearest battery recycling point.

Council to boost electric vehicle charging across Suffolk

The council submitted a bid of £1,362,000 to the Department for Transport, as part of the Local EV Infrastructure (LEVI) pilot scheme.

Suffolk's residents and visitors will see further improvements to the county's electric vehicle (EV) charging network, following Suffolk County Council's successful bid to fund more charging points. With additional contributions such as commercial funding, the project will see a total investment of around £2.75m.

The new LEVI funding will allow the council to develop the county's EV charging network by:

- PV solar power and battery storage upgrades to approximately 10 existing sites
- Installing community EV charging, PV solar power and battery storage at over 30 further sites in urban and rural areas
- Identifying key commercial sites for 7kW, rapid and ultra rapid chargers, which will benefit the local community

Suffolk County Council has led the way in electric vehicle charging, following the launch of Plug In Suffolk in 2019. It was the UK's first 'fully open' public EV fast charging network and has seen other local authorities around the country follow that model.

Plug In Suffolk has now installed 100 charging points around the county, with an emphasis on installations in rural locations and supporting households without off-street charging capabilities.

This project contributes to Suffolk's commitment to be Net Zero by 2030. The Suffolk Climate Emergency Plan identified that decarbonisation of vehicles in Suffolk was a key aspect of meeting that target.

Discussions are taking place between local authorities and social club committees around Long Melford to try and obtain expressions of interest for provision of E-charging points within local car parks. Discussions include appropriate locations within the village and full public access to any charging points.

Council creates Centre of Excellence for National Projects

Suffolk County Council is setting up a Centre of Excellence to support other local authorities with Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs).

The council has been recognised by the Government for its knowledge and expertise when engaging with NSIPs such as Sizewell C, the Gull Wing, National Grid upgrades and offshore wind farms.

The Government's Innovation and Capacity Fund is providing £90,500, which will see the council run a programme of monthly seminars culminating in a conference to increase the skills and expertise of local authority officers and politicians across the eastern region, to deal with these complicated projects.

Ultimately this will create a collaborative network across local authorities across the East, to share good practice and knowledge.

Suffolk to take part in trial walking and cycling on prescription scheme

Walking and cycling to improve mental and physical health is to be offered by GPs in Suffolk as part of a nationwide trial. The county is one of just 11 areas in England to take part in the £12.7 million scheme announced by the government.

The pilots, part of the government's **Gear Change plan** published in 2020, aim to evaluate the impact of physical activity through cycling and walking on a person's health, such as reduced GP appointments and reliance on medication.

The scheme in Suffolk will receive £1.5 million and will focus on Ipswich and Lowestoft.

The funding will go towards several pilot projects including adult cycle training, free bike loans and walking groups.

Other schemes include all-ability cycling taster days where people who may not have cycled before can try to in a friendly environment, or walking and cycling mental health groups where people can connect with their communities as they get active.

Individuals assessed as being suitable to take part in the scheme will be provided with:

- A bicycle/e-bike or e-cargo bike to be used as a mobility aid (with safety equipment, adaptive cycles/trailers, and secure storage),
- 1-1 support with learn to ride/cycle confidence/Bikeability training,
- Basic bike maintenance
- Journey planning using the local cycle network
- 'Buddy riding' to destinations such as workplaces, schools, or shops to build confidence for everyday journeys.

Stakeholders led by the Public Health and Transport Strategy teams at Suffolk County Council include the primary care networks, Healthwatch Suffolk, Community Action Suffolk, Active Suffolk, and the University of Suffolk Integrated Care Academy.

The county's former NHS clinical commissioning groups - now Suffolk and North East Essex Integrated Care System and Norfolk and Waveney Integrated Care System – are also stakeholders. The pilots will be delivered between 2022 and 2025 with on-going monitoring and evaluation to support continued learning.

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