

**Shimpling Parish Council**

**Minutes of Meeting of the Council**

**Monday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2023, 7:00pm at Shimpling Village Hall**

**Present:**

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

**District Councillors:** Michael Holt, Stephen Plumb

**Clerk:** Natasha Byford

1. **Apologies for absence:** Richard Kemp this was noted and accepted. Cllr Engstrom this was noted.

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:** 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 18<sup>th</sup> September 2023 were approved.

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

5. **Chair's report:**

Cllr Dunkley's read the below report from his last couple of months as Chair:

Since our last meeting we have had the opportunity to remember those within the parish, the country and worldwide who made the ultimate sacrifice so that we can have a better future. We must never forget them.

There was a successful open event at the Village Hall on the 14th October to provide more information on what a Neighbourhood Plan is and to gauge interest from the community for such a plan. Over 40 people attended, with others contacting to request information as they

were unable to attend, with useful feedback and comments including showing 100% support for taking the plan forward. The next steps are currently being determined, but a key one will be forming the group to take the plan development forward.

The Playground fencing maintenance has been completed, at significant cost. The nature and age of the fence will almost certainly mean that this will need more work done on it in the future, possibly even replacing it.

Following on from the last report, progress on the Village Hall lease continues to be slow but there is considerably more clarity over what is needed regarding the new lease structure. There is also agreement on its terms and duration so hopefully it will be concluded in 2024 when the current lease expires.

Additions to the Shimpling Website have continued. There is still a lot of information to be loaded and further advertising of its existence and value is planned for 2024.

- 6. District Councillors report:** Cllr Plumb read out their report and there were no further questions on this. The report is in Appendix A below.

It was noted that Glemsford PC have recently published their draft Neighbourhood Plan, and the documents are on their website if that helps us at Shimpling. Discussions about the usefulness of the Police forum were had, there will be another one around March time.

Cllrs Plumb and Holt left the meeting at 7:21pm.

- 7. County Councillors report:** Cllr Kemps report was circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting and there were no further questions on this. The report is in Appendix B below.

- 8. Crime matters:**

Chair Dunkley reported he attended the Chadacre police forum where there was representatives from local Parishes and the local Police officer. Hopefully this will continue and be useful. It was asked if we could invite the Police to the rural caravan. The Police and Crime Commissioners meeting was a question and answer, which wasn't as useful to us.

**9. Village Hall:**

**a)** Cllr Brown (Chair of VHC) gave the following update;

Our weekly Pilates, yoga, zumba and dance classes are going well as are the film nights but need to be supported if they are to continue.

We advertise all events on the village WhatsApp group, instagram, round robin posters and your hall.

In October we saw the return of Vernon's quiz. It was great fun and very well attended. Delicious fish and chips were supplied by Go Cook.

Panto rehearsals have begun and are being held every Wednesday & Sunday in the VH. The panto is to be held at Shimpling Village Hall the first weekend in March.

Christmas:

A children's Christmas party with a film, games and Santa is on Saturday 16th December and a Christmas film night with mulled wine and mince pies is on Tuesday 19th December.

Maintenance & projects:

\*Double side doors, fire doors & solar panel projects are on hold until we receive funding.

\*Redecoration of toilets and back room are also on hold.

\*The new fire alarm system was installed, and we have a member of the VHC to do monthly safety checks.

\*The external lights urgently need replacing as there is no lighting along the drive making it dangerous at night. We are awaiting quotes.

**b)** It was noted that we are still awaiting the lease to be sorted before we can apply for funding for the new patio doors.

**c)** It was discussed that the PCs Capital Funding was declined but the next round opens in December so we will get our new application submitted for that.

**d)** The Village Hall Fire Alarm has been completed with Ace Fire providing additional emergency lighting in kitchen and over rear exit as recommended. Additional detection in the hall, kitchen and rear store as recommended, also a manual call point to be fitted by the rear exit. Install 1 x new control panel.

**e)** Members discussed funding between the Village Hall and the Parish Council. It was thought that the original constitution in 1953 is outdated and a new agreement is required. The VHC will discuss this at their next meeting in December and then the PC and VHC will have a working party in January to agree the details.

External lighting at the Village Hall was bought up as an urgent item, Cllr Brown will go back to R&Z Electrical and ensure that we are replacing the lights like for like. We will ask Cllr Kemp for a donation from the locality budget. If not then the VHC and PC will pay half each, this will come out of the PC covid fund.

**Action: Cllr Brown to liaise with contractor to get this work done.**

# **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	£15,108.46
Business Account	£25,163.93
Including CIL of	£3,318.06
Earmarked Reserves of	£25,952.17
General Reserves of	£4,698.00
COVID Grant of	£1,038.87

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

- **Zen Internet (16 Sept-15 Oct)** **£38.99**  
(LGA 1972, s.111)
- **Zen Internet (16 Aug-15 Sept)** **£38.99**  
(LGA 1972, s.111)
- **Lark Valley Grass Cutting** **£1,509.60**  
(Open Spaces Act 1906, ss.9-10)
- **Replacement Key for SID** **£5.90**  
(Highways Act 1980, s.274A)
- **Replacement Key for second SID** **£5.90**  
(Highways Act 1980, s.274A)
- **SALC Payroll** **£27.00**  
(LGA 1972, s.111)
- **CAS Website Hosting** **£60.00**  
(LGA 1972, s.142)
- **BCW Office – 30mph sign** **£52.42**  
(RT Regulation Act 1984, s.72(1))
- **Ace Fire Service of Fire Alarm** **£186.00**  
(LGA 1972, s.133)
- **B W Cann – Playground Fencing** **£895.00**  
(Open Spaces Act 1906, ss.9-10)

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

- **Clerk's Net salary after Tax** **£661.56**
- **HMRC Tax payment** **£165.40**
- **Clerk's expenses (Fuel)** **£62.55**  
LGA 1972 s. 111 (ancillary Powers)

- **Ace Fire** **£1,680.00**  
(LGA 1972, s.133)

The above payment schedule was approved by members.

**10d)** The Clerk noted that The Council have received money from bank interest £25.09 and £23.14. We have also received our VAT return of £2,152.55. We received recycling credit of £166.51. We received the Neighbourhood Grant for £9,746.00. We have received £52.42 for the new 30mph sign from Cllr Kemp's budget.

- 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 Sept 23 – 5th Nov 23), I have worked 6 hours 30 minutes over the given time frame of 5 hours per week, this included organising all the paperwork for the September meeting, agendas, actions from the September meetings, organising payments, quotes and grant applications, neighbourhood plan correspondence and meeting, quotes for insurance, draft budget for 24/25 as well as general administration. The Council considered the Clerks successful yearly review and agreed to increase salary – currently on Spine Point 12 at £12.73 per hour. Spine Point 13 moves to £12.97. Also the backpay and NALC pay award means that SP13 is now £13.97.

- 12. Budget:**

**a)** The report from the Budget Setting Working Group was previously circulated to members. Members discussed and agreed to the budget proposed for 2024/25.

**b)** Members approved the recommendation that the precept for 2024/25 would be set at £12,700.00.

**Action: Clerk to publish the budget and papers on the website.**

**Action: Clerk to add getting the Precept form signed to the January meeting.**

- 13. Newsletter:**

**a)** Members discussed advertising fees for the Village magazine. It was decided to charge for adverts in the magazine. Classes that are held in the Village Hall and groups in Shimpling are exempt from charges. It was decided to charge £100 for a full page advert for the year, £50 for half a page advert for the year and £25 for a quarter page advert for the year, with Shimpling residents getting a 25% discount on this so paying £75 for a full page, £37.50 for a half page and £18.75 for a quarter page. Clerk to send out an email to all advertisers and let them know the fees and bank details and give them a payment date to be included in the next years newsletter.

**Action: Clerk to get advertisers emails from Sarah and send out an email to all advertisers. Clerk to make a list of people that do not pay for clarity.**

- b) Members discussed page caps for groups and just asked that groups try to keep their submissions as succinct as they can.

**14. Neighbourhood Plan:**

Members discussed and were pleased about the turn out at the information event. Members decided to go ahead with the Neighbourhood Plan.

**Action: Clerk to keep in touch with Ian and find out the next steps. To get a working party together to meet.**

**15. Playground:**

- a) Members were updated that Gary Cann had replaced the loose posts but this would be an ongoing issue. It was questioned where we require a fence around the playground.

**Action: Clerk to ask Risk Assessor if we do need a fence surrounding the playground.**

- b) Some vandalism had been reported where children were seen kicking the fence posts on the playground.

- c) Members discussed the request for a pressure washer. It was decided to put this on hold as the odd job man may have his own. It was agreed to pay an odd job man £15 per hour, 1 hour a week (or 4 hours a month) with a maximum of £750 per year. This would need management and a list of jobs that would be required to be drawn up.

**Action: Cllr Brown to ask Steve if he would be interested in this role.**

**16. Signage**

Members discussed quotes to put the replacement 30mph sign up. This is to replace the sign underneath the SID at Slough Hill that's faded. It was agreed to go ahead with Mark Marsh for £60.

**Action: Clerk to let Mark know we would like to go ahead.**

**17. Planning:**

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 Dismissed

- b. DC/22/06142 - The Hermitage, Bury Road, Shimpling, IP30 0JL - Planning Application. Erection of stables and two-storey outbuilding. Refurbishment of existing outbuilding. Stationing of temporary outbuilding for storage. Additional detail as per Design Access and Heritage Statement – Granted
- c. DC/22/06143 - The Hermitage, Bury Road, Shimpling, IP30 0JL - Application for Listed Building Consent - Erection of stables and two-storey outbuilding. Refurbishment of existing outbuilding. Stationing of temporary outbuilding for storage. Additional detail as per Design Access and Heritage Statement. – Granted
- d. DC/23/00944 - Cherry Trees, Old Rectory Lane, Shimpling, Bury St Edmunds Suffolk IP29 4HG - Householder Application - Conversion of garage to additional living accommodation; Raising pitch of roof and gable extensions including construction of rear dormer extension in conjunction loft conversion – Granted
- e. DC/23/02104 - Giffords Hall, Hartest Hill, Shimpling, Bury St Edmunds Suffolk IP29 4EX - Listed Building Consent - Conversion of existing garage to ancillary accommodation replacement roof and new glazed frames to existing conservatory, and internal alterations – Granted
- f. DC/23/02103 - Giffords Hall, Hartest Hill, Shimpling, Bury St Edmunds Suffolk IP29 4EX - Householder Application - Conversion of existing garage to ancillary accommodation, replacement roof and new glazed frames to existing conservatory (amended scheme to DC/22/00672) – Granted
- g. DC/23/02958 - Laburinthos Cottage, Bury Road, Shimpling (part In The Parish Of Alpheton), Bury St Edmunds Suffolk IP30 0JJ - Full Planning Application - Erection of detached annex for family members (following demolition of outbuilding/s)(re-submission of withdrawn application DC/23/00095) – Granted
- h. DC/23/03602 Cromwell House, The Street, Shimpling, Bury St Edmunds Suffolk IP29 4HS - Discharge of Conditions Application for DC/22/05901 -Condition 3 (Materials) - ACTION REQUIRED IN ACCORDANCE WITH A SPECIFIC TIMETABLE – MATERIALS

- i. DC/23/04046 2 West View Gents Lane Shimpling Bury St Edmunds Suffolk IP29 4HP - Application for a Lawful Development Certificate for a Proposed Use or Development Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) - Install an air source heat pump in the rear garden, and erection of front porch extension with rendered finish and pitched roof. – Granted
- j. DC/23/04460 Gardeners Cottage Thorne Court Shimpling Road Shimpling Bury St Edmunds Suffolk IP30 0J - Application for works to Tree subject to Tree Preservation Order WS280/A1 - Reduce overall crown of 1 x Ash tree (T1) by 4m to reduce dominance of the tree and prevent branch failure - Granted

**Planning Applications:**

None

**18. Covid19 Emergency Fund:**

Application received for purchase of a Christmas tree to the value of around £80. The PC agreed to pay for this, if there weren't already other plans for one.

**19. SID**

Clerk updated members that we are still awaiting adding the new SID to the maintenance contract.

**Action: Clerk to chase for the quote to add the new SID to the maintenance contract.**

The original SID also needs taking away for fixing and cleaning.

**Action: Clerk to chase this up.**

**20. Village Hall Lease:**

Chair Dunkley gave an update regarding the lease. Birkett Solicitors now have all the documents. Peter Richards apologised for the delay. There are no issues with the lease. We are just waiting for it to be drawn up.

**Action: Cllr Dunkley to carry on overseeing this.**

**21. Projects:**

Cllr Dunkley updated members that the project list was still the same.



**22. Flooding:**

Members discussed concerns of the flooding at Slough Hill. It was noted that residents were digging out the ditches. Cllr Shrimpton remembered that when this happened previously it was due to a blocked culvert and the Rush farmers unblocked it which fixed the problem.

**Action: Cllr Shrimpton to talk to Robert Rush to see if they could check this.**

It was also noted that there is an environmental group that met in the pub so hopefully they could assist with issues if they arise.

**23. Footpath:**

It was reported that the footpath at Nigel's Way was cut back by Lark Valley and looks better. Cllr Brunwin asked if James Pickerin got back to us with walking the footpath.

**Action: Clerk to chase this up.**

**24. Bench:**

Councillors discussed the relocation of the bench out from under the tree on the Village Green. This was agreed, it was thought it would get more use and less bird poo if it was moved. We received two quotes for doing this and it was agreed to go ahead with the quote for £200 from Oli Beeton.

**Action: Clerk to give Oli the go ahead to do this work and to meet a PC member to describe where to place the bench.**

**25. Insurance:**

Members discussed the renewal contracts for the insurance and it was agreed to renew the current insurance policy with BHIB for 1st December 2023 – 30th November 2024.

**Action: Clerk to renew the insurance policy.**

**26. Correspondence Received:**

Just to note that we have submitted an application to participate in the bus improvement strategy.

**27. Urgent Matters to be brought to the attention of the council:**

None

**There being no further business the meeting concluded at 9:35pm.**

## **Appendix A: District Councillors report:**

### **Help shape the future of the Babergh and Mid Suffolk districts**

Our consultation continues on what matters most to our communities in order to help shape future plans.

### **Flood support**

Emergency council teams worked to support areas impacted by floods last week in the wake of Storm Babet, offering practical support, as well as information and advice on what to do if your home or business was affected.

We also paid tribute to our local heroes and the huge show of community spirit following the worst flooding for years in our districts.

### **Your new council website**

Last month saw the launch of our new council website, and we are keen for your feedback on our new look.

### **£1.3m boost for Babergh and Mid Suffolk communities**

Town and parish councils in Babergh and Mid Suffolk received more than £1.3 million in developer contributions last month.

### **Suffolk councils delivering project to improve private rented housing sector**

'Safe Suffolk Renters' is an initiative to support private sector tenants, landlords and other stakeholders.

### **Councils' set out commitment to increase EV chargers**

Babergh and Mid Suffolk agreed to implement a new joint Electric Vehicle (EV) Infrastructure Implementation Plan.

### **Free net zero advice for Suffolk businesses and organisations**

The councils partnered with an environment charity to deliver expert energy advice to businesses.

### **Have your say on polling arrangements**

Councils are asking residents for feedback on polling districts and places across the county.

### **Incredible moving cinema bringing unique movie experience to Sudbury**

Our partnership with Sudbury Town Council and Abbeygate Cinema has brought a unique cinema experience to the district.

### **Councillors serve up improvements to community squash courts**

Two ward councillors stepped in to breathe new life into Sudbury's only squash courts.

## **Appendix B: County Councillors Report:**

### **Information Updates**

Cost of Living help and advice:

<https://infolink.suffolk.gov.uk/kb5/suffolk/infolink/family.page?familychannel=6> Benefits advice and support: <https://infolink.suffolk.gov.uk/kb5/suffolk/infolink/adult.page?adultchannel=0> For information on supporting Ukrainian refugees in Suffolk, email: [refugeesupport@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:refugeesupport@suffolk.gov.uk) or [ukrainesupport@communityactionsuffolk.org.uk](mailto:ukrainesupport@communityactionsuffolk.org.uk)

### **Storm Babet Flooding**

Suffolk County Council and my group would like to extend their thanks to those of you around the county who helped other residents whose homes and travel were affected by the rains and flooding that struck Suffolk on Friday 20 October. The way the emergency services, volunteers, farmers and local communities worked together to help children get home from school, move people to safety and protect buildings from flooding was truly inspirational. If you have been affected by the Storm Babet and the recent flooding, please use link below for SCC support and advice:

<http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/about/flood-recovery-information-for-suffolk>

### **Budget Consultation**

Suffolk County Council is keen to hear from Suffolk residents, businesses and local communities as it decides how it will spend money next year and has launched an online consultation to give Suffolk residents a say in budget setting for the financial year 2024-25. There will also be a number of focus groups to explain the council's current financial situation, along with the chance for Suffolk residents and businesses to have a say on Council Tax proposals. There are three key questions, the first is on which services people have recently used, the second asks for thoughts on seeking a greater contribution to Council Tax to help fund public services, and the third on which service area you would like to see more money spent. The online survey can be found at the link below – please give us your views! [http://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/Budget24\\_25/](http://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/Budget24_25/)

### **Suffolk Pharmacies**

On 11 October, councillors from my group attended Health Scrutiny which was looking at the service provided by pharmacies in Suffolk and the challenges they face with funding, staff recruitment, medicine shortages and pharmacies closing. Representatives from the NHS, Suffolk GPs and the Suffolk Pharmaceutical Committee joined the meeting and recommendations were made to write to minister about funding, and work with local schools and the University of Suffolk to promote pharmacy as a career path. It was noted that in order to provide extra services (such as blood pressure checks, cholesterol tests and asthma advice) which take pressure off GP surgeries, more space and consulting rooms would be required than Suffolk pharmacies currently had available.

### **Supporting Suffolk Farmers**

The council meeting on Thursday 19 October saw councillors vote to approve a motion supporting local farmers and food producers by ensuring that local meat and dairy, as well as plant-based produce, is served at council events. The council's facilities and catering arm, Vertas, has 68% of its spend with Suffolk suppliers and 86% with regional suppliers. In order to tackle the county's environmental priorities and boost the local economy, the council also pledged to encourage Suffolk residents to buy local produce and shop locally wherever possible.

### **Walking and Bridleway Access**

At Cabinet on Tuesday 10 October, members of the Suffolk Local Access Forum joined the meeting to provide their annual report, which included the work they are doing to improve and maintain footways and access around the county, particularly with Network Rail and National Highways to make sure

that new developments take foot traffic and walkers into account. They are keen for the council to promote the East Anglian sections of the newly named King Charles III England Coast Path. The forum expressed concern about the significant large-scale energy infrastructure projects planned for the county and could impact on Suffolk residents' enjoyment of the green access network and impact on the county's natural environment.

### **Council seeks your views for next years budget**

Suffolk County Council is keen to hear from Suffolk residents, businesses and local communities, as it decides how it will spend money next year. An online consultation has been launched, and a number of focus groups will be held, to explain the council's current financial situation, along with the chance for Suffolk residents and businesses to have a say on Council Tax proposals. The council's budget setting process will take into account the responses to the consultation, advice from council officers, elected members from political groups, businesses and partners in health and other public service organisations across Suffolk. Results of the consultation will be included in the report considered by the council when agreeing the budget in February 2024. The council's budget consultation helps to explain the council's finances, what it has been doing to save money, and how it can generate more money to spend on public services. The two main ways in which the council can increase the budget, are an increase in the money it receives from government, and/or through Council Tax. There are three key questions, the first is on which services people have recently used, the second asks for thoughts on seeking a greater contribution to Council Tax to help fund public services, and the third on which service area you would like to see more money spent. The online consultation opens on 25 October and closes on 4 December 2023, and can be found at [www.suffolk.gov.uk/budget](http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/budget). Focus groups are also being organised with local community groups and members of the public, details of which will be shared on the council's website and social media channels.

### **New Highways Services arrive in Suffolk as multi-million pound partnership goes live**

Suffolk Highways' new partnership has launched, as Milestone Infrastructure and Suffolk County Council join forces to deliver highways services fit for the future. The new contract, which is worth in the region of £800 million - £1 billion, will deliver highway projects and improvements across Suffolk for up to 20 years, including maintaining roads, pavements and rights of way, improving drainage, hedge trimming, construction of new road schemes, snow-clearing and gritting and much more. Milestone Infrastructure, part of M Group Services, was awarded Suffolk's new highways services contract back in February and since then has been working with Suffolk County Council to mobilise the new contract ahead of it commencing on 1 October.

When seeking a new highways partner, the county council wanted a keener focus on delivering greater social value, building on the council's commitment to carbon reduction and protecting the environment, using local skills and talent, and giving young people the opportunity to work in the sector. With this in mind, the new partnership was built around six key contract objectives, which will form the basis for all that Suffolk Highways delivers going forward. These objectives are: • Collaboration and Partnership • Social Value • Environment and Net Zero Carbon • Customer Communication and Engagement • Commercialism and Enterprise • Equality, Diversity and Inclusion To read about the new Suffolk Streetlighting contract with McCann, visit: Go Live! Suffolk County Council Street Lighting Services Contract Gets Underway - McCann ([mccann-ltd.co.uk](http://mccann-ltd.co.uk))