

Shimpling Parish Council
Minutes of Meeting of the Council
Monday 13th September 2021, 7:30pm at Shimpling Village Hall

Present:

Councillors: Liz Brunwin (Chair), Katie Haselhurst, Mike Atkins, Nathalie Brown

District Councillor: Cllr Stephen Plumb, Cllr Michael Holt

County Councillor: Cllr Richard Kemp

Clerk: Natasha Byford

1. **Apologies for absence:** Cllr Shrimpton sent his 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**

Two members of the public (MOP) attended. Bernard Essery gave an update on The Bush Inn, he has a prospective tenant for the pub and hopes the lease will be signed at the end of September and would like to open the pub up in early October. He suggested that if this timeline doesn't work then he could explore other avenues and have an ad hoc licensee in order to be open for the Christmas period. Cllr Atkins suggested he may know someone who might be interested in the tenancy.
4. **Approval of minutes of the previous meeting:**

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 12th July 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 fairly quiet since our last meeting in July but I can report that the following:-

The interior of the Village Hall and front lobby have been redecorated. Our thanks go to John Sinclair for all his hard work on this project.

We are still working on WIFI connection for the Village Hall and can confirm that we now have the landowner's permission to do the groundwork for this. Our thanks go to Richard Kemp for the contribution from his Locality Budget towards the cost of this project.

Footpath no. 7 is complete and we are now waiting for the last quote for guttering for the overhanging buildings. The sign 'Nigel's Walk' for the footpath has been ordered and will be with us shortly.

Finally, it is with great sadness that I report that Ken Rush has resigned from the Parish Council due to ill health. Ken has been a councillor for many years and has seen quite a few changes in the village. During his time with us, he has represented the farming community which is such an integral part of

our village. We will miss his experience and wise advice and I know that I speak for all the councillors in wishing him a speedy recovery.

With Ken's departure, it means that we now have two vacancies on the Parish Council. The Parish Council do great work in the village and I would urge anyone who feels that they can contribute in any way to put themselves forward. Please feel free to speak to any of our councillors if you would like further information.

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 read out a summary of his report, which was circulated to members prior to the meeting, and is in Appendix B below. He added that Long Melford were making the 9th October cycle race into a fun day with bands and bouncy castles and suggested the road closure would be rolling and closed in Long Melford from 10:30am until around 2pm. He also stressed that if anyone could do anything to assist the Afghan refugees, to please contact him.

8. Crime matters:

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

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

The Clerk reported that the August newsletter was circulated to Councillors along with the papers for the crime update. Officers have hosted two 'street meets'. One in Sudbury Market and one in Bures Recreation ground. The Volunteer Police Cadets have helped out at Belle Vue Parks community gardening projects and did a litter pick, they also donated sweets and treats for soldiers on duty at RAF Wattisham. On Suffolk Day (21st June) our Sudbury and Haverhill officer patrolled from Haverhill police station to Sudbury!

Cllr Holt added that he was still trying to chase the new inspector in order to arrange a 'meet and greet'.

9. Village Hall:

a) Village Hall Committee – It was noted that the Village Hall Committee has met recently but no representative was present to give a report.

b) The Chair informed members that the installation of Wifi in the Village Hall was agreed by the landowners and that we were just awaiting Zen to confirm the exact location of the digging required, as there were concerns regarding digging up the path next to the Village Hall.

c) Utility bills in the Village Hall, for the lockdown period March 2020 – May 2021 were discussed and a figure of £458.98 was reached. Members approved this payment and it was reiterated that this was out of the Covid fund.

Action: Clerk to pay this figure to the VHC.

d) Proposed future works for the Village Hall were discussed and it was felt that the toilets and storage room were not in need of redecoration. It was agreed that it was important to keep the kitchen looking fresh and clean and that there was some mould that will require treating before this can be painted. The Parish

Council therefore agreed to the redecoration of the kitchen. Marian Peck, Chair of the Village Hall Committee had also expressed concerns about the state of the exterior of the Village Hall and that a fire door was rotten. It was agreed that quotes for the replacement of the fire door should be sought by the Village Hall Committee and that it be replaced as soon as possible. Both the kitchen redecoration and replacement fire door costs would be taken from the Covid fund.

Action: Chair Brunwin to let the VHC know

10. Responsible Finance Officer's Finance Report:

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

Leaving balances as follows:

Treasurers Account	£1,853.20
Business Account	£34,037.77
Including CIL of	£1,000.00
Earmarked Reserves of	£5,588.00
General Reserves of	£4,597.61
COVID Grant of	£22,570.18

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

- **Zen Internet** **£68.98**
(LGA 1972, s.111)
- **999 Network Services** **£120.00**
(LGA 1972, s.111)
- **PFK Littlejohn External Audit** **£240.00**
(LGA 1972, s.111)
- **Ace Fire – VH Annual Service** **£137.28**
(LGA 1972, s. 133)

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

- **Clerk's Net salary before Tax** **£336.84**
- **HMRC Tax payment** **£84.20**
- **Clerk's expenses** **£25.65**
LGA 1972 s. 111 (ancillary Powers)
- **John Sinclair – VH Redecoration** **£1,500.00**
(LGA 1972, s. 133)
- **Lark Valley Willow – Grass Cutting** **£748.80**
(Open Spaces Act 1906 ss. 9-10)

The above payment schedule was approved by members.

- 10d)** The Clerk noted that the PC have received money from the locality budget for the WIFI, money for the recycling credit and bank interest. Also noted that the PC had received the second half of their precept for the year.

11. Audit:

The Clerk let Councillors know that the External Audit went well and no issues were raised. Cllrs thanked the Clerk for her work on this.

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:

12a) Summary of Progress: During the period (5th July – 5th September), I have worked 2 hours over the given time frame of 4 hours per week, this included looking at the budget from this year and preparing for next years, including getting insurance quotes and grass and hedge cutting quotes, liaising regarding WIFI and SID as well as the general administration. The Clerk's record of work was reviewed and accepted.

12b) Members discussed a pay review after a successful review for the Clerk and members agreed to raise the Clerks pay from SCP 10 to SCP 11.

13. Footpaths:

13a) The Chair gave an update regarding the naming of Footpath7, we are awaiting the sign to arrive.

13b) It was noted that we are awaiting another quotation for guttering on the overhanging buildings beside Footpath7 in order to protect the newly laid crushed granite. It was agreed that if this was less than £500 then the Chair could go ahead with these works before the next meeting.

13c) Chair updated members regarding flooding at Footpath7, a neighbour to the footpath had some flooding in their outbuilding after the new footpath was laid. It was investigated and found that a pipe allowing water to drain from the outbuilding of Shimpling House had been inadvertently taken out during the construction of the path, the contractor kindly attended and put this back and there has been no issues since.

14. Recycling:

14a) Members were informed that a new paper and card recycling bank will replace the old one, the new one is bright blue and is emptied twice weekly by the council. It was questioned whether this included cardboard or just card.

Action: Clerk to find out whether cardboard can go into this bin.

14b) The Chair informed members that we had received three quotes for improving the lay-by and recycling area.

Quote 1 - £2900 inc VAT to sort out the parking area and £955 inc VAT to put in post and rail fence with cherry laurel hedging.

Quote 2 - £575 plus VAT for 2 x 6x6 willow screens

Quote 3 – £595 plus VAT supply and plant 4x 5-6ft laurel hedge plants (4-5ft would be £435 plus VAT). £465 plus VAT to make good to potholes and surface area with crushed road planings.

It was agreed to accept quote 3 and that funding for this work this would be taken from the Covid grant fund.

Action: Chair to contact the Richards family and check regarding access to field.

Action: Clerk to contact contractor and ask him to proceed with these works once we have received input from the Richards family.

15. Planning:

The Clerk gave an update on planning applications:

Planning Decisions:

- a) 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) – Awaiting decision
- b) B/10/01622 - Proposed extensions to Chadacre Hall including construction of two-storey courtyard building as extension to former stable block, link extension between Hall and former stable block, swimming pool and enclosure and two-storey extension to north corner of Hall together with landscape works, as revised by drawing nos 6514(08)021A, 6514(08)026A, 6514(08)027A and 6514(08)028A received 10 March 2011, and as supplemented by Bat Roost Potential Survey received 1st April 2011. - Chadacre Hall Chadacre Shimpling Bury St Edmunds IP29 4DT – Granted

Planning Applications:

None

16. The Bush

The Bush was discussed in Item 3 above. It was added that the weeds in front of the defibrillator had been cleared.

17. Covid19 Emergency Fund

Request from Village Hall as discussed above.

18. Insurance:

The Clerk gave a brief update regarding insurance quotations and these will be brought to the November meeting for a decision.

19. The Coal House:

Chair Brunwin updated members to the report's findings which were that the Coal House is in 'fair' condition with slow deterioration and is in the 'building to watch' category. From these findings, they will send a letter to the owner with some advisories, and to ask to look at the inside of the building.

It was questioned about who owned the land surrounding the Coal House, as it is believed that the owner of the Coal House only owns the building itself and not any surrounding land. It was suggested this may be something to look into.

20. Stone Cottage:

Chair Brunwin reported that the unlawful dwelling was originally reported in 2018. The planning department have informed the PC that the owner may submit a certificate of lawfulness if they can prove 4 years constant use as a dwellinghouse, by the 24th September, or comply with the notice by the 24th November.

Action: Clerk to follow this up and get an update after 24th November, Cllr Plumb is happy to assist.

21. SID:

21a) The Chair updated members on the SID malfunction, an engineer came out and replaced a part, we were informed this part would have cost £700 if we were not under contract, plus the engineers call out fee.

21b) It was agreed to take out the Silver contract for the SID, after our contract expires at the end of September. It was also asked if we could add to our budget some money aside for batteries for the SID.

Action: Clerk to renew this contract and to find out the cost of replacement batteries for budgeting purposes.

22. Village Maintenance

22a) Members discussed the increase on the Village Hall hedge cut. It is now £120.

22b) Members discussed the grass and hedge cutting contract and the Clerk gave an update on quotations received so far. The Clerk was asked to source more quotations, so that a decision can be made on this in November.

Action: Clerk to obtain more quotations.

23. Local Plan

Cllrs discussed attendance for the rescheduled BMSDC Examination, Shimpling PC is in the programme for Tuesday 12th Oct at 9:30am and it was decided that previous Cllr, Colin Johnston would represent the PC for this.

24. Correspondence Received:

- The PC were informed that there was a caravan parked in Halifax place, this has since gone.

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

Concerns were raised over the two vacancies that have now arisen on the Parish Council, it was asked if this could be advertised more widely, such as sharing on Facebook and published in the Village Newsletter.

Action: Clerk to publish vacancies in wider area.

The wildflower scheme was brought up, Cllr Brown suggested the area near Gents Lane where children wait for the bus, the grassy corner by the Halifax Place sign and the verges towards the A134 would all be potential sites for wildflowers. It was confirmed that Cllr Brown was liaising with Babergh regarding this scheme.

The PC were thanked by a MOP for all their hard work.

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

Appendix A: District Councillors Report:

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

August saw us reach the end of the Government's roadmap out of lockdown, however our work to support the district's recovery continues.

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.

- **Statement regarding Afghan refugees**

August also saw the Government announce its new resettlement scheme for Afghan refugees. Whilst the full details are yet to be confirmed, it is clear that the Government needs local authorities everywhere to step up and support this national effort.

You can [read our statement in full here](#) and a [Suffolk County Council webpage](#) has been created in the event of offers of help from your towns and parishes.

- **Babergh and Mid Suffolk join calls for devolution talks with Government**

Together with other public sector leaders in Suffolk, we wrote to the Secretary of State responsible for local government this month, to say we welcome early discussions with Ministers about a possible devolution deal for Suffolk.

- **Local Energy Showcase will champion green businesses**

Businesses and community organisations are being urged to tackle climate change by joining Suffolk's first ever showcase event celebrating sustainability and green energy. Please encourage anyone who may be interested in your towns and parishes to take part.

- **Design blueprint agreed for Chilton Woods**

Details of phase one of Chilton Woods and the development's design code received approval last month – ensuring a high quality, well designed, sustainable new community which meets the needs of residents.

- **Multi million pound investment transforms disused care home into new Hadleigh homes**

Babergh District councillors were on site to celebrate the £3m transformation of a former care home in Hadleigh into high quality social housing.

- **2021 Annual Canvass continues**

To help streamline the annual canvass process we are continuing to encourage residents to update their household details online.

- **Districts to play crucial role in international cycling event**

Babergh and Mid Suffolk will host the thrilling Sprints and challenging Queen of the Mountains climb in stage six of the Women's Tour.

- **Summer events planned for residents and visitors**

This summer, high streets and tourist locations across Babergh and Mid Suffolk are preparing a host of events and activities as they welcome residents and visitors back to their high streets and places safely following the lifting of Covid restrictions.

Appendix B: County Councillors report:

Statement on behalf of all Suffolk Councils regarding Afghan refugees

"On Wednesday 18 August, the Government announced its new resettlement scheme for Afghan refugees. Whilst the full details are yet to be confirmed, it is crystal clear that the Government needs local authorities everywhere to step up and support this national effort.

"All councils in Suffolk are committed to this cause. We have already helped a small number of Afghan interpreters and their families to resettle in Suffolk, in addition to ongoing work to support unaccompanied asylum seeking children and other refugees entering the UK. In the coming days and weeks, the district, borough and county councils will continue working with the Government to do what we can to provide assistance to vulnerable refugees.

"Times like this call for acts of humanity. Suffolk will play its part."

Review of SEND provision

Suffolk County Council commissioned an independent review into Special Educational Needs and Disability provision which has now been completed.

The report, with any recommendations, is due to be published this month 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. We await it with interest.

Suffolk's expression of interest in discussions with Government on Devolution for Suffolk

A 'levelling up' white paper is to be produced by Government and Robert Jenrick MP (Sec of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government) has invited Councils to express interest in involvement in this. The aim appears to be to allow local 'leaders groups' to have more power in local decision making including 'greater financial efficiency, administrative streamlining and/or more joined up services'. It is not necessary to be a unitary authority although Government want evidence of working together.

It is not clear yet what the benefits and draw backs or any details of these proposals are yet.

The 'Suffolk Leader's Group' (Leaders of County Council, District Councils, Ipswich Borough Council, and Police and Crime Commissioner) have written to the Government expressing interest in this proposal.

Public sector leaders in Suffolk say they welcome early discussions with Ministers about a possible devolution deal for Suffolk.

The Government wrote to councils in July 2021, setting out its ambition to make available to county areas the kind of devolved decision-making powers and public funding currently enjoyed by larger cities and urban areas. It's part of the Government's Levelling Up agenda and will see a White Paper published in the coming months.

It is understood that Suffolk's approach involving all councils is rare among other expressions of interest being submitted to Government, a point that has been welcomed by the county's seven MPs.

Suffolk Climate Emergency Plan

This document was released in June by the 'Suffolk Leaders Group' (County, District and Borough Council leaders) as a follow up to the Suffolk Climate Change Partnership report of 2019.

This sets out broad goals for change in behaviours and technology to achieve zero carbon by 2030 by means of measures of: 'transitioning to a fully decarbonised heat supply for homes; improving energy efficiency; behavioural change to use less energy; low carbon travel; reducing car use; more efficient freight transport; reductions in commercial and industrial carbon use; improvements in renewable energy production and a flexible grid' among others.

The Green, Liberal Democrat and Independent Group on Council will be putting a motion forward to the next Council Meeting to require the Council to set specific benchmarks and targets each year up to 2030 to encourage the modal shift in behaviour and technology required as without this we believe that the targets set out, laudable though they are, are unlikely to be achieved in practice.

For example: In July 2020 the Government's Gear Change paper called for a doubling in the amount of journeys walked or cycled. This spring, Suffolk Conservative's county council election manifesto said "we have identified over £20m of upgrades for our cycle network"

We will ask for this money to be allocated to specific projects to improve our cycle network, such as across our Peninsula where the current state is pitiable and completely unfit for purpose.

Suffolk homeowners can cut carbon emissions as successful solar panel buying scheme returns

Suffolk residents will come together to invest in renewables through a group-buying scheme for solar panels and battery storage. Solar Together Suffolk, in conjunction with Suffolk County Council, helps homeowners feel confident that they are paying the right price for a high-quality installation from pre-approved installers.

This innovative scheme builds on three years of the highly successful Solar Together programme run in Suffolk. Since 2018, the scheme has installed solar panel systems in 1,028 households across the county. On average, homeowners have saved 33% on installation costs, £263 on energy bills in year one, and stopped harmful carbon emissions entering the atmosphere.

Suffolk residents have until 27 September 2021 to register their interest, for free and with no obligation, to join the group-buying scheme to have solar panels installed at their home. Not only does Solar Together Suffolk offer solar panels, but also optional battery storage and retrofit battery storage for residents who have already invested in solar panels.

How does it work?

- Until 27 September: Householders can register to become part of the group, for free and without obligation, at www.solartogether.co.uk/suffolk
- 28 September: Pre-vetted UK solar PV installers participate in an auction. They are able to offer competitive pricing as the volume and geographic concentration makes it possible for them to realise greater efficiencies, which they pass on with lower prices for installations.
- After the auction, registered households will receive a personal recommendation which is specific to the details they submitted in their registration.
- If they choose to accept their recommendation, the specifics of their installation will be confirmed with a technical survey after which a date can be set for the installation of their solar PV system.
- Telephone and email helpdesks are on-hand throughout the whole process which, together with information sessions, will allow households to make an informed decision in a safe and hassle-free environment.

Suffolk County Council brings 'Solar Together Suffolk' to residents as part of the Suffolk Climate Change Partnership, on behalf of all of Suffolk's local authorities. This is in partnership with independent experts iChoosr to make the transition to clean energy as cost effective and hassle-free as possible. Across the UK, iChoosr has delivered almost 5,000 installations to date and over 80,000 tonnes of avoided lifetime carbon emissions.