Shimpling Parish Council Minutes of Meeting of the Council Monday 14th March 2022, 7:30pm at Shimpling Village Hall

Present:

Councillors: Liz Brunwin (Chair), Katie Haselhurst, Gerry Shrimpton, Nathalie Brown District Councillor: Cllr Stephen Plumb County Councillor: Cllr Richard Kemp Clerk: Natasha Byford

1. Apologies for absence: Cllr Mike Atkins and Cllr Michael Holt sent their 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: None received.
- b) To consider requests for dispensation for the agenda item(s) under discussion: Cllr Haselhurst declared an interest in agenda item 15f, a planning application, as a family member was potentially involved with the building works, and it was agreed that she would not take part in the discussion on this application.

3. Public Participation session

Three members of the public (MOP) attended. A thank you was extended regarding the meeting that took place about Land South of the Street and the visibility splay. Concerns were raised over the proposed benches on the Village Green and an interest raised in the agenda item 13 which discusses the footpath from Nigel's Way which goes behind Land South of the Street.

4. Approval of minutes of the previous meeting:

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 10th January 2022 were approved.

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

5. Chair's report:

Chair Brunwin gave the following report:

Since last meeting, Cllr Shrimpton and I met with a resident's relative, Suffolk Highways, County Councillor – Richard Kemp and the developer at the site of the bungalows being built near the village sign following concerns about lorries mounting the verge of the house opposite accessing the site and whether this would be problematic once the development was completed. Highways were able to recommend an adjustment to the access road to improve the situation which was agreed by all those present. Can I please extend my thanks to Richard Kemp for his support in facilitating this meeting.

Following delays by BT the groundwork for the installation of the wi fi is now complete and we now await a date for the final connection.

We have secured two grants for a bench for the grass by the village sign as well as carver chairs for the village hall which will be more suitable for those with mobility issues.

It was good to see that Shimpling Parish Council showed by far the lowest increase on the annual council tax bill. This is down to prudent housekeeping and by using some of the Covid grant to subsidise the Parish Council Precept.

We hope to get the lay-by by the recycling banks tidied up in the next few weeks. I would urge residents not to leave bottles and other rubbish next to the banks if they are full - as well as being unsightly, glass gets broken and it is a hazard to animals.

A resident has reported that there seems to be quite a lot of dog mess around at the moment. Can I please ask that you pick up after your dog and use the dog bins which are provided by the Parish Council.

It's great to see the daffodils coming out showing Shimpling at its best. Thanks to all those in the village who turned out for the annual village tidy on Sunday 13th March – it really does make a difference.

6. District Councillors report: Cllr Stephen Plumb had his report, which was sent out to members prior to the meeting and is in Appendix A below. He highlighted that the District Councils only had a 2% rise on the Council Tax. It was also noted that there was a grant left if required, preferably to go towards something for the children, this is for a minimum of £250.

Cllr Plumb left the meeting.

County Councillors report: Cllr Richard Kemp read out a summary of his report, which was circulated to members prior to the meeting, and is in Appendix B below. Cllr Kemp also added that there was a resubmitted planning application for Mount Farm. Cllr Kemp agreed to fund the signage for the bridleway at Chadacre crossing from his locality budget.
 Action: Clerk to get quotes for the signage and send to Cllr Kemp Chair Brunwin also queried with Cllr Kemp regarding the locality budget for the WIFI which is taking a while to get installed. Cllr Kemp asked Clerk to email him regarding this.
 Action: Clerk to email Cllr Kemp regarding the WIFI grant

Cllr Kemp left the meeting.

8. Crime matters:

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

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

The Clerk reported that the January newsletter was circulated to Councillors along with the papers for the crime update. There has been a couple of personnel changes and the Volunteer Police Cadets had to stand down due to Covid. Met Norman who is 100 years old and goes out on his bike daily, he does 100 miles each week in and around Cockfield. It was noted that residents should be aware of heating oil thefts.

9. Village Hall:

 a) Village Hall Committee – Update given from the VHC PC representative regarding plans for the Platinum Jubilee and the PC were asked if they would donate some money towards this. It was agreed that the PC would donate up to £500 towards the celebrations from the Covid Fund.
 Action: Clerk to email VHC Chair to confirm this donation

Cllr Shrimpton also noted that there were other grants available for Platinum Jubilee celebrations and that he would be happy to try and apply for any that the PC or VHC were eligible for.

Action: Cllr Shrimpton to research and apply for grant funding for the Platinum Jubilee Celebrations.

It was also noted that there will be a further quotation for a small amount of further electrical works for the Village Hall, which were necessary because the lighting parts would soon be obsolete.

b) The Clerk gave an update regarding Wifi in the Village Hall, some of the external works have been carried out and we expect an update by 16th March.

Action: Clerk to chase up these works

c) Members received an update regarding the carver chairs for the Village Hall, which our District Councillors kindly agreed to fund from their locality budget. Cllr Shrimpton informed members that the Village Hall Committee had already received the funds for this and that Marian was sourcing quotes for the chairs.

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	£1,890.24
Business Account	£36,215.81
Including CIL of	£1,970.63
Earmarked Reserves of	£5,850.00

General Reserves of	£4,655.09
COVID Grant of	£20,807.57

- **10b)** To acknowledge payments made outside the meeting None
- **10c)** The following amounts were approved for payment:

Village Magazine Publication	£424.80
LGA 1972 s142 (newsletters)	
 R&Z Electrical – Village Hall Works 	£1,478.25
LGA 1972, s133	
SALC Payroll Services	£27.00
LGA 1972 s 111 (ancillary Powers)	
Clerk's Net salary after Tax	£355.33
HMRC Tax payment	£88.80
Clerk's expenses (Fuel, Paper, Ink)	£64.89
LGA 1972 s. 111 (ancillary Powers)	
Playground Inspection	£420.00
Public Health Act 1936, s.87	

The above payment schedule was approved by members.

10d) The Clerk noted that the PC have received money of bank interest 30p and recycling money of £187.78.

It was asked that the Clerk provide a breakdown of the recycling credits and members noted it may be helpful if the clothing bank could be emptied more regularly.

Action: Clerk to provide a breakdown to members of the recycling credits and to research whether the clothing bank could be emptied more often.

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 (3rd January – 6th March), I have worked 15 minutes under the given time frame of 4 hours per week, this included, meetings, minutes, agendas, actions from that, chasing of the WIFI, organising the recycling payment, as well as general administration. This also included taking 4 hours of annual leave, using up my allowance for the year. The Clerk's record of work was reviewed and accepted.

12. Signage

Members considered adding warning signage regarding horses at the Bridleway to Chadacre Crossing and noted that Highways had already agreed this in principle and Cllr Kemp was going to fund this. Discussed in Item 7.

Action: Clerk to get costs for signage and to find out the exact location the signage is required.

13. Footpaths:

Members discussed improving the footpath (number 9?) that leads from Nigel's Way to the fields behind Halifax Place after having such success with Footpath 7 and it was agreed to look into this idea further. Concerns were raised from a MOP regarding liability on this footpath if a MOP were to injure themselves on the new footpath.

Action: Clerk to give Cllr Haselhurst details of contractors contacted for the previous footpath work and to see if footpaths department had any funding available or could recommend any other contractors.

Action: Clerk to look into liability regarding the footpath with Highways.

It was noted that a portion of the building beside Nigel's Way footpath was missing guttering. Members also noted that the sides of the Nigel's Way footpath require strimming.

Action: Clerk to ask Lark Valley to quote to strim this area.

14. Recycling:

Members discussed the quotations regarding the improvements to the Recycling Banks and members were reminded of the two quotes they had received. Members agreed to go with the cheapest option Mortimer Contracts.

Action: Clerk to contact Mortimer Contracts to get them to go ahead with their quote of £1,250 to make good to the recycling area.

Action: Clerk to check where the PC agreed to take this money from for these works.

15. Planning:

The Clerk gave an update on planning applications:

Planning Decisions:

 a. DC/21/06587 - The Gannocks, Old Rectory Lane, Shimpling, Suffolk IP29 4HG - Full Planning Application - Full Planning Application - Change of Use of agricultural land to residential curtilage and construction of a domestic workshop/studio - Granted

Planning Applications:

 b. DC/22/00328 - 2 West View, Gents Lane, Shimpling, Suffolk IP29 4HP - Householder Application - Erection of single storey side and rear extensions, erection of single storey front extension with balcony, construction of front and rear dormers (following demolition of existing garage)

This application was withdrawn so no comments made.

- c. DC/22/00474 Chadacre Estate, Chadacre, Shimpling, Suffolk IP29 4DT (In The Parish Of Hartest) - Planning Application - Erection of single storey extension to existing estate lodge Members decided not to comment on this application as it was not in Shimpling Parish.
- d. DC/22/00672 Giffords Hall, Hartest Hill, Shimpling, Suffolk IP29 4EX Householder application - Conversion of existing garage to ancillary accommodation, replacement roof and new glazed frames to existing conservatory, erection of new covered way to link garage to main house and internal alterations.

Members decided not to comment on this application.

e. DC/22/00673 - Giffords Hall, Hartest Hill, Shimpling, Suffolk IP29 4EX - Application for Listed Building Consent - Conversion of existing garage to ancillary accommodation, replacement roof and new glazed frames to existing conservatory, erection of new covered way to link garage to main house and internal alterations.

Members decided not to comment on this application.

f. DC/22/00498 - Thorne Court, Shimpling Road, Shimpling, IP30 0JN - Application for Prior Approval for a proposed Change of Use of Agricultural Buildings to Dwellinghouses (C3) and for building operations reasonably necessary for conversion. Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 as amended Schedule 2, Part 3, Class Q - Conversion of Barn to 1no self contained dwelling. Members decided not to comment on this application.

g. 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

Members decided that the comments that had been previously made were enough and not to comment on this appeal.

 h. DC/22/01188 - Coppins House, Blooms Hall Lane, Stanstead, Suffolk CO10 9AY - Householder Application - Erection of detached 4 bay garage block.
 Members decided not to comment on this application as it is in Stanstead.

16. Covid19 Emergency Fund

Members had received a request from the Village Hall Committee for a donation towards the Platinum Jubilee Celebrations. It was agreed as discussed in Item 9 to donate £500 towards the Platinum Jubilee Celebrations.

17. Land South of The Street:

The Chair gave an update regarding the access issue at Land South of the Street, which is covered in the Clerks report, Item 5.

18. Grants:

Chair informed members that the PC had been successful in applying for the grant for the carver chairs (as discussed in Item 9) and in applying for a grant of £1,106, which was half of the cost quoted for two new benches, including fixtures and installation, which was thought that these would be placed on the Village Green. However, concerns from MOP were raised about potential misuse of the benches and after a long discussion it was agreed that the PC would just order the one bench, which would go near the horse chestnut tree on the Village Green. This is to be announced as a resting place for people doing a short walk around the Village. A MOP very kindly agreed that he would install the bench for us and store it when it was delivered. **Action: Clerk to proceed with this grant and order the bench.**

19. Local Plan:

Chair Brunwin reported that ex Councillor Colin Johnson (the PCs representative on this matter) attended the meeting on the PCs behalf and discussed some issues, the inspector has now raised issues about the Joint Local Plan with Babergh and all further meetings are postponed.

20. Playground:

Clerk reported that the playground, including the zip wire had been inspected. The goals were assessed as medium risk as they are not secured to the ground.

Action: Chair Brunwin to ask local handyman for a quote to do this.

There were a few other low risk items picked up on the inspection, the idea of matting under the swings was noted.

Action: Clerk to speak with Eastern Play Services to see if we can get a quote for the matting and any other remedial works.

21. Tree Planting:

Members discussed the tree planting for the Jubilee and an email from one of the residents, and after a discussion decided that a fir wasn't the right tree for this. It was noted how nice it is when the tree and nativity 'appear' in December. A MOP kindly offered to supply electric for this years Christmas tree. It was potentially thought that a Cherry tree on the Halifax Place corner may be a more suitable alternative.

Action: Cllr Haselhurst to look into this area and whether it would be suitable for a tree planting.

22. Quiet Lanes:

The Clerk gave an update to say Quiet Lanes are now just awaiting signage to be installed, they have asked if Parishes can self-install but we have asked if they can still do this for us.

23. The Bush:

Chair Brunwin gave members an update regarding The Bush, there is now a new tenant and the opening day seemed to go really well and the PC wished them all the success.

24. Correspondence Received:

• Correspondence received from a resident regarding the tree planting, this is discussed in item 21.

Action: Clerk to respond to this correspondence.

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

Cllr Haselhurst reminded all that there were still two vacancies on the PC.

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 8:55pm.

Appendix A: District Councillors Report:

Babergh District Council agrees 2022/23 budget

Babergh District Council has agreed its budget for 2022/23, ensuring continued investment in residents' quality of life.

Suffolk agencies respond to storm challenges

Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Council teams joined the multi-agency response to a major incident as Storm Eunice hit Suffolk.

Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils respond to new 'County Deal'

The leaders of Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils welcomed news that Suffolk is one of nine counties invited to negotiate a ground-breaking devolution deal – bringing more control over areas such as transport, infrastructure and skills to the region.

Switch onto a new Digital Skills Programme for businesses

Business owners in Babergh and Mid Suffolk who want to learn new or improve their digital skills can now access free courses as part of a new business support programme.

Additional funding to support districts' rough sleepers

Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Council have been awarded £324K to provide specialised emergency accommodation for rough sleepers and those at risk of homelessness.

The funding, from the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government's Rough Sleepers Accommodation Programme, will see new energy efficient homes in Stowmarket and Sudbury, to provide emergency accommodation for vulnerable adults at risk of living on the streets.

Empty Homes Week (Feb 28-March 4)

Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils are reminding anyone struggling to renovate properties of the Empty Homes Renovation Loan. The loan is designed to help transform vacant properties which have been empty for more than six months and are in need of significant repairs.

Sproughton scaffolding company to pay £516k for health and safety breaches

A steel stockholder company based in Sproughton, has been ordered to pay almost £516k for health and safety offences.

School's Out activities to support families through half-term

Football, swimming, crafts and outdoor cooking, were amongst the fun activities on offer from Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils and partners during the February half-term school holidays.

New Government rebate

On 3 February, the Government announced measures to help protect millions of households from rising energy costs - including a '£150 council tax energy rebate'.

Babergh and Mid Suffolk pledge their support to addressing violence against women and girls

Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils have signed up to a new county-wide strategy, outlining how Suffolk will address violence against women and girls.

Congratulations Your Majesty

Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils sent congratulations to Her Majesty the Queen on the 70th anniversary of her accession to the throne.

Statement regarding Vanners, Sudbury

Babergh District Council issued a statement regarding developments at Vanners in Sudbury.

Constituencies are changing - have your say now

The Boundary Commission for England (BCE) is required by Parliament to undertake an independent and impartial review of all constituencies in England, to rebalance the number of electors in each constituency.

Appendix B: County Councillors report:

COVID-19 UPDATE - Summary

Latest SCC information is available here: <u>https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/coronavirus-covid-19/</u> Latest Government advice is available here: <u>www.gov.uk/coronavirus</u> <u>Vaccination Appointments can be booked here: www.sneevaccine.org.uk</u>

Full Council Budget Meeting

County Councillors met on the 17th of February to debate and vote on the Council's budget for 2022-23. Suffolk GLI Group highlighted the need to invest more in adult social care, as well as an innovative project to reduce the energy bills of those most vulnerable, considering the current energy and cost of living crisis. Both ideas were rejected by the Conservatives, but our Group will continue to champion more investment into our social care and green technology.

For more information on Suffolk GLI's Budget amendment, visit: <u>https://committeeminutes.suffolk.gov.uk/DocSetPage.aspx?MeetingTitle=(17-02-2022),%20County%20Council</u>

Changes to Highway Code

Several new changes to the Highway Code are now in force as of the 29th of January. According to The Department for Transport (DfT) the new regulations are about recognising and protecting the most vulnerable road users and making the highway safer for everyone. Suffolk Roadsafe's Quiz helps illustrate the changes that are necessary to know and includes a link to further information - https://www.quiz-maker.com/QG20TF8NL.

For more Government information on the changes you need to know, visit: https://www.gov.uk/government/news/the-highway-code-8-changes-you-need-to-know-from-29january-2022

Devolution Deal

The Government published its White Paper on Levelling-Up, within which it has agreed that Suffolk will be one of nine initial 'County Deals' up for negotiation. A new deal will potentially give local leaders more powers to make decisions for their communities for the first time.

Our Group welcomes the idea of bringing more power to the communities of Suffolk. However, we are concerned about a potential Mayoral position created in Suffolk and the effect this may have on marginalising districts in Suffolk.

Warmer Homes in Suffolk

Suffolk residents who are struggling to keep their homes warm can contact a new project, named 'Warm Homes Suffolk', which offers funding and free advice. The project can offer expert advice on reducing energy bills, energy usage and identify benefits that residents may be entitled to, to help keep their homes warm.

Visit: www.warmhomessuffolk.org.

Biodiversity Recommendations to Enhance

Suffolk County Council will be doing more for the county's natural environment, as it confirms plans to enhance the biodiversity of at least 30% of its land by 2030.

Our Group had a major influence in providing recommendations to SCC which are now a part of the Council's ambitions moving forward to enhance biodiversity.

Examples include planting more hedgerows, improving highway trees, and developing nature-based flood management solutions.

For more information, visit: <u>https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/council-news/show/councils-commitment-to-further-enhancing-suffolks-natural-environment</u>

CENTRAL GOVERNMENT REPORT - FEBRUARY

This report is a summary of some of the big decisions our Suffolk MPs have voted on during the month. The report shows what each Suffolk MP voted for, as well as the upcoming Bills in March.

2nd February

1. Finance (No. 2) Bill, New Clause 17 - Impact of Act on Tackling Climate Change

The overall Bill amends the law relating to national debt and public revenue, as well as further provisions. Clause 17 states that the Government must publish within 12 months of this Act an impact assessment of the changes in the Act as a whole on the goal of tackling climate change and the UK's plans to reach net zero by 2050.

Peter Aldous voted NO. Matthew Hancock voted NO. Tom Hunt voted NO. Daniel Poulter voted NO. Therese Coffey voted NO. James Cartlidge voted NO. Jo Churchill voted NO.

This Clause was rejected.

21st February

2. Skills and Post-16 Education Bill, Clause 14 - Information about technical education and training: access to English schools

This amendment would require every school to provide face to face careers guidance for every pupil and two weeks' worth of compulsory work experience for every registered pupil.

Peter Aldous voted NO. Matthew Hancock voted NO. Tom Hunt voted NO. Daniel Poulter voted NO. Therese Coffey voted NO. James Cartlidge voted NO. Jo Churchill did not vote.

This Clause was rejected.

22nd February

3. Public Service Pensions and Judicial Offices Bill - New Clause 8 - Compensation of losses incurred by closure of legacy schemes

This new clause would require the Government to review how losses arising from the "pension trap" could be compensated, and to report on the review within two months of the passage of the Act.

Peter Aldous voted NO. Matthew Hancock did not vote. Tom Hunt voted NO. Daniel Poulter voted NO. Therese Coffey voted NO. James Cartlidge voted NO. Jo Churchill did not vote.

This Clause was rejected.

25th February – Important Bills in their early-stage to be considered**

4. Asylum Seekers (Permission to Work) Bill: Second Reading

A Bill to make provision for granting permission to work to asylum seekers who have waited six months for a decision on their asylum application.

5. Digitally Altered Body Images Bill: Second Reading

A Bill to require advertisers, broadcasters and publishers to display a logo in cases where an image of a human body or body part has been digitally altered in its proportions.

6. Energy Pricing Bill: Second Reading

This Bill would prohibit the practice of offering preferential energy tariffs to new customers compared to existing customers; to place further restrictions on energy pricing.

7. Plastics (Wet Wipes) Bill: Second Reading

A Bill to prohibit the manufacture and sale of wet wipes containing plastic.

8. Climate Change Bill: Second Reading

A Bill to place a duty on the Government to declare a climate emergency; to amend the Climate Change Act 2008 to bring forward the date by which the United Kingdom is required to achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions; to place a duty on the Government to create and implement a strategy to achieve objectives related to climate change, including for the creation of environmentally-friendly jobs; to require the Secretary of State to report to Parliament on proposals for increased taxation of large companies to generate revenue to be spent to further those objectives.

**An update will be provided on the progress of these Bills in their initial stages

Upcoming Bills to Consider in March

18th March - Bereavement Leave and Pay (Stillborn and Miscarried Babies) Bill: Second Reading The Bill would extend entitlement to parental bereavement leave and pay to parents of babies miscarried or stillborn during early pregnancy; and for connected purposes.

18th March – British Sign Language Bill: Third Reading & Reporting Stage

A Bill to recognise British Sign Language as a language of England, Wales and Scotland; to require the Secretary of State to report on the promotion and facilitation of the use of British Sign Language by ministerial government departments; and to require guidance to be issued in relation to British Sign Language.

The Bill is now due to have its report stage and third reading on Friday 18 March 2022. Amendments can be made to the Bill at Report Stage. Amendments to be considered are selected by the Speaker.

18th March - Carbon Emissions (Buildings): Second Reading

The Bill would require the whole-life carbon emissions of buildings to be reported; to set limits on embodied carbon emissions in the construction of buildings; and for connected purposes.

18th March - Decarbonisation and Economic Strategy Bill: Second Reading

A Bill to place duties on the Secretary of State to decarbonise the United Kingdom economy and to reverse inequality; to establish a ten-year economic and public investment strategy in accordance with those duties which promotes a community- and employee-led transition from high-carbon to low- and zero-carbon industry; to require the Government to report on its adherence to the strategy; to establish higher environmental standards for air, water and green spaces; to make provision to protect and restore natural habitats; and for connected purposes.

18th March – Local Electricity Bill: Second Reading

A Bill to enable electricity generators to become local electricity suppliers; and for connected purposes. This was the Bill we used as a Motion for SCC to support.

18th March - Mental Health Provision (Children and Young People) Bill: Second Reading

A Bill to require the Government to report annually to Parliament on mental health provision for children and young people.

18th March – Plastic Pollution Bill: Second Reading

The Bill to set targets for the reduction of plastic pollution; to require the Secretary of State to publish a strategy and annual reports on plastic pollution reduction; to establish an advisory committee on plastic pollution; and for connected purposes.

18th March - Social Housing (Emergency Protection of Tenancy Rights): Second Reading

The Bill aims to give social housing tenants the right to continuity of secure tenancy in circumstances when they have to move because of a threat to the personal safety of the tenant, or someone in their household; to place associated responsibilities on local authorities and social housing providers; and for connected purposes.