

Shimpling Parish Council

Minutes of Meeting of the Council

Monday 18th September 2023, 7:00pm at Shimpling Village Hall

Present:

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

County Councillors: Richard Kemp

Clerk: Natasha Byford

1. **Apologies for absence:** Cllrs Shrimpton, Engstrom, Plumb and Holt 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:** None received.

3. **Public Participation session**

One member of the public (MOP) attended. There was a question raised over Hallifax Place and the subsidised housing there. At present the PC haven't found any paperwork relating to these but Cllr Dunkley said that we will look into it.

4. **Approval of minutes of the previous meeting:**

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 10th July 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:

As is often the case, it has been a quiet period for the council over the summer months.

There has been some good news in that the SID on Slough Hill is now operational, thanks to Stuart.

The maintenance review of the Playground equipment was largely very positive. The main issues seem to be bird poo. The areas have been cleaned but this is an ongoing job.

We have a revised Website focussing on the wider community rather than primarily on the Parish Council's business. There is still a lot of information to be loaded but that is an ongoing job.

We are moving ahead with arrangements for a Neighbourhood Plan briefing day later in the year.

On the not so good side, we were disappointed that the arrangements with Vertas on a Saturday bus service to Bury St Edmunds has had to be put on hold, due to driver unavailability.

Also, progress on the Village Hall lease has been much slower than we would have wanted or expected.

There have been a number of Police reportable incidents in the village recently. The Parish Council will be working to get better links with the various agencies and groups, involved with and responsible for, policing for the village.

6. **District Councillors report:** The District Cllrs report was circulated with the papers and there were no further questions on this. The report is in Appendix A below. Cllr Holt emailed to say he was looking forward to seeing Cllrs Dunkley and Brunwin at the Police Meeting.

7. **County Councillors report:** Cllr Kemp read out his report and there were no further questions on this. The report is in Appendix B below. It was raised that the 30mph sign next to the new SID was faded and you can't see it. Cllr Kemp kindly agreed that if we got the new sign that he would pay for it.

Action: Clerk to find new 30mph repeater sign.

Cllr Kemp left the meeting at 7:15pm.

8. **Crime matters:**

The new county wide newsletter available was dated July 2023 and is available online:

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

The Clerk reported that the July newsletter was circulated to Councillors along with the papers for the crime update. Nothing Shimpling specific in the newsletter but there were some thefts from cars in Gents Lane, the update on this was that all individuals involved had a crime number. Cllr Dunkley was going to contact the safer neighbourhood team to see if someone would attend a meeting but there is now a meeting at Glemsford, which Cllrs Dunkley and Brunwin will attend and one online which Cllr Dunkley will attend.

Action: Cllr Dunkley to invite the Police to a rural caravan event and to update the website with local police contacts.

9. Village Hall:

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

The VHC have been busy the last couple of months organising the Rock n Roll Summer Dance that we held jointly with Alpheton at Shimpling Park Farm.

The night was a great success and we made a healthy profit that will benefit both halls.

We welcomed Jenny Pine as our new treasurer and she has finally got the online banking up and running.

Regular events:

Fitness Sessions: September will see Pilates, Zumba and Dance club start again after the long summer break. I've put out a plea for a yoga teacher so hopefully we can get another regular class going.

Film night continues to be well attended and at the next film night (Tuesday 19th September) we have my Thai caterers coming along.

The Rural Coffee Caravan is well supported every month... coffee and cake plus lots of useful information and somewhere for people to socialise.

External Bookings: We have also been approached by someone who would like to use the hall regularly for 1-1 sessions so we'll see how that goes.

Upcoming events:

Silver Ring Workshop is on the 7th October - 7 attendees to date (max capacity is 8)

Quiz - Back by popular demand we have Vernon's quiz night on Saturday 28th October with a fish and chips supper.

Christmas - a special Christmas film for the kids with a surprise visit from Santa in December.

Shimpling Celebrates 27th May 2024 - we hope to hold a family friendly day of activities including the ever-popular cart race

Projects:

Solar panels - I have spoken with Leo from and he is happy to honour the price he quoted if we agree asap but I did inform him that funding could be tricky while waiting to renew the lease.

Double doors - we have agreed the doors should mirror the size of the fire doors on the opposite wall and should be white frames to blend with the windows, as the existing fire doors are rotten it would be nice if we could replace them with the same French doors to give us more light.

b) It was noted that unfortunately we can't move forward with the new patio doors until the Village Hall lease has been sorted. Cllr Dunkley and the Clerk met with building control last week and they informed us that the front door should have a level threshold and a flat area outward. The fire door should also have a level threshold and the path should be 1.2meters wide to allow for disabled access. The new patio doors would not need ramp access. We do need to update the lease to encompass the 1.2m outside of the VH footprint for the path to be widened. We also would need to encompass a disability pack in one or both of the toilets.

Funding for the doors would be attempted from Capital Grant funding, external CIL funding or Locality award from District Cllrs but we need quotations before we can proceed with grant funding applications. Jenny also reminded Cllrs that the Hallifax trust may be able to help with funds.

c) It was discussed that the PC are still working on the Solar Panels funding - Capital grant funding has been applied for £10,000 ask for some external CIL money and/or some locality grants. But without the new lease in place its unlikely we will be successful for any grants.

Action: Clerk to continue with funding applications to try and get this secured.

d) The Village Hall Fire Alarm quotes were discussed, agreed to go ahead with Ace Fire who will Provide additional emergency lighting in kitchen and over rear exit as recommended. Provide 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 for £1400 plus VAT and members agreed to take this from the Covid fund.

Action: Clerk to arrange this visit.

e) At the last meeting - Laurence Rooke said he would fix the two external doors at just the price of materials. Members agreed to go ahead with Laurence Rookes quote. PC agreed up to £250 for materials and this will come out of Village Hall Maintenance budget line. This has now been done and the fire door mended. It will need replacing in the next couple of years.

f) Members discussed funding between the Village Hall and the Parish Council. It was thought that it may be easier for both parties if the Parish Council gave the Village Hall Committee an amount of money each year and then the VHC organise all of the things that need doing, ie PAT testing, fire extinguisher service etc. It was agreed that we would draft up a new constitution between the two parties and the VHC would discuss it at their next meeting and the PC could discuss it at the next meeting.

Action: Clerk to draw up new draft constitution.

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	£5,502.43
Business Account	£25,115.70
Including CIL of	£4,018.06
Earmarked Reserves of	£20,996.05
General Reserves of	£4,698.00
COVID Grant of	£2,438.87

10b) To acknowledge payments made outside the meeting

- **Zen Internet (16 July-15 Aug)** **£38.99**
(LGA 1972, s.111)
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(LGA 1972, s.111)
- **CAS Website Training (David)** **£48.00**
(LGA 1972, s.142)
- **LRooke Fire Door Fix** **£45.00**
(LGA 1972, s.133)
- **999 Network support** **£144.00**
(LGA 1972, s.111)
- **Ace Fire Extinguisher Service** **£171.60**
(LGA 1972, s.133)
- **SWARCO – SID** **£4,400.00**
(Highways Act 1980, s.274A)
- **Babergh Uncontested Election** **£133.53**
(LGA 1972, s.111)

10c) The following amounts were approved for payment:

- **Clerk's Net salary after Tax** **£417.53**
- **HMRC Tax payment** **£104.40**
- **Clerk's expenses (Fuel, Ink, Paper)** **£57.09**
LGA 1972 s. 111 (ancillary Powers)

The above payment schedule was approved by members.

10d) The Clerk noted that The Council have received money from bank interest of £19.08 and £20.78. We have also received our second instalment of the precept for £5,632.50.

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 July 23 – 3rd Sept 23), I have worked 4 hours under the given time frame of 5 hours per week, this included organising all the paperwork for the July meeting, agendas, actions from the July meetings, organising payments, quotes and grant applications, working on the website, as well as general administration. The Clerk's record of work was reviewed and accepted.

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.

12. Playground:

- a) Members received the quote for replacement of some loose and rotten fence posts. It was agreed to go ahead with the quote for £895.00 from Gary Cann to get this done. It was noted that we should start to consider budgeting for a new full fence for the playground in the near future.

Action: Clerk to ask Gary to go ahead with this quote.

- b) Members discussed the resident request for new play equipment and decided that they had spent their allocation on the playground this year with the new football goal but will bear those pieces of equipment in mind and add it to the project wish list.

Action: Clerk to go back to resident and Cllr Dunkley to update the project list.

It was also raised we had no response to our 'odd job/maintenance person' advert.

Action: Clerk to readvertise this.

13. 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 in progress
- 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 – Awaiting Decision
- 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) – Awaiting Decision
- 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

Planning Applications:

- i) Lawshall Neighbourhood Plan

Members discuss this and no had no comments.

- j) 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.

Members discuss this and had no comments.

14. Covid19 Emergency Fund:

No applications received. Village Hall thanked the PC in advance for using the Covid fund to fix the Fire Alarm.

15. SID

Stuart (our Volunteer Assistant Clerk) has been kind enough to fit this for us and it is now fully functional. We do need a volunteer to charge the batteries, we will ask Cllr Shrimpton if he would be able to do this. It was also noted that we should add the new SID to the maintenance contract and ensure it is on the insurance.

Action: Clerk to get a quote to add the new SID to the maintenance contract and add it to the asset list and insurance.

The key for the original SID may have sheared off in the SID lock so we need to check whether this would be covered on insurance or/and source a new key.

Action: Clerk to find out whether this is covered on insurance and source new key.

16. Village Hall Lease:

We are chasing Birketts Solicitors to get Ashton Solicitors to get the lease drawn up. We have asked for a 30 year lease (the Richards had already verbally agreed to 21 years) and we have asked for the footprint to be extended slightly to allow for a new path of 1.2m to meet disability regulations. Currently the Richards have not engaged their solicitor.

Action: Cllr Dunkley to contact Peter Richards to see if we can get moving with this.

17. Projects

Cllr Dunkley updated members that the project list had been updated and sent round. The new doors in the Village Hall, the Solar Panels for the Village Hall were still projects we were undertaking but these are slowly progressing.

18. Bus Service

This is very disappointingly not progressing. Vertas notified the PC that there are no drivers were available for the Shimpling bus trial. For this reason the project should be considered on-hold until a satisfactory commitment of drivers is given from Vertas.

19. Footpath

The footpath at Nigel's Way was discussed regarding the trimming back of nettles. It was asked that the Clerk check with Chris from Lark Valley that this was on his list for a good cut back twice a year.

Action: Clerk to check with Chris that this is on his list.

20. 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.

Action: Clerk to get quotes for someone to dig out concrete fixings and relocate bench and refix in.

21. Communication Channels

Chair Dunkley updated members that the new website was live and still a work in progress that would be added to as we go along. Clerk thanked Cllr Dunkley for all his hard work on this.

22. Neighbourhood Plan:

The promotion event is going ahead on Saturday 14th October and would be about gauging the interest from Village residents and seeing if there would be enough volunteers to create a Shimpling Neighbourhood Plan as this is a community undertaking which the PC can only facilitate and not lead on.

Action: Clerk to continue corresponding with Ian regarding this.

The PC noted that we need to advertise the event well via the Round Robin, website, newsletter, Facebook and a leaflet drop. We can offer tea and coffee on the day.

Action: Clerk to advertise as much as possible.

23. Correspondence Received:

An email from a resident regarding the footpath surfaces was discussed. Members said they would look at it but the Nigel's Way footpath was only recently resurfaced.

Action: Clerk to respond and let them know.

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

None

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

Appendix A: District Councillors Report:

Councils review support for residents struggling with cost of living crisis

Support for residents struggling with the cost of living crisis was back on the agenda last month – with further help planned for those in need.

Councils' commercial property arm continues to generate income for districts

Babergh and Mid Suffolk's commercial property investment company CIFCO generated £2.5m in net income to support the council finances last year, reports published last month show.

Councils announce new raft of business grants

Businesses in Babergh and Mid Suffolk are set to benefit from a new round of funding thanks to the Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF).

Free business support on offer for Babergh and Mid Suffolk start-ups

Babergh and Mid Suffolk Councils have teamed up with MENTA to offer start-up businesses free expert support and guidance.

New café and toilet plan for Belle Vue Park

Babergh District Council's cabinet is due to consider funding for proposals to replace the aging and vandal-prone toilets at Sudbury's Belle Vue Park with a new environmentally friendly café and fully accessible facilities.

Appendix B: County Councillors report:

Information Updates

For information on local support during the Cost-of-Living Crisis, visit:
www.suffolk.gov.uk/CostOfLiving

For information on supporting Ukrainian refugees in Suffolk, email: refugeesupport@suffolk.gov.uk or ukrainesupport@communityactionsuffolk.org.uk

Pylon plan not supported by SCC

Suffolk County Council is not supporting the latest proposals by the National Grid to install 114 miles of electricity pylons across the county as part of the “Norwich to Tilbury” project. A number of objections have been raised about the 33 mile stretch of the new works which would run through Suffolk, which includes installing a stretch of cabling under the Dedham Vale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The council is pressing for an offshore solution to be fully researched and considered.

Onshore facility proposal for Suffolk Coast

Suffolk County Council was disappointed to learn that the LionLink interconnector project from National Grid Ventures has identified an alternative landfall at Walberswick, with cable routing making its way to the north of Southwold.

The Lionlink project aims to connect multiple offshore wind farms in the North Sea, instead of individual wind farms connecting one by one to the shore. The project is a joint venture between the UK and the Netherlands, supplying energy to both countries. The Council will study the details of the new proposals, and will prepare its response to the National Grid's second public consultation, which opens on 8 September.

Tour of Britain Cycle Race

The world's best cyclists will be taking to the roads of Suffolk on 7 September, including Tour de France champions. This fifth stage of the national race will start in Felixstowe at 10.45am and go through Kesgrave, Ipswich, Hadleigh, Needham Market, Stowmarket, Framlingham, Leiston and Woodbridge before finishing back in Felixstowe at around 3.30pm. For details of the route and timings, please see the plans for Stage Five on the Tour of Britain website:
<https://www.tourofbritain.co.uk/stages/stage-five/>

Social Worker of the Year Awards 2023

Suffolk County Council's social workers and social care teams have been shortlisted for six awards at the annual Social Worker of the Year Awards. This is the only major national awards event for social work in England, attracting hundreds of entries every year and reaching millions of people with positive stories of outstanding social work.

We are really proud of our social workers, who work so hard to help people in often challenging circumstances. The winners will be announced at the awards ceremony in November this year.

New Fire and Rescue Service Training Centre

The Suffolk Fire and Rescue Training Centre at Wattisham has had a £1.3m upgrade and was formally opened on 24 August. This includes a new tactical firefighting facility to simulate incidents firefighters may be faced with and help them prepare for the dangerous work they undertake in the community.

Support for Ukrainian Refugees moving to private rented accommodation

In May, Suffolk County Council announced a one-off £2,000 support grant for Ukrainian refugees moving on from their host into their own accommodation.

The Independent Living Payment is available to any Ukrainian refugees moving into private rented accommodation after 1 April 2023. Guests must have been living in Suffolk for a minimum of two

months and be registered on the Suffolk Homes for Ukraine scheme to be eligible for the payment. This funding can be used for any associated housing costs, including furniture, moving costs or travel to work. The support can be used towards accommodation which is furnished or unfurnished, and accommodation can be in Suffolk or out of county.

Ukrainian guests can apply for the Independent Living Payment and completing the application form on the Suffolk County Council website:

<https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/community-and-safety/communities/community-engagement/support-for-refugees/support-for-ukraine/ukraine-information-for-guests>

Ambling African Women break down barriers to accessing Suffolk Countryside

Suffolk County Council celebrated the launch of 'Ambling African Women' a new partnership with PHOEBE, the Ipswich-based charity advocating for black and ethnic minority women and children.

The new partnership aims to support PHOEBE members to access the countryside for its health and well-being benefits and is part of the wider work by the Green Access and Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) teams to address inequalities in countryside access.

Founded by Zimbabwean women social workers in 2008, P.H.O.E.B.E (Promotion of Health, Opportunity, Equality, Benevolence and Empowerment) offers specialist domestic abuse advice, information, casework, advocacy and support and counselling services to black and ethnic minoritised women and children in Suffolk.

The Council worked with PHOEBE in 2022 to identify specific cultural barriers to countryside access. The partnership which has been developed will help inform future interventions that will be offered to other community groups facing similar barriers to visiting the countryside.

At the launch event on Tuesday 29 August, Suffolk County Council and its partners hosted a guided walk for around 30-40 women from the PHOEBE centre, who are part of the centre's new Ambling African Women walking group.

There were women of all ages and fitness levels taking part, from babies in pushchairs, up to retirement age women, with plenty of chatting and socialising along the way. The walk took place at Snape Maltings, which is in the Coast & Heaths Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, with a guided walk along the Sailors Path from Snape Maltings along the river to Snape Warren and back, followed by lunch and traditional African music.

To keep up to date with what 'Ambling African Women' are up to, you can follow them on Twitter, here: <https://twitter.com/AmblingAfricans>.

Suffolk's Archive Service Achieves Full National Accreditation

Following a recent Archive Service Accreditation Panel, Suffolk Archives, a Suffolk County Council service has achieved Full Accreditation. The service achieved Provisional Accreditation in March 2019 and today the UK Archive Service Accreditation Committee has moved Suffolk Archives from provisional to full accreditation status.

Accreditation is the UK quality standard which recognises good performance in all areas of archive service delivery. Achieving accredited status demonstrates that Suffolk Archives has met clearly defined national standards relating to management and resourcing; the care of its unique collections and the service it offers to a broad range of users.

Archive Service Accreditation is supported by a partnership of the Archives and Records Association (UK), Archives and Records Council Wales, National Records of Scotland, Public Record Office of Northern Ireland, Scottish Council on Archives, The National Archives; and the Welsh Government through its Museums, Archives and Libraries Wales division.

The Accreditation Panels are composed of Committee members nominated by the seven Accreditation partners and openly recruited from the archives sector.

Video salutes work of Suffolk's Junior Road Safety Officers

The hard work of Suffolk's Junior Road Safety Officers is recognised with awards and an official video. Suffolk schools taking part in a scheme to promote road safety have been recognised in a special video recording their efforts.

The video celebrates the work in their schools and communities of Suffolk's Junior Road Safety Officers (JRSOs). JRSOs are pupils from Year 4 and above who promote road safety through Suffolk Roadsafe, the partnership made up of Suffolk County Council, the emergency services, the Police and Crime Commissioner and National Highways.

Roadsafe brings together the main agencies involved in road safety with the aim of reducing casualties in the county.

The JRSO awards saw gold, silver and bronze awards made to 36 schools from across Suffolk; gold awards were made to 21 schools, silver to 13 and bronze to two.

Schools and their JRSOs organise events throughout the year to promote the theme, with the awards recognising innovation in getting the message out there.

Ideas ranged from information leaflets, safety signs and bake sales to striking a deal with a local garden centre for parents to park and walk their children the rest of the way to the school.

One school, Brampton Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School from Brampton, near Beccles, was even awarded a Blue Peter badge for writing to the popular long-running BBC children's TV programme to explain what they were doing.

All the activities were recorded in special scrapbooks.