

Shimpling Parish Council

Minutes of Meeting of the Council

Monday 27th March 2023, 7:00pm at Shimpling Village Hall

Present:

Councillors: Gerry Shrimpton, Nathalie Brown, David Dunkley (Chair), Hans Engstrom, Katie Haselhurst

Clerk: Natasha Byford

1. **Apologies for absence:** Cllrs Kemp, Holt, Plumb and Brunwin sent their apologies, this was 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**

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 13th March 2023 were approved.

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

5. **Village Hall:**

- a) Cllr Brown met with a fire door specialist who gave a quote for £818 inc VAT to fix the two external fire doors and the internal door from the kitchen. Laurence Rooke said he would fix the two external doors at just the price of materials. Members agreed to go ahead with Laurence's quote. PC agreed up to £250 for materials and this will come out of Village Hall Maintenance budget line.

Action: Cllr Brown to give Laurence the go ahead to fix the two external fire doors. It was also questioned whether the Village Hall has had a fire risk assessment. Marian believes this was carried out in March 2022.

Action: Cllr Brown to get Clerk to get a copy of this for PC records.

- b) Members discussed gazebo weights and the different sorts and what would be required for our gazebos. Many quotations were received, from Amazon, Dancover and outdoor choice. Members agreed that the 6kg x8 weights from Dancover were preferred. Cllr Brown to call Dancover and check that these would be enough in windy conditions. Members agreed to go ahead and purchase weights that are like for like or cheaper than the gazebo suppliers own version and were happy to spend up to £220 and take this from CIL budget.

Action: Cllr Brown to call Dancover and confirm regarding windspeeds and Clerk/Cllr Brown to purchase weights.

Cllr Dunkley also noted that the gazebos should be marked or tagged in some way.

- c) Cllr Brown managed to get one quotation for adding double doors in the Village Hall. It was queried whether we would need planning permission for this.

Action: Cllr Brown to email planning to ask.

Members were happy to wait until the next meeting for the three quotations required.

Action: Cllr Brown to chase the other 2 quotations. Clerk to put this on the May meeting agenda.

- d) Cllr Brown met a salesman for solar panels at the Village Hall who quoted around £12,845.00 for 12 solar panels with inverters and batteries and a 25 year guarantee. It was suggested that with solar panels. The Village Hall could save 80-95% on their energy bills. Cllr Brown received a second quote from another company for 10 solar panels with a value option at £8,773.00 with 12 year warrantee, a medium option at £10,051.00 with a 15 year warrantee and a higher option of £10,881 with a 30 year warrantee. Cllr Brown informed members she was awaiting a site survey from a third company. Members discussed that the key thing here was funding. It was discussed that potential funding could come from the National Lottery (if over £10,000) or potentially County CIL funding or Government grants. There were also concerns that we would not be eligible for any funding unless we secured a longer lease on the Village Hall.

6. Village Hall Lease:

Cllr Dunkley emailed Ashton Legal in order to try and get answers regarding the roll over of the lease, the length of the lease and the security of the lease, including a cost of renewing the lease.

Action: Cllr Dunkley to keep on to the solicitor and Clerk to add this to the May meeting.

7. Storyboard

Cllr Shrimpton informed members that he hadn't had chance to pursue the quotations yet.

Action: Cllr Shrimpton to get quotations and Clerk to add this to the next agenda.

8. Playground:

The Clerk informed members that Playquip believe the playground is on schedule to be inspected in June. Cllr Haselhurst noted that this would then include the new football goal.

Action: Clerk to add the inspection and findings to the July meeting agenda.

9. Neighbourhood Plan:

Members discussed the neighbourhood plan. Members noted the consultant Ian Poole did come highly recommended. Members talked about the neighbourhood planning statements which were a smaller document than a whole neighbourhood plan and possibly something to consider. Concerns were raised over getting enough volunteers from the Village together in order to create a neighbourhood plan to begin with and there were reservations that the plan would hold no weight when it came to planning applications as there have been a couple of examples in local Villages where planning went ahead in areas that the neighbourhood plan didn't want there to be building. Members also discussed that not having a neighbourhood plan could hinder our funding and access to grants, as a neighbourhood plan is often a pre requisite to some grants. Members acknowledged that one of the biggest reasons for wanting to do the neighbourhood plan was to protect the green spaces. Members agreed that an informal chat with Ian Poole, the consultant was the best way to proceed.

Action: Clerk to ask Ian to meet us on Monday 17th April as a working party group. Any Cllrs who cannot make the meeting to forward their questions on so we have them.

10. Going Green:

Cllr Haselhurst informed members that joining the Greenest County Community Network would alert us to schemes and funding in the local area. Members agreed to sign up to this.

Action: Clerk to sign the PC up to this network.

11. Planning:

Planning Applications:

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

Members discussed this application and agreed not to comment.

12. Correspondence Received:

An email from a resident regarding Kernos Centre with a funding request.

Members discussed this request and thought that if individuals wanted to donate then they could do that, it wasn't for the Parish Council to decide. Members agreed to go back and ask them that they could publish in the Village Newsletter if they wished.

Action: Clerk to respond and let them know about the newsletter.

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

The Joint Local Plan Modifications Consultation is on Thursday 30th March, members agreed it would be best to ask Colin to represent the PC again with this as he has the history.

Action: Clerk to email Colin to ask him to represent the PC.

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 8:40pm.