

Shimpling Parish Council
Minutes of Meeting of the Council
Monday 30th November 2020, 7:30pm via ZOOM remote conference.

Present:

Councillors: Liz Brunwin (Chair), Katie Haselhurst, Mike Atkins, Colin Johnston, Gerry Shrimpton, Nathalie Brown, Ken Rush

Clerk: Natasha Byford

Volunteer Assistant Clerk: Stuart Palmer

1. Apologies for absence: Cllr Michael Holt

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 made

To consider requests for dispensation for the agenda item(s) under discussion: Four members disclosed a possible personal interest in Item 4a as they lived nearby. Members discussed the impact of four councillors not being part of this item and the meeting no longer being quorate. It was resolved that it was unnecessary and impractical for the councillors to not be part of the item in question as none were near neighbours and in a small village issues such as this will always occur.

3. Approval of minutes of the previous meeting:

The minutes of the meeting held on 9th November 2020 were approved.

Public Participation session

Seven members of the public (MOP) attended. We heard from two MOP regarding the planning application under item 4a. Both spoke in support of the planning application in question and suggested how this would have a positive impact for the village.

4. Planning:

The Chair gave an update on planning applications:

4a) DC/20/05017 - Malting Farm, The Street, Shimpling, Bury St Edmunds Suffolk IP29 4HS

No objections were raised and members considered the availability of smaller accommodation for rental in the village is needed, therefore the PC resolved to support this application.

Action – Clerk to write letter/update planning website to say this.

4b) To receive an update on Joint Local Plan:

One member gave an update regarding the Joint Local Plan. Members unanimously agreed that they would like to submit a response.

Action – Cllr Colin Johnston to assist the Clerk in drafting a response for the Joint Local Plan.

5. Playground:

The Chair gave the following update and reminder about the history of the maintenance of the playground and asked members to consider and vote on several possible ways forward:

Option 1 – Take up the offer of the repairs by Eastern Play Services who inspected the equipment in July at a cost of £644 plus VAT. This would include fence repairs, replacement post caps, removal of green growth from climbing frame, securing of football posts. There would also be an extra charge of £70 plus VAT for inspection of the chain and seat of the aerial runway which was not done at the first inspection and possible unknown further expenditure if this is found to be in need of repair.

Option 2 – Take up offer of Ben Hutchinson to repair the fences at material cost. We may be able to source and replace the post caps. Caloo would be asked to inspect the aerial runway chain and seat at a cost of £395 plus VAT. Caloo had quoted £485 plus VAT if the seat and chain needed to be replaced.

Option 3 – Do nothing on the basis that all the items reported in the inspection are classified as low risk.

It was also noted by one member that there was another option ie to decommission the aerial runway and this was also considered.

The majority of members decided to go with Option 2 – to accept Ben Hutchinson's kind offer to repair the fences at material cost and to ask Caloo to inspect the chain and the seat of the zip wire at a cost of £395 plus VAT. They had quoted £485 plus VAT if the chain and seat needed to be replaced. One member asked if Caloo offer a warranty on any replacement items and it was agreed that they would be asked although it was noted that the current chain and seat had not been replaced in approximately 9 years.

Another member asked whether there was a possibility of training up a volunteer to inspect the playground each year to save some costs.

Action – Chair Liz Brunwin to put this in motion.

It was noted that a review of the playground would be a gainful project. To find out what children used the playground, how often, what they liked and didn't like about it etc.

Action – Cllr Katie Haselhurst to conduct a review on children's views of the playground.

6. Recycling:

Members discussed whether or not to give the proceeds from the clothing bank to a charity. They had received and considered an email from a member of the public. Members felt that giving to a particular charity was a matter for individuals in the Parish. There were also restrictions under Regulation S.137. They therefore decided that they were not in a position to give public money to charities.

7. Finance

Clerk updated members that the following payments had been made since the previous meeting:

- a) Invoice for SID maintenance contract £147.60
Highways Act 1980, s.274A (Traffic Calming)
- b) Invoice for Litter and Dog bin emptying £81.86
Litter Act 1983, ss.5-6 (Litter Bins)
- c) Village Hall Hire for Pilates £78.00
Local Govt (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, s.19 (Sports & Recreational Facilities)
- d) Councillor Training £30.00

LGA 1972, s.111 (Ancillary Power)

All agreed with no issues arising.

8. Correspondence Received:

To inform the Council of any correspondence received:

- a) Email from a MOP regarding charitable giving, discussed in item 6.
- b) Response from the PC insurance company to say that the Parish Council is not covered under the Business Interruption section of the policy.
- c) Mark Ash's response re Highways matters in Babergh Planning Application DC/20/01664
It was agreed that members would like to respond to this, preferably with some data that has previously been collected included.

Action – Clerk to work with Cllr Colin Johnston to draft a response.

9. Urgent business to be brought to the attention of council:

To consider any urgent matters from council for future agenda items:

- a) Chair Liz Brunwin updated members on the fact that the £60 for the PCC to hire the Village Hall in order to make Christmas wreathes for the Christmas Fair was no longer required due to being in Tier 2 and therefore unable to meet indoors.
- b) Cllr Colin Johnson gave a brief update regarding footpath no.7, he met with the footpaths officer who agreed that this footpath was a good candidate for update. The footpaths officer will write to Cllr Richard Kemp to request some of his locality budget for this project. The Clerk has sent out letters to three contractors asking them to provide a quotation for these works. These quotations will be taken to the January meeting and agreed works would be carried out next Spring.

Public Participation session

Two members of the public (MOP) were still in attendance. Christmas good wishes were exchanged.

10. Confidential Item:

- a) Members discussed whether the Parish Council is able to help a local family in need. It was acknowledged that under regulation S.137 that unfortunately the Parish Council did not have the powers to offer any financial assistance in this case.

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 8:57pm.

Natasha Byford

shimplingpc@gmail.com

Clerk to Shimpling Parish Council

07940 223200