

Shimpling Parish Council
Minutes of Meeting of the Council
Monday 8th November 2021, 7:30pm at Shimpling Village Hall

Present:

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

District Councillor: Cllr Stephen Plumb

County Councillor: Cllr Richard Kemp

Clerk: Natasha Byford

1. **Apologies for absence:** Cllr Michael Holt 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. Concerns were raised over access into the new development Land South of the Street. Lorries are currently using a private driveway in order to turn into the development and there are concerns that this may continue even after the development is finished. Cllr Kemp sympathised and said he would arrange a site meeting with himself, hopefully Cllr Plumb and perhaps a Parish Council representative to see what could be done.

Action: Cllr Kemp to arrange site meeting
4. **Approval of minutes of the previous meeting:**

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 4th October 2021 were approved.

Action: Clerk to publish these on the website and Social Media.
5. **Chair's report:**

Chair Brunwin gave the following report:

The Chair reported that it had been a quiet couple of months. She had attended a budget meeting with Cllrs Shrimpton, Haselhurst and the Clerk – Natasha. This was a valuable meeting where we go through budget lines both past and present in detail. The Parish Council would consider and agree the budget later in the meeting. The Chair thanked Natasha for all her hard work on this.

She reported that the WhatsApp Shimpling Support Group had come in very useful recently when we were asked to pass on an urgent message to someone in the village. It would be good if we could get more residents to join and to this end, she had asked Sarah Smith to put something in the village magazine about this.

The sign for the footpath between The Street and Gents Lane has now been put up and the Chair thanked Ben Hutchinson for doing this work for the village.

The Chair reminded members that at the last AGM she had announced that she would be standing down at the next AGM in 2022. So far no-one has expressed an interest to take on the role, and she urged councillors to consider stepping up in the next month or so. If there were no volunteers, then a representative from Babergh District Council would step in to manage the meetings although the Parish Council would need to put in place arrangements for our Clerk so that she could continue to manage the jobs of the Parish Council in the interim.

6. **District Councillors report:** Cllr Stephen Plumb had nothing more to add to his 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.

8. **Crime matters:**

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

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

The Clerk reported that the October newsletter was circulated to Councillors along with the papers for the crime update. Arrests over drugs at Belle Vue Park, speed checks for project EDWARD (Every Day Without A Road Death). Police cadets are growing in number and partook in a walk for St Nicholas Hospice.

9. **Village Hall:**

- a) **Village Hall Committee** – It was noted that the Village Hall Committee has met recently and updated members on queries regarding insurance of hirers for the Village Hall, that the VHC would like a joint meeting with the PC regarding plans for Village celebrations of the Queens Platinum Jubilee next year, which the PC said they were happy to support in principle.
- b) The Chair informed members that the installation of Wifi in the Village Hall would cost £3,188.25. It was discussed and decided that if the PC could have reassurances that the install of this duct would work and the speeds of the WIFI would be acceptable then this would be a good use of the Covid grant money. Agreed in principle.

Action: Clerk to chase up Zen and get confirmation that this will new duct will give the VH WIFI and ask regarding the speed of WIFI.

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	£4,959.61
Business Account	£36,214.60
Including CIL of	£1,970.63
Earmarked Reserves of	£5,850.00

General Reserves of	£4,655.09
COVID Grant of	£22,066.20

- 10b)** To acknowledge payments made outside the meeting
None

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

• Clerk's Net salary after Tax	£325.40
• HMRC Tax payment	£81.40
• Clerk's expenses	£25.65
LGA 1972 s. 111 (ancillary Powers)	
• SALC Payroll	£27.00
(LGA 1972, s.11)	
• Lark Valley Willow – Grass Cutting	£463.20
(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 CIL of £1,970.63 and VAT refund of £1,524.69 and bank interest 30p.

- 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 (6th September – 31st October), I have worked 4 hours over the given time frame of 4 hours per week, this included organising the budget, the budget working group meeting, an extra PC meeting, chasing the guttering and grass cutting quotes, drafting the November newsletter, looking at the insurance quotes in detail, as well as general administration. The Clerk's record of work was reviewed and accepted.

12. Budget

- 12a)** The report from the Budget Setting Working Group was previously circulated to members. Members discussed and made some amendments to the budget. Members then approved the updated budget proposed for 2022/23.
- 12b)** Members approved the recommendation that the precept for 2022/23 would be set at £10,413.00.

13. Footpaths:

- 13a)** The Chair gave an update regarding the guttering overhanging Footpath 7, advising that the guttering works were going to be done later in the week.
- 13b)** Chair updated members regarding the new sign at Footpath 7 and reported there had been no further flooding to the neighbouring outhouse since the remedial work had been done by the contractor.

14. Recycling:

14a) Members were reminded that they previously agreed to go ahead with 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 and that funding for this work this would be taken from the Covid grant fund. It was agreed to go ahead with just the pothole works and crushed road planings for now, as we had not received full support on the laurel hedge planting from the farmer accessing the nearby field.

Action: Clerk to contact contractor and ask him to proceed with these works

15. Planning:

The Clerk gave an update on planning applications:

Planning Decisions:

- a) DC/21/05011 Land Opposite To Stone Cottages Bury Road Shimpling Suffolk – 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 5 mins former second world war building as a dwellinghouse – Was not lawful.

Planning Applications:

- a) DC/21/05379 - Giffords Hall, Hartest Hill, Shimpling, Suffolk IP29 4EX - Full Planning Application - Change of Use of office to holiday let to be used in conjunction with vineyard business.

Action: Clerk to write letter supporting the application.

16. The Bush

No update was reported for The Bush.

17. Covid19 Emergency Fund

- a) Request from Village Hall for a donation towards a meet the neighbours event. Members discussed this and it was felt that a £200 could be made to the VHC for this.

Action: Clerk to pay VHC £200 donation

Request from the Church for a donation to cover the hire of the hall for making Christmas wreathes. Members discussed this and agreed to cover the cost.

- b) Members discussed the Memorandum of understanding and it was decided that this document still fitted the needs of the Council for this money, the wording was updated slightly.

Action: Clerk to update wording on the Memorandum of understanding

18. Insurance:

The Clerk gave an update regarding insurance quotations and it was decided to go with the cheapest policy through BHIB Councils, a 3 year policy with the annual premium of £657.32 – so long as the premium for the third year of the policy did not exceed £700. If this was the case then members wish to go with the 1 year policy with Aviva (through BHIB Councils) for £698.45.

Action: Clerk to contact insurance company and check cost of policy per each year of the 3 year contract and take out the suitable policy, as agreed by members.

19. The Coal House:

Chair Brunwin updated members that The Coal House had been tidied up and weeded and that Babergh had been notified of this.

20. Land South of the Street:

Chair Brunwin reported that there has been a complaint made to Babergh regarding the access to this site. This was discussed previously within the meeting.

21. Quiet Lanes:

Clerk gave an update that we are still waiting on the signage for the Quiet Lanes and that this is being chased.

22. Village Maintenance

Members discussed the grass and hedge cutting contract and the Clerk gave an update on quotations received so far. It was decided to continue with Chris Cooke.

Action: Clerk to email Chris and accept his new quotation.

23. Local Plan

Colin Johnston attended the rescheduled BMSDC Examination on the PCs behalf, Shimpling PC was in the programme for Tuesday 12th Oct at 9:30am and the second part of this got rescheduled. Colin will give members a full update once both meetings have taken place.

24. Correspondence Received:

- None

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

The SID was not working.

Action: Cllr Brunwin to charge batteries

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 9:15pm.

Appendix A: District Councillors Report:

An update on Covid-19 in Suffolk

Suffolk's public health bosses have asked the Government for extra help to fight Covid amid increasing pressure on our county's hospitals and some of the highest rates of infection in the country. The request for Suffolk to become an 'enhanced response area' (ERA) for up to five weeks is being submitted by Public Health Suffolk on behalf of public sector partners - and is intended to secure additional support, funding and resources to help the NHS avoid unsustainable pressure.

To help respond to queries regarding vaccinations, including boosters and jabs for 12 to 15-year-olds, our NHS partners have created a new look homepage for their vaccination website including information about all the clinics they offer, together with FAQs and eligibility criteria.

Regular bulletins continue to be produced to give a snapshot of the current Covid-19 situation in Suffolk - along with case numbers and updates on the work being carried out as part of Suffolk's Local Outbreak Control Plan. You can find the bulletins through Working Together, the monthly Councillor Update or via the Suffolk County Council website.

In the meantime, we continue to play our part in response to the pandemic, alongside public sector colleagues within the Suffolk Resilience Forum and continuing to offer support to our communities and businesses. Please see the council website for more.

Changes to Babergh District Council cabinet

Cllr Simon Barrett became cabinet member for finance and Cllr Sian Dawson joined as cabinet member for the environment last month, while Cllr Elisabeth Malvisi took on a new portfolio of climate change, biodiversity and sustainable transport.

Work to continue on blueprint for districts' future development Public examination of Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Council's Joint Local Plan – the strategic blueprint for future development of the districts - has been paused by the Planning Inspector to allow the councils further time to review its evidence.

£1.5m funding boost for Babergh and Mid Suffolk communities

Town and Parish Councils across Babergh and Mid Suffolk received £1.5 million in neighbourhood CIL last month – paving the way for a range of vital community facilities and projects.

First Local Energy Showcase hailed a success

With more attention than ever turning to sustainability and reducing the environmental impact of energy consumption, Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils hosted business owners and community groups at their first Local Energy Showcase.

Bumper delivery of affordable homes for Babergh

Councillors received the keys to a new social housing development in Shotley last month – just some of the 28 new affordable homes due to be completed in Babergh over coming weeks. Eight families can now look forward to moving into the new homes at Queensland, Shotley – with three of the properties specifically allocated for families with a local parish connection.

Tree for Life scheme welcomes applications from new parents

Babergh and Mid Suffolk's popular Tree for Life scheme, which offers a free tree for new parents, is now open for 2021 applications.

The scheme, which benefits families, communities and the environment by boosting tree coverage across our districts, is open to all families in the districts who have or are welcoming a new arrival between 1 January and 31 December 2021. Parents who may have lost a child during the same period are also able to apply for a remembrance tree.

Councils light the road to a greener future

Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils have committed to reducing streetlight intensity across their districts – protecting plant and wildlife, and reducing energy use, in line with biodiversity and climate change ambitions.

New iPad lending scheme to help residents get online

Suffolk Libraries and Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils are joining forces to help residents get online with a new iPad lending scheme – supporting those who need a little extra help to access services in an increasingly digital world.

New plans for Belle Vue improvements on display

Residents, visitors and business owners in Sudbury were invited to view outline plans for improvements to Belle Vue Park.

Council secures environmental mitigation measures for Long Melford development

Details of a new development at Long Melford were finalised last month, with Babergh District Council ensuring that proposals offered protection for wildlife, carbon reduction initiatives and 52 affordable homes.

Schools' out scheme supports Babergh families in need

Babergh's children continue to benefit from fun activities during the school holidays – including family park cookery sessions in Great Cornard.

Councils mark National Homelessness Day

Preventing homelessness is a priority for Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils. Everyone needs somewhere to live and a place that they can call home.

Appendix B: County Councillors report:

Covid-19

Latest SCC information is available here: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/coronavirus-covid-19/>

Latest Government advice is available here: www.gov.uk/coronavirus

Full Council - Motion and Decisions

The Suffolk County Council met for a Full Council meeting on the 21st October 2021. Our Group proposed a motion to support the Local Electricity Bill, to help lower the costs to local energy suppliers, making local electricity cheaper and more reliable. The motion was passed unanimously.

The Bill makes the licences more affordable for local energy suppliers. Details of the motion and Local Electricity

Bill can be found here: <https://powerforpeople.org.uk/local-electricity-bill-briefing-for-councillors>

The Conservatives forwarded a motion to condemn Insulate Britain, which was passed with the following vote: 41 For, 9 Against, 7 Abstained.

Suffolk Schools to reintroduce Face Coverings

On Wednesday 20th October, the Directors of Public Health, and Children and Young People Services, released a statement notifying us that face coverings are to be reintroduced into schools from 1st November.

This is due to the rising COVID cases in Suffolk, and therefore staff and students will have to wear face coverings in communal areas, outside of the classroom, unless exempt for medical reasons. Visitation will also be restricted to essential visits. A further review on its effectiveness will commence 15th November.

Our Group's Public Health Spokesperson encourages the Government to be proactive and apply the same measures for everyone, as we head toward winter. See Cllr Simon Harley, our Group's Public Health Spokesperson's comments on the decision at <https://suffolkqli.wordpress.com/2021/10/26/qli-public-health-spokespersons-warning-over-winter-response-to-reintroduction-of-covid-measures/>

New Suffolk campaign asks 'What's it Worth?' to keep virus safe this winter

People asked what motivates them to follow the actions that best reduce the spread of Covid-19 and other viruses this winter.

- High COVID cases and critical pressure on hospitals as Suffolk becomes an Enhanced Response Area
- New public safety campaign aims to get people to consider what small acts they can do now to keep safe and enjoying the things they love most

The Suffolk Resilience Forum has today launched a new campaign asking people what motivates them to follow the actions that best reduce the spread of Covid-19 and other viruses this winter.

The 'What's It Worth?' campaign encourages people to consider what small acts they can do now, such as wearing a mask or regular testing, so we can continue enjoying the things we all love doing – like going to the pub, meeting friends and having family for dinner.

It comes as Suffolk becomes an Enhanced Response Area (ERA) because of high covid rates and increasing pressure on the NHS. Suffolk is currently seeing 400 new cases each day, with particularly high rates in Ipswich and West Suffolk, especially in the over 60s age range.

The campaign promotes five key actions:

- Get fully vaccinated and have your booster when it's due
- Wash your hands regularly with soap and water
- Always wear a face covering in crowded areas
- Ventilate indoor spaces
- Get tested regularly and stay at home if you feel unwell

Not everyone can follow all the guidance, such as those who can't wear face coverings, but that's ok. It all helps.

The campaign features a fun and lively family – known as the Garnhams – enjoying living their lives in the way they want to. It's a deliberately positive approach helping people to learn to live with COVID.

A range of communications activities will be used to promote these messages, including radio adverts, videos, social media and bus station adverts.

Work continues with the Government within the ERA to support Suffolk's response to COVID, including scoping and planning for targeted vaccinations clinics within our communities. This campaign is part of the ERA effort.

Bus Back Better: Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) Approved

The Cabinet approved the new Bus Service Improvement Plan, as part of their new £50m Bus Back Better strategy – aimed at rejuvenating Suffolk's bus service, in particular isolated areas of rural Suffolk. Our Group supports the essential commitment needed to help connect rural communities.

Bus Back Better aims at making bus services cheaper, more reliable, and carbon efficient. Some examples include simplifying bus services and fares, integrated services with other transport modes, and investing in decarbonisation.

All proposals of the BSIP that were passed by Cabinet can be viewed here: [https://committeeminutes.suffolk.gov.uk/DocSetPage.aspx?MeetingTitle=\(12-10-2021\),%20The%20Cabinet](https://committeeminutes.suffolk.gov.uk/DocSetPage.aspx?MeetingTitle=(12-10-2021),%20The%20Cabinet)

Sizewell C: Government Announce Support & new Funding Strategy

On the 15th October, Suffolk County Council announced their support for Sizewell C, and are taking up 'important concerns' to the Secretary of State. Our Group remains firmly against the project, arguing the environmental and socio-economic impact on local communities is far too great.

The Group argue the funds, such as the £12m Tourism Fund, provided by the administration to compensate do not equate to the hundreds of millions in Tourism lost throughout Suffolk beautiful coastline.

In addition, Business and Energy Secretary, Kwasi Kwarteng, announced a new government strategy for funding the nuclear power project in Sizewell. The project so far has been heavily contentious, suffering from delays and planning concerns, as well as overflowing costs.

The Government has announced a 'Regulated Asset Base' funding plan – a strategy that aims to retain investors, by shifting the costs of the project onto the consumer – in the form of a taxpayer subsidy. Our Group has rejected this strategy, and severely recommends that the Government reconsiders before it puts the burden of cost onto our local communities, and instead looks into investing in cleaner, cheaper, and quicker forms of renewable energy available to Suffolk.

Government funding boost for Suffolk Community Schemes

Two Suffolk schemes have received Government funding totalling more than £940,000

Enabling Self-Employment in Suffolk and the Suffolk Road to Net Zero business support programme are among 477 schemes across the country to receive backing from the Community Renewal Fund. This is a £200 million pot set up by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities aimed at boosting skills training for the unemployed and investing in businesses developing low-carbon technology.

The two Suffolk schemes, which are both being led by New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership (NALEP) and which were put forward by Suffolk County Council, receive a total of £945,974.

Enabling Self-Employment, which receives £412,208, delivers self-employment support across Suffolk, particularly amongst disadvantaged communities in East Suffolk.

Building on the established programme of Business Start-Up support in Norfolk and Suffolk, it works with employed and unemployed people – including those who were on furlough or who are under-employed and economically vulnerable – from deprived groups and communities.

Suffolk Road to Net Zero receives £533,766.

This is a scheme offering grants to support businesses in developing low-carbon projects and which contribute to the Suffolk Climate Emergency Plan's key theme of reducing industrial and commercial emissions., informs a model for place-based Net Zero strategies, and generates benefits for nature-based solutions.

The £200 million from the UK Community Renewal Fund will help local areas prepare for the launch of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund in 2022, the scheme the Government says will see UK-wide funding at least match EU money, reaching around £1.5 billion a year.

Local Articles: Suffolk GLI's responses

Cllr Caroline Topping, our Group's Education Spokesperson's comment on the disproportionate exclusions of SEND and BAME students: [Suffolk school exclusions SEND and BAME concerns | East Anglian Daily Times \(eadt.co.uk\)](https://www.eadt.co.uk/news/education/suffolk-school-exclusions-send-and-bame-concerns/)

Cllr Andrew Stringer, Our Group Leader's comment on the Groups motion to support Local Electricity Bill: [Suffolk backing for groups and businesses to generate power | East Anglian Daily Times \(eadt.co.uk\)](https://www.eadt.co.uk/news/energy/suffolk-backing-for-groups-and-businesses-to-generate-power/)

Cllr Caroline Page, and **Cllr Annette Dunning**, our Group's Spokesperson for Achieving Net Zero Carbon's comments on the Sizewell C update and support by Conservatives: [Sizewell C: How developer cash will be spent | East Anglian Daily Times \(eadt.co.uk\)](https://www.eadt.co.uk/news/energy/sizewell-c-how-developer-cash-will-be-spent/)

Cllr Keith Welham, our Group's Highways, Public Transport and Rural Services Spokesperson's comments on the Bus Back Better Strategy approved by Cabinet: [Suffolk County Council to submit £50m bus improvement bid | East Anglian Daily Times \(eadt.co.uk\)](#)

Cllr Andrew Stringer, our Group Leader's comments on the Freight Industry Replacing Electric Trains with Diesel due to the Energy Prices: [Diesels replace electric trains on Freightliner services | East Anglian Daily Times \(eadt.co.uk\)](#)

Cllr Simon Harley, Our Group's Public Health and Biosecurity Spokesperson's comments on the Reintroduction of Face Coverings in Suffolk Schools: [GLI Public Health Spokesperson's Warning Over Winter – Response to Reintroduction of COVID Measures – Suffolk Green, Liberal Democrat and Independent Group \(wordpress.com\)](#)

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