

Shimpling Parish Council

Minutes of Meeting of the Council

Monday 9th January 2023, 7:30pm at Shimpling Village Hall

Present:

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

District Councillors: Michael Holt, Stephen Plumb

County Councillors: Richard Kemp

Clerk: Natasha Byford

- 1.1 Election of Chair:** The Clerk opened the meeting and welcomed those in attendance. Cllr Brown stepped down as Chair last week. The Clerk then asked for nominations for election of a new Chair. A nomination was received for Cllr Haselhurst to Chair the council. This was seconded by Cllr Brunwin. There being no other nominations, this proposal was voted on and confirmed. Cllr Haselhurst signed the acceptance of office declaration.

Action: Clerk to send the declaration of acceptance of office to the monitoring officer.

- 1. Apologies for absence:** None received.

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 Engstrom asked to opt out of the vote on Item 16c as the planning application was for his daughter. This was agreed and noted.

3. Public Participation session

Two members of the public (MOP) attended.

4. Approval of minutes of the previous meeting:

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 21st November 2022 were approved.

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

5. Chair's report:

Cllr Brown's read the below report from her last couple of months as Chair:

Happy New Year.

It has been a quiet couple of months since I took over the role of chair.

We would once again like to thank Mount Farm Vineyard for kindly donating the village Christmas tree, it made the village look very festive!

The PC funded the installation of film equipment at the VH, this has been completed so keep an eye out for future screenings.

During the festive period there have been a number of well supported events in Shimpling, Wreath making, the church Christmas market, Christmas lunch at the Bush, the VH Christmas party and a wonderful start to the new year with a village invitation to Ark Vineyard... (a preview of things to come at the Bush!)

With plenty of government funding available we hope to bring some exciting projects to Shimpling in 2023.

The cherry tree we brought for the platinum jubilee arrived and was planted at Hallifax place by Katie Haselhurst. Our thanks to Cllr Haselhurst for this.

- 6. District Councillors report:** Cllr Plumb read out their report and there were no further questions on this. The report is in Appendix A below. The District Cllrs also mentioned that they may have some locality budget that we could apply for. It was also noted that there were potentially still some Platinum Jubilee funds available but the deadline was 20th January and that Imogen Tink was our new Communities Officer so we should make contact.

Cllr Plumb and Cllr Holt left the meeting at 7:45pm.

- 7. a) County Councillors report:** Cllr Kemp read out his report and there were no further questions on this. The report is in Appendix B below. Cllr Kemp also mentioned that he had some locality budget that we could apply for and suggested he may be able to fund a new SID for the Village as he noted Item 23 was around speeding in the Village.

b) Cllr Haselhurst reported that she has asked Cllr Kemp for possible funding regarding the football goal with basketball hoop for the playground and that he had very kindly offered £2,000 from his Locality Budget.

Action: Clerk to apply for the locality budget for the football goal.

Cllr Kemp left the meeting at 7:45pm.

8. Crime matters:

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

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

The Clerk reported that the September newsletter was circulated to Councillors along with the papers for the crime update. Nothing Shimpling specific. Suffolk Constabulary was represented at a lot of events over the last couple of months and the cadets have been very busy, the remembrance parades went well. Cllr Brunwin noted that on Next Door was a survey and for Suffolk there was a large increase for Suffolk Constabulary under the Council Tax.

9. Village Hall:

- a) Village Hall Committee** – Update given from the VHC PC representative Cllr Brown as below;

Happy New Year!

It's been a busy couple of months at the village hall.

We finally had the smart meter installed and are hopeful that this will be reflected in lower energy bills!

The PC kindly funded the installation of the film equipment, this is now up and running and we're looking at hosting our first film on Tuesday 24th January. TBC

There was a lot of festive activities at the village hall with 3 fun days of wreath making, the church Christmas market and Shimpling Christmas party, there was lots of crafting and games for the kids and a very special visit from Santa.

Looking forward to 2023 the rural coffee caravan will be coming to Shimpling on the 4th Thursday of every month between 10-12pm starting in January and we're hoping to run this alongside a games morning as a warm space to catch up with friends.

There is also a fun shanty folk night with a fish and chips supper on Saturday 14th January. Pilates and Zumba are starting up again in January after the Christmas break, I am also in touch with active Suffolk- fit villages looking into other possible activities we can hold at the VH... so no excuses!!

- b)** Members discussed the extension and renovation ideas for the Village Hall, ideas such as gazebos out of the double doors were considered as well as a restructure of the internal layout of the hall. Some of the quotes that Cllr Brown had received for extension of the hall were about £2,000 per square metre. It was discussed that we would need permission from the landowners before we could proceed with anything. If the PC could get permission, then the next step would be to get ideas and drawings together and then look at funding. Cllr Shrimpton mentioned there was a large pot of CIL money that we could potentially apply for.

Action: Clerk to prepare letter to send to the landowners regarding the lease and the potential of extension and/or renovation works.

Members also discussed purchasing a Village Hall gazebo which could be used at other events as the current one is fairly old and difficult to assemble. Cllr Brown gave two quotes from online and it was agreed to go ahead and purchase 2x 4x8m pop up gazebos

for around £2,500. It was discussed to apply for some locality fund from the District Councillors and from the County Councillor and then cover any shortfall from the PC CIL fund.

Action: Clerk to apply for District and County Locality Fund and then purchase the gazebos.

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 | £843.84 |
| Business Account | £34,010.85 |

| | |
|-----------------------|------------|
| Including CIL of | £3,941.26 |
| Earmarked Reserves of | £11,154.65 |
| General Reserves of | £4,698.00 |
| COVID Grant of | £9,749.70 |

10b) To acknowledge payments made outside the meeting

- **AV Install** **£750.00**
(LGA 1972, s.145(1)(b))
- **MPLC License** **£262.10**
(LGA 1972, s.145(1)(b))
- **Zen Internet (16 Dec-15 Jan)** **£38.99**
(LGA 1972, s.111)

10c) The following amounts were approved for payment:

- **Clerk's Net salary after Tax** **£295.37**
- **HMRC Tax payment** **£73.80**
- **Clerk's expenses (Fuel/Ink/Paper)** **£59.67**
LGA 1972 s. 111 (ancillary Powers)

The above payment schedule was approved by members.

- a. **10d)** The Clerk noted that The Council have received money from bank interest of £3.73 and £7.98.

10e) The Clerk noted that the policy difference for the insurance between what was agreed at the meeting of £742.75 and the final renewal document of £775.42

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 (14th Nov – 1st Jan 23), I have worked 6 hours and under the given time frame of 5 hours per week, this included organising all the paperwork for the January meeting, agendas, actions from the November meeting, organising payments, quotes for insurance and budget planning, as well as general administration and taking some Annual Leave. The Clerk's record of work was reviewed and accepted.

12. **Storyboard**

Members discussed the storyboard and Cllr Shrimpton informed members of a rough estimate of £1,000-£1,500 for this and explained it takes many different people to come together get something like this made. It would showcase the history and interesting facts about the Village. Members agreed it was a nice idea and to get formal quotes for this.

Action: Cllr Shrimpton to get formal quotation for a storyboard.

13. **Noticeboard**

Members discussed placing an additional noticeboard by the playground. It was discussed and members decided to move the noticeboard from the bus stop to the playground as it was thought it would get seen more in the playground.

Action: Clerk to get quotes to get this relocated.

14. **Footpaths:**

Clerk updated members that we are awaiting Mortimer Contracts to do this work, the last update they sent was that hopefully they can get this work done in January.

15. **Playground:**

- a) The Clerk informed members that local resident, Gary Cann couldn't quote for the work on the playground (raising the swing height, put new matting under the swings and replace caps on climbers) and Eastern Play Services haven't replied. Members discussed this and commented how frustrating it is not having someone who can do playground works. It was noted that these were low risk items and will no doubt be raised again when we have the inspection in March.

Action: Clerk to get quotes for the annual playground inspection in March.

- b) Members received quotes for the football goal with basketball hoop on from Gary Cann and from Sovereign. It was discussed that it would be great to use local people but concerns were raised regarding insurance and the playground inspection. It was discussed that the PC need to check with the insurance company and dependent on their answer then go ahead with either option. Cllr Kemp has kindly given us £2,000 from his locality budget to

go towards this. Cllr Haselhurst to chase up Suffolk FA to see if they have any funding for this and any shortfall will be taken out of the Covid fund.

Action: Clerk to speak to the insurance company regarding this. Then go ahead with one of the options, dependent on the outcome from the insurance.

16. Planning:

The Clerk gave an update on planning applications:

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. AP/22/00071 - Aveley House Aveley Lane Shimpling Part In The Parish Of Alpheton IP29 4HB - Planning Application - Erection of 1No detached holiday let. – Appeal Valid

Planning Applications:

- c. DC/22/06130 - Barn At Mount Farm, Blooms Hall Lane, Shimpling, Bury St Edmunds Suffolk CO10 9BY - Application to determine if Prior Approval is required 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 into 1no. dwelling.

17. Covid19 Emergency Fund:

No applications received.

18. Village Newsletter:

Cllr Brunwin reported that she had discussed with Sarah regarding her printer and the Village newsletter and no funds were required for this. It was noted that some of the newsletters going forward may have less colour in due to expense.

19. Budget:

Members approved the recommendation that the precept for 2023/24 would be set at £11,265.00. The Precept form was signed.

Action: Clerk to send the precept form to BDC.

20. Village Hall Lease:

Still on going.

Action: Clerk to write to Richards family regarding renewal and put on March agenda.

21. Healthy Meal Initiative:

Members discussed the idea around healthy meal initiative and a local foodbank. Cllr Engstrom discussed ideas of cooking on a budget events at the pub. Feedback was all very positive. Cllrs Brown and Haselhurst discussed having a help yourself foodbank at the Village Hall.

22. Projects:

Members discussed projects that the PC may like to implement, if funding was available. This was agreed as a good idea so the PC have ready made projects for when funding is available. Cllr Dunkley volunteered to come up with a draft list for this. Cllr Haselhurst will ask the Village through the WhatsApp group if they have any ideas that could be added to the list. This is to be a rolling item on the agenda for discussions.

Action: Cllr Dunkley to send round a draft ideas list for projects. Cllr Haselhurst to ask residents on the WhatsApp group for any ideas.

23. Correspondence Received:

- a) An email from a resident regarding speeding within the Village was received. Members discussed that it was disappointing to hear this and they agreed that it was an issue. Cllr Kemp kindly offered to fund another SID for the Village in the hope of deterring speeding drivers.

Action: Clerk to respond to resident and to apply for the locality budget for the SID and get on purchased.

- b) The email regarding SCC Passenger Transport. It was discussed and Cllrs Dunkley and Shrimpton attended the meeting where they discuss the bus route from Bury St Edmunds to Sudbury. There is another meeting this month that they will attend and report back.

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

It was noted that the manhole cover on The Street had been fixed.

Cllr Brunwin asked whether the PC were installing a plaque for the Jubilee tree.

Action: Cllr Brunwin to bring quotes for the plaque to the March meeting.

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

Appendix A: District Councillors Report:

Council leaders welcome landmark devolution deal for Suffolk

The leaders of Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils have welcomed an “ambitious and exciting” devolution deal for Suffolk.

Councils strive to keep charges fair – and help those most in need

Council leaders at Babergh and Mid Suffolk are due to discuss future fees and charges for council services – pledging to keep increases fair and continue to support those in need.

Revealed: winning names for Babergh and Mid Suffolk’s new environmentally friendly bin lorries

Ed Sheerbin, Gary Bineker and Stranger Bins are amongst the winning names for Babergh and Mid Suffolk’s new environmentally friendly bin lorries, revealed last month.

Pioneering councils complete £2.8m carbon-cutting solar investment to slash leisure centres’ reliance on the grid by close to half

Over 100 council car parking spaces in Sudbury and Stowmarket have been covered with solar panels, to help power and reduce carbon emissions at two council-owned leisure centres.

Councils’ new tenancy policy recognises ‘a home is not just a house’

Council tenants across Babergh and Mid Suffolk can look forward to continuing certainty over their homes with the possible adoption of the councils’ new tenancy policy.

Councils’ successful bid for housing fund pot

Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils are amongst local authorities to win funding from the Local Government Association to commission a vital, county-wide housing strategy review.

Christmas holidays full of fun for families and children

Inflatable games, adventure days and cooking classes made up a week of fun for children and young people in Babergh and Mid Suffolk this Christmas.

Town and Parish liaison meetings – a reminder

Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils are reinstating their regular meetings with town and parish councils, with invitations already issued via clerks.

The next sessions, in early February, will be an opportunity to share current thinking on Babergh and Mid Suffolk budget setting, update on progress with the Joint Local Plan and plans for the 2023 elections.

We would also like to hear about town and parish plans for local Coronation celebrations, and introduce our new locality officers and approach.

The meeting for Babergh is on Wednesday 1 February, 9.30 to 11.30am at Constable Memorial Hall, Gandish Road, East Bergholt. CO7 6TP.

The meeting for Mid Suffolk is on Tuesday 7 February, 1.30 to 3.30pm at The Mix, 127 Ipswich Street, Stowmarket. IP14 1BB.

If you are unable to attend the specific session for your district, you are welcome to attend the alternative date as joint information should still be of interest.

Should you have any queries, or if your clerk has not received an invitation, please contact business support officer Sophie Cummins.

Appendix B: County Councillors report:

Information Updates

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

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

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

Budget! Budget! Budget!

The first proposals for the 2023/24 budget have been released. SCC plan to increase tax by 3.99% (1.99% increase in Council Tax, 2% increase in Social Care Precept).

Our Group says the Conservative Administration are in complete denial of the Conservative government(s) contributing significantly to the economic turmoil which has led to a sharp increase in council tax and pressure on services. In a press release, our Group's leader, Cllr Andrew Stringer, highlighted that many of the current pressures come from the Conservatives failing to deliver the promised effects of Brexit. Currently, we have a shortage of staff, severe border delays, a less productive economy, and less funding compared to European monies.

Our Group believes the Conservative administration had opportunities to prepare us for post-Brexit, post-pandemic. Instead, they rejected our proposals last year to increase funding for social care – which has resulted in a sharp increase in tax this year for residents.

Council to protect frontline services and increase funding in Budget Proposal

Adult care services and children's services will receive £47m more funding as part of Suffolk County Council's £685m budget proposals, published 22nd December 2022. Despite an incredibly challenging economic climate, the council has been able to produce a balanced budget. This will protect the services that people rely on the most and continue to care for the most vulnerable, which accounts for 75% of the whole budget.

Adult care services will have £34m more in their budget, and children's services will have a further £13m. This will help with the extra expense needed to meet the huge increase in demands for services, as well as higher costs due to inflation.

The budget-setting has been achieved with input from the council's partners, officers, departments and notably, Suffolk residents. Over 2,600 local people contributed to an online survey and focus groups, asking where they would spend more money, spend less money, and their views on Council Tax.

The top service areas where people wanted to spend more, were social care services for adults and children. Some of the service areas where people also said they wanted to see more money spent, will receive additional funding:

- ☐ £700,000 for SEND services to support new recruitment, which is on top of the £1.1m invested this year
- ☐ £500,000 for Highways: to use environmentally friendly weed treatments, and stop using glyphosate which can damage wildlife
- ☐ £110,000 for tree management: to support the 'right tree right place' policy, having an appropriate inspection regime and supporting the resulting tree management requirements.

- £45,000 for Citizens Advice: to support work during cost of living challenges

A budget gap for next year - the difference between what money is available and what needs to be spent – had already been identified, resulting in savings of £15.5m for next year. Under the proposals, the council's budget would increase by 9.6% (from £625.3m to £685.3). Additional funds would come from a total 3.99% increase in Council Tax, and an increase in funds from the Government for adult and children's social care.

Regarding Council Tax, the proposed 3.99% increase would be made up of a 1.99% increase in general Council Tax and a 2.00% increase dedicated to funding adult care.

This means costs for a household would look like:

- Band B property: £22.32 per week (85 pence per week increase from 2022-23) (Band B properties are the most common in Suffolk)
- Band D property: £28.70 per week (£1.10 pence per week increase from 2022-23)
- The proposed budget will be discussed at the council's Scrutiny meeting on 10 January 2023, then presented at the Cabinet meeting on 24 January, with the final budget debated and voted on at Full Council on 9 February.
- The Scrutiny meeting will be available to stream on Suffolk County Council's YouTube channel, and public questions can be submitted in advance, details available at www.suffolk.gov.uk

New SCC Web Site

Suffolk County Council have launched their new website. The new site is aimed to be easier and simpler. Our Group understands that this platform is often the first point of contact for residents and so it is important the website continues to engage and adapt to the needs of the Suffolk communities.

To see the new site, visit: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/>

Keeping People in Suffolk Warm this Winter

A new project offering warm items to Suffolk residents has been launched across Suffolk.

"Suffolk Winter Warmth" provides items such as hats, gloves, scarves, blankets, duvets, baby sleep bags, hot water bottles, LED bulbs, draughtproofing and more, to households in need.

Following a successful pilot in November, Suffolk Winter Warmth launched this week. The project provides support for any household experiencing hardship and in need of support to prevent ill health and keep warm. Residents can be referred by professional or voluntary sector organisations supporting residents who are struggling to heat their homes. These organisations include: District and Borough Councils, Health Professionals, Citizens Advice and Community Groups, Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service, Rural Coffee Caravan and more.

The project is backed by £50,000 of funding from Suffolk's Collaborative Communities Board and is co-ordinated on behalf of the whole county by East Suffolk Council.

Professional and voluntary organisations can refer residents to the scheme by visiting: Winter warmth referral » East Suffolk Council.

There are also more than 250 voluntary warm spaces across Suffolk, where residents can meet up with members of the community in a warm, safe space, at no charge. A map of warm spaces in Suffolk can be found on the Rural Coffee Caravan website: <https://ruralcoffeecaravan.org.uk/map/>

Alongside this, all Suffolk Libraries will act as warm, safe spaces this winter. Information and opening times for Suffolk Libraries can be found at <https://www.suffolklibraries.co.uk/>

If your community would like to set up its own Warm Space to support local residents this winter, guidance is available from Rural Coffee Caravan and Community Action Suffolk at: <https://ruralcoffeecaravan.org.uk/winterwarmth/#warmspaces>

Further details of cost of living support available for Suffolk residents and organisations can be found at www.suffolk.gov.uk/costofliving

County Deal Update

Last National government met with Suffolk County Council to sign a provisional County Deal. The Deal will agree to devolve additional powers and funding to the County, including housing, transport and adult education.

The Deal has been lauded as a momentous, however our Group believes that this Deal has been massively overstated. The headline '£480m' is in fact over 30 years – equating to only around £16m a year. Just under £6m has been agreed for new housing, this equates to under 30 homes – not even enough for one home per Conservative held division in the County. The Conservative Council Leader promised we wouldn't have a Mayor, however the deal agrees to create a Mayoral Development Corporation. Politically, there is a real risk of stagnation – with the elected Mayor potentially from one party and the majority of Councillors from another.

Our Group are strongly in favour of devolving national powers to local authorities. There was a real opportunity to make a difference here, but our Group sees the current deal as merely a token gesture masqueraded as the 'final solution'.

For our full press release, visit our website: <https://suffolkgli.wordpress.com/2022/12/12/suffolks-county-deal-bigdeal/>

Modern Slavery

As the Council's modern slavery annual statement was voted through cabinet, SCC have released an information bulletin to report any possible signs of modern slavery within your local communities.

General signs of modern slavery can include: Isolation, restricted movement, poor living conditions, unusual travel arrangements, and physical appearance of abuse.

If you suspect a modern slavery crime is being committed, but there is no immediate risk of harm, you can report it to the Police on 101, or the Modern Slavery and Exploitation Helpline on 0800 121 700 – if there is immediate danger, phone 999. For further contact, email: community.safety@suffolk.gov.uk
For more information, visit: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/community-and-safety/communities/communitysafety/modern-slavery>

Suffolk Looks for more Hosts

Suffolk is looking for new hosts to help support refugees. Accommodation must be available to guests for a minimum of 6 months. Hosts will be eligible to receive the £350 thank you payment for up to 6 months or more, depending on the date your guests arrived in the UK (12 months starting from the date your guests first arrived in the UK).

If you know anyone that might be interested, please encourage them sign up via the Suffolk County Council website, or by emailing refugeesupport@suffolk.gov.uk.