

**Shimpling Parish Council**  
**Minutes of Meeting of the Council**  
**Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2021, 7:30pm via ZOOM remote conference.**

**Present:**

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

**County Councillor:** Richard Kemp

**District Councillor:** Cllr Stephen Plumb, Cllr Michael Holt

**Clerk:** Natasha Byford

**Volunteer Assistant Clerk:** Stuart Palmer

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 made
  - b) **To consider requests for dispensation for the agenda item(s) under discussion:** None received

**Public Participation session**

Seven members of the public (MOP) attended. One MOP would like it noted that The Bush would be a great loss if it closed, acknowledging that it has been an extraordinary year and would like to retain the pub as a pub rather than a development, they hope the PC could help with this.

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

The minutes of the meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> November 2020 were approved.

4. **Chair's report:**

The Chair reported that it had been a busy time since the meeting in November. She had received several emails from residents regarding issues with flooding, The Bush and footpaths, all of which were on the agenda for discussion later in this meeting.

It was with great sadness that we heard that The Bush was to close at the end of December. Dawn Warner and her team have run the pub for the last five years but decided that because of the Covid situation, they could no longer continue. We hope that a new licensee can be found to reopen the pub which is a valued community asset. Last year the Parish Council registered the pub as an Asset of Community Value. The community right to bid does not give a right of first refusal to community groups to buy a listed asset. And at the end of the moratorium period, the owner can sell the asset for whatever price they wish to whoever they want. What being registered as an Asset of Community Value does, however, is to provide a window of time for community groups to pull together the funding necessary to bid to buy the asset on the open market.

The Chair mentioned the lovely Nativity and Christmas tree which had been erected on the Village Green in December. This was a community and church effort and she thanked all those involved with the making and designing the Nativity as well as those involved with putting them up and

providing the electricity to light it throughout December. In these difficult times, it provided a clear sign of the community working together.

In early January, the Chair received a request for volunteers to help with the marshalling, car parking and transport for the first tranche of the Covid vaccine and she is pleased to report that several people had come forward to help with this worthwhile task which rolls out from Lavenham Surgery on Thursday of this week. At the time of this meeting, the country was in a further lockdown and emails, Facebook postings and a leaflet was being sent out offering help and advice for those who may be in need during this difficult time. It was hoped that by the next time we meet in March, life might be beginning to get back to some sort of normality.

**5. District Councillors report:** Cllr Stephen Plumb and Cllr Michael Holt gave the following updates:

- An update on Covid-19 in Suffolk  
Regular bulletins are being produced to give a snapshot of the current Covid-19 situation in Suffolk - along with updates on the work being carried out as part of Suffolk's Local Outbreak Control Plan. You can find the bulletins through existing updates for councillors, or via the Suffolk County Council website.
- Rapid rise in COVID-19 cases and pressure on health and care force Suffolk into Tier 4 restrictions  
An alarming rise in COVID-19 infection rates across Suffolk and pressure on hospitals, care homes and social care has resulted in the county entering Tier 4.
- Support payments available for those told to self-isolate on low incomes  
More residents on low incomes or benefits can now get financial help if they are told to self-isolate due to COVID-19 as Suffolk councils extend support payments to help more people.
- Councillors to consider budget for 2021/22  
Councillors are set to discuss the first draft of Babergh District Council's budget for 2021/22 – designed to deliver financial stability post-Covid while still delivering the council's commitment to climate change.
- Babergh's parking proposals  
Parking provision across the district is also on the agenda for Babergh's cabinet – seeking a way to retain an element of subsidised parking, while encouraging more sustainable transport options for the future, and strengthen the council's finances. This includes the car park in Sudbury and Hadleigh.
- Councils look to slash fleet emissions  
Babergh and Mid Suffolk will consider proposals to cut their fleet's carbon emissions by up to 90% – supporting the councils' carbon neutral aims.
- Sudbury Vision builds a strong foundation for 2021 and beyond  
Covid-19 may have forced a refocus of elements of the Sudbury Vision, but partners insist the town has strong foundations for recovery in 2021 and beyond.
- Council pledges continued town presence  
Babergh District Council has reassured residents that it will continue to have a town centre presence in Sudbury following proposed changes in 2021.

- 100th business joins the Virtual High Street  
Shoppers in and around Sudbury have even more choice as the Virtual High Street welcomes its one hundredth business.
- Babergh communities set to benefit from £338,000 funding boost  
Housing growth in Babergh will fund a range of local projects, following agreement by councillors – including upgraded CCTV in Sudbury and Hadleigh, electric vehicle charging points and new community facilities.
- Financial support for leisure trust gets go ahead  
Babergh's cabinet have agreed further financial support for their leisure partner, Abbeycroft Leisure, to help keep residents fit and healthy well into the future.
- Leisure centre throws open doors after £2.4m refurb  
The new-look Kingfisher Leisure Centre in Sudbury has officially opened its doors following a £2.4m extension and refurbishment – providing leisure facilities for the town for years to come.
- Work to improve Cavendish Way and Minden Road area to begin  
Plans to regenerate the Cavendish Way and Minden Road area of Sudbury have taken a major step forward, as the £900K restoration of four council housing blocks is underway.
- Babergh residents to benefit from slice of Government Green Home funding  
Residents in Babergh are set to benefit following recent Government announcements about its Green Homes Grants.
- Voting safely at next year's elections  
On Thursday 6 May 2021, residents in Suffolk will go to the polls to have their say on who represents them at Suffolk County Council and who will represent them as the Suffolk Police and Crime Commissioner. The elections may be a way off, but we are already making plans to help residents stay safe while casting their vote.
- We were informed that brown bin collections have been suspended for the short term due to staffing shortages within the refuse sector.

- 5b)** The PC resolved to write a letter to the District Council regarding the closure of the community hub in Sudbury. Feeling strongly that this is key for the more elderly residents in the village, who aren't up to date with the technology that could otherwise help, it was felt that face to face meetings were very much still required.

**Action: Chair to assist the Clerk in writing a letter to the District Council.**

- 6. County Councillors report:** Cllr Richard Kemp attended for the first part of the meeting and give the following update:

- COVID-19 UPDATE - Summary

Latest Government advice is available here: [www.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://www.gov.uk/coronavirus)

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

- Personal Message from Richard

I hope you all had a safe and healthy Festive Season. 2020 was indeed a year like none other, together we faced challenges in personal, work, social and community aspects of our daily living as we went through two National lockdowns and now as we begin 2021 here we are again in National Lockdown, or Tier 5 as it is now known, as we try to stay safe and protect those most vulnerable from Coronavirus.

I am very proud of how our communities continue working together to make sure the lonely feel connected and that those who need additional help have received the support they need. To everyone who has helped in 2020 and who continues to help in 2021, by offering emotional, mental and physical support, I extend my sincere vote of thanks to you all, you are all amazing!

Stay safe, know you are not alone!

- Preparing budget amendments for 2021/22 budget

SCC is currently preparing its budget for 2021-22 and the LDGI Group has been preparing its amendments. My Group has chosen three key priorities for our budget amendment: Warm homes, Supporting community groups and charities through the pandemic, and Income generation & the climate emergency. We will be proposing multiple projects and policy decisions around these three key themes.

- Resisting the decision to reclaim local highways budgets

The Suffolk County Council cabinet will be reclaiming unspent Local Highways Budgets from councillors on the 31st of December. Local highways budgets can be spent by councillors in their divisions, on projects like new yellow lines, resident parking areas or zebra crossings. The LDGI Group has fought against this decision, arguing that the pandemic has increased delays to work which was already difficult to complete due to cumbersome processes and excessive red tape. Lockdown meant that officers weren't allowed to go out and look at sites, and teams were overwhelmed by the amount of work caused by the pandemic. Some larger projects will not be ready to receive payment by the 31st. This reclaiming of the budget would not have become absolutely necessary until March, when the financial year ends.

The LDGI Group has been fighting against this decision, taking it to Cabinet and senior officers, as well as the press. Cllr Elfede Brambley-Crawshaw, Leader of LDGI Group, commented that the decision means that dozens of projects will now remain unfinished and local communities will not benefit from the money.

- Primary School Application Deadline Approaches

Parents and carers have until 15 January 2021 to submit an application to secure their child's place at a Primary, Infant, Junior or Middle school. Applications should be made for children born between 1 September 2016 and 31 August 2017 who are due to start primary school from September 2021.

An application for a full-time school place must be made even if a child is already attending a nursery class in an infant or primary school, a pre-school or a children's centre next to a school site.

Before making a school application, parents and carers need to consider how they will get their child to and from school. School Travel eligibility is based on a child attending the nearest suitable school that would have had a place available. This might not be the catchment area school. Visit [suffolkonboard.com/schooltravel](http://suffolkonboard.com/schooltravel) to find out more about SCC's school travel policy.

If you are planning to move house or you think your circumstances may change before September, it is still important to make an application on time.

Applications should be made online as this will mean parents and carers will receive a confirmation of their application. They can then log on to the online service on National Offer Day (Friday 16 April 2021) to see their school place offer and they will also be sent an email to confirm this offer on the same day. If a parent or carer is unable to apply online then they should complete a paper application (CAF1), however these cannot be acknowledged, so it is suggested parents and carers obtain proof of postage. For those who completed paper applications, offer letters will be sent out by second class post on the National Offer Day.

Applications can be made at [suffolk.gov.uk/admissions](http://suffolk.gov.uk/admissions), where further advice and guidance is also available. Alternatively, parents and carers can call 0345 600 0981 for a paper application (CAF1).

Suffolk County Council continued with its good track record of offering places at preferred schools with 93.6% of parents in Suffolk being offered a place for their child at their first preference primary school last year.

If parents and carers do not apply by the closing date, their application may not be dealt with until after places have been offered to those who applied on time.

- Consultation on the Suffolk Climate Change Action Plan

SCC is currently running a consultation on its proposed Streets Guide, which will assist with the design of new residential developments showing how best to create sustainable transport layouts that promote walking and cycling. A new Street Guide has been commissioned to update guidance for residential streets. Comments on the draft guide are welcomed and there is a survey to complete. The consultation closes at 5pm on 10th February 2021.

Link: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/planning-waste-and-environment/planning-and-development-advice/suffolk-design-streets-guide/>

- Biodiversity strategy adopted

At Full Council on the 3rd December, Suffolk County Council unanimously passed a motion that will see Suffolk County Council developing a biodiversity strategy and embracing biodiverse land management practices. The motion was proposed by the LDGI Group and supported by all other groups. The motion will ensure:

- Delivery of a biodiversity strategy that will set out how we could increase Suffolk's biodiversity, halt the loss of habitats and species, and reintroduce declining species in suitable locations.
- Assessment of how the council can lead organisations across the county in efforts to improve biodiversity.
- Adoption of biodiverse land management options on council land.

- A letter to the Secretary of State asking what further support can be made available to local authorities to enhance bio diversity within their areas.

Cllr Elfrede Brambley-Crawshaw, Leader of the Liberal Democrat, Green and Independent Group and proposer of the motion, made the following statement:

"I'm really pleased that this motion has been met with such overwhelming support from the council and thank Cllr Richard Rout for his support. Our efforts can feel like a drop in the ocean, but by working together and listening to each other we can make a difference. Suffolk County Council has today taken another step on the path to making that difference. By working together, across political party lines, we can have a real impact."

"Good biodiversity supports healthy ecosystems which protects our food security, cleans our air and water and enhances our lives in many ways. I would encourage everyone to do their part to support our native species, and I am thrilled that the County Council will now be doing the same thing."

Councillor Kemp also requested that if he could be of any help with flooding, deer signage or footpaths which were on the agenda to please let him know. The Chair thanks Cllr Kemp for his help with a previous flooding incident reported in December.

## **7. Crime matters:**

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

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

There is an opportunity to receive crime information via Police Connect. Go to [www.suffolk.police.uk/services/police-connect](http://www.suffolk.police.uk/services/police-connect) and register.

There was nothing Shimpling specific but in the wider area there has been young cadets assisting the police force. There was a couple of 'evenings of actions' which tackled younger motorists and loud exhausts, 15 traffic offence reports were issued along with two section 59 warnings. There have also been many Covid patrols in the area ensuring mask wearing is adhered to in any communal public venue.

## **8. Village Hall:**

- a) **Village Hall Committee** – Nothing to report.
- b) **Wifi in the Village Hall** – Chair informed the PC of a Census email which asked if our Village Hall had Wifi and acknowledged the difficulties of getting opinions of those less able with technology in answering a census. The Chair did ask them for a donation towards getting Wifi set up in the Village Hall but they were unable to assist.

## **9. Precept:**

It was agreed to set the precept level at £9,986.44 for 2021/22 as previously discussed.

**Action: To get precept form signed and send.**

**10. Responsible Finance Officer's Finance Report:**

**10a)** The Clerk gave a finance report and stated which invoices (please see below) needed to be paid.

Leaving balances as follows:

- Treasures Account £5,181.12
- Business Account £21,754.10
- Including CIL of £1,689.64
- Earmarked Reserves of £4,750.00
- General Reserves of £4,623.00
- Including COVID Emergency Fund of £10,194.70

Budget review – The Clerk supplied an up to date budget review for members. Spending is on track and believed we will come in under budget. The Clerk explained the budget report and invited questions.

It was stated that they will give a more accurate update in March and the PC will have to make a decision with regards to what we do with any underspend.

**10b)** The Clerk noted that the PC had received a grant for £1,334, which has been added to the Covid grant amount.

**10c)** To acknowledge payments made outside the meeting

- **Community Action Suffolk (Insurance) £646.31**

**10d)** The following accounts were approved for payment:

- **Clerk's Net salary after Tax (N. Byford) £332.30**  
LGA 1972 s 111 (ancillary Powers)
- **HMRC Tax payment (N. Byford) £83.20**  
LGA 1972 s 111 (ancillary Powers)
- **Admin and Expenses payment (N. Byford) £8.55**  
LGA 1972 s 112 (Emp of Staff)
- **Lark Valley Willow grass cutting £361.20**  
(Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9-10)
- **Village Hall Clean £20.00**  
LGA 1972 s 113

The above payment schedule was approved by members.

**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:

**Summary of Progress:** During the period (Nov – Jan), the Clerk has worked 1.5 hours over the given time frame of 4 hours per week (4 hours under), but this did include an extra meeting and the

Clerk took 4 hours annual leave over the Christmas period. The Clerk's record of work was reviewed and accepted. Other items from the Clerk's report are covered elsewhere on the agenda.

**12. A134 Road Signage:**

A concerned MOP had emailed asking the PC to consider writing to Suffolk Highways regarding the lack of signage regarding deer along this road. It was discussed and the majority felt that it was their duty to at least notify highways about the issue. The PC resolved to write to Highways and inform them that deer are an issue along this stretch of road. It was also suggested that we speak to local butchers and farmers regarding deer culling.

**Action: Chair to assist the Clerk in writing a letter to Highways.**

**Action: Councillor Haselhurst to speak with Lavenham Butchers.**

**13. Quiet Lanes Project:**

An update was given regarding the Quiet Lanes project, Gents Lane has been nominated as a Quiet Lane. Achieving a Quiet Lanes status is about influencing other users of this road and modifying behaviours to encourage sustainable use and ensuring drivers are aware that there are other road users. It is 'Lane 109' on the Suffolk map. If this progresses there will be a consultation which includes talking to neighbouring residents of the lane and leafleting residences in Shimpling. It was agreed to progress with this and that we would receive an update at the next meeting.

**14. Planning:**

The Clerk gave an update on planning applications:

Planning Decisions:

**14a)** DC/20/04846 - Gatefields Farm Stanstead Road Shimpling Bury St Edmunds Suffolk IP29 4HD – Erection of extension to Cartlodge - Granted.

**14b)** DC/20/05017 – Malting Farm, The Street, Shimpling, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, IP29 4HS – Change of use of cartlodge from Holiday let to from 1no dwelling – Granted.

Planning Applications:

None

Joint Local Plan

**14c)** The PC submitted a response to for the Joint Local Plan, we have heard nothing further as yet. To update again at the next meeting.

**15. Covid19 Emergency Fund**

To receive applications from the emergencies fund.

- Cleaning the Village Hall (Village Hall expenses) - **£20**  
PC approved.



- Wreath making with the PCC - **£40**  
PC approved.

**16. Village Maintenance:**

**16a)** A date of Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2021 at 11:30am was agreed for the Village tidy.

**Action: Clerk to let Village Hall Committee know of this date.**

**16b)** The PC had previously resolved to get the Village sign repointed. The Chair suggested Ted Pine and Laurence Rook would do this for material cost once the weather is warmer. Anticipated it would cost much more than the £250 the PC budgeted for this work. It was agreed to go ahead with this.

**16c)** The Chair reported that the door of the telephone box was in need of repair. A new door would cost in the region of £900. Laurence Rook has looked at the issue and can carry out repairs in the Spring which would cost in the region of £50. The PC agreed this proposal.

**17. Footpaths:**

Update regarding Footpath 7 which runs from The Street round to Gents Lane. There have been two quotes for this work and another quote is required for this work. The PC were offered £1,500 from the Footpaths Manager to go towards completing the works on this footpath. The District and County Councillors had been approached to see if they could offer any funding towards this project but they are not in a position to do so. A discussion took place about the cost of the works versus the use of the footpath. It was agreed that the footpath provided a lovely walk although currently extremely treacherous. It was unanimously agreed to go ahead to apply for CIL funding from the main CIL fund and look into grants for this project. The PC agreed to undertake work on the footpath in principle.

**Action: Councillor Johnston to get the third quotation and complete the CIL funding application form.**

It was also mentioned that we had received correspondence from a resident about the wooden bridge going into Mr Pawseys field who suggested that a step be added to assist those less able to step up to the bridge more safely. The PC agreed to go ahead and ask local resident Ben Hutchinson, to quote for this job with an agreed budget of £200.

**18. Playground:**

The Chair gave an update on the playground, Ben Hutchinson has agreed to do the work on the fencing, the football goal posts and the post caps for a material cost of £135.24. This was unanimously agreed and this can go ahead.

The Chair also mentioned that she had looked into training a volunteer in the village with regards to play equipment inspections but had been told that this was not as straightforward as it seemed. The Chair will continue to make enquiries.

**19. The Bush:**

The PC had heard about The Bush's permanent closure. It was noted that it was an extremely sad situation as the pub was a valuable asset to the village. This is evident as the PC has registered The Bush as an asset of community value. The community right to bid does not give a right of first refusal to community groups to buy a listed asset. And at the end of the moratorium period, the owner can sell the asset for whatever price they wish to whoever they want. What being registered as an Asset of Community Value does, however, is to provide a window of time for community groups to pull together the funding necessary to bid to buy the asset on the open market. It was resolved to write a letter to Paul, the landlord, to ask what his intentions are with The Bush.

**Action: Councillor Atkins to assist the Clerk in writing a letter to Paul to ascertain his intentions.**

**20. Correspondence Received:**

- Email regarding flooding at Halifax Place – The Chair reported that this matter was now resolved but something we should keep an eye on.
- Email regarding A134 deer signage (as above)
- Email regarding Sunnica Energy Farm Consultation – Councillors were informed the let the Clerk know if they had anything to add to this consultation.

**21. Urgent Matters to be brought to the attention of the council**

One Councillor raised that The Land opposite 2 Stone Cottages where there a garage has been converted to a dwelling without planning permission. This was reported to planning 2 years ago who have now written to say that they are taking the matter further.

One Councillor raised the issue of a shortage of laptops and/or iPads at Lawshall School in order to assist vulnerable children with their learning. It was discussed whether this would come under charitable giving or helping the community. It was understood that another source of funding may arise from the Hallifax Trust and that the PC would put together a working group to discuss this as an application from the Covid grant. The Chair asked for the agreement from the PC to authorise a spend of £500 for laptops subject to the working group's OK that it was within the remit of the Memorandum of Understanding.

It was also noted that people wished to thank the Chair for all her hard work with the Christmas lights and nativity.

**Public Participation**

The Chair opened to the floor to MOPs again and nothing else was raised.

**There being no further business the meeting concluded at 9:25pm.**