

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF ALPHETON PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT ALPHETON
VILLAGE HALL ON TUESDAY 5th January 2010 at 7pm

Present; Acting Chairman; Mr Alan Ariss, Mr J Holdway, Mr G Maskell, Mr T Rix, Mr K Watkins. Also present the Clerk, Mrs J Rix.

Apologies; Mr J Brand, Mr R Kemp, PCSO Julia Bignall. (Apologies accepted.)

Declaration of Interest; There were none.

The November meeting's minutes were signed as correct. Proposed by Ken Watkins and seconded by John Holdway.

Matters Arising.

A way of commemorating the life of our previous Chairman, Edwin Taylor has yet to be decided. His widow, Margaret has suggested a community orchard. Land will have to be found possibly donated or village hall grounds. The Parish Council would donate towards the project.

The signed minutes will be published on the village website. The Clerk has sent them ready to display, but to date this has not been done.

Our letter to Suffolk Highways regarding the poor surface of Old Bury Road has had a response. Only urgent repairs will be done to keep the road safe, any more substantial repairs will be considered in the next financial year.

We will write again regarding the bad potholes which have appeared since the bad weather, from Melford Park Farm drive to the top of Cold Hill on A134. Also the chevrons at Tallage corner have been flattened more than once and need replacing with something more durable.

The minutes of the extraordinary meeting of 3rd December were signed as correct, proposed by John Holdway and seconded by Ken Watkins. This was regarding a planning application by D J Goode & Associates Ltd at the Old Control Tower on the Airfield.

The Chairman explained a little more about the proposal. Babergh has yet to make a decision about this application. There were no matters arising.

The Precept request papers have been submitted.

Alec Maskell cleared up the damaged tree at the Bridge Street bus shelter, and has been paid.(See below)

The Locality Budget funding from SCC has been received (£500) and this will be given to the village hall for the car park renovations.

Our District Councillor has some funding available and it was decided to apply for it to refurbish the bus shelters.

Planning

Application No; B/09/01429/FHA
Location; Rose & Crown, Bridge Street
Proposal; Erection of rear porch

This was discussed and there was no objection to this application.

Alpheton Garage

The Licence fee is due at Easter. An Invoice will be sent in a few weeks, at the same amount as last year.

Highways

We have had a letter from Claire Richardson of No9 Aveley Lane, who is worried about the access road from her house to the main road. She has requested a grit box. We will ask SCC if they can provide grit boxes for Aveley Lane.

Police

There was no police presence available at this meeting but a nil Crime Report had been sent.

Finance

Cheques were authorised;

No; 328	£25.00	Alec Maskell (clearing tree at Bridge Street)
No; 329	£500.00	Alpheton Village hall Locality Budget Funding
No; 330	£12.00	Alpheton Village hall Hire fee
No; 331	£70.00	Eans Garden Services (Grass cutting Bridge St)

Mr Kemp's Report was read out and he was thanked for sending it.

Correspondence

We have an invitation to a meeting to discuss Options for Passenger Transport Services at Wickhambrook Village hall on 2nd February 2010. There is no-one available to attend but we will ask to see a copy of the Survey report.

The bank wish to see identification from Mr Watkins before he is added as a signatory on the account. He is happy to do this.

Dates for future meetings were chosen;

23rd March, 18th May (AGM), 17th August and 16th November.

There being no further business this meeting closed at 8.15pm.

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF ALPHETON PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT ALPHETON
VILLAGE HALL ON TUESDAY 23rd March 2010 at 7pm

Present; Acting Chairman; Mr Alan Ariss, Mr J Holdway, Mrs M Lankester, Mr G Maskell, Mr K Watkins. Also present the Clerk, Mrs J Rix.

Apologies; Mr T Rix, Mr R Kemp, PCSO Hannah Partington. (Apologies accepted.)

Declaration of Interest; There were none.

January's meeting's minutes were signed as correct. Proposed by Ken Watkins and seconded by John Holdway.

Matters Arising.

The Village Hall Committee are happy to allow the Community Orchard to be positioned on some of the village grounds. Approximately 10 trees will be planted. It was hoped to do this in the Spring but expert advice says that preparation of the ground should be done now, with planting in the Autumn. The cost will be roughly £200. It was proposed that the Parish Council contribute half of this amount. (The budget has always shown a sum for planting trees but this has not been fully used) All agreed.

The Parish Council minutes for January will be sent to Mary Dunk for inclusion on the website.

The potholes and Chevrons have been attended to.

The planning application at the Control Tower on the Airfield has still not had a decision made by Babergh.

The Suffolk County Council extra funding may not be forthcoming. It was decided to press ahead with the refurbishment of the bus shelters in any case, using our own funds.

Grit was delivered to the village and especially Aveley Lane in spite of low stocks. The Clerk will investigate costs with a view to providing a box for Aveley Lane.

We have a copy of the Transport Survey Report.

Ken Watkins is now an authorised bank signatory.

Richard Kemp says that our meeting dates are identical to Long Melford's. New dates have been made – AGM is Monday May 17th, then Tuesday 24th August, & Tuesday 23rd November.

Planning

Application; B/10/00180/LBC
Location; Barns at Alpheton Hall, Church lane, Alpheton.
Proposal; Application for Listed Building Consent – External & Internal alterations.

Application; .B/10/00047/FHA/GC
Location; 3, Roseacre, Church Lane, Alpheton
Proposal; Erection of side extension to existing garage to provide additional garaging.

There were no objections to either of these applications.

Highways

The pot holes have had some repair and the chevrons near Tallage have been replaced. It was noted that Old Bury Road suffers from vehicles running over verges and garden perimeters from time to time by lorries.

Police

PCSO Partington had given her apologies. Some correspondence had been received; Public Meeting 20th May in Lavenham; lists of fixed penalty notices issued in Alpheton in November 2009 and January 2010; a speed complaints form which can be filled in and sent in to SCC; list of police Priorities regarding local policing; letter from Long Melford PC who intend employing their own PCSO and asking smaller parishes to consider joint funding. This council declines to contribute.

Finance

Cheques authorised at this meeting;

No; 332	£ 140	Alpheton PCC – for Magazine
No; 333	£ 30.99	Alpheton PCC – Christmas tree lights and refreshments
No; 334	£ 150.79	Babergh DC – Dog & Litter Bin collections
No; 362	£ 12	Alpheton Village hall – Hall Hire

Any Other Business

Richard Kemp had sent his report which was read out.

There are a lot of portacabins on the airfield near Stone Cottages. To whom do they belong?

A scheme has been set up whereby information can be sent around the village by email to those residents who are interested. Email addresses will be given to Parish Council, Alpheton PCC and Alpheton Village hall only, so that messages may be sent when time is short to get the information into the magazine. The clerk has set up a dedicated email address for the council. alphetonpc@gmail.com

There being no further business this meeting closed at 8.15pm.

The next meeting will be the Annual meetings on 17th May 2010.

MINUTES OF AN ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF ALPHETON PARISH COUNCIL
HELD AT ALPHETON VILLAGE HALL ON 17TH MAY 2010 AT 7.00PM

Apologies; Trevor Rix, John Brand.

Present; Alan Ariss, Chairman, John Holdway, Richard Kemp, Maureen Lankester and Ken Watkins. Also present Julie Rix the Clerk and one member of the public.

There were no Declarations of Interest.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. The previous Annual Meeting's minutes were signed as correct. Proposed by John Holdway seconded by Alan Ariss.

Chairman's Report.

Mr Ariss gave a brief resume of the nine planning applications considered this year. One is still outstanding (Control Tower Testing.) Ken Watkins had been welcomed as co-opted councillor. The minutes are being published on the Alpheton Website. Some road repairs were effected before the very bad winter weather, but the subsequently worsened surface due to severe cold has been patched only, a few weeks ago and some today. The Council paid for the refurbishment of the village sign and the lights and refreshments at the Christmas Tree event. Lyn Holt is our new Internal Auditor. The council supported the opposition to the National Grid plan to put pylons over the countryside, but the BT plan to adopt the telephone box has been abandoned by them. £500 of Locality Budget funding helped to re-surface the village hall car park.

Report from Chairman of the Village Hall Trustees, Peter Rix.

The kitchen has been re-furbished and the top of the car park successfully brought up to standard. The rest of the grounds will be done this year. These ventures have of course depleted Village hall reserves. Mr Rix thanked the Parish Council for their support, whose assistance has been much appreciated.

Richard Kemp gave his reports for both Babergh and Suffolk County Council. He stated that work will start resurfacing on Cold Hill this June. He said that two sources of funding were available to the Council, 'Locality' money and 'Quality of Life' . (Reports on file). Mr Kemp was thanked.

Police

Apologies had been received from PSCO 3231 Hannah Partington. Lists of tickets issued for traffic offences in the village for February and March had been sent however.

Finance.

The accounts were presented, agreed by the Council and signed by the Clerk and Chairman. Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Return were also completed and signed. (Statement of Accounts and Annual Governance Statement.) The books have been audited internally by Ms Lyn Holt and will be sent to BDO/ for external auditing.

There was no further business to discuss.

This meeting closed at 7.30pm

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL ALPHETON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT ALPHETON VILLAGE HALL ON 17TH MAY 2010 AT 7.35PM

Present; Alan Ariss, (Chairman), John Holdway, Richard Kemp, Maureen Lankester and Ken Watkins. Also present Julie Rix, the Clerk and one member of the public.
Apologies; Trevor Rix, John Brand.

There were no Declarations of Interest.

Mr Ariss stated his intention to resign his post as chairman and asked for nominations. He proposed Mr Ken Watkins, seconded by Richard Kemp. There were no other nominations. Mr Watkins was duly elected.

Mr Watkins thanked Mr Ariss for performing the role so efficiently and running the council smoothly.

The minutes of March 23rd 2010 were signed as correct. Proposed by John Holdway seconded by Alan Ariss.

Matters Arising:

Community Orchard in memory of Edwin Taylor – 10 trees have been ordered at a cost of £170.00 + £29.00 delivery. They will arrive in November. Discussions are still ongoing about the optimum position for the orchard.

The council minutes (once they have been signed) are being sent to Mary Dunk who puts them on the website for us.

It was noted that some work had been undertaken filling in the worst of the potholes in Old Bury Road. The clerk will write to politely remind SCC that major work is still needed.

There is still no decision regarding the application for The Old Control Tower.

The refurbishment of the bus shelters will probably be after harvest.

It may be possible to use either Locality Budget funding or the ‘Quality of Life’ funding to pay for grit boxes.

The application for Elms farm has been withdrawn and two new applications received. In view of the quantity of drawings it decided to hold a planning meeting on Friday 28th May at 2.30pm.

Richard Kemp will investigate the gradual appearance of portacabins on the airfield.

The email ‘tree’ to the clerk has not had a great response so far.

Cheques were authorised;

No. 335	£12.00	Alpheton Village hall – Hire
No. 336	£27.00	Lyn Holt – Internal Audit
No. 337	£752.00	Graham Maskell – Grass cutting
No. 338	£108.00	Suffolk Assn Local Councils - Subscription
No. 339	£1378.00	J Rix - Clerk’s salary

No.340 £77.65 J Rix – Clerk’s expenses

An invoice was sent to Alpheton garage for the Licence fee at Easter. No funds have been received as yet. A statement will be sent at the end of the month.

Correspondence

There have been several appeals for funding this year. It was decided to support the village magazine and the Christmas Tree Memorial Event on an annual basis to a total of approximately £200. A further £100 will be shared between the Suffolk Air Ambulance and the Children’s Hospice Tree Appeal.

This meeting closed at 8.15pm.

The next meeting will be 24th August at 7.00pm.

MINUTES OF A PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT ALPHETON VILLAGE HALL ON 24TH AUGUST 2010 AT 7.00PM

Present; Ken Watkins. (Chairman), Alan Ariss, John Holdway, Richard Kemp, Maureen Lankester, Graham Maskell and Trevor Rix,
Also present Julie Rix, the Clerk, John Brand and PCSO Hannah Partington.

There were no Declarations of Interest.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and especially PCSO Partington.

The minutes of the previous meeting were signed as correct. (Proposed by Alan Ariss and seconded by John Holdway.)

The Item 'Police' was brought forward to allow PCSO Partington to speak about the Crime Report to date. She was thanked and then left to attend another meeting.

Matters Arising

The Community Orchard will be discussed further by the Village hall committee and there will be a working party to prepare the ground.

The Minutes of May 2010 will be sent to Mary Dunk for inclusion on the website.

The editor of Alpheton News would like a summary of the minutes for the magazine.

Tom Nunn of Suffolk County Council is aware of the very bad state of the road surface along Old Bury Road.

The Old Control Tower planning permission has been granted.

The council intends to provide grit boxes throughout the parish to help in the bad weather.

Richard Kemp may be able to help with some funding.

It is understood that the portacabins which have started appearing on the far side of the airfield are just being stored there.

The email tree has not got much further. An advert for it will be put in the magazine.

The invoice for Alpheton Garage has been paid. Cars are still being parked too near the bend near the Garage.

Highways

We are provided with figures for speeding vehicles caught on the A134. The van can only be deployed on weekdays and so cannot be in place on weekends when there are motor bikes speeding through the village.

The drainage problem in Bridge Street has not been solved but has been a little better of late.

The road surface in Old Bury is breaking up and there is a bad stretch near Thatched Acre. The Chairman will speak to the owner to see if he can park his vehicles elsewhere as the left hand lane is suffering from repeated use.

Finance

Two cheques were authorised;

No; 341 £58.75 BDO LLP (Auditors)

No; 342 £12.00 Alpheton Village hall - Hire

Sudbury Court is under threat of closure. This council will protest against this proposition and fully support keeping it open.

Mr Kemp gave his report on Suffolk County Council, and Babergh District Council.
Mr Brand also gave his District report and stated his wish to stand down from this post.
Both Councillors were thanked for their reports and the interest that they take in this parish.

Correspondence and Clerk's report.

There is the opportunity for Councillors to attend Great Blakenham Recycling facility to see what happens to the contents of our blue bins. The clerk will contact them to book 6 places.
Appeals for funding will be held over to the Annual meeting when all will be considered together.

Any other business

Mr Watkins reported that there is to be a reorganisation of local Register Offices. This will mean that Sudbury will close for one day a week.

Mr Rix said that high speed Broadband should be available from Thatched Acre to Elms Farmhouse very soon with more coverage to the airfield.

This meeting closed at 7.55pm.

The next meeting will be Tuesday 23rd November 2010.

MINUTES OF A PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT ALPHETON VILLAGE HALL ON 23rd NOVEMBER 2010 AT 7.00PM

Present: Ken Watkins. (Chairman), Alan Ariss, John Holdway, Richard Kemp, Graham Maskell and Trevor Rix,
Also present Julie Rix, the Clerk.
Apologies; Maureen Lankester, John Brand and PCSO Partington.

There were no Declarations of Interest.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

The minutes of the previous meeting were signed as correct. (Proposed by Richard Kemp and seconded by Alan Ariss.)

Matters Arising

The trees for the Community Orchard will be delivered in early December. We will liaise with Margaret Taylor over the planting date.

We have a new Webmaster for the Alpheton Website – Richard Wallace. The August minutes can now be sent to him.

Old Bury Road surface is getting worse. The owner of the vehicles left outside Thatched Acre, on the road has said that he is selling one of the vehicles and in the new year intends to make a further parking place on his property. The council will write to Suffolk County Council about the road surface again and ask for various abandoned road signs to be collected.

Seven grit boxes will be ordered from Glasdon Products. Grit has already been delivered and left in heaps although the clerk had to ask for some to be left in Aveley lane near the council houses slope as it had been missed.

Still little response (six so far) to the email tree.

There has been a temporary reprieve to the courts closure.

Police

PCSO Partington was unable to attend. The Crime Report was a nil return except for the theft of lead from the Village hall roof.

Alpheton Garage

The cars for sale are being parked rather too far forward.

Highways

Speeding figures for the village showed a marked increase in tickets issued; 34 tickets in June, 134 in July and 267 in August.

A resident in Church lane has complained about speeds in that location. Mr Kemp offered to ask SCC if repeater 30mph signs could be added here.

Chairman's Report.

The Chairman and three councillors have attended two meetings at Babergh recently and found them to be very useful and informative.

Clerk's Report & Correspondence

Land Registry – documents received.

Finance

The Budget was presented for perusal. The Clerk's salary has been revised in accordance with National Salary Scales. An underpayment for last year is to be authorised at this meeting. The forthcoming Parish Elections in 2011 must be budgeted for and could cost up to £800. All these expenses would make a rather steep increase in the precept and correspondingly on the resident via their Council Tax. It was decided that an increase of 5% was all that could be justified with any extra taken from reserves. £2613.00 will be the Precept required from Babergh DC in that case. (Notes for this to be lodged with the minutes)

Cheques authorised at this meeting;

No; 343	£25.00	Suffolk Acre - subscription
No; 344	£302.72	Suffolk Acre – Insurance
No; 345	£12.00	Alpheton Village hall – Hire
No; 346	£20.54	K. Watkins – Chairman's Expenses
No; 347	£75.00	Eans Garden Services – grass cutting
No; 348	£132.00	Alpheton PCC – magazine donation
No; 349	£219.64	J Rix – Underpayment of Salary

Any Other Business

There will be a Christmas Tree on the Green as last year and a ceremony to remember those no longer with us. The Parish Council supported this last year by funding the refreshments. It was agreed to do the same for this year.

There being no further business this meeting closed at 8.05pm.

The next meeting will be Tuesday 25th January 2011 at 7pm.