

Minutes of an Extraordinary meeting of Alpheton Parish Council
held on 4th January 2013 at 7.00pm

Present; Chairman Ken Watkins, Alan Ariss, John Holdway, Richard Kemp, Maureen Lankester, Graham Maskell, , Trevor Rix and the Clerk.

Also present 15 members of the public.

Apologies; None from the Parish Council
Danielle and David Gough from Bridge Street.

Declarations of Interest – none.

The Chairman opened the meeting by reminding the meeting of the planning Application under review;

B/12/1375/FUL

Rose & Crown, Bridge Street, Long Melford, Sudbury, CO10 9BQ

Erection of single-storey storage building in association with existing ancillary domestic use.

Erection of single-storey building to be used ancillary to existing commercial use. Erection of fencing. Erection of stainless steel flue to annexe (retention of).

Observations on the application were due by 27th December 2012. In view of the Public Holidays (Christmas and New Year,) this council had asked for an extension and this was given – deadline now January 10th 2013.

It was noted that the applicant had sought pre-planning advice from Babergh District Council officer, Alex Scott.

Alpheton Parish Council has been asked for views as a neighbouring parish as the Rose and Crown is in Long Melford parish. It is important to note that it is on the far boundary of Melford parish and has a much greater impact on the residents of Alpheton and most particularly Bridge Street where it is situated.

Long Melford's Planning Committee met (3 of 6 possible councillors) to consider this application. Their subsequent 'no objections' return should be considered in the light of their unfamiliarity with the site, and their short residency in this area.

There are three issues;

The retention of the flue – (retrospective)

The retention of the partition wall – (retrospective)

Storage units for domestic and commercial use.(New fence and hedge)

The flue was put in to service a wood stove in the barn; the partition wall is to sub-divide the bar area at quiet times and is said to be a re-instatement of a wall from 1964; the storage is to replace the portacabins. The new fence and hedge is to be visually more in keeping.

Councillor Trevor Rix said that he felt that the statement (in the planning documents) that the property does not flood is erroneous as 10-15 years ago he remembers that it did and that water ran into the bar. The whole area suffered. Figure 6 which is supplied with the plans shows however, that the property is considered to be outside the flood risk area.

Councillor Maureen Lankester said that she felt that the proposal was too big for the site and she wanted to know what the storage areas were for. She felt that the proposal should be discussed fully and she asked who from Long Melford had looked at the site.

District and County Councillor Richard Kemp replied and said that the Enforcement process initiated by Babergh District Council had not achieved the removal of the portacabins by the date demanded.

The Chairman opened the meeting to the floor. He asked that residents indentified themselves before speaking.

Brian Bailey – Chadfield, Bridge Street.

Mr Bailey has written to Babergh over his concerns generally and over the portacabins. He felt that the new buildings would not enhance the view of the site. He will contact Sarah Metcalfe at Rose Cottage as she is only being sent letters and not the plans and whose house is the nearest. He felt that it was overdevelopment and bad for Bridge Street. He felt that the flue was garish and ugly. He was surprised at the partition. He felt that it was peculiar to have the premises up for sale.

Brian Lankester, Meadow Cottage, Bridge Street.

He understood that the sale was for the whole unit, why then the need for additional buildings at this stage? Why was there need for a commercial preparation area when the pub was not open? It felt that it was unfair that his taxes were paid but that no action was taken to benefit residents. He also remarked that the enforcement date had been and gone.

Mr Kemp said that commercial buildings have to try to sell as going concerns for a year. This should be monitored by Babergh. After this they can be sold as domestic dwellings.

Mr Bailey said that the pub had no regular hours of opening.

Graham White, Smithy Cottage, Alpheton.

He noted that this is a Listed Building. He felt that the retrospective alterations were contrary to what was there before.

Annette Bailey, Chadfield, Bridge Street.

Mrs Bailey understood that the portacabins were to contain the items from the kitchens whilst they were refurbished. They had been completed for some time and there was now plenty of room to put things back. She saw no need for more storage space.

Mr White asked about the previous planning application for the holiday lets. It was understood that the barn was for extra residential use for the owners/occupiers and the stables converted to two B&B rooms. He said that the barn was listed on Babergh's website as a holiday let.

Richard Barraclough, Highcroft, Alpheton.

Mr Barraclough said that he had concerns for de-licensing and a change of use to residential. He acknowledged what the Environment Agency said with regard to flooding but felt that it was still a risk with Global Warming an issue.

Councillor Alan Ariss said that the map for this area shows that flooding is predicted to occur once in a thousand years.

Jeff BoBo, Byways, Bridge Street.

Mr Bobo suggested that we should ask for a change of boundary so that all of Bridge Street became Alpheton Parish. He also asked if the meeting thought that the owner would be influenced by these deliberations.

Mr Kemp suggested that there were some possible routes to follow;

Ask for a Site Meeting

Appeal to the Ombudsman if maladministration is suspected.

Mrs Lankester pointed out that the portacabins were supposed to be in place only for the duration of the building works.

Mr Lankester said that he had sent a separate letter to Babergh about the portacabins as he felt Babergh had shown a lack of care and attention towards Bridge Street residents. He felt that some sort of recompense was warranted. He hand delivered his letter on 21st December.

Mrs Bailey was distressed that a beautiful area was being spoiled. She said that it was well used with passing traffic, walkers and cyclists and the view was spoiled.

Jason Moorcroft, Spindrift, Bridge Street.

He asked who would make the decision about the de-licensing (Babergh) and would Alpheton pc have the chance to comment (Yes). He said that it looked as if the barn could be separated from the pub building and possibly sold off.

Mr Kemp remarked that it was possible – under the Freedom of Information Act – to inspect correspondence at Babergh DC about a contentious issue.

The Chairman, having made sure that everyone who wished to had a chance to speak, summed up the meeting.

There were three aspects to consider on planning grounds and he put it to the council that a Site meeting should be requested. This was agreed unanimously. The council would also ask again for the removal of the portacabins.

He asked Mr Kemp to request a Site Meeting for us and Mr Kemp will mention that in our opinion Babergh has been lax with regard to enforcement. He will also ask about advertising the property as a public house whilst it is closed.

The proposed new storage building is excessively high.

There is overdevelopment of the site.

The flue is unsightly without cladding.

The partition wall has been built without materials sympathetic to the age of the building.

The fencing is not attractive.

To sum up it is an undesirable development within the curtilage of a Grade II Listed Building.

Observations of this council will be sent in marked as ‘Interim Opinions’.

The council will ask that Babergh District Council puts this development on hold until the portacabins are removed, and there is compliance with Planning Regulations.

The public present were informed that they could attend the site meeting if they wished although they could not speak and that if they so wished they could write to Babergh District Council.

After thanks for attendance this meeting closed at 8.00pm.

MINUTES OF A PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT ALPHETON VILLAGE HALL ON
29TH JANUARY 2013 AT 7.PM

Apologies: Richard Kemp, PSCO Hannah Partington.

Present: Ken Watkins, (Chairman), Alan Ariss, John Holdway, Maureen Lankaster, and Trevor Rix. Also present Julie Rix the clerk.

Declarations of Interest: There were none.

Minutes: The minutes of 27th November 2012 and 4th January 2013 were signed as correct, proposed by Trevor Rix and seconded by John Holdway.

Matters Arising – Extraordinary Meeting 4th January 2013

Several members of the public had attended and excellent points had been raised. These points had been sent to Babergh District Council. This application has since been withdrawn.

It will be necessary to write to Babergh about the continued presence of the storage cabins.

A brochure produced by Sworders Estate agents listed the Annexe as ‘Holiday Accommodation’, this has been brought to the attention of Babergh DC (as this is not how it was described in the planning permission,) who will contact the owners.

Matters Arising – Meeting November 27th 2012

The flooding along Old Bury Road has largely been reduced. The chippings left after tree pruning have not been cleared up however.

The Precept has been applied for at the same amount as the previous year. There may be a change to the present system. By reducing the number of people (the tax base) who pay full council tax, households could end up paying more even if the District and Parish council do not increase our overall charges (i.e. precept)

The Government intends to give a grant to District Councils to compensate parishes in their area for the amount equivalent to the additional sum that households will be charged owing to changes. This would allow councils to consider lowering their precept demands whilst being compensated by the grant so that they still receive the full amount of income required for local needs. This grant is, however, discretionary. This will mean another shortfall to be made up by reserves.

Three of our Community Award candidates have been successful; The Coffee Pot ladies; Richard Beattie-Swann; Paddy Trevelyan. The Chairman and John Holdway will accompany them to the Awards Presentation Evening.

County are planning extensive new signage along A134 and at our recommendation they will be also checking speeds and the state of the road surface.

A cheque has been received and banked from Alpheton garage for the Licence.

It will be necessary to write to them in advance of sending the next invoice to inform them of a small increase from Easter. We will also offer them the chance to pay online. If they wish.

The council will apply to Richard Kemp for his Locality Budget Funding. It was agreed to purchase a new Notice Board for Bridge street (a quote for a single module – 4xA4 sheets- with a door and lock from recycled material from Whitehouse Enterprises in Ipswich is £336.00 Inc V.A.T.) We will apply for £500 and use the remaining £164 to purchase shingles for the Bus shelter roofs. Peter Rix is happy to speak to Heather Schram whose husband made the present board and to John and Ken Talbot whose mother is commemorated as Post mistress by a small brass plaque.

Finance;

Two cheques authorised;

No;402 Alpheton Village hall – hall Hire 04/01/13

No;403 Alpheton Village hall – hall Hire 29/01/13

Licence fee of £899.90 has been paid by Alpheton garage.

Correspondence & Clerk's report

Extra correspondence received as emails;

To view presentation on meeting to consider the Honours System use this link

<http://salc.onesuffolk.net/news/honors-presentation>

From Suffolk Acre a link to have a say as a service user of Norfolk & Suffolk NHS Foundation Trust <http://www.nwmhft.nhs.uk/en/Radical-Pathway-Redesign/PRP-carers-focus-group>

Info from SALC regarding farmers using red diesel in vehicles snow clearing

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/news/2013/01/18/red-deisel-rules/>

Copy Suffolk Acre Update Winter 2012/Spring2013.

Appeal for funding support from Age Uk.

Chairman's Report

The chairman had attended Babergh's Annual Parish Liaison meeting where some topics were the ongoing financial problems; Community Engagement; the restructuring and re-titled departments at Babergh following their merger.

Richard Kemp's Reports for January and February were read and he was thanked.

The minutes that have been approved will be posted on the website and a copy of the Extraordinary meeting on 4th January will be emailed to Mr Gray at the Rose and Crown as requested.

The provisional dates for future meetings are;

March 26th, May 28th (AGM), July 30th, September 24th, November 26th.

There being no further business this meeting closed at 8.00pm.

Annual parish meeting 2013

The last 12 months have been quite busy, with traffic issues, flooding, community awards, necessary repairs which are still going on, and planning issues at the Rose and Crown.

Traffic issues. There have been a number of accidents on or near the bends on the south side of the village. We have asked highways to look again at dressing the surface to make it safer, and await their response. They did a speed survey on the bends, which produced an average of 33mph in both directions. We have also asked them to carry out a similar survey in Bridge Street – the last one was in 2003 when an average of 46mph in both directions was recorded. The speed camera van was last in Alpheton on May 15, and one driver was caught.

Flooding. The main problem area was Old Bury Road. Highways came out at our request and identified the problem, and the relevant drainage pipe and ditch has been cleared.

Community Awards. We picked up two individual Babergh Community awards, for Paddy Trevelyan and Richard Beattie-Swann, and a group award for the six Coffee Pot ladies. The only category we were unable to enter was individual or group under 18. Suggestions for the 2014 award are welcome.

Repairs. Repair work has been carried out to the three bus shelters, and new noticeboards are being purchased where needed, but repaired where possible. We have a county councillor locality budget sum of £500 towards this from Richard Kemp.

Rose and Crown. This has occupied the last six months, with the first set of planning applications going in December, which we discussed at an emergency public meeting in January. The plans were withdrawn. Then Richard Kemp and I had a meeting with Richard and Laura Grey at the Rose and Crown in February. The planning applications were resubmitted with one change, and discussed at our March meeting. On both occasions, the unanimous view was to oppose the plans. Unfortunately Mr and Mrs Grey were unable to attend either meeting. I had hoped to be able to report a decision, but that won't happen until tomorrow when Babergh planners meet again. The recommendation of the planning officers is approval for the new storage and food preparation units. Babergh deferred a decision to allow both the senior food and safety officer and senior environmental protection officer to look at the proposals, and neither have raised objections.

Richard Kemp, Brian Lankester and I spoke at the Babergh planning committee meeting two weeks ago when the decision to defer was taken.

Reports from other organisations

We have had a Shimpling and Alpheton WI report from Mary Tuffen.

The WI is thriving, with 25 regular active members. Meetings over the past 12 months have looked at the history of jazz, bee-keeping, earring and necklace making, heard a talk by an evacuee, and a talk from a female racing driver. They have also had fashion advice, a 63rd birthday party, an outing to Bressingham gardens, and their annual meal at the Black Lion in Melford.

The WI meets on the second Tuesday of each month, alternating between the Shimpling and Alpheton. Details are to be found in the respective village magazines.

Police

Very close to home, there was a burglary at a house at the Glebe last Friday, when a coin collection and jewellery were taken during the day.

Ken Watkins
Chairman

28 May 2013

MINUTES OF AN ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF ALPHETON PARISH COUNCIL
HELD AT ALPHETON VILLAGE HALL ON 28th MAY 2013 AT 7.00PM

Apologies; There were none.

Present; Ken Watkins, Chairman, Alan Ariss, John Holdway, Richard Kemp, Maureen Lankester , Graham Maskell and Trevor Rix. Also present Julie Rix the Clerk, John Nunn, District Councillor, and eight members 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 Graham Maskell seconded by Alan Ariss.

Chairman's report – (on file)

The Chairman reported that the last 12 months had been busy with traffic issues, flooding, community awards, on-going repairs and planning issues at the Rose and Crown in Bridge Street. The traffic monitoring so far has shown moderate speeding (a little over the limit) and only one speeding motorist caught by the mobile camera – although this was in position for only 30 minutes. Flooding in Old Bury Road has been solved.

Two individual Community Achievement Awards were won by Mrs Paddy Trevelyan and Mr Beattie-Swann, and the group award by Coffee Pot. They are to be congratulated. It would be good to enter in the under 18yrs category next year also.

Mr Kemp's Locality Budget funding has been earmarked for a new Notice Board and continued repairs to the bus shelters. He was thanked for this. The original planning application for the Rose & Crown at Bridge St was withdrawn and then re-submitted in an altered state. Objections were lodged. Babergh meet tomorrow to consider this again and Mr & Mrs Grey were present to speak at the meeting following this.

Mr Watkins was thanked.

The Chairman read a report from Alpheton and Shimpling W.I. The organisation is thriving and meets alternately in each village. (Report on file)

Mr Kemp gave his reports for County and District Councils. There were further reductions in Government grants to the County Council this year. Savings are being made. It was disappointing to note that Suffolk Schools have dropped further down in the national league tables. There is however the prospect of faster Broadband speeds in the near future. The proposed merger of Fire Services will not take place. County Care Homes are to be divested to Care UK. On 15th November Suffolk elected Tim Passmore as their Police and Crime Commissioner. On 1st August the new library service was launched with the Industrial and Provident Society taking responsibility from the County Council.

At District level the constitution has been revised, with a more political structure. Mr Kemp also mentioned that it was not widely known that the new 101 emergency number was charged to the user, which he regarded as a disgrace. (Reports on file) Mr Kemp was thanked.

Police

A Crime Report was received (a slight increase in crimes this year was noted) and Police officer Ruth Horton and a colleague called in and offered to answer any queries. There were none. She was thanked for attending.

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 Lynne Holt and have been be sent to BDO Stoy Auditors for external auditing.

This meeting closed at 7.25pm

MINUTES OF AN ANNUAL
ALPHETON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT ALPHETON VILLAGE HALL ON 28th MAY 2013 AT 7.30 PM

Apologies; There were none.

Present; Ken Watkins, Chairman, Alan Ariss, John Holdway, Richard Kemp, Maureen Lankester , Graham Maskell and Trevor Rix. Also present Julie Rix the Clerk, John Nunn, District Councillor, PC Ruth Horton and eight members of the public.

Mr Watkins welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Mr Kemp proposed Mr Watkins as Chairman for a further year, seconded by Mr Ariss. There were no further nominations. This was agreed.

Mr Watkins proposed Mr Ariss as Vice Chairman, seconded by Mr Holdway. This was agreed.

Mr Watkins thanked all the councillors for their support and also thanked the Clerk.

There were no Declarations of Interest.

The previous meeting's minutes were signed as correct. Proposed by Graham Maskell seconded by Alan Ariss.

Mr & Mrs Grey (owners of the Rose and Crown in Bridge Street) were present and discussed queries from the council and the floor concerning the Rose and Crown planning application. Mr Watkins thanked them for attending.

Finance

As reported in the previous meeting's minutes the accounts have been completed and approved by the council. They were checked by our Internal Auditor L Holt, and sent to the External Auditor BDO LLP.

Cheques were authorised at this meeting;

No; 410	£12.00	Alpheton Village hall – Hire of hall
No; 411	£27.00	L Holt – fees to Internal Auditor
No; 412	£117.00	Suffolk Association of Local Councils – Subscription

Clerk's Report & Correspondence (List on file)

A letter of thanks has been received from Mrs Trevelyan, Editor of Alpheton Parish News, for the donation towards printing the village magazine (£132).

Acknowledgement of Subscription (£30) to Community Action Suffolk- formerly Suffolk Acre.

First 50% of precept received £1306.50 plus grant of £276.00.

Two cuts of the verge will be made this year by SCC in their Annual Surface Clearance programme, which will be through the village along A134.

We will enquire about clearance of footpaths.

Annette Gray from Community Action Suffolk would like to attend a meeting to talk about Parish Plans.

Advice from DEFRA & The Arboricultural Association about Ash Dieback disease. They warn that unscrupulous workers are offering to cut down trees which they identify as diseased. Householders are advised that trees should be left as they are not dangerous and need to be properly identified to show the extent of the problem.

Home-Start South Suffolk & District's AGM is at Brett vale Golf Club, Raydon on July 1st.

County & District Reports (on file)

75 seats at Suffolk County Council were contested on 2nd May. The main concern was voter apathy with overall only 30% turnout. The Melford Ward voting resulted in Mr Kemp remaining as councillor.

Mr Kemp was thanked.

With no further business this meeting closed at 8.20pm.

The next meeting will be July 30th at 7pm.

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF
ALPHETON PARISH COUNCIL
HELD AT ALPHETON VILLAGE HALL ON 30TH JULY 2013 AT 7.00 PM

Apologies; There were none.

Present; Ken Watkins, Chairman, Alan Ariss, John Holdway, Maureen Lankester , Graham Maskell and Trevor Rix. Also present Julie Rix the Clerk,

Apologies; Richard Kemp

There were no Declarations of Interest.

The previous meeting's minutes were signed as correct. Proposed by Graham Maskell seconded by John Holdway.

Matters Arising - there were none.

Police

The police were not able to attend. The Chairman had received a complaint about parking by the garage, opposite the bus shelter which he asked PCSO Partington to take a look at. Recently there seem to have been fewer cars there.

There have also been instances of selling from the edge of Tye Green – a caravan and a motorbike. The caravan was moved quite quickly but the motorbike has been parked on the corner of the Green recently.

There is also a statue/model of a man tethered to the sign on the edge of the Green. This is wearing a hard hat and a high visibility vest. There were no objections to this remaining providing the vehicles are moved.

Graffiti has been drawn on the inside of the bus shelter near the garage. It may be possible to sand it off the wood.

Planning

The Rose and Crown. Planning permission for the storage units and fencing was granted, along with the annexe flue and internal wall in the main building. The property is still on Sworder's Lavenham office website and on Rightmove. The owners don't have to do anything immediately. It is thought that they have three years in which to act.

One of the portacabins has been removed but the other has merely been relocated in the car park. Babergh will be asked if the instruction to the owners to 'remove' should mean move off site entirely.

Highways

The clerk has reported the potholes to Suffolk County Council and had an official acknowledgement. Her other report about the missing chevrons near Tallage corner has not had a response as yet. Mrs Lankester reported that a bend sign situated near Rowhedge Cottage corner in Aveley lane is overgrown with vegetation and cannot be read. Also bushes have been trimmed between the bridges along Aveley lane but that the trimmings have not been cleared away.

The Old Bury Road sign was seen knocked over flat last week, but before it could be reported Mr Beattie-Swann has put it upright and also cut back the grass obscuring the sign on the opposite side of the road. He was thanked.

There are two more defective signs to report; both Byway signs. One near the village hall which is rotten and leaning over; the other near Meadowview Cottage in Bridge Street.

Finance

The Locality Budget Funding has been received for the notice Board - £346.80 and it has been delivered and is ready to put up. A cheque for £346.80 has been issued to Realise Futures for their invoice.

Suffolk County Council have asked if it possible to advertise on our website and what our rates are. We will enquire what Lavenham and Long Melford Parish Councils do.

Cheques issued;

No; 413	£346.80	Realise Futures (Notice Board
No; 414	£12.00	Alpheton Village hall – Hire

Clerk's Report – as correspondence list.

Chairman's Report

It is suggested that all communities have an emergency plan for the parish. The relevant documents have been circulated. The Chairman did ask if Suffolk County Council were meeting any other parish councils to discuss possible plans, with a view to going along. But they appear not to be so he has asked them to talk to us at our November meeting. They have agreed to do so and, unlike parish plans, we don't have to pay anything. Jane Burch or Sue Herne will come to the meeting.

Parish plans. We continue to get emails from Community Action Suffolk asking if we are intending to adopt a parish plan. Lavenham has started on the road to this by publishing a Neighbourhood Plan – It is still felt that we are too small, and a Parish Plan is too costly, so would rather pursue the idea of a questionnaire asking people in the parish what they like/do not like, about it and what changes/improvements they would hope for. The Chairman has had a look at a number of parish consultations on line, and will distil something from them over the next few weeks.

District and County Council Reports are on file. It looks as though the Broadband rollout is going to be delayed.

Any Other Business

The Bus shelter at the end of Old Bury Road has a climbing rose behind it. It was cut back during work to the shelter, and Mr Ariss asked if he could put up a free standing trellis to support it. Agreed.

The request for blackboards on the bus shelters to advertise Village Hall events was refused due to the likelihood of graffiti.

There being no further business this meeting closed at 7.40pm.

The next meeting will be September 24th.

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF
ALPHETON PARISH COUNCIL
HELD AT ALPHETON VILLAGE HALL ON 30th SEPTEMBER 2013 AT 7.00 PM

Present; Ken Watkins, (Chairman), Alan Ariss, John Holdway, and Trevor Rix. Also present Julie Rix the Clerk,

Apologies; Richard Kemp, Maureen Lankester and John Nunn.

There were no Declarations of Interest.

The previous meeting's minutes were signed as correct. Proposed by Alan Ariss seconded by Trevor Rix.

Matters Arising

The caravan which was parked on the Green without permission was removed and promptly replaced by a motorbike for sale. After a word from the Chairman this was removed also. The clerk has asked Mr Kemp to investigate what the position is as regards one storage cabin still being sited on the Rose and crown car park. He has not been able to report back so far. Suffolk County Council had asked if it was possible to advertise on our website and what our rates would be. We have had no response from Lavenham and Long Melford Parish Councils who we turned to for advice.

Police

The police were not able to attend.

Planning – There were no applications

Highways

Trevor Rix had completed the latest Village Risk Assessment and several of his observations were Highway matters;
Potholes along Church lane have been done but not others around the Green. This will be reported.
The chevrons near Tallage have not been done yet, but are pending.
Road signs in Bridge St have been cleaned by Councillor Maureen Lankester, who was thanked.
The full litter bin has been emptied as schedule..
The poor state of Tye Green sign will be reported.
The grit bins will be topped up prior to winter as usual.
The post boxes are repainted in a rolling programme and will be done in due course. (Any problems of security or ease of use can be attended to immediately)
The Dog Bins are the Parish Council's responsibility. John Holdway kindly offered to repair them.
The unauthorised advert pinned to the hedge on The Green will be left to run its course as it is a promotion from E.A.D.T. which will end shortly.
The culverts in Old Bury Road will have to be watched to keep them clear. The pipe under Buxtons Drive near the road has been cleared by Peter Rix earlier in the year.

The entrance to Old Bury Road was cleared of overhanging vegetation by a resident but then this was abandoned near the bus shelter. It was eventually cleared away by others.

A Church lane resident was up a ladder trimming a hedge when the ladder was clipped by a car and she was knocked off it. She was not badly hurt and did not report it to the police. They have subsequently been told about it and also Nic Willcocks was also informed. Residents of Church

Lane are concerned by the speed at which delivery vans and taxis drive along it. We will enquire whose responsibility it is to clear the ditches at the bottom of Church lane.

Finance

Ladywell have sent the Clerk's payslip for the first half of the year, and their invoice.

NALC have sent details of a rise in Clerks' salaries. This is a 1% increase which adds £18.72 to the salary for the year. The increase will be added in the next payment.

The Clerk has also replaced her printer at a cost of £55. The council kindly offered £45 towards the cost as the majority of printing is for the Parish Council.

Cheques issued;

No; 415	£25.00	Ladywell Accountancy Services
No; 416	£927.58	Mrs J Rix – Clerk (Half Year Salary)
No; 417	£12.00	Alpheton Village Hall
No; 418	£45.00	Mrs J Rix – payment towards Printer

£1306.50 has been received from the Precept as the first half of the payment applied for.

£90.86 has been received for recycled glass.

Graham Maskell, Ean Stowe and Peter Rix have been added to our insurance cover under Employers Liability for casual work on behalf of the council.

We have some items in our policy that we do not need. The clerk will check if it will reduce premiums if they are removed.

Clerk's Report – as correspondence list.

Chairman's Report

The Chairman attended an Emergency Planning meeting and has invited Sue Hearne to speak at our November meeting (26th). It was noted that Long Melford have a defibrillator attached to the outside of the Co-Operative Supermarket. Is this something Alpheton should aspire to?

District and County Council Reports are on file.

Any Other Business

There being no further business this meeting closed at 7.45pm.

The next meeting will be November 26th at 7pm.

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF ALPHETON PARISH COUNCIL
HELD AT ALPHETON VILLAGE HALL ON 26th NOVEMBER 2013 AT 7.00 PM

Present; Ken Watkins, (Chairman), Alan Ariss, John Holdway, Maureen Lankester and Trevor Rix. Also present Julie Rix the Clerk, and Sue Herne – Emergency Planning Officer Babergh & Mid Suffolk Councils.

Apologies; Richard Kemp.

The meeting was then adjourned for the presentation from Sue Herne, Emergency Planning Officer. The Emergency Planning Unit was created in response to several civil emergencies – the Foot and Mouth outbreak, flooding and the Buncefield Fire, under the umbrella of the Civil Contingencies Act.

This is to encourage self reliance in communities in the event of floods, loss of power supplies or bad weather and similar problems. Divided into two categories, these can be 'Rising Tide Events' where the problem can be predicted (i.e. by weather forecasts) or 'Sudden Impact' (Crashes etc) where no planning is possible.

A Parish Emergency Plan can co-ordinate the response, with local knowledge and an awareness of local risks.

Ms Herne gave the council leaflets and copies of information sheets, also promising to send the same by email for circulation to councillors. It will be given due consideration. Ms Herne was thanked for attending.

The meeting resumed at 7.30p.m.

There were no Declarations of Interest.

The previous meeting's minutes were signed as correct. Proposed by Trevor Rix, seconded by Alan Ariss.

Matters Arising

The council has enquired about the remaining portakabin at the Rose & Crown in Bridge Street. This council understood that it was going to be removed. There has been no reply from Babergh. There is no sign of any construction work at present. John Holdway was thanked for mending the dog bins.

Police.

No Officer was able to attend this meeting but a report had been received.

Planning

No applications have been submitted and none are pending.

Highways

The unfilled potholes around the Green will be reported again.

The new chevrons on Tallage corner are more substantial and could therefore do more damage in the event of a car coming off the road.

The resident at No 6. The Glebe has asked Suffolk County Council to do something about safety at the bus stop opposite the bus shelter at the junction of A134 / Old Bury Road. There is only a small area of hard standing there at present. There are concerns for the safety of the children who use it. County have said that any improvement would cost around £3000 – to create a larger area with rails at the back. Their suggestion was to ask Richard Kemp to pledge £1000 from his Locality Budget, which would move it up County's list of priorities, and that County would then meet the rest of the expense.

Finance

A budget has been drawn up mindful of the constraints of the amount we can ask for. The budget has been carefully looked at to see where economies can be made, but it has already been pared down. The Chairman has written about the situation in the village magazine. The tax base has not been set yet and so we are waiting to hear what this will be. (It could be as late as well into December). The Chairman and Clerk have been to Babergh DC to meet Barry Hunter – Corporate Manager Financial Services, to discuss the implications of the Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme. In 2013 this council accepted a grant to offset the impact of the Scheme. The grant will gradually be reduced until it is phased out in 2017/18.

The Chairman and Clerk will also attend a meeting at Babergh on 28th November at the Town and Parish Council Liaison Meeting.

Finance

Two cheques were authorised;

Cheque number 420£12.00

Alpheton Village hall – Hire

Cheque number 421£88.00

Eans Garden Services – Grass cutting Bridge St.

Correspondence and Clerk's report. - As listed.

£90.86 has been received from recycling credits.

This council came third in the Website Competition organised by SALC - Thanks to Trevor Rix for looking after it. Community Action Suffolk have sent confirmation of our insurance cover. We have the opportunity to comment on Suffolk Fire & Rescue Service – Integrated Risk Management Plan 2014-17. (Available through www.suffolk.gov.uk)

Chairman's Report

Following complaints that the bottle bank at the village hall was getting filled rather too quickly, we have been investigating the possibility of getting a second, or a receptacle for cans. There may be room at the village hall to accommodate this and it would allow bottles from weddings at Alpheton barns to be left there. It would mean a welcome increase in recycling credits income.

District Report

District Councillor Richard Kemp had given his apologies to this meeting, but had sent a copy of his report. This was read out. He was thanked.

Any Other Business

It seems that the grit bins have been filled in Bridge Street but not Alpheton. The Clerk will enquire.

For Sale signs have been springing up recently indicating properties for sale off the main road (this is in addition to the sign immediately outside the property). Two are sited near the bus shelter at the A134/ OBRd junction and two on the Green. The council disapproves of this as it makes grass cutting difficult and is unsightly.

Several small businesses have been trading near the Mill at Bridge Street. As far as this council is aware there is no planning permission granted for change of use to commercial and indeed Babergh DC have always been wary of increased traffic movements at that spot. Enquiries will be made.

There is still a road sign in Bridge Street in Aveley Lane which needs re-erecting.

Provisional dates were made for meetings in 2014;

28th January, 25th March, 27th May.

There being no further business this meeting closed at 8.30pm