

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF ALPHETON PARISH COUNCIL
HELD AT ALPHETON VILLAGE HALL ON 3rd February 2015 AT 7.00 PM

Present; Ken Watkins, (Chairman), Alan Ariss, John Holdway, Maureen Lankester, Graham Maskell and also present John Nunn (District Councillor).

Apologies; Richard Kemp, Trevor Rix and Julie Rix the Clerk.

There were no declarations of interest.

The minutes of 2nd December 2014 were signed as correct. Proposed by Graham Maskell and seconded by Maureen Lankester.

Matters Arising

Flooding: Highways sent a team out to sort of the Old Bury Road problem. But instead of checking the blockage between White Gables and No 1 The Glebe, they dug out some of the ditches. They made a mess outside Lynwold, which was not the problem area. Highways have been advised that they were looking in the wrong place, so we await developments, and the next spell of heavy rain.

Regarding problems with the river at Bridge Street - Richard not present to report, but Maureen says trees and debris have been cleared, so she will be keeping an eye on it.

Planning

No applications received.

Highways

The Chairman went with Richard Beattie Swan to look at all the road signs which have been knocked down in recent weeks. Highways have ordered replacements for those that cannot be propped up again, so once again we wait. He also checked with the police about removal of car parts following crashes. Apparently if they are on the road, Highways should clear them. If you have the misfortune to have a bit of wrecked car land in your garden, you have to get rid of it.

Police

No police present at this meeting. Crime reports sent however. There have been some burglaries and damage to cars in neighbouring villages. Two crimes in Alpheton ; one burglary and one of damage to a Police car whilst just passing through.

Finance

The Budget was formally approved (proposed by Alan Ariss, seconded by John Holdway). We have had acknowledgement of our Precept upon the local authority – Babergh which is £2847. This represents an increase of 11pence for a band D property.

Clerk's Report & Correspondence

Item 1 – considered to be a break down in communication between neighbours and has been referred by them to Babergh.

Item 16 – Suffolk County Council's backlog of minor works – pothole in Bury Road has been done.

Chairman's Report

In the absence of the Clerk the Chairman reported a telephone she (the Clerk) had received from a resident in Bridge Street in which he felt that he had been insulted by the way a member of staff at Babergh DC had spoken to him concerning Refuse Collections. The Clerk had suggested contacting Richard Kemp in the first instance. He was not present to speak about this.

District Councillor's Report

John Nunn spoke about the District Councillor's Report concerning Chilton Woods, Lonely Neighbours, Primary school Places, Healthy Diets and the Warm Home Project. He will be attending a meeting to discuss a Sudbury Bypass and will report this at the next parish meeting. He was thanked.

Any Other Business

Elections are being held this year on Thursday 7th May. Councillor John Holdway announced his intention to stand down. Nomination forms will be available and the Chairman will put an article in the Parish Magazine. He hoped that all remaining Councillors would stand again.

It was noted that explosives testing would be taking place on the airfield on Wednesday 18th February and that part of the road on the airfield would be closed.

There being no further business this meeting closed at 7.35pm

The next meeting will be Tuesday 7th April at 7pm.

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF ALPHETON PARISH COUNCIL
HELD AT ALPHETON VILLAGE HALL ON 7th April 2015 AT 7.00 PM

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

Apologies;

There were no declarations of interest.

The minutes of 3rd February 2015 were signed as correct. Proposed by Alan Ariss and seconded by Maureen Lankester.

Matters Arising

Flooding - Highways have jetted the drain by Doone House and established that there is a blockage. They have also put a camera down to check out the problem. There has been no report to follow this work.

Sudbury Bypass - John Nunn will be attending another meeting in two weeks time.

Elections - This May will see National, District and Parish Elections. John Holdway is standing down as one of our Parish Councillors. John was thanked for all he has done while serving as a councillor. Ken commented that he was grateful for the support, help and advice during his time as chairman, and thanks also go to John's wife Pauline.

Planning

No applications received.

Highways

The signage on the bend and on Cold Hill is due for replacement in the not too distant future. Apparently the job has moved up the Highways pecking order.

Police

No police present at this meeting. Crime report sent however. This was for February, and showed the parish as having just one crime, an assault at Aveley Lane, with no publicity requested. The police recorded 67 crimes in the period in the Babergh West area, of which 14 were assaults.

Finance

The Audit pack has arrived and is due in by 27th May. Cheques were authorised;

No;446	£210.26	Babergh DC for Dog Bins
No;447	£123.00	Suffolk Assn of Local Councils (Subscription)
No;448	£958.03	Mrs J m Rix second half of Clerk's salary
No;449	£12.00	Alpheton Village hall – Hire April 2015
No;450	£63.50	P G Rix – repairs etc Bus shelters and Notice board put up
No;451	£12.00	Alpheton Village hall – Hire February 2015

Clerk's Report & Correspondence

As correspondence list – otherwise dealt with elsewhere in these minutes.

Chairman's Report

Nothing to report.

County and District Councillors' Reports

Richard Kemp and John Nunn gave their reports for County and District and were thanked. Apart from the run up to the Elections in May things are rather quiet .

Any Other Business

Telephone box. BT has asked us if we wish to purchase the red box in Old Bury Road for £1. BT will continue to supply power, and ensure the light is working, but the power supply can be disconnected if BT decides to do so in the future.

Uses for a telephone box include – an art gallery, a lending library, a pop-up shop. According to BT, one was used as a pub – for one night only.

If we did decide to buy it, someone/several people will be needed to look after it. Also Babergh have to approve any plans. Ken will put an article in the parish magazine to see if there is support, not just for the idea of purchase, but for taking care of it.

Trevor Rix noted that Broadband Fibre was enabled a month ago and we now have the fastest speeds in the country.

There being no further business this meeting closed at 7.35pm

The next meeting will be The Annual Meetings on Tuesday 12th May at 7pm.

MINUTES OF ALPHETON ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT ALPHETON VILLAGE HALL ON 12th MAY 2015 AT 7.45 PM

Apologies; Richard Kemp and John Nunn.

Present; Ken Watkins, (Chairman), Alan Ariss, Richard Barraclough, Richard Kemp, Maureen Lankester, Graham Maskell and Trevor Rix. Also present District Councillor John Nunn, Julie Rix (the Clerk), and one member of the public.

The Chairman, Ken Watkins stood down and Alan Ariss nominated Ken for Chairman for the coming year, seconded by Richard Barraclough. There were no other nominations and this was carried. Ken nominated Alan as Vice Chair, seconded by Trevor Rix and again there were no further nominations and this was also carried.

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 Alan Ariss seconded by Trevor Rix

Matters Arising

Improvements had been asked for the bus stop opposite the bottom of Old Bury Road. It's currently just a small concrete base and the parents and children who use it are concerned that it is dangerous with out more distance from the road and some kind of barrier. We are still waiting for work to start. Richard Kemp will be asked to see if any progress has been made.

The Minutes of April 2015 were signed as correct Proposed by Alan Ariss and seconded by Trevor Rix. Matters arising from these are that there has been an offer to be Custodian of the Telephone box if we buy it and also an offer of help to clean it and the surroundings. We will express our interest in purchasing it and obtain costings for paint etc.

Police

No one was able to attend but the latest report showed 77 crimes in Babergh West but none in this parish.

Planning

Planning Application B/15/00374/FHA Tweenbridges, Bridge Street, Alpheton CO10 9BG

Erection of two-storey front extension; erection of pitched roof to existing garage; erection of first-floor balcony; alterations to existing roof, including erection of 3 no. dormers (to facilitate loft conversion) and rooflight to side elevation; erection of single storey rear extensions.

This council had no comments to make.

Highways

These matters have already been dealt with previously.

Finance

Two cheques were authorised (to be signed later as the cheque book is still with the Internal Auditor)

£84.00 Peter Rix Repairs to Bus Shelters and Notice Boards.

£12 Alpheton Village hall Hire.

Clerk's Correspondence

On File.

It was noted that Babergh District Council now have a new electronic system for submitting and publishing the Register of Interest Forms. These must also be published on the village website.

Extra Correspondence;

Copy 'Clerk's and Councils Direct', Insurance companies' proposals. (We are tied to a three year commitment)

Mr Kemp's May report (on file) contained a tribute to a young person who recently lost his life and who was very involved in local politics. He also mentioned applications for Primary school, Water Safety week (13-19 April), Recycling, Raising the bar awards, School Nurse Logo competition, and assaults on Firefighters.

There was no further business. This meeting closed at 7.55pm

The next meeting will be August 4th at 7pm.

MINUTES OF
THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PARISH OF ALPHETON
HELD AT ALPHETON VILLAGE HALL
ON 12th MAY 2015 AT 7.00PM

Welcome ; and congratulations to the newly elected Parish and District Councillors.

Apologies; There were none.

Present; Ken Watkins, (Chairman), Alan Ariss, Richard Barraclough, Richard Kemp, Maureen Lankester, Graham Maskell and Trevor Rix. Also present District Councillor John Nunn, 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 Graham Maskell and seconded by Alan Ariss.

Reports

Chairman's Report

Flooding continued to be an issue, although not so much in the last few months. Highways have investigated the problem in Old Bury Road, ascertained there is a blockage and are now considering their next move. The blockage has been reduced, but Highways are looking at the possibility of running a drain across the road to the ditch on the other side.

Damaged road signs were finally restored in April after several months of requests. The number of chevrons appears to have been reduced, and spaced further apart. The Accidents at Clapstile/Tallage corner was discussed at this point. After the chevrons were replaced there have been two more accidents. It was decided after the second accident to keep a log of any incident and report it on the SCC Reporting Tool online. This has been done. A faulty road surface at this point is still suspected. A large pothole at the A134/Old Bury Road Junction has also been reported but SCC have replied saying; " We have investigated your recent report.

At this time, we do not feel that any action is necessary, however we will continue to monitor this location as part of routine inspections and works will be carried out if required in the future." This is most disappointing.

The Village Hall committee have agreed in principle to a second bottle bank in the car park. Hopefully this can be progressed in the near future and a second one installed. Once that is operating successfully we can explore the possibility of an aluminium can bank.

The budget eventually saw us agree the same precept figure as 12 months earlier, £2847. Because of changes in Babergh's financial calculations this meant a slight increase in the council tax, 11p a year on a Band D property.

Super-fast broadband reached the village at the start of 2015.

Councillor John Holdway stepped down from the council after serving for nine and a half years, attending his last meeting in April. Julie Rix wrote a letter of thanks on behalf of the council.

PCC Report

Alpheton and Shimplingthorne PCC sent a report which was read out by the chairman.

County and District Reports

Richard Kemp gave his County Council Report. He reiterated the savings required by Suffolk County Council for the next four years (£156m) the priorities now are ; Education, Roads, Supporting Vulnerable People. Cycling is also going to be actively promoted. As Babergh District Councillor he mentioned zero rated Council Tax and the new solar panel initiative for council owned properties. He also said that plans were underway to build more council houses starting in Glemsford. He thanked the parish for their support. He was in turn thanked.

Mr Kemp and Mr Nunn then gave their apologies and left to attend another Parish Meeting.

Finance

The Finances for 2014/2015 were presented to the council for adoption. The accounts were presented, agreed by the council and had been signed by the clerk and chairman.

Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Return had also been completed and signed. (Statement of Accounts and Annual Governance Statement). The books have been audited internally by Ms Lynne Holt and will be sent to BDO Stoy Auditors for external auditing .

Any Other Business

There being no further business this meeting closed at 7.42pm.

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF ALPHETON PARISH COUNCIL
HELD AT ALPHETON VILLAGE HALL ON 4th August 2015 AT 7.00 PM

Present; Ken Watkins, (Chairman), Alan Ariss, Richard Barraclough, Maureen Lankester, Graham Maskell, and Julie Rix the Clerk. Also present John Nunn (District Councillor), and two members of the public.

Apologies; Richard Kemp, and Trevor Rix.

There were no declarations of interest.

The minutes of 12th May 2015 were signed as correct. Proposed by Maureen Lankester and seconded by Alan Ariss.

Matters Arising

The bus stop opposite the bottom of Old Bury Road - Highways finally has a budget for upgrading of just under £6,000 and work is expected to be carried out in the next three months. Thanks to Richard Kemp for reminding Highways about this issue on a regular basis.

The telephone box in Old Bury Road was agreed in principle to be purchased for £1. Concerns were raised that the lean indicated a safety hazard, which the chairman raised with BT. Their commercial field officer has inspected it, and concedes the box is leaning, but in his opinion this is not dangerous. K6 boxes stand on a two-foot concrete base.

If we do go ahead with the purchase, BT supply a free painting kit, which includes their approved red paint.

The chairman suggested deferring a decision after checking with our public liability insurers.

Police

It seems that there is no longer any chance of a police presence at meetings. A crime report was sent however. There are two crimes recorded, one a sex assault.

The meeting was adjourned for public discussion.

Mr & Mrs Reynolds of Fir Tree Cottage, Bury Road had come to ask if the council could help with their complaint concerning traffic along A134. They have been residents since 1997 and since that time have noticed an increase in traffic volume, speed and weight of lorries. They noted that it was 15 years since the last Traffic Management Survey. Mr Nunn asked Mr Reynolds to write to him. We will ask Suffolk County Council if we can have a mobile Speed Display Unit.

Planning

B/15/00642/FUL and B/15/00643/LBC

Mill House, Bridge Street, Alpheton

Application for Building Consent (and Listed consent) – Change of use of building from dwelling house (Class C3) to guesthouse (Class C1) incorporating 5 guest bedrooms together with replacement of damaged fence.

Also at Mill House - B/15/00645/FUL

Change of use of part of the ground floor and external areas from dwelling house (Class C) to use as tea rooms (within Class A1) for use only between March and December (inclusive) each year. (Retention of)

This is a retrospective planning application as most of the work has been carried out. It is largely internal – putting en suites in the bedrooms for their B&B business, and making the dining room larger, upgrading toilet facilities on the ground floor. They have also turned the garden into a parking space for six cars, and will be putting up a new sign. This council has no objections.

B/14/00926/FUL - The Old Rectory, Old Bury Road, Alpheton.

Erection of two storey barn building, adjacent to existing barn, to provide Music Studio with first floor Library and Office; and reception of building to house bio-mass boiler, adjacent to existing double garage. All councillors (except Mr Kemp) consulted, letter with recommendations sent. This was discussed in the October 2014 meeting. We did not object to the original plan, but made a number of observations, and a letter was sent. These are revised plans. There are no further planning issues however. A copy of the original response to this planning application will be sent.

B/15/00374/FHA – Tweenbridges Application Granted.

Highways

An email was received from Graham Bonson of Shimpling on behalf of a resident at Stone Cottages. She had been in the habit of catching a bus at the end of her lane. The bus company have said that this cannot continue. Richard Kemp had been informed and Simon Barnet, Senior Infrastructure Officer, Passenger Transport at Suffolk County Council has responded. This issue is being looked into by the operations team.

The chairman had a complaint that there were potential trip hazards on the verges of some houses in The Glebe. In the deeds he has it is clear that householders were supposed to leave an area down by the road clear of obstructions as the land was council-owned. We have asked County to clarify the position as over the 60-odd years since construction trees have been planted, amongst other things. Mr Kemp has written to say it is one metre from the highway.

Finance

The Audit may be returned with a qualification. The Internal Risk Assessment was not minuted. All finances are correct however.

Cheques authorised;

No; 452	£84.00	Peter G Rix – Repairs to Notice Boards and painting window frames
No; 453	£12.00	Alpheton Village Hall Hire 13/05/15
No; 454	£21.00	L. Holt – Internal Auditor
No; 455	£10.00	Sudbury Town Council – Course fees
No; 456	£30.00	Community Action Suffolk Subscription
No; 457	£87.00	Babergh DC - Election expenses
No; 458	£12.00	Alpheton Village hall – Hire 04/08/15

Correspondence and Clerk's Report

Community Action Suffolk questionnaire. Deadline is 30th September.
Suffolk Association of Local Councils Clerk's survey to complete.

Chairman's Report – All items already dealt with.

District and County Reports

Richard Kemp had sent his June and August Reports and John Nunn presented his report. Both were thanked.

Any Other Business;

The Village hall Committee are happy to allow two bottle banks on a concrete base. We will enquire if square based banks could be provided.

Mr Kemp's Locality Budget Funding will be applied for repairs to Alpheton Village Hall.

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

The next meeting will be 6th October at 7pm.

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF ALPHETON PARISH COUNCIL
HELD AT ALPHETON VILLAGE HALL ON 6th OCTOBER 2015 AT 7.00 PM

Present; Ken Watkins, (Chairman), Alan Ariss, Richard Barraclough, Maureen Lankester, Graham Maskell, and Julie Rix the Clerk.

Apologies; Richard Kemp, and Trevor Rix and John Nunn (District Councillor),

There were no declarations of interest.

The minutes of 4TH August 2015 were signed as correct. Proposed by Richard Barraclough and seconded by Graham Maskell.

Matters Arising

The Council has agreed in principle to purchase the telephone box in Old Bury Road for £1. The Chairman has delayed taking this any further until a firm decision has been made as to what it would be used for, and until our insurers get back to us about insurance cover. Ideas are welcome.

Issue of speeding and weights on main road were raised at the last meeting. District Councillor John Nunn was not able to attend and it had been hoped to ask him about this matter.

The issue with the bus company and picking up at an unscheduled stop is being looked into by the Operations Team at Suffolk County Council. The Crime report shows that in the West Babergh SNT area 60 crimes were recorded, with one in this parish.(No details). Glemsford had 21.

The Council has received a letter from the Acting Chief Constable regarding non-appearance of the Police at Parish meetings. They would be available for a 'specific local concern'.

Planning

Application B /15/01231

Spindrift, Bridge Street CO10 9BG. Erection of two bay Cart Lodge.

This council has concerns about drainage in view of the on-going problems at Bridge Street.

The following has been sent;

'Having discussed this application at a meeting of Alpheton Parish Council on 6th October, concerns have been raised about the siting of the Biodisc as the existing cess pit is underneath the proposed Cart Lodge.

We have concerns that the new drainage provisions are not shown on the plan sent to us.'

Application B/14/00926/FUL/BEL

The Old Rectory, Old Bury Road, Alpheton CO10 9BT

Erection of two storey barn building, adjacent to existing barn, to provide music studio with first-floor library and office; and erection of building to house bio-mass boiler, adjacent to existing double garage, as amended by plans received 25th June 2015.

Application Granted, with thirteen conditions.

Finance

The budget figures were put before the council. The provisional figure for the precept for the coming financial year is £3021.06. This is subject to alteration in view of additional figures not yet received from Babergh DC.

From next year it will be necessary to have a pension in place for the Clerk.

The Audit has been returned from BDO External Auditors with a qualified audit. The matters raised are that the asset register has not been kept in sufficient detail (this will be rectified) and that a formal Risk assessment document has not been kept and reviewed. A new Risk Assessment document has already been compiled and will be sent to every councillor for perusal.

The Annual return was approved and accepted by the council.

Other than the points raised above the books and finances are correct.

The Clerk gave the council a report of her attendance at a recent Finance Seminar held by SALC which was very helpful in light of new Financial regulations. It was stressed that any Model Regulations should be tailored to each individual council.

Funds received are;

£1423.50 ½ Precept by BACS 10.09.15

£78.67 Recycling by BACS 24.09.15

Cheques authorised;

No 459 £12.00 Alpheton Village Hall – Hire

No 460 £57.28 J Rix – Clerk's expenses

No 461 £947.23 J Rix – Clerk's ½ Year Salary

No 462 £25.00 Ladywell Accountancy Services (PAYE)

No463 £913.00 G Maskell – Grass cutting

The Chairman commented on the September and October Reports from Richard Kemp.

Any other business

The bus shelter on the Green is looking rather scruffy.

There is a dead cherry tree near the entrance to Nuns Drift.

The next meeting will be Tuesday 1st December.

This meeting closed at 8.15pm.

Alpheton Parish Council – Agenda and Correspondence, for meeting 1st December 2015

1. Apologies
2. Present
3. Declarations of Interest
4. Minutes of Parish Council Meeting of 6th October 2015.
5. Matters Arising
6. Police
7. Planning
8. Highways
9. Finance
10. Correspondence & Clerk's Report
11. Chairman's Report
12. District & County Council Reports.
13. Any Other Business
 - a) Adopt new Financial Risk Assessment
 - b) Possible loss of Post Boxes
 - c) Fire Service Consultation
14. Date & Time of next meeting

At the discretion of the Chairman and if time permits
there will be an adjournment for public discussion after item 6.

Finance:

1. Insurance premium paid including an extra £2.38 to cover the new Notice Board. Total £211.73. Cheque 464 issued.
2. Invoice from SALC for Clerk's Finance course received. Cheque issued No; 465 for £90 (£75 + V.A.T.).

Highways

3. Highways problems reported to SCC;
 - a) 00122828 Avey Lane – potholes and road condition. Reply that one pothole will be fixed within 2 weeks (24.11.15) no further work will be done.
 - B0 00121865 Alpheton A134 – logged only – Hazard chevron sign demolished by Road traffic accident at Clapstile Corner.
4. Traffic accidents in Alpheton reported to Police – meeting with PC Gary Austin to discuss issues is being organised.
5. Copy email from R Kemp to SCC re non appearance of bus stop area in Alpheton.
6. Email from Community Watch Liaison Officer re Community Speedwatch offering information and support.
7. Planning Application B/15/01231 Spindrift – Erection of two bay cart lodge – permission refused.
8. The Clerk has signed a petition @Give Parish Councils the right to appeal planning decisions'.
9. Posters and information received regarding collection and recycling of real Christmas Trees.
10. Police Report for 1/9/15 – 30/9/15 Total crimes recorded for Babergh West 56. One in Alpheton – no details.
11. SALC – Copy of Cities and Local Government Devolution Bill.
12. Broxap Litter bins and recycling units Winter catalogue.
13. SALC – Important information regarding Sector Led Body for Audit Procurement. Opting out deadline 31st January 2016.

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF ALPHETON PARISH COUNCIL
HELD AT ALPHETON VILLAGE HALL ON 1st DECEMBER 2015 AT 7.00 PM

Present; Ken Watkins, (Chairman), Alan Ariss, Richard Barraclough, Richard Kemp, Maureen Lankester, Graham Maskell, Trevor Rix and Julie Rix the Clerk.

Also present; John Nunn (District Councillor), and two members of the public.

Apologies; there were none.

There were no declarations of interest.

The minutes of 6th October 2015 were signed as correct. Proposed by Alan Ariss and seconded by Richard Barraclough

Matters Arising

The telephone box has been inspected and found to be safe. The insurers have said that it should be insured if in the event of damage the council would wish to replace it. This is unlikely as it would be too costly so it will not be insured. If the council decided not to buy it, the box would remain in situ but at some point the electricity supply would cease.

The issue of what to do with it is still uncertain. Shimpling have theirs as an information point and a book swap and have added a small heater. Enquiries will be made into the viability of an Internet Hot Spot.

Bus service at Stone Cottages - It appears that the lady is now being picked up as previously (following a slight hiccup for the first couple of weeks.) So thanks are due to Richard Kemp, and to Graham Bonson, for their efforts.

The issue of speeding and weights of lorries on the main road had been forwarded to Suffolk County Council by District Councillor John Nunn. The Chairman and Clerk are due to have a site meeting later this week with PC Gary Austin to discuss this and the traffic accidents at Clapstile Corner.

Police

Crime Report received. In the West Babergh SNT area in October 56 crimes were recorded, with one in this parish. No details. Melford was top with 14, and Glemsford 12..

The Chairman will speak to Julie Moss about plans for a Speedwatch team.

Planning

Councillor Maureen Lankester expressed disquiet that the plans for Spindrift at Bridge Street (B/15/01231/FHA/AT) had not been present at the start of the last meeting. This application was however discussed at that meeting and views were sent to Babergh DC by email and by post. The application has been refused. The particulars of the decision were read out in full. The long standing, unresolved issue of a smell from drainage water at Bridge Street was raised and Mr Kemp offered to arrange a test of the surface drain.

Highways

The Clerk had contacted Paul Gant from Suffolk County Council Highways Division.

Issues discussed were flooding, a leaning tree and the spate of accidents on the A134 near Clapstile Corner.

Old Bury Road had flooded again on 30th November. Mr Gant said that the drains had been surveyed by camera, but could not be fully accessed. SCC plan to divert the water from the gully diagonally across the road with a new pipe to the ditch. This will be achieved by the end of the winter i.e. end of March.

He is sure that the road collapse that occurred four years ago is not a factor as the gully is under the verge.

Regarding the A134, he said that speed was a major factor rather than the road surface, however the whole of the A134 in Alpheton will be resurfaced next year.

The leaning tree in The Glebe has been inspected by a SCC Arboriculturist and there is no evidence of major movement at the roots. A tree expert from Babergh DC has also been asked to look at it, but has not reported on it yet. If it found to be unsafe the householder will be required to take it down.

Finance

The insurance premium has been paid with the addition of £an extra £2.38 to cover the new Notice Board. The invoice for the Clerk's recent SALC Finance course has also been paid.

A cheque was also issued for the hire of the hall;

No; 464 for £211.73 Community Action Suffolk – Insurance

No; 465 for £90.00 SALC – Finance Course

No; 466 for £12.00 Alpheton Village hall – Hire

SALC have sent information regarding the Sector Led Body for Audit Procurement. The deadline for opting out of this is 31st January 2016. It was decided that this council would not opt out.

The Budget - Babergh are still digesting the Chancellor's Autumn statement. They did send out tax base figures late last week, but followed this swiftly with a recall. So we still can't finalise the budget. As soon as the Chairman gets the tax base figures from Babergh he can revise accordingly and get the information out to everyone.

Correspondence and Clerk's Report

The state of Aveley lane was reported by the Clerk. The reply was that one pothole will be filled and that no further work will be done.

Traffic accidents in Alpheton will be discussed by the Chairman, Clerk and PC Gary Austin later this week at a site meeting.

The Clerk has signed a petition at 'Give Councils the right to appeal planning decisions'.

Posters and signs have been received for the recycling of real Christmas tree.

District and County Reports.

Email from Babergh District Councillors John Nunn and Richard Kemp; encouraging news that use of the consolidating Kingfisher Leisure Centre and Hadleigh Swimming Pool is growing; Housing Allocations Policy is being looked at; penalties are being discussed for Landlords who fail to comply with the law on Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Alarms.

Mr Kemp also reported for Suffolk County Council; SCC is ready for winter weather conditions; Remembrance ceremonies have taken place; Fire cuts in Sudbury are under discussion; Social Services in Sudbury are moving from Friars Street to the new Health Centre; information on Alcohol awareness week.

Any Other Business

Adoption of new Risk Assessment – this will be circulated to all Councillors again with a view to adoption at the January meeting.

Possible loss of post boxes – the Royal Mail will be surveying rural boxes in the New Year and those with under 25 items may be in danger of closing.

Fire Service Consultation – as in Mr Kemp's County Report fire cuts in Sudbury are under discussion.

Flooding – as above under Highways.

Shimpling Clerk has emailed asking to exchange information in a report. For the moment it was decided to decline this. Our minutes are available on the website and it will still be possible to liaise 'as and when'.

Dates for meetings 2016 are as follows; February 2nd, April 5th, June 7th, August 2nd, October 4th, December 6th. All at 7pm.

There being no further business, this meeting closed at 7.50pm.