

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.