

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF ALPHETON PARISH COUNCIL  
HELD AT ALPHETON VILLAGE HALL ON 5<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2017 AT 7.00 PM

Present; Ken Watkins, (Chairman), Richard Barraclough, Madeline Gray, Richard Kemp, Graham Maskell, Trevor Rix, Bridget Sumner and Julie Rix the Clerk.  
Also present John Nunn (District Councillor)

Mr Watkins welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies; there were none.

Declaration of Interest : There were none.

Register of Interest forms for new councillors Mrs Gray and Ms Sumner have been received.

The minutes of August 2017 were signed as correct. Proposed by Richard Barraclough and seconded by Graham Maskell.

Matters Arising

The directional road sign at Bridge Street which was retrieved from the river has still not been reinstated. Mr Kemp will enquire about this.

The Brass plaque to commemorate Alan and Christine Ariss and their service to this community is in hand.

Steve Clare is still willing to look after our small Community orchard, even though he has now left the village. He met with the Clerk on site and thinks that it will only require an annual pruning.

Regarding the Local Plan – along with Mrs Gray and Mr Rix, the Chairman attended the parish liaison meeting in the village for parish councils where Babergh officials talked about policies, including the Settlement Hierarchy Review. Alpheton isn't the only village with an incorrect score. A revised version will be coming out for consultation in due course.

Planning

Application B/17/01103 Newmans Lodge, Alpheton.

Erection of 4no. dwellings and construction of new vehicular access.

This Council has asked for an explanation of the second half of page 8 in the Officer's Report.

The Chairman has had two replies from Gemma Pannell the Area Planning Manager at Babergh, neither of which gives a clear explanation in plain English.

Ms Sumner and Mrs Gray attended two planning seminars led by Jayne Cole, and the Chairman attended the second one with them. It was very informative, and a little disturbing. Because councils are not meeting housing targets, the planning rules are being relaxed to make it easier for developers.

Finance

The Chairman and Clerk have met to discuss the budget. Some costs have risen and provision will have to be made for these. We are still unable to anticipate the costs for the new Data Protection legislation that comes into effect in May. SALC do not have any information yet.

It was proposed by Mr Maskell and seconded by Mr Rix that the Precept applied for should be £3,236.00. This will be an increase of 5.1%. This was agreed unanimously.

The following cheques were authorised;

No; 572	£80.00	Sudbury Town Hall – Planning Courses
No; 573	£12.00	Alpheton Village Hall - Hire

### Clerk's Report and Correspondence

As listed.

### District and County Council's Reports

Mr Nunn gave the District Report. The dissolution of Babergh District Council has been put on hold. There seems to be plans for more building in Long Melford.

Mr Kemp's County Reports for November and December were commented on by him and are on file. Both Councillors were thanked.

### Chairman's Report

Clerk vacancy - six people expressed an interest, four CV's received were considered by the council. One candidate and a reserve were chosen, with a view to interview in the New Year.

### Any Other Business

Mr Nunn reported that Long Melford intended to mark the Centenary of the end of WW1 on November 11<sup>th</sup> 2018 by lighting a beacon on the Top Green. There will be a Service taken by Revd. Lawson and Long Melford Silver Band will play. He invited residents of Alpheton to join them. He was thanked. An article will be put in the village magazine.

The next meeting will be February 6<sup>th</sup> 2018 , and the one after that April 3<sup>rd</sup> 2018.

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