

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF ALPHETON PARISH COUNCIL
HELD AT ALPHETON VILLAGE HALL ON 4th February 2014 AT 7.00 PM

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

Apologies; Richard Kemp, John Nunn.

There were no declarations of interest.

The minutes of November 27th 2013 were signed as correct. Proposed by John Holdway and seconded by Alan Ariss.

Matters Arising

The Rose and Crown portacabin has gone. Either late Monday or early Tuesday last week, and the first of the new buildings has been started.

Regarding the bus stop opposite the end of Old Bury Road - costings and design are in process at County Highways.

The extra Bottle bank and aluminium can bank were due to be discussed by the Village Hall committee. Alan reported that the committee was not in agreement over this.

Maureen Lankester reported that the vegetation had been cut back in Aveley Lane and exposed the sign that had been obliterated by it and that it was much better.

Police

We have a new PcsO Siobhan Hemmett, who has taken over from Hannah Partington, and a new Sgt Kathy Ellis. Unfortunately Siobhan was not able to attend.

The Babergh West Safer Neighbourhood Team will meet in Alpheton on Tuesday 18th March 2014 11am-12pm.

The new Acting Inspector Kathy Ellis has written to see if we are happy with the current format of the Crime Reports sent to us. We will reply that we are.

Planning – No Issues.

Highways

The Clerk had reported the empty grit bins and eventually they were all filled by 10th January. (There had been trouble with a new contractor.)

The pot holes around the Green have also been reported again, but there has been no response as yet.

Two broken signs have been reported – one on the Green 'Church Lane', and the 'Old Bury Road' sign near the bus shelter. The latter has been repaired and the replacement for the Green has been ordered.

Finance

The budget - our revised precept request went in last month and it was formally approved at this meeting. Proposed by Ken Watkins and seconded by Alan Ariss. All were in agreement.

Babergh had reduced their grant from £207 to £88, but increased the tax base. The figure we have requested from Babergh is £2847.00 and we will also receive a grant of £88 giving us £2935.00. We have today had an acknowledgement from Babergh concerning this. This precept gives the Parish a Council tax Band D amount of £26.20. This is a 1.96% increase on 2013/14.

The charge for the emptying of litter and dog bins is going up slightly to £210.26. An invoice has been received for £205.40 for the year 01.01.13 to 31.12.13.

The Clerk's payslip for the second half of the year has been sent through.

Mr Maskell's grass cutting invoice was handed in.

Cheques authorised at this meeting;

No; 423	£205.40	Babergh District Council (Bins)
No; 424	£946.30	J Rix – Clerk's half salary
No; 425	£863.00	G Maskell – Grass
No; 426	£12.00	Alpheton Village hall – Hire

Correspondence and Clerk's report

The limit of the Section 137 expenditure has been set at £7.50 per head.

Community Action Suffolk offer a Village halls Survey for 2013-2014 via acre@acre.org.uk
Suffolk Association of Local Councils (SALC) - Notes on Allotment Disposal and the Local Audit and accountability Act 2014.

Chairman's report

John Holdway and Ken Watkins attended a Neighbourhood Planning seminar at Lavenham yesterday. Apart from Babergh and Mid-Suffolk officials, they heard from two parishes that are well on the way to putting a Neighbourhood Plan into effect. Rendlesham, with just over 3,000 inhabitants, is facing housing development which will increase the population by 50 per cent, so obviously they are trying to ensure there are some community benefits to go hand in hand with that. Lavenham has carried out market research – letters to every household, meetings, a test sample questionnaire, followed by a questionnaire to every household, as well as online. Both councils, plus volunteers, have devoted a considerable number of hours to these over the last two years.

Villages in Babergh fall into three categories – core villages, like Lavenham and Long Melford; hinterland villages, Acton, Lawshall, Great Waldingfield; and countryside, which is where we find ourselves. Housing development will take place in the core and hinterland villages. In the countryside, Babergh's policy is "development will only be permitted in exceptional circumstances subject to a proven justifiable need."

Richard Kemp had sent his Parish Reports for January and February

The dates of future meetings was discussed. In order to be available to all councillors it was decided to hold meetings on the first Tuesday of the month (except January).

Meetings will be 1st April, the AGM on 27th May, 5th August, 7th October, 2nd December.

Trevor Rix gave his apologies for the April meeting.

There being no further business this meeting closed at 8pm.

The next meeting will be April 1st 2014 at 7pm.