

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF ALPHETON PARISH COUNCIL  
HELD AT ALPHETON VILLAGE HALL ON 2<sup>nd</sup> FEBRUARY 2016 AT 7.00 PM

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

Also present; John Nunn (District Councillor), and three members of the public. Also present Cally Boardman, Suffolk County Council Area Co-ordinator.

Apologies; Richard Kemp, Maureen Lankester, Trevor Rix.

There were no declarations of interest.

The minutes of 1<sup>st</sup> December 2016 were signed as correct. Proposed by Graham Maskell and seconded by Richard Barraclough

Matters Arising

The telephone box in Old Bury Road - The Chairman contacted BT to see what would be involved in setting up a WIFI hotspot, as requested at our last meeting. We would have to pay for the WIFI to be set up, just as you do as an individual, along with ongoing service charges. Also, the electricity supply to the box would have to be transferred to the council, which would involve paying standing charges etc. So it was decided to rule that out. Further suggestions are invited via the parish magazine.

Traffic issues. The Chairman and Clerk had a meeting with PC Gary Austin on December 4. He is arranging for SID ( Speed Indication Display) to come to the village as soon as possible. He also suggested we ask County for speeding figures. They sent some, which are three years old, but will be letting us have more up to date ones in due course.

Police

There were no reported crimes in the parish in November or December, which are the latest figures received. In the West Babergh Safer Neighbourhood Team area there were 56 incidents in November and 54 in December. Melford topped the list with 16 in November and 18 in December, with Glemsford and Leavenheath occupying the other top three places.

Every parish and town council had a letter from the Chief Constable and Police and Crime Commissioner asking if we could contribute towards the cost of a PcsO. Each one costs £32,000 a year.

Adjournment for discussion. Ms Cally Boardman was invited to speak. She is employed by Suffolk County Council (with a colleague) to cover Sudbury and surrounding villages, as a Local Area Co-ordinator, to improve wellbeing outcomes for Suffolk. It is approached informally, with no referral and seeks to improve residents' health and general care in terms of Learning Disability, Mental Health, Disability and Age. Ms Boardman used this opportunity to introduce herself and familiarise herself with this village. She will cover 16 villages and her colleague will cover Sudbury town. An article will appear in the village magazine in due course.

Regarding the speeding issues the council is working through the recommendations of PC Gary Austin. As yet we have no date for SIDS, and we are also waiting for more up to date speeding figures.

Planning – No applications at this meeting.

### Highways

The bus stop at the bottom of Old Bury Road. – It was a surprise when work started on the southbound side of the main road. Our worry was the path on the northbound side. The Chairman had a word with the workmen before Christmas and found that the person who should have informed us was off sick. The work there is a considerable improvement, with the path being wider and having dropped kerbs, although some slight damage was done to the bus shelter.

The bus stop on the northbound side, although now wider and having dropped kerbs, is still only the same depth as the old one, approx 1 metre. We had asked Highways to look again at making it another half-metre deep, and they were discussing it with the contractors. Simon Barnett sent the following email today;

*I have just had confirmation from Suffolk Highways that they will be able to add another half-metre of width to the hardstanding at the Old Bury Road northbound stop. Hopefully this will be done fairly swiftly, but if I hear a date before they attend site I will let you know.*

The chevrons on the bends. After we waited the best part of a year to get new ones, we are again now down to last one standing. One was demolished in the autumn and another over Christmas. The damage has been reported, and new ones have been ordered by Highways.

### Finance

The precept form has been sent already to catch the deadline, it was signed by the Chairman and Clerk and two other councillors after the whole council had seen all relevant finances. £2989.00 has been requested with an additional £29.33 as a Grant from Babergh DC. This represents an increase of 5% on the current year, up from £2847 .00, which equates to 3p per week on a Band D property. This was agreed by everyone. The discretionary grant from Babergh has been reducing year on year. In 2013-14 it was £276, in 2014-15 £207, in 2015-16 £58.67, and for 2016-17 £29.33, reducing to nothing in 2017-18.

The Financial Risk Assessment had been circulated all councillors and was adopted at this meeting. Proposed by Ken Watkins and seconded by Richard Barraclough.

The Transparency Code for Parish Councils with an annual turnover not exceeding £25,000, had been circulated all councillors and was adopted at this meeting. Proposed by Ken Watkins and seconded by Graham Maskell.

The Model Parish Financial Regulations had been circulated all councillors and was adopted at this meeting. Proposed by Ken Watkins and seconded by Alan Ariss.

The Review of the System of Internal Audit - this will need a sub-committee to discuss and will be held over to the next meeting.

Auto-Enrolment Pension advice – we are registered and the Chairman is dealing with this. The deadline is August 1<sup>st</sup>, so this will also be held over to the next meeting.

There is funding available towards enabling Transparency and this council will apply. The Clerk went to a Finance Event which can be claimed for. We are claiming for the course fee of £75, mileage and six hours of the Clerk's time. This totals £151.00.

Cheques were authorised;

No;467	£27.30	Mrs J Watson for Alpheton's Christmas Tree Lights Ceremony refreshments
No;468	£48.00	Ean's Garden Services – grass cutting at Bridge Street.
No;469	£132.00	Alpheton and Shimpling PCC – Village magazine donation.
No;470	£12.00	Alpheton Village hall – Hire.
No;471	£13.90	Mrs J Rix – expenses.

#### Correspondence

The correspondence list had been circulated and had mostly been covered in the meeting.

There was no Chairman's Report.

Mr John Nunn gave the District Report.

The CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) Regulations are out for public adoption.

The Fleetwood Caravan Site in Long Melford has had the most recent planning application approved and work will be starting shortly. Mr Nunn was thanked,

#### Any Other Business.

The Fire service review public consultation ends on February 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Lavenham Neighbourhood Plan - consultation ends on February 16<sup>th</sup>.

Flooding in Old Bury Road. Julie Moss and John Moore have sandbagged their property again. The Chairman has had a long talk with John at Doone House. He and Julie very sensibly videoed the latest flooding, and have sent a copy to Highways. They were also considering sending a copy to our MP. Ironically they had had a visit from Highways the day before the flood, and Highways are still planning to run a pipe across to the opposite side of the road.

Also, over Christmas residents of Old Bury Road received an email advising that a video drone had disappeared. Apparently a note was put through several doors asking if anyone had seen it. The writer of the email was concerned about the safety aspect of drones overhead, and the privacy aspect. We have not been able to obtain advice on the use of drones.

The next meeting will be Tuesday April 5<sup>th</sup> at 7pm.

This meeting closed at 7.35pm.