

MINUTES OF A PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT ALPHETON VILLAGE HALL ON 27th MARCH 2012 AT 7.00PM

Present: Ken Watkins. (Chairman), Alan Ariss, John Holdway, Richard Kemp, Also present Julie Rix - the Clerk, and one member of the public.

Apologies: Maureen Lankester, and Trevor Rix
There were no Declarations of Interest.

The minutes of the previous meeting were signed as correct. (Proposed by John Holdway seconded by Alan Ariss)

Matters Arising

Alpheton Garage have changed the angle of the security light and it is a little better. They are concerned about having good security. The Chairman has visited and had a friendly reception.

Data protection Act – the clerk will enquire and see if she and the Chairman need to register.

The scheme for buying heating oil through Suffolk Acre has been advertised in the magazine and Graham White has offered to be the co-ordinator.

The Locality Budget funding is available for use at the Diamond Jubilee celebrations. The clerk will liaise with Mr Ariss (who is also treasurer of the village hall committee,) over the requirements.

Police

PCSO Hannah Partington of Suffolk Constabulary attended. She presented her report. There had been two crimes in the village since the beginning of the year. She warned about thefts of catalytic converters from vehicles. This crime can be committed very quickly.

Highways

County Highways have monitored speeds along Old Bury Road and Church Lane. We have not been given the data from this yet. There has also been a speed indicator on the A134 showing motorists the speeds they are doing.

Mr Goode from D J Goode & Associates Ltd has written to the Chief Constable and copied to the Parish Council. He is concerned that he and members of his staff have had cars overtaking them whilst turning into Old Bury Road from the A134.

There was discussion regarding Broadband provision for the village. Speeds are very poor at the moment. Tim Rix attended a meeting concerned with this and gave his report. He was thanked.

Planning

An appeal has been made to the Secretary of State for the Environment regarding the planning application which was refused at The Mount, Bridge Street, Long Melford Application No; B/10/01448/FUL, conversion of barn to dwelling.

This council had no comments to make when this application was first received and will not comment again.

Chairman's Report

The Chairman and Mr Holdway attended a Neighbourhood Planning meeting and it was suggested that it was advisable to have a Neighbourhood Plan. This could follow an eight step plan. It will be essential to obtain views from as many residents as possible. A booklet has been produced to help the council formulate this and Mr Watkins, Mr Ariss and Mr Holdway will look into this.

Mr Kemp gave his reports from District and County and was thanked.

Clerk's Report & correspondence.

Information regarding the imminent hosepipe ban.

Came & Company insurance

SALC Courses

Info on Fit Villages (Use of village amenities + fitness) Poster on Notice Board.

Shimpling offer inclusion in Olympic Torch Parade – taking torch from village to village.

Possible interest – will be taken to Village hall Committee.

Notice of Audit – 25th May 2012.

Finance

Cheques authorised;

No; 377	£132.00	Alpheton & Shimplingthorne PCC for Magazine costs
No; 378	£173.82	Babergh Dog & Litter Bin emptying
No; 379	£83.66	Babergh – Parish council election costs
No; 380	£25.00	Suffolk Acre subscription
No; 381	£392.75	HMRC – tax on clerk's salary 2011/2012
No; 382	£1462.75	Mrs J Rix – Salary 2011/2012
No; 383	£12.00	Alpheton Village hall
No; 384	£25.00	Ladywell Accountancy Services
No; 385	£97.50	J Rix - Expenses

The council has the services of an accountant to administer the PAYE which is now necessary for the clerk's salary. There was some discussion regarding this new requirement.

Any Other Business

D J Goode & Associates Ltd have some small scale explosive testing on 5th April and have sent warning letters to businesses and residents on the airfield and this council.

There being no further business this meeting closed at 8.10pm.

The next meeting will be 22nd May and will be the Annual Meeting.