

MINUTES OF AN ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF ALPHETON PARISH COUNCIL  
HELD AT ALPHETON VILLAGE HALL ON 16<sup>th</sup> May 2011 AT 7.00PM

Apologies; John Nunn, District Councillor.

Present; Ken Watkins, Chairman, Alan Ariss John Holdway, Richard Kemp, Maureen Lankester , Graham Maskell and Trevor Rix. Also present Julie Rix the Clerk and two members of the public.

There were no Declarations of Interest.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. The previous Annual Meeting's minutes were signed as correct. Proposed by John Holdway seconded by Maureen Lankester

Chairman's Report.

Mr Watkins, gave his report. The Council had purchased seven grit boxes partly with Locality Budget funding and is now awaiting siting advice. There had been action against speeding and attempts to prevent dog fouling. The pot holes have been patched but this is not a satisfactory job and the situation will be monitored. This council had appealed against the closure of Sudbury Court, but this was unsuccessful. The council endeavoured to support village events wherever possible. Planning applications had been dealt with during the year and some reduction in reserves made in accordance with the Auditor's recommendations.

Report from Steph Eady President of Alpheton & Shimpling W.I.

There are 26 members meeting alternately at Shimpling and Alpheton on a monthly basis. They have varied speakers and hold quizzes and other events occasionally. Visitors are always welcome. Mrs Eady was thanked.

Report from Chairman of the Village Hall Trustees, Peter Rix.

More general upkeep of the hall has taken place and events organised. There is a new projector with screen and the facility to link to TV or computer and show DVDs etc. This could be used for leisure or business. Mr Rix thanked the Parish Council for their support, whose assistance has been much appreciated. Mr Rix was thanked.

Richard Kemp gave his reports for both Babergh and Suffolk County Council.

As regards District level there have been many changes and cutbacks. Some services have been merged with Mid-Suffolk Council. There is a new Chief Executive for both councils. Residents have the chance to vote for remaining separate or merging with Mid Suffolk. It is important to look at all aspects of this proposal.

County Council Report – Again many savings are having to be made and these have received considerable publicity. Our neighbouring council Long Melford have lost funding for some of their projects. Within the County Council there are ongoing problems within staffing at high level. Mr Kemp was thanked.

Finance.

The accounts were presented, agreed by the Council and signed by the Clerk and Chairman. Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Return were also completed and signed. (Statement of Accounts and Annual Governance Statement.) The books have been audited internally by Ms Lyn Holt and will be sent to BDO/ for external auditing.

There was no further business to discuss.

This meeting closed at 7.30pm