

MINUTES OF AN ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF ALPHETON PARISH COUNCIL
HELD AT ALPHETON VILLAGE HALL ON 22nd MAY 2012 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, PCSO Fudge and one member 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 Graham Maskell seconded by Alan Ariss.

Chairman's report

The chairman reminded the council of the recent traffic survey when speeds along Old Bury Road and Church lane were recorded. The survey showed that 18.4% of vehicles exceeded the 30mph speed limit in Old Bury Road and 4% Exceeded the same limit in Church Lane. A request to the Chief Constable for a 20mph limit in Church lane and an extension of the 30mph up Shop Hill in Old Bury Road was refused.

The Chairman and other councillors had attended meetings at Babergh and Suffolk Association of Local Councils.

Grit boxes had been installed throughout the parish – Peter Rix was thanked for his help with this. The Chairman had visited the owner of Alpheton Garage to ask for the angle of the security light to be adjusted. This has been done twice but from the main road driving south this can still be a problem at times. The Chairman will visit again.

The Clerk and Chairman have compiled a Parish Risk Assessment Plan. This is a check list of possible hazards on parish land/buildings. The councillors and clerk will check (using this Plan) monthly in pairs.

Mr Watkins was thanked.

Reports from Other Village Organisations

The Chairman read a report from Mrs Steph Eady regarding Alpheton & Shimpling W.I.

Mrs Joyce ball gave her report as Chairman of Alpheton Village hall.

Both were thanked.

County & District Councillors' Reports

Mr Richard Kemp gave his District report (and on behalf of Mr John Nunn)

He said that there was no political control at Babergh. A merging of Babergh District Council and Mid Suffolk Council did not happen fully but they are jointly running services and have a joint chief executive which is saving funds.. It is necessary to make savings of ½ million a year. He pointed out that Rural areas are more costly to run than urban. Some parishes have been able to take over responsibility for some services i.e. Long Melford look after their walks, picnic areas and toilets. Mr Kemp thanked the council for their support, Mr Kemp was thanked for his report.

Mr Kemp's County Council report reminded us that he covered nine parishes. The New Strategic Direction as devised last year has been abandoned. There is a new Council Leader and new Chief Executive. Some services are still being out sourced however: the Library Service, and Residential Care homes are two of these. The County Council aims to make 1.5% efficiency savings across all directorates. Mr Kemp was thanked for this report also.

Planning

B/12/00395/FHA

Nest Cottage, Old bury Road, Alpheton

Erection of first-floor rear extension including ground floor extension.

This council had no objections.

Highways – there were no issues.

Police

PCSO Fudge had attended for PCSO Hartington. He brought a Crime Report with him. There had been 12 reported crimes this year. He was thanked and left the meeting.

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 Lynne Holt and will be sent to BDO Stoy Auditors for external auditing.

A Financial Risk Assessment Plan was also adopted at this meeting.

This meeting closed at 7.40pm.