

MINUTES OF  
THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PARISH OF ALPHETON  
HELD AT ALPHETON VILLAGE HALL  
ON 27th MAY 2014 AT 7.00PM

Apologies; Richard Kemp.

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

Reports

Richard Kemp had sent his County Council Report. He reiterated the savings required by Suffolk County Council and outlined ways in which this was being implemented; confirmed more government funding for high speed Broadband; listed the Locality Budget funding available for Melford Ward ( of which Alpheton is a part). He thanked the parish for their support. He was in turn thanked.

Shimpling and Alpheton Women's Institute's report from the Village Magazine was read. They are thriving and new officers have been appointed.

Alpheton Village Hall's report was read. The Trustees continue to maintain the facility for use by the local community. Regular events are organised in addition to the Film Nights and Social Evenings. More trustees are sought due to resignations on the committee.

Chairman's Report:

The biggest issue, certainly the one which took up the most time, was the budget for 2014-15. After we had agreed an unchanged precept in November, we were then advised by Babergh that their discretionary grant was being cut from £207 to £88, which necessitated an adjustment to the precept. This resulted in an increase of 2% to the Precept.

Another issue is the question of a second bottle bank at the village hall. The parish council (and therefore the village, through the Council Tax,) benefits from recycling credits, so a second bottle bank would hopefully increase our income. Babergh appear to be unlikely to be providing a discretionary grant, however small, for the 2015-2016 financial year. The current bottle bank is emptied monthly. (A more frequent collection will be requested.) Having a second bottle bank is in the gift of the village hall committee, and a first request from the parish council has been turned down. I have asked the village hall committee if they would give fresh consideration to the request. An aluminium can bank would also be an asset depending upon its siting.

A concerned parent in the village has asked for improvements to the bus stop opposite the bottom of Old Bury Road. It's currently just a small concrete base. We have, through Richard, supported that request, but there are apparently more than 90 requests countywide for bus stop upgrading.

John and Ken attended a Neighbourhood Planning seminar at Lavenham in January, which informed us that housing development is only taking place in core and hinterland villages. Alpheton and Bridge Street do not fall into either category. We are countryside, where no development is planned at present.

The Rose and Crown continued to be an issue, with the final portacabin only being removed in January, more than a year after it should have gone. Work started on one of the proposed new outbuildings, and seems to be part completed.

Ken was thanked for this report.

### Finance

The Finances for 2013/2014 were presented to the council for adoption. The accounts were presented, agreed by the council and had been signed by the clerk and chairman. Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Return had also been completed and signed. (Statement of Accounts and Annual Governance Statement). The books have been audited internally by Ms Lynne Holt and have been sent to BDO Stoy Auditors for external auditing (deadline 21<sup>st</sup> May 2014).

There being no further business this meeting closed at 7.15pm.