

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING  
OF THE PARISH OF ALPHETON  
HELD AT ALPHETON VILLAGE HALL ON 24th MAY 2016 AT 7.00 PM

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

Apologies; Richard Kemp, and John Nunn (District Councillor)

There were no declarations of interest.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. The minutes of the previous Annual Parish meeting in May 2015 were signed as correct. Proposed by Richard Barraclough and seconded by Alan Ariss.

Reports

Chairman's Report

Flooding has continued to be an issue, especially after an exceptionally torrential downpour and hailstorm. Highways have investigated the problem in Old Bury Road, and undertaken some work, but it needs to be kept under observation.

The chevrons on the bend at the south end of Alpheton which were replaced in April last year after several months of requests, gradually got flattened. New ones appeared in March, but one has already taken a hit and is leaning slightly.

Work on the bus stops at the bottom of Old Bury Road started in December, with improved access to the southbound bus stop completed. We asked Highways to make the northbound hard standing deeper. They have agreed to do that, but it has yet to be carried out.

Last year he reported that the Village Hall committee agreed in principle to a second bottle bank in the car park. One individual had offered to carry out work on a hard standing for the bottle banks, but a date for the work has yet to be decided.

With Babergh's grant (alongside the Precept), being considerably reduced, we had to make up the shortfall by increasing the precept from £2847 to £2989. This equates to 3p per week on a Band D property.

The Bridge Street aroma. The problem has been reported to both Highways and the Environment Agency via our district and county councillors. Recent heavy rain will have washed the ditch clean. It will be necessary to find out who owns it.

The Chairman also thanked the Parish Councillors, and the District Councillors, for their help, support and advice, and thanked the Clerk, Julie Rix for all the work she does.

Alpheton Village Hall Report

In spite of a recent flood, the village hall has had a good year. A Repair and Improvements Plan has been implemented. There is new storage at the rear of the hall, and repairs have started on the roof. The next big event is the celebration of Her Majesty The Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday with a Tea Party for the community.

### W.I. Report

This continues to thrive with meetings alternately at Alpheton and Shimpling, with a varied programme of speakers, outings and a new craft session open to non-members.

### Parochial Church Council Report.

There are fortnightly services in Alpheton, and the merger of Alpheton with Shimpling Church is working well with many parishioners attending both. Roof repairs will be necessary at Alpheton later in the year and the Fete on 24<sup>th</sup> September will be a source of funding for this.

### District Councillors' Report from Mr Kemp and Mr Nunn

Under the heading Financial/Organisational the report commented on Devolution and the Council's Joint Strategic Plan. Under Housing – New Homes; Tenancy Agreements; Decent Homes Standard; Empty Homes and Help to Buy. Growth/ Business dealt with CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy); Tourism Strategy and Planning. Growth/Business - Community Caretaker Scheme; and the Health and Housing pilot. Environmental Health – Improved Joint Working; Open for Business Project; Healthier Eating Award.

### County Councillor's Report from Mr Kemp

This covered topics including The Budget; The Budget Challenge; SCC Vision and Budget Strategy; Locality Budget; and SCC Campaigns.

All reports may be viewed on the village website - [www.alpheton.onesuffolk.net](http://www.alpheton.onesuffolk.net)

### Finance

The Finances for 2015/16 were presented to the council for adoption. The accounts were presented, agreed by the council and were signed by the clerk and Chairman.

Section 1 – Annual Governance Statement 2015/16 was signed and also Section 2 – Accounting Statements 2015/16.

The books have been audited internally by Ms Lynne Holt (who sent a report in the form of a letter) and will be sent to the external auditors BDO.

There was no further business. This meeting closed at 7.25pm.

