

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF ALPHETON PARISH COUNCIL
HELD AT ALPHETON VILLAGE HALL ON 2nd AUGUST 2016 AT 7.00 PM

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

Apologies; Alan Ariss, John Nunn (District Councillor.)

Declarations of Interest; there were none.

The Minutes of May 2016 were signed as correct. Proposed by Richard Barraclough and seconded by Richard Kemp.

Matters Arising

Her Majesty the Queen's 90th Birthday celebration was held at Alpheton Village Hall on Saturday, June 11th. This was quite well attended, and the birthday cake we provided was enjoyed. The remainder was frozen and then went to Coffee Pot a couple of weeks later.

Police

Apologies have been received from the Police.

We no longer get a detailed crime report. It is possible to access some crime information online but it not as specific as the old Crime Reports we were sent. The report covers the whole Community team area, with no breakdown as to where exactly crimes are being committed. The Chairman has complained to our PCSO, who has passed on the request for better information.

Planning

Application; B/16/00570

Location Newmans Lodge, Bury Road, Alpheton CO10 9BP

Proposal; Change of use of land from farmland to domestic garden.

This application has been granted.

Highways

The bus stop works at the junction of Old Bury Road and A134 has been completed. The Clerk has written to thank Suffolk County Council.

The whole of A134 through the village has been resurfaced and white lined. We understand Highways are running another speed/volume survey.

Richard Kemp commented on the continuing problems in the county from flooding. He said that the inability to tackle this satisfactorily was frustrating. He will investigate the problem of a broken drain at Bridge Street, near Mill House.

Finance

The Audit has been returned and is satisfactory apart from one date which has been explained and accepted by the Auditor. There is no fee to pay. Posters have been put announcing the end of the Audit and the relevant documents are published on the website.

£182.11 was received as a V.A.T. repayment.

The following cheques were authorised;

No; 480 £30.00 SALC – BDO Audit Briefing attended by the Clerk.

No; 541 £12.00 Alpheton Village Hall – Hire.

District and Count Reports

Mr Kemp spoke about the proposals to move Babergh District Council (with Mid Suffolk) to Endeavour House, Ipswich, the home of Suffolk County Council. This was announced in local newspapers with no prior papers or notice to Councillors. He was unhappy at the thought of moving the Council out of the area it serves, after the public voted for Babergh DC to remain as a separate Authority. And in addition the Chief Executive Officer of SCC will be acting as interim CEO of Babergh DC.
SCC report on file. Richard was thanked.

Clerk's Report and Correspondence

We have a new electronic copy of the Register of Electors. There are opportunities to attend meetings regarding Norfolk and Suffolk Devolution. Suffolk Year of Walking strategy is offering walk leaders for our Ward (Alpheton and Long Melford). It was decided that this would not be pursued in view of the successful Airfield walks which take place regularly from Lavenham Tourist Information.

The SCC Community Broadband Group has been replaced by one officer - Jane Storey - who will hold meetings more regularly and will brief all councillors.

Parish Council Chairman's Report

East Anglian devolution. The Chairman noted that there are proposals for Norfolk and Suffolk to have a regional authority, with an elected mayor, to take decisions on local issues – viz housing, transport. Babergh is running a survey, which closes later this month. He asked everyone to look at it and complete it as individuals.

Any Other Business

Grass cutting - As of the last meeting Ean Stowe was waiting for an operation on his ankle and therefore unable to cut the grass at Bridge Street. We do not have any further information on when he will be well enough to return. Maureen and Brian Lankester have kindly been trimming the grass in the meantime. They will carry on until Ean is able to do it and were invited to invoice the council accordingly.

Future meeting dates are October 4th, and December 6th.

Provisional dates for 2017 are February 7th, April 4th, May 23rd (AGM), August 1st, October 3rd, December 5th.

There being no further business this meeting closed at 7.27pm.

The next meeting will be October 4th at 7pm.