

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF ALPHETON PARISH COUNCIL  
HELD AT ALPHETON VILLAGE HALL ON 7<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2016 AT 7.00 PM

Present; Ken Watkins, (Chairman), Maureen Lankester, Richard Barraclough, Trevor Rix. John Nunn (District Councillor) and Julie Rix the Clerk.

Apologies; Alan Ariss, Richard Kemp, Graham Maskell.

Declarations of Interest; there were none.

The Minutes of November 2016 were signed as correct after one amendment (Under Highways it should read 'The Old Forge' not 'Ford Cottage'). Proposed by Maureen Lankester and seconded by Richard Barraclough.

Matters Arising

Speeding at Bridge Street: The speeds at Bridge Street have been monitored and did not achieve the 20% of vehicles caught breaking the speed limit which is required for the deployment of the speed van. The average speed recorded was 40.5mph. Mr Watkins will ask PCSO Laura Mansell if we could apply for the SIDS at Bridge Street. Mr Nunn also suggested liaising with Long Melford parish over the deployment of their SIDS equipment.

Flood prevention work in Bridge Street: We have had a message from Richard Kemp; William Hyde Parker will not carry out the work, so it would have to be done by voluntary labour. Locality Budget Funding would meet the costs of a digger, but he hasn't had any information on digger costs from people in Bridge Street.

The sunken drain cover has been fixed.

School Bus Route: The Chairman, Councillor Maureen Lankester and the Clerk met with David Daw, Road Safety Officer (Education) SCC at Bridge Street. Mr Daw agreed with their concerns over road safety and the proposed route of the school buses. He put the case for amendments to David Gibbs the Senior Network Planner at Passenger Transport SCC. Mr Gibbs reply is far from satisfactory. He says that the bus referred to is a Chambers Service bus which would have to agree to the change; and re-register the route which would involve fees to the Traffic Commissioners. He is however, willing to ask them. He also says that there are only two pupils at Bridge Street, one of whom will be leaving in six month's time, thus ignoring the children who will progress to this bus as they move up the school system. He also remarked that no parents have commented on this before now, this is refuted as a resident says that they have complained several times. He has organised a stop at 'The Mount' which is safer.

Cat's eyes: these have been re-instated.

Telephone box: There has been no further communication from BT as to whether the box will be taken out of service and removed. We have had no suggestions from outside the council as to what it might be used for if we purchased it. A defibrillator was suggested, but East of England Co-op are no longer funding these. The cost, with the security cabinet, would be around £2,500.

Highways

The road sign which ended up in the river after the road traffic accident was reported by the clerk on 30<sup>th</sup> November and logged as Report 00156004. The sign is still there ( although now under the bridge which is more hazardous) and the Report no longer appears on the SCC Reporting Tool. The Clerk will report again.

### Planning

Application B/16/01354 Newman's Lodge, Alpheton  
Erection of 4 dwellings and access to highway.

This application has been withdrawn.

The applicant - Paul Weeks - has requested that the Council consider applying to change the status of the village to hinterland village. Basically the district plan divides Babergh into three categories when it comes to residential planning – towns, villages, and countryside. We are in the third category where residential development is much more restricted than in the other categories.

The Council were not able to support this request. The Chairman will inform Mr Weeks.

### Finance

SALC – Details of the New Sector Led Body for the external Audit arrangements for local Councils. Suffolk's appointed auditor is PKF LITTLEJOHN LLP

SALC – In view of the above SALC advise that although in normal circumstances no fee will be payable, we should budget for a limited assurance review as a precautionary measure.

The Clerk has received an Acknowledgement of Declaration of Compliance with the Pensions Regulator, (for herself).

Suffolk Accident Rescue Service Report and Appeal. Website [www.sars999.org.uk](http://www.sars999.org.uk) The council will not donate at this time.

Email from Richard Kemp to say that the proposed Babergh DC Council Tax increase will be 3.4% (not 2% as previously indicated).

Transparency Code Application Form and Guidance notes. It offers ways to obtain funding for the cost of hosting the documents. The Chairman and Clerk have looked into this and we do not qualify.

SALC – Council Tax referendum principles have not been extended to Parish and Town Councils in 2017/18.

The following cheques were authorised;

No; 549	£90.00	Mr B Lankester for Grass cutting at Bridge St
No; 550	£26.34	P Watson – Christmas Tree Lights ceremony refreshments
No; 551	£12.00	Alpheton Village Hall – Hire
No; 552	£950.00	G Maskell – Grass cutting Alpheton
No; 553	£967.10	Mrs J Rix – Clerk's half year salary
No; 554	£7.10	Mrs J Rix – Expenses February 2017
No; 555	£132.00	Alpheton & Shimplingthorne PCC Donation

### Clerk's Report and Correspondence

Extra correspondence ; The Great British Spring Clean – officially 3-5 March; Free Composting Training at Stowmarket 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> March; SALC Planning Conference Mildenhall 2<sup>nd</sup> March, SCC now have a 'Report a Flood' webpage, [www.suffolk.gov.uk/flooding](http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/flooding)

Species Recovery Conference 28<sup>th</sup> February – 1<sup>st</sup> March at Cambridge run by RSPB.

### District and County Reports

Mr Kemp although not present sent his Report.

### Parish Council Chairman's Report

All covered above.

### Any Other Business

There were none.

There being no further business this meeting closed at 7.40pm.

The next meeting will be April 4th 2017 at 7pm.