

MINUTES OF A PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT ALPHETON  
VILLAGE HALL ON 27<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2012 at 7.00pm.

Apologies; PSCO Hannah Partington.

Present; Ken Watkins, Chairman, Alan Ariss, John Holdway, Richard Kemp, Maureen Lankaster, Graham Maskell and Trevor Rix. Also present Julie Rix the Clerk.

Declarations of Interest ; There were none.

The Minutes of August 28<sup>th</sup> were signed as correct. Proposed by Richard Kemp and seconded by Trevor Rix.

Matters Arising

Breaches of Planning regulations at Bridge Street – former Public house and two commercial outlets at the Mill complex. The current situation is under investigation. Nothing has been done yet. The deadline for the removal of the portakabins has passed. Mr Kemp said that he would look into this, and the commercial use near the Mill.

Flooding in Old Bury Road. Recent heavy rain has resulted in flooding from the region of the telephone box and along Old Bury Road and the Glebe, for some considerable distance. In places and at times it has reached almost across the road. Paul Gant SCC Technician had a site meeting with the Chairman and Clerk and has written to the residents of Thatched Acre and White Gables asking for their ditches to be deepened. Photographs of the flooding have been taken to record it. Mr Kemp will forward this information to Jane Birch the Flooding Officer. Mr Ariss has attended a Community Resilience Meeting on flooding and gave his report. He has a useful pack with information.

The Risk Assessment has been completed and the Chairman and Clerk have done the first run in October. This highlighted that repairs to the bus shelters was urgent, especially as the ceiling was in danger of collapse in the shelter near A134/Old Bury Rd. Works have been done. Checks to cover the whole parish will be made every two months by councillors on a rota basis. There is a book for recording data. The next check will be December which the Chairman will undertake.

Police

PSCO Partington had sent her report. There have been two crimes since the last report; on 10.11.12 a theft from a motor vehicle and on 12.10.12 hare coursing. Villagers are warned to be on guard against oil theft and burglary of premises. Babergh West Safer Neighbourhood Team can assist with a Crime Prevention Survey or there is a website [www.immobilise.com](http://www.immobilise.com) where you can register your property for free.

### Finance - General

Recycling Credits of £86.06 received.

Cheques authorised;

No; 396	£251.61	Suffolk Acre Services Insurance
No;397	£80.00	Eans Garden Services ( Cutting at Bridge St)
No; 398	£12.00	Alpheton Village Hall Hire
No; 399	£1,028.00	Graham Maskell Grass Cutting (878.00 and tree pruning 150.00)
No; 400	£788.46	P G Rix – repairs to bus shelters.

A reminder has been sent to Alpheton Garage as the Licence fee has not been paid. The Audit opinion was noted. The only criticism was a lack of Risk Assessment. This has been rectified.

### Finance – Budget

As we are encouraged to make no increase in our precept again this year, the budget has covered all essential items, but there will be a shortfall of £243.15. This is the third year that the precept has not been able to match the proposed expenditure. As we do not have the Community Charge figure from Babergh for another couple of weeks it was proposed that this Council is minded to approve the budget as set out and the amount proposed to claim of £2,613.00. This was agreed.

The Chairman will put an article about the budget in the village magazine.

### Clerk's Report and Correspondence

Posters have been put up about the proposal to merge Suffolk Fire & Rescue Service with Cambridgeshire. There is a consultation period. The Clerk will attend a workshop on Adult Social Care Transformation on 29<sup>th</sup> November.

### Chairman's Report

The Chairman and Mr Holdway attended the Babergh Area Meeting last Thursday. It was decided that Alpheton and Bridge Street are too small to warrant a Parish Plan but a cheaper option would be to offer a Village Questionnaire. Suffolk Acre would be able to guide us and could attend a meeting to advise.

Candidates have been put forward for Babergh District Council Community Awards;

Richard Beattie-Swan

The Coffee Pot

Shimpling Park Farms (John Pawsey)

Paddy Trevelyan

Mr Kemp then gave his reports ; District and Suffolk County Councils.

District report on file.

Issues at County level that he spoke about were the continuing need to make savings, the Prolog controversy and Tesco Hadleigh. He was thanked.

He offered the Locality Budget Funding to the council for the coming year. It might be a good idea to replace the Notice Board at Bridge Street which is badly warped. It was also suggested that it would be a good idea to replace any trees that may be lost due to Ash Die back disease.

Mr Kemp said that he would also look into the recent incidence of cars skidding into the ditches through the village. It was thought that the anti-skid surface on the main road may need reapplying.

There being no further business this meeting closed at 8.05pm.

The next meeting will be January 29<sup>th</sup> 2013 at 7pm.