

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF ALPHETON PARISH COUNCIL
HELD AT ALPHETON VILLAGE HALL ON 29th November 2016 AT 7.00 PM

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

Apologies; Alan Ariss.

Declarations of Interest; Richard Kemp – Planning at Newman’s Lodge, Alpheton.

The Minutes of October 2016 were signed as correct. Proposed by Maureen Lankester and seconded by Richard Barraclough.

Matters Arising

Speeding at Bridge Street. Our PCSO has advised that the Community Policing Team only carry out checks in 30mph zones, but has made her colleagues aware of the problem. This will be discussed further under Highways.

Alpheton website. Thanks to Richard Kemp, and his contribution from the Locality Budget, the newly-introduced annual charge for hosting the website has been paid.

Regarding the flood prevention work at Bridge Street – William Hyde Parker has agreed to have the work done. Richard Kemp hopes to fund it through his Locality Budget if residents can supply the labour.

The special arrangement bus service near Stone Cottages has been resolved

Highways

Highways have responded to our Report 00153382 about the sunken drain cover at Bridge Street by closing it. They say that it is not their responsibility and have handed it on to the relevant organisation but have not disclosed who that is. Richard Kemp will follow up.

Maureen Lankester is very concerned about the speed of traffic through Bridge Street. A car left the road a few days ago and crashed through the bridge at a point where the schoolchildren are set down by their bus. Paul Gant has attended and discussed this with the resident of The Old Forge. It was suggested that it might be safer for the bus to pull off the road at the southern entrance of the village, and leave by the northern entrance, so that the children can be dropped off more safely. Mr Kemp will take his up with the Transport Manager.

It was noted that Cat’s Eyes are no longer being re-instated after road works. Mr Kemp will enquire if this is now policy.

Planning

Application B/16/01153 Tanglewood, Church Lane, Alpheton
Erection of single storey side extension. Permission granted.

Application B/16/01354 Newman’s Lodge, Alpheton

Erection of 4 dwellings and access to highway. A letter has been sent (deadline too early for this meeting) with comments made with reference to safety, size of development and design.

Finance

Remittance received for recycling of £104.76.

Cheque received from SCC via Richard Kemp’s Locality Budget for £60.

The following cheques were authorised;

No; 546	£60.00	Community Action Suffolk – Website fee
No; 547	£12.00	Alpheton Village Hall – Hire

No; 548 £78.02 Mrs J Rix – Expenses Feb-Nov 2016.

The budget had been prepared and distributed prior to this meeting and was presented for approval. The Taxbase for 2017/18 is 107.48. A proposed precept of £3,091.00 will be an increase of 3.4%. This was agreed, proposed by Richard Kemp and seconded by Richard Barraclough.

Clerk's Report and Correspondence

SALC - Note about the proposed change in the rules for a Referendum for Parish and Town Councils – noting that the Government is considering extending the referendums to all councils. Salc also sent us their response to the consultation.

SALC – Lobbying re Amendment needed to the Local Authorities (Members Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 so that provisions of paragraph 7 apply equally to local councils as to principal authorities. (Allowances to pay for childcare or similar to attend meetings). The Clerk has completed a survey supporting the amendment.

Christmas Tree Collection details (Wednesday 11th January from 6.30am). Posters will be put up.

Meeting at Sudbury Town Hall with Police and Crime Commissioner and Chief Constable. District Councillor John Nunn attended this.

District and County Reports

Mr Kemp spoke about the devolution deal which Babergh has agreed (seven against), and the on-going problems in Sudbury of the fate of Belle Vue and the Bus Station.

John Nunn had been to a meeting protesting about lack of policing. A PCSO will now have to be self-funded by parishes. Suffolk Constabulary will train and kit out the PCSO but cannot fund further.

Richard's November and December reports on file. Richard and John were thanked.

Parish Council Chairman's Report

The Chairman and Clerk attended a Sources of Funding seminar at Lavenham. This gave information about possible funding, including Lottery money, for Public Projects. It was informative, but more relevant to the village hall. As no-one from the village hall committee was able to attend an extra copy of all the information was obtained and passed on.

Maureen Lankester and The Chairman went to the Mill Hotel, for a seminar on planning issues for parish and town councils, run by Holmes and Hills solicitors. Again informative, but more relevant, as it also dealt with commercial property, to large authorities. However, there was a valuable item on planning applications and how to respond to them, which was distributed to every councillor.

Any Other Business

Phone box. The consultation period on retention doesn't expire until early next month. So we can't make a final decision on whether to take ownership until we know what BT intends to do. No use for it has been suggested. Mr Nunn mentioned that the East of England Co-op may be able to supply funding for defibrillators.

The parish has been asked to supply possible names for future developments in the village. Although no names were decided at this meeting, names of past residents would be considered.

Flooding. The ditch along The Glebe has been partially blocked with grass cuttings. The Chairman put an item in the parish magazine, but if the problem occurs again then it was suggested that the Parish Council delivers an official letter asking people to desist.

There being no further business this meeting closed at 8.00pm.

The next meeting will be February 7th 2017 at 7pm.