

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF ALPHETON PARISH COUNCIL  
HELD AT ALPHETON VILLAGE HALL ON 26<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2013 AT 7.00 PM

Present; Ken Watkins, (Chairman), Alan Ariss, John Holdway, Maureen Lankester and Trevor Rix. Also present Julie Rix the Clerk, and Sue Herne – Emergency Planning Officer Babergh & Mid Suffolk Councils.

Apologies; Richard Kemp.

The meeting was then adjourned for the presentation from Sue Herne, Emergency Planning Officer. The Emergency Planning Unit was created in response to several civil emergencies – the Foot and Mouth outbreak, flooding and the Buncefield Fire, under the umbrella of the Civil Contingencies Act.

This is to encourage self reliance in communities in the event of floods, loss of power supplies or bad weather and similar problems. Divided into two categories, these can be 'Rising Tide Events' where the problem can be predicted (i.e. by weather forecasts) or 'Sudden Impact' (Crashes etc) where no planning is possible.

A Parish Emergency Plan can co-ordinate the response, with local knowledge and an awareness of local risks.

Ms Herne gave the council leaflets and copies of information sheets, also promising to send the same by email for circulation to councillors. It will be given due consideration. Ms Herne was thanked for attending.

The meeting resumed at 7.30p.m.

There were no Declarations of Interest.

The previous meeting's minutes were signed as correct. Proposed by Trevor Rix, seconded by Alan Ariss.

#### Matters Arising

The council has enquired about the remaining portakabin at the Rose & Crown in Bridge Street. This council understood that it was going to be removed. There has been no reply from Babergh. There is no sign of any construction work at present. John Holdway was thanked for mending the dog bins.

#### Police.

No Officer was able to attend this meeting but a report had been received.

#### Planning

No applications have been submitted and none are pending.

#### Highways

The unfilled potholes around the Green will be reported again.

The new chevrons on Tallage corner are more substantial and could therefore do more damage in the event of a car coming off the road.

The resident at No 6. The Glebe has asked Suffolk County Council to do something about safety at the bus stop opposite the bus shelter at the junction of A134 / Old Bury Road. There is only a small area of hard standing there at present. There are concerns for the safety of the children who use it. County have said that any improvement would cost around £3000 – to create a larger area with rails at the back. Their suggestion was to ask Richard Kemp to pledge £1000 from his Locality Budget, which would move it up County's list of priorities, and that County would then meet the rest of the expense.

#### Finance

A budget has been drawn up mindful of the constraints of the amount we can ask for. The budget has been carefully looked at to see where economies can be made, but it has already been pared down. The Chairman has written about the situation in the village magazine. The tax base has not been set yet and so we are waiting to hear what this will be. (It could be as late as well into December). The Chairman and Clerk have been to Babergh DC to meet Barry Hunter – Corporate Manager Financial Services, to discuss the implications of the Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme. In 2013 this council accepted a grant to offset the impact of the Scheme. The grant will gradually be reduced until it is phased out in 2017/18.

The Chairman and Clerk will also attend a meeting at Babergh on 28<sup>th</sup> November at the Town and Parish Council Liaison Meeting.

#### Finance

Two cheques were authorised;

Cheque number 420£12.00

Alpheton Village hall – Hire

Cheque number 421£88.00

Eans Garden Services – Grass cutting Bridge St.

#### Correspondence and Clerk's report. - As listed.

£90.86 has been received from recycling credits.

This council came third in the Website Competition organised by SALC - Thanks to Trevor Rix for looking after it. Community Action Suffolk have sent confirmation of our insurance cover. We have the opportunity to comment on Suffolk Fire & Rescue Service – Integrated Risk Management Plan 2014-17. (Available through [www.suffolk.gov.uk](http://www.suffolk.gov.uk))

#### Chairman's Report

Following complaints that the bottle bank at the village hall was getting filled rather too quickly, we have been investigating the possibility of getting a second, or a receptacle for cans. There may be room at the village hall to accommodate this and it would allow bottles from weddings at Alpheton barns to be left there. It would mean a welcome increase in recycling credits income.

#### District Report

District Councillor Richard Kemp had given his apologies to this meeting, but had sent a copy of his report. This was read out. He was thanked.

#### Any Other Business

It seems that the grit bins have been filled in Bridge Street but not Alpheton. The Clerk will enquire.

For Sale signs have been springing up recently indicating properties for sale off the main road (this is in addition to the sign immediately outside the property). Two are sited near the bus shelter at the A134/ OBRd junction and two on the Green. The council disapproves of this as it makes grass cutting difficult and is unsightly.

Several small businesses have been trading near the Mill at Bridge Street. As far as this council is aware there is no planning permission granted for change of use to commercial and indeed Babergh DC have always been wary of increased traffic movements at that spot. Enquiries will be made.

There is still a road sign in Bridge Street in Aveley Lane which needs re-erecting.

Provisional dates were made for meetings in 2014;  
28<sup>th</sup> January, 25<sup>th</sup> March, 27<sup>th</sup> May.

There being no further business this meeting closed at 8.30pm