

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF ALPHETON PARISH COUNCIL
HELD AT ALPHETON VILLAGE HALL ON 24th OCTOBER 2017 AT 7.00 PM

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

Also present Mrs Maddy Gray and Ms Bridget Sumner.

Mr Watkins welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies; Richard Kemp, John Nunn (District Councillor)

Declaration of Interest : There were none.

A letter of resignation has been received from Councillor Mrs Maureen Lankester, who has moved to live in Glemsford. It was reluctantly accepted. The Chairman said that thanks were due to Maureen for her years of service to our community especially her concern for Bridge Street. He hoped that she would be happy in her new home. He instructed the Clerk to write and express the good wishes of the council.

The Clerk has advertised the two vacancies on the council and two new candidates were present at this meeting and welcomed– Mrs Maddy Gray from Bridge Street and Ms Bridget Sumner from Alpheton. It was proposed by the Chairman that they be co-opted, seconded by Trevor Rix and this was passed unanimously. They signed their Acceptance of Office Forms which were countersigned by the Clerk. They also have Register of Interests forms to fill in.

The minutes of August 2017 were signed as correct. Proposed by Richard Barraclough and seconded by Graham Maskell.

Matters Arising

The directional road sign at Bridge Street which was retrieved from the river has still not been reinstated.

A 5x3 Brass plaque will be ordered by the chairman to commemorate Alan and Christine Ariss and their service to this community. Wording has been agreed with the family ' Always at the Heartbeat of the Community' to be inscribed on it, and the Chairman of the Village Hall will allow it to be put up in the hall.

Steve Clare agreed to look after our small Community orchard, however he has now left the village. The Clerk will see if this is still a practical idea.

Planning

Application B/17/01103 Newmans Lodge, Alpheton.

Erection of 4no. dwellings and construction of new vehicular access.

This Council has received the Case Officer's Report in addition to the final judgement. The Case Officer recommended refusal, but the Planning Committee has passed it. This Council would like an explanation of the second half of page 8 in the Officer's Report.

Babergh & Mid Suffolk District Councils have published their '*Joint Local Plan: Consultation Document August 2017*' which will provide the strategy for the growth of the Districts, setting out what and where development will take place up to 2036. An additional document – '*Topic Paper – Settlement Hierarchy Review*' has also been received. This categorises settlements in relation to the services and facilities they provide. Points are allocated under various headings and when added up fall into three bands for planning policy purposes;

18+ points – Core Villages

9-17 points - Hinterland Villages

0-8 points - Hamlets & Countryside

Alpheton has been given 10 points indicating that we have a Fuel Station (1), Village Hall (1), Place of Worship (1), Recreation Ground/Children's Play Area (1), Bus Stops [with daily peak time services to and from a higher order settlement] (2), Allotments (2), and Broadband of up to 76Mb Fibre or more (2). This would make us a Hinterland village.

This is incorrect. The Garage does not sell fuel, the transport is not peak time, and we have no allotments. This reduces the score to 5 which makes us Hamlet & Countryside for planning purposes.

We will write with our concerns. It was suggested that we should notify other parishes via SALC urging them to check their classification.

All comments on the '*Joint Local Plan*', which is open to the public, must be received by 5pm on Friday 5th November 2017.

Finance

BDO LLP have returned a Qualified Audit. The reason being that the Financial Risk Assessment (which was in place,) was not signed at the prescribed meeting but at the one after. It has no bearing on the validity of the accounts themselves which are correct.

The Chairman and Clerk will meet in November to discuss the budget. Some costs have risen and provision will have to be made for these. The proposal will be circulated to all councillors. New banking arrangements should be considered next year – it is now possible to use internet banking.

The following cheques were authorised;

No; 565	£217.58	Business Services at CAS LTD – Insurance cover (5 year long term Undertaking)
No; 566	£60.00	Community Action Suffolk – Hosting of Onesuffolk website (1.11.17-31.10.18)
No; 567	£25.00	Ladywell Accountancy Services
No; 568	£976.77	Mrs J Rix – Salary 1 st half of year.
No; 569	£24.85	Mrs J Rix – Expenses
No; 570	£945.00	G Maskell – Grass cutting 2017
No; 571	£12.00	Alpheton Village Hall - Hire

Payments received ;

Second half of Precept £1,545.50

Recycling Credits £64.24

Clerk's Report and Correspondence

Suffolk Highways has been going through a major restructure and the new service was launched on Monday 4th September 2017. Emails should be sent to Rougham; roughamSDC@suffolk.gov.uk

It is still possible to log reports online at <https://highwaysreporting.suffolk.gov.uk>

This can be by councillors and members of the public, also by telephone to the Customer Service Centre on 0345 606 6171.

SALC (Suffolk Association of Local Councils) have sent a Precept Consultation – closes 26th October.

The Data Protection Bill is progressing through the House of Lords. It will be necessary to have a Data Protection Officer by 25th May 2018.

SALC – Right Homes Consultation – introducing a standard method for calculating housing need.

SALC – Response to the above .

District and County Council's Reports

Neither Mr Kemp nor Mr Nunn were able to attend having been called to a District meeting.

The Chairman read through Mr Kemp's Parish Report; Suffolk Fire and Rescue Launch 'Escape Plan Campaign'. www.fire.suffolk.gov.uk ; More students in Suffolk pass A level exams than across the Country; Legal challenge to Dept. of Transport casts doubt on current arrangements for Community Transport provision for all local authorities; Energy efficient grants now available for local retail businesses in Suffolk; Cycle link from West Suffolk Hospital to Bury St Edmunds Town Centre.

Any Other Business

Babergh are holding a Parish Liaison meeting in Alpheton Village Hall on Tuesday November 7th at 10am. Two places have been booked. The Chairman will attend and there is room for one other councillor.

The Clerk gave notice that she intends to retire in the New Year. She is willing to carry on until a replacement is settled in. The Chairman will ask SALC for advice on advertising the role.

The next meeting will be December 5th 2017, and the one after that February 6th 2018.

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