

MINUTES OF
THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PARISH OF ALPHETON
HELD AT ALPHETON VILLAGE HALL
ON 12th MAY 2015 AT 7.00PM

Welcome ; and congratulations to the newly elected Parish and District Councillors.

Apologies; There were none.

Present; Ken Watkins, (Chairman), Alan Ariss, Richard Barraclough, Richard Kemp, Maureen Lankester, Graham Maskell and Trevor Rix. Also present District Councillor John Nunn, Julie Rix (the Clerk), and one member of the public.

There were no Declarations of Interest.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. The previous Annual Meeting's minutes were signed as correct. Proposed by Graham Maskell and seconded by Alan Ariss.

Reports

Chairman's Report

Flooding continued to be an issue, although not so much in the last few months. Highways have investigated the problem in Old Bury Road, ascertained there is a blockage and are now considering their next move. The blockage has been reduced, but Highways are looking at the possibility of running a drain across the road to the ditch on the other side.

Damaged road signs were finally restored in April after several months of requests. The number of chevrons appears to have been reduced, and spaced further apart. The Accidents at Clapstile/Tallage corner was discussed at this point. After the chevrons were replaced there have been two more accidents. It was decided after the second accident to keep a log of any incident and report it on the SCC Reporting Tool online. This has been done. A faulty road surface at this point is still suspected. A large pothole at the A134/Old Bury Road Junction has also been reported but SCC have replied saying; " We have investigated your recent report.

At this time, we do not feel that any action is necessary, however we will continue to monitor this location as part of routine inspections and works will be carried out if required in the future." This is most disappointing.

The Village Hall committee have agreed in principle to a second bottle bank in the car park. Hopefully this can be progressed in the near future and a second one installed. Once that is operating successfully we can explore the possibility of an aluminium can bank.

The budget eventually saw us agree the same precept figure as 12 months earlier, £2847. Because of changes in Babergh's financial calculations this meant a slight increase in the council tax, 11p a year on a Band D property.

Super-fast broadband reached the village at the start of 2015.

Councillor John Holdway stepped down from the council after serving for nine and a half years, attending his last meeting in April. Julie Rix wrote a letter of thanks on behalf of the council.

PCC Report

Alpheton and Shimplingthorne PCC sent a report which was read out by the chairman.

County and District Reports

Richard Kemp gave his County Council Report. He reiterated the savings required by Suffolk County Council for the next four years (£156m) the priorities now are ; Education, Roads, Supporting Vulnerable People. Cycling is also going to be actively promoted. As Babergh District Councillor he mentioned zero rated Council Tax and the new solar panel initiative for council owned properties. He also said that plans were underway to build more council houses starting in Glemsford. He thanked the parish for their support. He was in turn thanked.

Mr Kemp and Mr Nunn then gave their apologies and left to attend another Parish Meeting.

Finance

The Finances for 2014/2015 were presented to the council for adoption. The accounts were presented, agreed by the council and had been signed by the clerk and chairman.

Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Return had also been completed and signed. (Statement of Accounts and Annual Governance Statement). The books have been audited internally by Ms Lynne Holt and will be sent to BDO Stoy Auditors for external auditing .

Any Other Business

There being no further business this meeting closed at 7.42pm.