

Shimpling Parish Council

Minutes of Meeting of the Council

Monday 9th September 2024, 7:00pm at Shimpling Village Hall

Present:

Councillors: David Dunkley (Chair), Gerry Shrimpton, Liz Brunwin, Mark Milhench

District Councillors: Micheal Holt

County Councillors: Richard Kemp

Clerk: Natasha Byford

1. **Apologies for absence:** Apologies from Cllr Plumb these were noted and accepted.

2. **Declarations of Members Interest(s):**
 - a) **To receive disclosure of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interest(s) including gifts of hospitality in excess of £25:** None received.
 - b) **To consider requests for dispensation for the agenda item(s) under discussion:** Cllr Brunwin requested dispensation for item 20c and 20d due to being a VHC and PCC member, this was noted and accepted.

3. **Public Participation session**

Four members of the public (MOP) attended. Rosemary Sadler spoke about the funding of the Church window; they have raised £51,560 to date and require £54,000. They have been busy with fundraising and had charity donations. Works have just now started on the window. Cllr Shrimpton suggested s106 funding. Cllr Holt suggested checking with Imogen Tink to check about grant funding for both Rosemary and for us to check s106. Cllr Milhench suggested his business may be able to make a small donation. The Cllrs agreed to donate £300 to this.

4. **Approval of minutes of the previous meeting:**

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 13th May 2024 were approved.

Action: Clerk to publish these on the website and Social Media.

5. **Chair's report:**

Cllr Dunkley's read the below report from his last couple of months as Chair:

The work of the Parish Council has continued through the summer months with the long running saga of the Village Hall lease still tied up with lawyers and, more successfully, the

work to get Electric Vehicle chargers at the Village Hall. This project is progressing well with a site survey to be undertaken soon.

The Neighbourhood Plan is also progressing well, and I won't say anymore here now as there is a piece in the newsletter from the group and a survey form is being distributed with the newsletter. I would just urge residents to complete the survey as your responses will help guide the Parish Council in a number of ways, in addition to helping produce our Neighbourhood Plan, which will become increasingly important to maintaining the village as it exists today.

Finally, I would like to make a plea for new Parish Councillors. We have been low on numbers for some time which has made it very difficult for the council to function properly and without overloading those people who have already volunteered. We need a total of 6-7 responsible people from the village, out of a population of over 300, to form the Parish Council. This will maintain a local perspective to the decisions made. The alternative is that Babergh DC would take control. If you want to know more about what is involved in being a Parish Councillor, please contact the Parish Clerk.

Chair Dunkley expressed congratulations to our Clerk, Natasha on the birth of Oliver.

No further questions were asked.

6. **District Councillors report:** Cllr Holt read out the report and there were no further questions on this. The report is in Appendix A below. Cllr Holt did note that the PC should keep an eye on the reports regarding Sizewell C. Update on the Kingfisher swimming pool, it will be closed for 12 weeks now. With regards to our potential EV charger Cllr Holt said be mindful of the wattage you get if you go ahead with the installation.

Cllr Holt left the meeting at 7:23pm.

7. **County Councillors report:** Cllr Kemp read out his report and there were no further questions on this. The report is in Appendix B below. Cllr Kemp said Long Melford PC are very up to date on EV chargers if we need any help. Mark Beaver of Rectory Lane, has had an issue with filling the incorrect pot holes and missing out the biggest one that needed filling! He thanks Cllr Kemp for his help with this situation.

Cllr Kemp left the meeting at 7:35pm

8. **Village Hall:**

- a) No report received
- b) It was noted that we are still awaiting funding to be sorted before we can go ahead with the new patio doors.

- c) We are awaiting funding before we can go ahead with the Solar Panels, CIL funding is underway and Clerk and Chair are still liaising with Babergh on this.

9. Responsible Finance Officer's Finance Report:

- 9a) The Clerk gave a finance report, details of which were circulated to members prior to the meeting. The Clerk stated which invoices (please see below) needed to be paid.

Leaving balances as follows:

Treasurers Account	£5,727.49
Business Account	£18,095.75
Including CIL of	£3,318.06
Earmarked Reserves of	£12,677.47
General Reserves of	£5,887.10
COVID Grant of	£1,038.87

- 9b) To acknowledge payments made outside the meeting

- **Zen Internet (16 May-22 May)** **£17.60**
(LGA 1972, s.111)
- **SALC Internal Audit** **£328.80**
(LGA 1972, s.111)
- **Lark Valley Grass Cutting** **£1,215.00**
(Public Health Act 1875, s.164)
- **Playquip Zipwire Inspection** **£432.00**
(Public Health Act 1875, s.164)
- **Dog Bin Emptying** **£165.60**
(LGA 1972, s.111)
- **Clerk's Net salary after Tax (July)** **£536.56**
- **HMRC Tax payment (July)** **£134.00**
- **Playquip Playground Inspection** **£312.00**
(Public Health Act 1875, s.164)
- **999 Networks Laptop Support** **£144.00**
(LGA 1972, s.111)

- 9c) The following amounts were approved for payment:

- **Clerk's Net salary after Tax** **£424.66**
- **HMRC Tax payment** **£106.20**
- **Clerk's expenses (Fuel, Stamps & Paper)** **£33.15**
LGA 1972 s. 111 (ancillary Powers)
- **Lark Valley Grass Cutting** **£1,518.00**
(Open Spaces Act 1906, ss.9-10)

The above payment schedule was approved by members.

Cllr Milhench noted to check the laptop support as felt it as quite expensive, we may be more beneficial to buy new laptops for £200-£300 each time. Cllr Dunkley noted the grass cutting specification needed to be reviewed to see if paths need to be wider as, although the paths are being cut, they are quickly being overgrown with tall weeds.

- 9d) The Clerk noted that The Council have received money from bank interest £19.25 (May) and £20.56 (June) and £18.65 (July) and £17.88 (August).
10. **Clerks Report:** A full copy of the Clerk's report was circulated to members prior to the meeting. The following matters were considered for resolution:
- Summary of Progress:** During the period (8th July 24 – 1st September 24), I have worked 2 hours 0 minutes under the given time frame of 5 hours per week, this included organising all the paperwork for the September meeting, agendas, actions from the May meetings, organising payments, quotes and grant applications, external audit as well as general administration. I also took 5 hours annual leave.
- Members agreed to increase the Clerks pay from SCP 13 at £13.97ph to SCP 14 to £14.21ph.
11. **Village Hall Lease:**
- Chair Dunkley updated the Councillors that the progress is very slow. Our solicitors are awaiting sight of the deeds for the land to be leased. Currently, these cannot be found by the landlord. In the meantime, they are agreeing the final wording of the lease.
12. **Neighbourhood Plan:**
- The Chair updated members that the Neighbourhood Plan was going well. The resident survey was sent round to residents, responses were to date have been good. Some of the question responses will help the PC in understanding what services residents may want. Cllr Milhench said that perhaps people are unaware that land has been put forward as potential building land if its required, 4 small plots of land in the Village. This was as a response to a call for sites from Babergh DC to local land owners.
13. **Planning:**
- a. Planning Decisions: DC/24/02400 - Chestnut Cottage, The Street, Shimpling, Bury St Edmunds Suffolk IP29 4HS - Application for Listed Building Consent - Removal of modern ceiling beam to ground floor lounge and dining area and replacement with new oak beam; Replacement of 7no. modern softwood windows with new traditionally made windows; Removal of UPVC side door, installation of timber window and infill sides and underside of opening with brick, render finish to external and plasterwork to internal matching the existing surrounding fabric - Granted
- b. Planning Applications: None

- c. The PC discussed their approach to planning as Cllr Milhench asked, it was stated that there is a list of reasons that you can use to object or support applications, and take into account any resident issues. If we don't have any strong views either way, we often leave applications as no comment.

14. Covid19 Emergency Fund:

- a. Several applications received – discussed under item 20.
- b. Cllrs discussed the remaining Covid fund and there is now only just over £300 left after the donation agreements.

15. Playground:

- a. Clerk updated Cllrs on the playground inspection and it was said the bird droppings and fence were again an issue. Using bird spikes was discussed. The pegs for the old goals are constantly being removed, making them potentially a risk. Clerk to check with Chris whether he is moving the pegs or whether its kids. Cllr Milhench has volunteered to help with the playground. Steve wasn't interested in the odd job position, which was our original solution to fixing the problems.

Action: Clerk to speak with Chris and Cllr Milhench to see what he can do with the playground.

- b. Cllrs agreed that they would like to use the Babergh inspection for the playground next year as it was a lot cheaper.

16. Financial Regulations:

Cllrs approved and adopted the new financial regulations document.

Action: Clerk to update this on the website.

17. Councillor Vacancy:

Members invited Jen O'Reilly-Turner to talk about why she would like to join the PC as a Councillor. Members then voted to co-opt Jen. Jen O'Reilly-Turner of 9 Streetfield Close, Shimpling, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk IP29 4HZ was voted to serve on the council by 3 votes out of 4.

Action: Clerk to ensure acceptance of office and other mandatory forms are completed within 28 days and send any details required for new Councillors.

Action: Cllr O'Reilly-Turner to set up a PC gmail account to use jo.shimpling@gmail.com

18. Halifax Place:

Cllrs discussed the Halifax Place properties with regards to the thought that they were for local people. However, we have no documentation to support this. Cllr Brunwin suggested finding out who we would write to from the tenants. A long term resident has recently left and someone with no village connections has moved in.

Action: Cllr Brunwin to ask the tenant for a contact so we can find out the situation

19. Councillor Recruitment:

Cllrs discussed recruitment of new Cllrs. Clerk let Cllrs know that Laurence Rooke was keen to join the Council.

Action: Clerk to add the cooption of Laurence Rooke to the November agenda

20. Correspondence Received:

a. Bench in honour of Gerald Sparke, we wrote to Robert Rush and the response was that it wasn't their land and they didn't feel it was an appropriate place. Alternative was another site, perhaps the churchyard. We will ask the land owners, The Melford Trust, for permission.

Action: To email the trust.

b. Donation for plaque of behalf of Friends of Lavenham Airfield, they have asked for £200. Cllrs agreed to this, this will come from the covid fund.

Action: Clerk to make this payment.

c. PCC church window was discussed under public participation sessions. PC agreed to donate £300 for the PCC, this will come out the Covid fund.

Action: Clerk to make this payment.

d. VHC request for £200 toward Shimpling Celebrates day, Cllrs discussed this had already gone so we wouldn't donate to that but would buy something to the value of £200 for the VH.

Action: Clerk to liaise with the VHC to see what they'd like us to purchase.

e. Letter from Citizens advice in Sudbury, members discussed and agreed not to give any money to this as they can't guarantee that any of the villagers use this service. If villagers wish to donate themselves then they can.

21. Asset Disposal:

Cllrs discussed the disposal of some assets from the Village Hall that were no longer of use. VHC to sell the projector and keep any profit and PC to take off their asset list. We should get up to date costs for the misc inventory of the Village Hall.

Action: Clerk to update asset list and liaise with the VHC regarding disposal of the old projector and providing an up to date inventory of the VH.

22. Joint Local Plan:

Cllrs discussed the latest correspondence from Colin on this. His view is that we need to keep abreast of planning developments both at the national and local levels, the latter being the Babergh JLP. The documents that Colin has had to go through are very long and difficult to understand. Cllrs extended their thanks to Colin for his work with this. Cllrs wished to go back to Colin to thank him for his work and ask him to continue his involvement.

Action: Cllr Dunkley to write to Colin

23. Old Rectory Lane:

Cllrs discussed the right of way access that has been blocked. Mark bought a map (land registry) to the meeting regarding a section of this path being owned by the Melford Trust. There is also a small section which is owned by Jackie Clover, about 100 yard stretch which is private. The footpath runs through the part she owns. People have walked round this many times and not been challenged. However, now people are being challenged about where they are walking. Asking for a public right of way down the 100 yard stretch to enable the footpaths to join. Cllr Brunwin suggested it was a civil matter. Signs have been put up saying private, no trespassing. Cllr Dunkley has logged an information request with Babergh but had no response yet. Mark asks could we ask for a right of access to the right of the field? Cllr Dunkley says we will await Baberghs response and go from there. Cllr Brunwin will get an email for The Melford Trust.

Action: Cllr Dunkley to chase up Babergh on a response, Cllr Brunwin to get the email address.

24. Urgent Matters to be brought to the attention of the council:

Just a note to say that the bus situation is still ongoing and Cllr Shrimpton is carrying on with this, there is a meeting on the 11th Sept.

Cllr Dunkley to chase Oliver regarding the bench as its getting muckier each day.

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 9:31pm

Appendix A: District Councillors report:

Businesses to be recognised as Innovation Awards return for 2024

Businesses across the districts are set to be recognised for their fresh thinking and new ideas, as Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils' Innovation Awards return this autumn.

Sports and recreation in Babergh gets £118K boost

Two separate sports and recreational projects in Babergh are to receive an injection of more than £118k from Babergh District Council, thanks to funds collected from developers.

Councils' objection to National Grid's Norwich to Tilbury pylon proposals

Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils have now published their full response to National Grid's Norwich to Tilbury consultation.

Babergh and Mid Suffolk join bid to boost local tourism

Suffolk Public Sectors Leaders group – which includes Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils – has agreed to a five-year funding programme to help enhance tourism across the region.

Temporary closure of Kingfisher Leisure Centre's swimming pool

The pool will be closed for at least a week for a damaged roof to be repaired.

Councils to host Call for land summit in September

Councils are putting landowners in touch with organisations that can help them improve their land for wildlife and nature.

Solar Together launches in Suffolk - offering residents affordable renewable energy sources

Suffolk residents will boost local renewable energy generation, cut carbon emissions, and save on energy bills with a community-led solar panel initiative.

Districts to benefit from new electric vehicle scheme

Residents in Babergh and Mid Suffolk are set to benefit from a new electric vehicle initiative.

'Sudbury Sounds' please crowd as musical project reaches crescendo

A programme of musical workshops reached its climax in Sudbury after another harmonious collaboration between Babergh District Council, national charity Orchestras Live, and a renowned professional orchestra.

Appendix B: County Councillors Report:

Information Updates Cost of Living help and advice:

<https://infolink.suffolk.gov.uk/kb5/suffolk/infolink/family.page?familychannel=6>

Benefits advice and support:

<https://infolink.suffolk.gov.uk/kb5/suffolk/infolink/adult.page?adultchannel=0>

Flood preparation advice:

<https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/suffolk-fire-and-rescue-service/fire-and-rescue-safety-advice-in-the-community/preparing-for-flooding>

Flood recovery advice and support:

<http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/about/flood-recovery-information-for-suffolk>

Ofsted Inspection of Children's Social Care

On Wednesday morning the inspection report for Suffolk County Council's social care services for children was published, following a visit from Ofsted at the end of May. The report found that social care services for children, which include fostering and adoption, safeguarding, child protection, youth justice and corporate parenting (children in care), 'require improvement to be good.'

My group are concerned by this as children's services were rated as 'Outstanding' the last time they were inspected in 2019, and the remarks on leadership – that leaders do not have 'sufficient grip' on all the services provided – are especially worrying. A new director for children's services started in July 2024, and more information will be available on the plans for improvement in September when the inspection report is tabled at Cabinet. Here is a summary of the findings of the report:

- The impact of leaders on social work practice with children and families – Requires improvement to be good
- The experiences and progress of children who need help and protection – Requires improvement to be good
- The experiences and progress of children in care – Good
- The experiences and progress of care leavers – Requires improvement to be good
- Overall effectiveness – Requires improvement to be good

This inspection is separate from the recent inspection into services for children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).

You can read the full Ofsted inspection report here: <https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/provider/44/80565>

Back to School Transitions

Is your child starting primary or secondary school this September?

Moving up and changing school is a big change for children and a new stage of growing independence. To help parents and carers support children with this transitions, Suffolk County Council have a selection of Solihull Approach online courses which are free from anyone with a Suffolk postcode.

You can access these using the link www.inourplace.co.uk/moving-up and register for an account using the access code WOLSEY. The Solihull Approach is a parenting support model which was developed by health visitors, child psychologists and psychotherapists in the 1990s and aims to understand child behaviour as part of their development.

Electric Vehicles

Over 60 new community venues across Suffolk will have new electric vehicle (EV) charge points, as Suffolk County Council's 'Plug In Suffolk' project continues to grow.

Fast charging facilities will be installed at 63 new sites, including community centres, village halls, scout huts and other community hubs, and 25 existing charge points from an early iteration of Plug In Suffolk will be adopted under a new contract.

The county council has successfully bid for £7.3 million from the Government's Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) fund, which supports local authorities to plan and deliver EV charging infrastructure for residents without off-street parking.

£1.4 million of the LEVI funding will go towards the community charging infrastructure, with a further £5.9 million allocated for on-street charging, which will be developed later this year.

In addition, a trial of electric community vehicles is set to launch next summer in Suffolk, with the council's tender process for this beginning this month. Plug In Suffolk Car Clubs will be placing 16 electric vehicles across eight locations in Suffolk which local residents can book by the minute, hour or day. Planned locations include Ipswich, Bury St Edmunds, Newmarket, Sudbury, Needham Market, Stowmarket, Lowestoft and Woodbridge.

Launch of Solar Together Suffolk

Residents of Suffolk can come together to invest in renewable energy sources through a group-buying scheme for solar panels and battery storage. Solar Together Suffolk helps homeowners feel confident that they are paying the right price for a high-quality installation from qualified installers.

Suffolk residents can join the group-buying scheme, which offers solar panels with optional battery storage and EV charge points, as well as retrofit battery storage for residents who have already invested in solar panels and are looking to get more from the renewable energy they generate. The scheme allows homeowners to increase their independence from the National Grid.

It is free to register at www.solartogether.co.uk/suffolk, and there is no obligation to go ahead with an installation.

Major Scrapyard Fire most likely sparked by discarded battery, Fire Investigators conclude

A fire at a scrap metal and waste recycling centre near Ipswich was most likely caused by a discarded battery, a fire investigation has concluded.

The fire at Sackers in Gipping Road, Great Blakenham, on Thursday August 8, resulted in a major response by Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service. It was brought under control late on Thursday and Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service subsequently launched an investigation into the cause. This has established that the most likely cause was a battery which had made its way into a pile of scrap metal.

If batteries, or electricals containing batteries, are not properly separated they can end up being crushed in the waste and recycling process. When punctured they can self-combust, setting fire to any surrounding dry and flammable waste and recycling.

At the height of the Sackers fire there were a total of 14 fire engines - around 80 firefighters at the scene, which included appliances from Essex and Norfolk.

Local residents and businesses were advised to keep doors and windows closed for nearly 24 hours as a massive smoke plume, which could be seen for miles, rose above the site. Trains were also severely affected as rail services from Ipswich to Norwich, Cambridge and Ely were cancelled owing to the potential danger from the fire to the adjacent railway track.

The National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC) said in May that lithium-ion batteries thrown in household rubbish bins had led to more than 1,200 fires in the UK waste system in the last 12 months, compared to 700 in 2022.

In June last year operations were disrupted at Haverhill waste transfer station in Homefield Road after fire broke out amongst 50 tonnes of rubbish and which is thought to have been caused by a battery. Waste batteries and electrical items should never be thrown into household waste. Instead, they can be recycled at any of Suffolk's 11 Recycling Centres, as well as other local recycling banks. Many supermarkets also accept them.

Electricals containing batteries that tend to be discarded the most are smaller, frequently used and often cheaper electricals like toothbrushes, shavers, chargers, and toys. More information can be found at the Suffolk Waste Partnership website <https://suffolkrecycling.org.uk/>