

SHIMPLING VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE MEETING

Agenda – Monday 27th July 2026 7-9pm

1. **Present at meeting & apologies for absence:** Carol Squire, Jenny Pine, Sue Sharrock and Gale Singfield in attendance. Apologies Liz Brunwin, Pip Pryor and Tina Campbell

2. **Minutes of the last meeting**

- Amendments or matters arising from the minutes not on the agenda. No amendments, minutes agreed.

3. **Financial update**

- Current Village Hall account position – **Jenny**.

The accounts are looking healthy. There is a potential for further income if the murder mystery event goes ahead in January.

Babergh District Council contributed toward the accounts due to hiring the hall for the recent local elections.

4. **Hall bookings update**

- Regular / External / Private Bookings update - **Carol**

Zumba and pilates have ceased for the Summer break but will continue once the holidays are over

Andy Hull has been bringing in regular income for the table tennis sessions. The last session however was cancelled as there were no takers for the table tennis session

The film nights, WI and Rural Coffee Caravan will continue during the holiday

Future Film choices proposed include: Mid-Winter Break, Mother's Pride, The Dig, I Swear, Turner, The Piano, The Boys in the Boat and Treasure

5. **Future VH Events:**

Income generating events for 2026/7

- Murder Mystery Evenings – **Jenny**.

These events are work in progress. Katie Haselhurst is keen and would like to do something over Christmas. Mike Fahie-Wilson is also keen to support. An alternative is to purchase a Murder Mystery kit, cost around £50. Katie will be asked to attend a future VH Committee meeting to talk through ideas.

- Mexican Train – **Carol**.

Mexican Train is dominos with a difference. Apparently, it is extremely popular and can raise a lot of money. Carol suggested that members of the Village Hall Committee trials this

before actually advertising it for the village hall. It was noted that the best time to hold these events was in the Winter.

6. Arts & Crafts workshops 2026

- Autumn Wreath Workshop is to be held on 24th October in the morning
- Christmas Pottery is to be held in November. A date is still to be arranged but preferably on a Saturday. The proposed suggestion is currently 28th November 2026.

7. Maintenance & improvement of the hall

- Woodworm infestation – **Carol**.

Woodworm was found in the tables stored at the back of the village hall. Alice Pawsey has taken them away to be sprayed. Once treated, these can then be donated to the church with the opportunity to borrow them back if needed. Woodworm was also found on the external notice board. This has been rectified by Lawrence. There is also some woodworm on the inner doors. This is all now under control.

- Improvement Grant for the Village Hall – **Carol**.

The Parish Council is applying for a grant to address current issues in the Village Hall. The issues are to improve disability access and associated building works and include: toilet refurbishment; replacing the main door entrance; installing new doors; removing the threshold at the top of the ramp; providing automatic opening doors and upgrading the disability toilet which will become a joint male/female toilet.

Also included are alterations to the mezzanine floor with a structural extension across to the wall and a vertical balustrade with retractable loft ladder. Works already planned are still to go ahead but awaiting the go ahead.

The grant will also include replacing the rear and central fire doors

The Village Hall acoustics will be assessed for a hearing loop and/or anything else that will help to improve the sound quality.

Darren Butler from AED is coming to assess the hall's acoustics Tuesday 27th July, firstly to see if there are any tweaks that can be made to reduce the echo and what other requirements there are to improve the quality of sound, especially when playing films. He should also be able to provide details of whether a hearing loop is possible and who would be able to do this. Darren's report is required to support the application for the grant.

It is estimated the work for these improvements will take between 6 – 12 months and will also include rendering the rear wall at the back of the hall as it would become damaged from all the work being done.

Money from the Village Hall budget may be required to contribute toward any internal decorating needed as a result of these works.

Quotes for all the above will be presented at the first Parish Council meeting in September and then submitted to Babergh to the Grants Committee. If quotes are more than the funds available at that time, they should be rolled forward to the Babergh Grants Committee March meeting where budgets are allocated for the following year.

8. Any other business

Dates of regular meetings: 4th Monday of every other month at 7-9pm 2026

21st September 2026

23rd November 2026

25th Jan 2027

22nd Mar 2027