

Shimpling Parish Council

Minutes of Meeting of the Council

Monday 8th September 2025, 7:00pm at Shimpling Village Hall

Present:

Councillors: David Dunkley (Chair), Gerry Shrimpton, Mark Milhench, Laurence Rooke, Liz Brunwin, Jen O'Reilly-Turner

District Councillors: Stephen Plumb

Clerk: Natasha Byford

1.1 Declaration of Acceptance of Office:

Cllr O'Reilly-Turner signed her Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

Action: Clerk to publish this.

1.2 Apologies for absence: Cllr Kemp and Cllr Holt, this were noted and accepted.

2 Declarations of Members Interest(s):

To receive disclosure of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interest(s) including gifts of hospitality in excess of £25: None received.

To consider requests for dispensation for the agenda item(s) under discussion: None received.

3 Public Participation session

No members of the public (MOP) attended.

4 Approval of minutes of the previous meeting:

a) The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 14th July 2025 were approved.

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

b) The Chair noted that these are discussed in the agenda at different points so didn't require a separate discussion.

5. Chair's report:

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

We have now completed all of the paperwork for the introduction of EV Car Chargers at the Village Hall. However, we are still awaiting a date for the installation work to be started. Hopefully this will be forthcoming soon.

The new bus service now commenced, albeit with some initial issues around driver training as to the exact routes to be used. This should settle down quite quickly and become a very useful and much improved service from that previously provided. It needs to be reminded that the use of this service will be monitored over the coming year and should reasonable levels of use not be met, we could lose it.

An improved bus service was just one of the Community Actions identified in the village survey, undertaken last year, as part of the production of a Neighbourhood Plan, the first draft of which was reviewed last week. Alongside this the Design Codes and Guidance and the Landscape assessment are now in final form and will be uploaded to the website this week. It feels with the reorganisation of local government; the completion of the Neighbourhood Plan is even more important as a way of showing local wishes.

I am sure everyone has noticed the telephone box library is resplendent in a new coat of bright red paint. I would like to thank David and Linda Campan for their hard work on this project. Also, all of our noticeboards have been refurbished courtesy of Councillor Rooke. We now just need to sort out the problems with the village hall.

I don't have any real update on the where devolution and local government reorganisation, but I suspect by the next meeting there may be greater clarity.

Cllr Shrimpton noted that he sent a complaint to the bus company and received an apology letter to the Council and residents.

6. District Councillors report:

Cllr Plumb read their report and there were no further questions. The report is in Appendix A below.

Cllr Plumb left the meeting at 7:13pm.

7. County Councillors report:

Cllrs had received the report in the papers. There were no further questions on this. The report is in Appendix B below.

8. **Village Hall:**

a) Cllrs received the following report on behalf of the VHC;

Finance - we continue to plan and hold events that generate income for the upkeep of village hall. The Barn Dance in August was a financial success and many people commented on how much they enjoyed the music and atmosphere. Generous donations and high-quality raffle prizes raised over £800. The money raised was split between the Alpheton and Shimpling Village Halls and due to the event's success, a donation was made to our local Church funds.

Currently due to such fund-raising events and regular sessions, we just have sufficient funds to cover regular running cost commitments including those taken on from the Parish Council in 2024, an annual cost of over £3500.

Village Hall Regular Expenses 2025-6

WIFI - 999 networks (direct debit monthly)

Electric - EDF (direct debit monthly)

Water - WAVE (direct debit monthly)

Cleaning - weekly

Fire Alarm Service (6 monthly - to comply with Regulations Aug & Feb)

Fire Extinguisher Service - Annual - Aug

PAT testing (yearly - July)

MPLC Umbrella Licence (annual - Oct)

Bank Charges

Electrical Safety Testing (EICR) (every 5 years) last done 2022

Fire Risk Assessment (yearly - currently done as self-assessment)

With the installation of the solar panels, we have already seen a reduction in the energy bills compared with last years, but we are still waiting the export tariff to be sorted by EDF and then we should also be able to generate income.

Regular Events – The regular classes of Pilates and Zumba restart in September after the summer break and the WI continue to use the hall on alternate months for their meeting.

Film nights attendance continues to cover the costs of the film licence and film rental; it is valued by the regulars.

The Rural Coffee Caravan continues to attract a good attendance, with the charity bringing their van, advice and expertise to the village in 2025.

Other potential activities

We are still waiting for Henry Lane, Project Officer (Health and Wellbeing) from Active Suffolk to arrange another regular exercise class and provide short mat bowls equipment for the village hall.

A full-sized table tennis table with bats and balls is available to hire at short notice if the hall is free. In addition, a pool table and other games have recently been donated by residents.

Other Events

The Arts & Crafts sessions: Silver Jewellery making session is scheduled for the 6th September and a pottery event is planned for Saturday 22nd November with a focus on Christmas decorations - it will be suitable for adults and children.

"Vernon's Quiz" is planned for the 15th November. We are negotiating with the new Bush team for the supply of fish & chip suppers.

Maintenance & Improvement Projects

As previously highlighted, the external maintenance and redecoration will need to be done this year as will the damp in the lady's toilet. Our regular cleaner John Sinclair has provided a quote for Parish Council approval to undertake some of this work.

PAT testing and annual Fire equipment & detection system maintenance was completed in July / August.

- b) Members received the list of repairs and improvements that the VHC have put forward but as they haven't received any quotations for doing any of the works, this couldn't be discussed further. It was noted that changing in policies is increasing the costs for the VHC. It was discussed that the outside rendering of the Village Hall required fixing. It was decided to see if there were any grants around that could assist with this work. If there is not, then possibly gathering a small group of volunteers, cutting out the cracked render and filling it, then painting over it would work and hold for a few years.

Action: Clerk to look into grant funding for re-rendering the Village Hall.

- c) Members received and discussed quotation for the mould work in the ladies toilet, it was agreed to go ahead with this.

Action: Clerk to give the go ahead to go ahead for the work.

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	£3,878.35
Business Account	£18,263.24

Including CIL of	£3,061.56
Earmarked Reserves of	£8,500.00
General Reserves of	£8,929.18

9b) To acknowledge payments made outside the meeting

- **Dog Waste Bin** **£199.20**
(LGA 1972, s.111)
- **999 Network Services** **£144.00**
(LGA 1972, s.111)
- **External Audit PKF Littlejohn** **£252.00**
(LGA 1972, s.111)
- **Land Registry Map** **£275.00**
(Town and County Planning Act 1990, s.61F(1)(2))
- **Noticeboard works** **£116.11**
(LGA 1972, s.111)
- **Lark Valley Grass Cutting** **£1305.60**
(Public Health Act 1875, s164)

9c) The following amounts were approved for payment:

- **Clerk's Net salary before Tax** **£532.95**
- **HMRC Tax payment** **£70.20**
- **Clerk's expenses (Fuel)** **£8.55**
LGA 1972 s. 111 (ancillary Powers)

The above payment schedule was approved by members.

9d) The Clerk noted that the Council have received money from bank interest £10.49 and £11.55.
We have also received the precept of £6,895.00.

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:

- a) Summary of Progress:** During the period (7th July 25 – 2nd Sept 25), I have worked 2 hours 30 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 July meeting, organising payments, as well as general administration.
- b)** It was discussed and agreed by members that following a positive review, the Clerks pay should be raised from SCP 14 to SCP 15.

11. Neighbourhood Plan:

The Chair updated members that the Neighbourhood Plan was going well, our consultant has been paid up to the end of stage 3, which is where we should have a draft neighbourhood plan document ready to go out to consultation. The Neighbourhood Plan team hopes to get a draft ready for the PC to review at the November meeting.

Action: Cllr Dunkley to liaise with the PC and Neighbourhood Plan working group

12. Planning:

Planning Decisions:

- a. DC/24/04287 - Rectory Cottage, Old Rectory Lane, Shimpling, Bury St Edmunds Suffolk IP29 4HQ - Full Planning Application - Erection of 1No replacement dwelling including enhancement of 5 acre horse paddock (existing dwelling to become Bat Habitat) – Awaiting decision
- b. DC/25/01655 - Land West And North Of Mill Cottage, Mill Hill, Shimpling, Bury St Edmunds Suffolk IP29 4HH - Planning Application - Change of use of land from agricultural to residential garden. Addition of a new boundary stock fence with straining wires, with mixed native hedgerow planted along the fence line. – Granted
- c. DC/25/02353 - Land Adjacent Gannock Bungalow, Old Rectory Lane, Shimpling, Bury St Edmunds Suffolk IP29 4HG - Planning application - Conversion of an Existing Agricultural Barn (Previously Approved Under Class Q) to Form One Dwelling – Granted
- d. AP/25/00045 - Lyndhurst, Little Chadacre, Shimpling, Bury St Edmunds Suffolk IP29 4HL - Full Planning Application - Subdivision of dwelling to form 2no. dwellings including alterations and extensions – Appeal in progress

Planning Applications:

- e. Hardest Neighbourhood Plan – members decided not to comment.

13. External Audit

The external audit report was received by members, thanks was given to the Clerk.

14. Noticeboards

Members discussed and agreed that the village noticeboards by the bus stop should be updated and have records of PC minutes and agendas as well as a bus stop timetable. Thanks was given to Cllr Rooke for updating the noticeboards.

15. Playground:

The playground inspection had not taken place yet, so this would be moved for discussion at the November meeting. Cllr Milhench said he would fix the posts in the playground.

Action: Clerk to add to the November meeting

It was also discussed that we currently lease the playground land from Babergh and it was decided to look into whether the PC could take ownership of it.

Action: Clerk to look into the PC owning the playground land.

It was discussed about play equipment for small children and adult gym equipment in the playground and also getting the old goal posts removed as they are unsafe as they keep being untethered.

Action: Cllr Milhench to look at removing the goal posts.

16. EV Charger

No update, Clerk has chased and will continue.

Action: Clerk to keep Cllrs informed of any progress on this.

17. Path at Gents Lane

Members discussed the footpath at Gents Lane, following the erection of a fence. Members were concerned about two things, firstly public safety and secondly mower access. Mower access was discussed and John Pawsey has kindly given permission for Chris to drive the mower over his land to access the path for cutting. Public safety was a concern with the path being soft and narrow now and sloping towards the ditch. As part of a circular walk and a quiet lane, it is important that this path is accessible to all users.

Action: Clerk to email SCC footpaths to get it checked.

18. Correspondence Received:

Thermal imaging camera to survey Shimpling houses, it was agreed to go ahead with this and Cllr O'Reilly-Turner to lead on this project.

Action: Clerk to fill in the form to go ahead.

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

It was discussed that the PC should get further quotes for relocation of the bench on the Village green.

Action: Clerk to get quotes ready for November meeting.

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 8:20pm

Appendix A: District Councillors report:

Three Councils For Suffolk: Big enough to deliver, local enough to care

The five district and borough councils of Suffolk, Babergh, East Suffolk, Ipswich, Mid Suffolk, and West Suffolk, have launched their joint Three Unitary Councils for Suffolk proposal, a locally led plan to reshape local government and deliver stronger, more responsive services to communities across the county.

Suffolk routes revealed for opening stages of Lloyds Tour of Britain Men

The two stage routes that will open this year's Lloyds Tour of Britain Men in East Suffolk and Mid Suffolk and Babergh, have been revealed, that will see the world's top cyclists pass through dozens of communities and cover more than 300 kilometres of Suffolk roads.

New emergency temporary accommodation for those most in need

Babergh and Mid Suffolk Councils are to invest in additional temporary accommodation – helping those at risk of homelessness.

Twelve new electrical recycling banks installed in Babergh and Mid Suffolk

Residents can now recycle their broken electricals at one of 12 electrical recycling banks located in the districts.

Celebrate our local heroes – nominate now for the 2025 Move More Awards

Public nominations are now officially open for the 2025 Move More Awards – an event that celebrates the people, groups and organisations who champion sport, physical activity, movement and social cohesion across our communities.

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>

Guidance and information on 20mph speed limits

As you may remember from last month's report, my group tabled a motion at July's council meeting to make it easier for communities to obtain a 20mph limit where there is clear local support for it.

We argued that the currently process with SCC Highways is lengthy and unnecessarily complex at a time when 20mph limits have increasing public support.

This motion was rejected by the Conservative administration on the grounds that they were already planning a review of this process. 20's Plenty, a UK organisation that promotes lower speed limits, has some helpful guidance and a draft motion for parish and town councils who are considering a 20mph speed limit, with lots of supporting information including data from the 20mph trial in Wales

which showed that lower speed limits significantly reduced accidents, deaths and serious injuries with no impact on journey times. Please see link below if this is something you may be interested in pursuing: https://www.20splenty.org/parish_council_motion

Review of Suffolk Transport Infrastructure

Following the passing of a motion at July's council meeting which acknowledged that intervention was necessary to reduce the reliance on the Orwell Bridge, the council's administration have announced a review of transport infrastructure for Suffolk and requested funding from the government to make improvements.

The review will examine what is needed and where, examining areas such as the Orwell Bridge and the A14 corridor, Port of Felixstowe, the Sizewell power stations, and the need to upgrade the Ely/Haughley rail junction, which the government recently announced there would be no money for.

The review will also take into account housing needs and the role of the future Mayor for Norfolk and Suffolk, who will have responsibility for strategic transport.

The council has sent an open letter to the Transport Secretary, Heidi Alexander MP, calling for talks about the need for strategic investment in Suffolk's transport infrastructure, which you can read here: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/asset-library/SCC-response-to-Heidi-Alexander-MP-1.pdf>

New Environmental Charity for Suffolk

A new environmental charity jointly established by Sizewell C, East Suffolk Council and Suffolk County Council has pledged to spend at least £78m on boosting biodiversity in Suffolk.

The charity, named East Suffolk Trust (EaST), will distribute funds to local organizations through a grants scheme to improve biodiversity and protect natural landscapes. Governed by a Board of independent Trustees, the new charity could help to set out how future major infrastructure projects can help deliver local nature recovery across the country.

Sizewell C has pledged at least £78m over the next 70 years, and in addition, the charity will seek funding from other local businesses and organisations to invest in nature. Trustees of the charity include Julian Roughton, former CEO of Suffolk Wildlife Trust, Heather Broughton MBE, former trustee of the National Lottery Heritage Fund and James Alexander MBE, former trustee of RSPB and former Chair of trustees at Suffolk Wildlife Trust. All Suffolk

Food Waste to be Processed in the County

As part of the new 'Simpler Recycling' laws brought in by the previous Conservative government, councils will have to collect and deal with food waste from all Suffolk households from 2026.

The council has set up a four-year contract with Bio Capital to process this food waste locally at a recently approved anaerobic digestion plant at the Adnams Distribution Centre in Reydon near Southwold. Around 31,000 tonnes of household food waste could be sent to the new facility each year, which will be processed to generate green fuel (biomethane), and turned into soil fertiliser, which means Suffolk's food waste will be put to good use.

Awards for Suffolk's Junior Road Safety Officers

The council recently played host to pupils and school staff at the first in-person Junior Road Safety Officer (JRSO) Awards event since before the COVID-19 pandemic.

The awards ceremony is to recognise the dedication and creativity shown by schools and pupils in promoting road safety and encouraging active travel within their communities. The Junior Road Safety Officer (JRSO) scheme has been running for more than 20 years and gives pupils in Years 4 to 6 (ages 9–11) the opportunity to get involved in road safety work at their schools, delivering sessions to peers and taking on initiatives in their wider communities.

The scheme is an excellent way to engage with children, parents and carers and expand the reach of the council's road safety education team, with 61 participating schools over the last 12 months.

For more information about the Junior Road Safety Officer scheme, see the Suffolk County Council website: <https://suffolkroadsafe.com/education-home/junior-road-safety-officer/>

Update on Homes for Ukraine Scheme

As of 31 March 2025, Suffolk has welcomed 1,747 Ukrainian refugees under the government's Homes for Ukraine scheme, supported by a special team in the Public Health & Communities directorate. The government has introduced the Ukraine Permission Extension Scheme (UPES), which allows people currently living in the UK under an existing Ukraine Visa scheme to apply to extend their stay in the UK for a further 18 months when their valid Ukrainian visa expires.

Here is some guidance below for hosts and guests

- It is important that guests actively apply to extend their visa - the visas will NOT be extended automatically
- Guests should submit an application when they have 28 days or less left on their current permission. If they apply too early, their application may be rejected and they would then need to re-apply later
- If the guest doesn't know the date when their current leave to remain ends, they can sign into their UKVI account (www.gov.uk/evisa/update-ukvi-account) to find out, or they can refer to their permission letter which will detail their visa's expiry date
- Applications can only be submitted while the guests are physically present in the UK

To get more information about how to apply for an extension, follow the instructions provided on the official UK government website: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/applying-to-the-ukraine-permission-extension-scheme>

The government pays Homes for Ukraine hosts a 'thank you' payment of £350 per month, and in Suffolk this is supplemented by an additional £25 per month by the council. You can find further information about the scheme here: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/becoming-a-sponsor-homes-for-ukraine>

Finally, Suffolk County Council is offering a one-off Independent Living Payment (ILP) of £2,000 to Homes for Ukraine guests who are leaving their host accommodation and moving into their own home. To issue this payment certain criteria must be met, and Suffolk County Council will ask to see a copy of a valid, signed and dated (by both parties) legal tenancy agreement in the guest's name. The funding can be used for purchasing items to support the move to independent accommodation. The new accommodation can be either furnished or unfurnished, and can be situated outside of Suffolk.

Guest(s) can apply for the Independent Living Payment by downloading a form from the council's website, which is available in English, Ukrainian and Russian. To access this form and details of other support for Ukrainian guests in Suffolk, please use this link to the council website:

<https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/community-and-safety/communities/community-engagement/support-for-refugees/support-for-ukraine/ukraine-information-for-guests>