

Minutes of Shottisham Annual Parish Council

Held on Monday 28th April 2014 at 7.30pm

Present:

Cllr Clark (Chair), Cllr Backhouse, Cllr Nichols, Cllr Dunnett, Cllr Hazelwood, Cllr Venediger, Josie Excell (clerk), Diana Bouscarle, Penny Clark, Pat Bendon, Ivan Bendon, Cllr Block (part time)

Apologies: Cllr Reid, Cllr Newman, Rev. Judith Andrews

Venue: Trust Hall, Shottisham

1. Apologies

Cllrs Reid & Newman and Rev. Andrews apologised for the absence.

2. Declaration of Interests

None.

3. To agree minutes from Annual Parish meeting 2013

The minutes were agreed and signed as a true record.

4. Actions and matters arising from 2013 minutes

None

5. Reports

5.a SCC

Cllr Clark summarised Cllr Reid's report (which is attached to these minutes Annex A)

5.b SCDC

Cllr Block reported that it is apparent that the SCDC budget is not going to get better soon; cuts are being made in staff and services are not being delivered in the way they were. But, grant money is available and forms have to be filled in to obtain this money. Councils should be aware of this – what grants are available and how to go about securing grant aid.

49% of people on the housing waiting list are waiting for single bedroom properties to avoid the bedroom tax, but there is a major lack of single bedroomed houses. SCDC are still running food banks.

Since the introduction of The Localism Act, Parish Councils are being expected to do an increasing amount and Parish Plans form part of that. A Parish Plan does have "Government Teeth" in terms of planning, particularly if linked with an adjoining parish, e.g. Sutton.

Cllr Block reported receiving very positive feedback on the Shottisham Emergency Plan.

The Deben Estuary Plan has gone to the County Council for assessment. It has become apparent that nobody else in the country has a plan developed by the community. The DEP have tried to define the concept of tranquillity as applied to the Deben.

Remedial work has finished at East Lane. There is no more money available from the Environment Agency for East Lane.

5.c SNT

No report was provided by the Safer Neighbourhood Team

5.d Sorrel Horse Sub-Committee

Josie Excell read a report on behalf of the SHSC summarising the issues addressed to date (see Annex B). Residents were advised that any matters for discussion should be brought to the attention of the Parish Clerk.

6. Chairman's Report

Cllr Clark paid respect to Roger Buswell & his contribution to the community over many years.

The playground was recently inspected and issues raised are being put in hand: a gate in poor condition has been replaced by Ivan Bendon – thanks; one of the rockers has been damaged again and thoughts are to replace the head with one of wooden construction; signage banning dogs from the play area & another giving contact details are to be installed; the rabbit holes are to be filled and the area fitted with improved rabbit fencing.

30 trees have been received from the Woodland Trust (ash, birch & cherry) to be planted in memory of Roger Buswell. Cllr Hazelwood will be organising the planting on the cricket meadow side of the playing field.

Allotments continue to be a source of exercise and enjoyment.

Thanks were expressed to the Parish Plan team and particular thanks to Diana Bouscarle for driving the Emergency Plan to completion. Shottisham are the only local parish to have published their plan.

Thanks to Kim & Cathy for Big Lunch. Looking forward to June 1st for the next big lunch.

7. Planning Application for proposed 25m tall communications mast at Home Whin Farm

During the discussion and voting on this planning application at the Parish Council meeting on 10/03/14, some Councillors had been very much in favour of the application and others had been very much against, resulting in an inconclusive vote for or against. Residents were invited at this meeting to express their views, in response to a request from the Planning Officer at SCDC.

It was acknowledged by all that the Parish Plan indicated a requirement for better mobile phone reception.

The following comments were made:

- District Nurses have difficulty in getting a phone signal
- as the reception in the village is variable, difficulties could arise in case of emergency.
- disregarding the AONB designation sets a precedent for future decisions.
- the whole village is not a black hole for phone reception, but there are spots in the village that don't get reception.
- this is a decision which will impact on the future and cannot be taken down.
- it will detrimentally affect the view from the village significantly

A suggestion was made that moving the installation further into the farm compound (to the north) would mean that the existing trees would have more of a screening effect.

A question was raised as to whether alternative methods could achieve improved mobile phone reception; it was suggested that the option presented was the cheapest option available.

AP1 – 280414 Josie Excell to report comments back to the Planning Officer at SCDC.

8. Highways Update

Cllr Venediger reported on his meeting with SCC Highways:

Regarding roadside vegetation outside the trust hall – highways have a responsibility to cut vegetation back and will make additional cuts during the growing season

The camber of the road outside Cliff House was inspected. SCC Highways don't see this as a significant problem, but will monitor it.

A deep rut created by a large vehicle driving off the road in to the verge opposite the building site was viewed: SCC Highways will address this

SCC Highways could not see a viable solution to the parking situation in the centre of this village. They commented that if people won't park on their own drive or don't have one, there is no other solution. SCC Highways recommended that people are polite and sensible and don't park opposite each other on the road. If residents or councillors feel there is a hindrance or obstruction, then individuals can contact the police directly. They advised that people should abide by the Highway Code.

Regarding Ford Hill, a traffic calming plan originally discussed by Kim Murray and Ray Kay with SCC Highways was re-addressed. This is on the agenda for the next Parish Council meeting for approval and to raise funding (budget cost = £2000). Additional to the scheme would be picket fencing on each of the 3 approach roads at a cost of £1500 for each set of fencing. The cost could be reduced by the Parish Council undertaking the work.

Highways will install speed monitoring equipment on Ford Hill and on Bushey Lane and renew the paint on the "SLOW" markings on the road on the approaches to the village.

9. Trust Hall

Christine Block report that the WI Committee has secured funding to replace the dormer window and mend the side of the window, secondary double glazing to the windows, and new insulated doors. Re-pointing of the walls and maintenance of the roof have already commenced.

The improvements are intended to get the hall in better condition for hiring out, to generate a self-sustaining income.

10. Parish Plan Implementation

Diana Bouscarle reported that the Parish Plan was implemented by Chris Harvey & team. The team feel it is up to date as of 2012 and will take direction from the Parish Council as to when it needs updating. Diana will update paper copies of the emergency plan in August. Diana attended a Community Resilience Forum where she was presented with a "Grab Bag" containing items essential in a community emergency. A location for the Grab Bag should be decided upon, considering ease of access.

AP2 – 280414 Parish Council to agree a location for storage of the Emergency Grab Bag

The Emergency Plan was almost put into practice during the power cut (in October).

Diana considered that the village should have more people trained as First Aiders and suggested that some of the money left from the Parish Plan budget could be used to fund at least 1 maybe 2 individuals (St Johns Ambulance training cost £140).

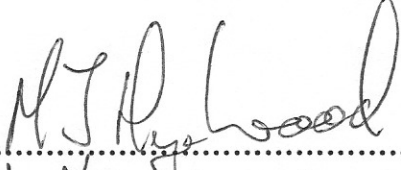
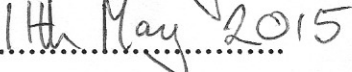
11. AOB

Diana expressed concern that the Beeton & Leonard development went ahead despite objections from SPC. Cllr Block advised that the houses had not been built to the plans submitted and commented on the difficulties faced by SCDC Planning department: The Core Strategy Local Plan has a glitch, and has been challenged at the High Court, which means that the District Council have little to back them up.

Draft 1

Diana reported a request from a resident that issues from the Parish Council meetings are reported in the newsletter.

AP3 – 280414 Parish Council to decide how best to communicate to residents, following request for a summary of PC meeting minutes.

Signed..........Chairman Shottisham Parish Council
Date..........

Josie Excell

Clerk to Shottisham Parish Council