

Shottisham Parish Council

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Tuesday 9th May 2017
at Shottisham Trust Hall

Present: Chairman Mike Hazelwood (MH)

Attendees: (SCDC) Cll C Block (CB), Clerk L Roberts (LR), fourteen members of the public including Clls.

1-09/05/17 Chairman's Welcome and Apologies for Absence

Apologies received from (SCC) Cll Andrew Reid (AR).

MH also apologised for not inviting Ruth Hatchett from the church.

2-09/05/17 Signing of Minutes

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of 12th April 2016 were duly signed off by the Chairman MH as a true and accurate record.

3-09/05/17 Chairman's report:

Chair Mike Hazelwood conceded that it had been another difficult year for councillor numbers with several people coming and going throughout the year. Two new councillors Peter Widdup and Philip Bouscarle have recently been elected which makes the number of councillors up to five now. There are still two vacancies to fill to reach the full complement of seven and MH urged villagers to consider putting themselves forward to fill the roles. The temporary clerk Jenny Webb resigned in April to concentrate more fully on her role as parish clerk for Bawdsey. The search for a clerk was concluded in November when Lesley Roberts offered to take on the job of permanent clerk and was accepted.

Regarding highways matters, new signs have been put up on Ford Hill in an attempt to deter speeding. An earlier suggestion of installing white gates at either end of the village has been ruled out as there is no evidence that they help to deter speeding. Malcom King from Highways has been asked to come out again and give further advice. The introduction of a speed watch plan is still in the offing and six sites have been approved for monitoring purposes. The equipment required for this can be loaned from Rendlesham but it requires three volunteers to operate it. Three volunteers have come forward already but more are required to make this a viable option. Anyone who would like to be involved in this initiative to make our roads safer is encouraged to speak to any Councillor. There have been a couple of near misses on Hollesley Road that the driver pleaded were caused by sun in the eyes. Malcom King proposed that painting white lines in the middle of the road from the Sorrel Horse up to Heath Drive might help to calm the traffic down.

The football nets on the playing field have now been replaced. Thanks go to Ivan Bendon and his daughter for helping out with this task recently. The rabbit holes were also filled in over Easter by MH and PB. Rabbit fencing is still an option to reduce the rabbit population in the

children's play area. There was a question as to whether it would be feasible to fence only the children's play area and the football pitch, which is being considered.

Other issues that have caused concern over the year include the additional traffic that will be generated shortly once the work on the wind farm at Bawdsey starts. There will be an increase in noise too while the work goes on which is planned to last for 44 days. The work will stop during the school bus times to ensure that the school buses are not held up. Another concern is the clearing of local footpaths which now relies on the landowners taking on the responsibility of this. Suffolk County Council used to come out twice a year to cut them but no longer has the funds to do this. Shottisham Parish Council have offered to help out with this because they share a strimmer with the church which could be used for this purpose.

The Local Plan from Suffolk Coastal identifies the Sorrel Horse field as being the preferred location for a small development. There is some debate as to how suitable this land is for affordable housing because of the problems of access but it could also provide a car park for the Sorrel Horse, which would be useful. The Adine Estate would still be prepared to release land for affordable housing if required. The land at Heath Drive is also still another possibility.

4-09/05/17 Finance

- **Current Account:** £8,168.22
- **Savings Account 1:** £1,674.48
- **Savings Account 2:** £193.90

5-09/05/17 Reports:

i. SCC Report

Cll AR provided a written report to the meeting and the main points were read out by Chairman MH. These included:

- Budget proposals for 2017/18 included the freezing of Council Tax for the seventh successive year and an increase in the Adult Social Care precept from 2% to 3% of the total council tax for the next two years.
- SCC and SCDC made a joint response in February to EDF Energy's Stage 2 public consultation on the proposed development of Sizewell C.
- Education attainment in Suffolk has risen above the national average for GCSE's and it is now ranked 55th out of 151, which is a real improvement since 2014 when Suffolk was ranked 119th for English and 108th for maths.
- In April 2016 over 90% of Suffolk children were allocated their 1st choice of primary school and 97.5% got one of their three preferences.
- SCC allocated £10million from its reserves into the 2016 programme of road surface dressing work during the spring and summer months to prevent potholes forming in future years.
- The Director of Health released the Suffolk Annual Public Health Report 2016 in January 2017 setting an ambition to improve mental health services in Suffolk over the next ten years.

The full report can be read on the council's website www.shottisham.onesuffolk.net

ii. **SCDC Report**

Cll CB reported on the three main issues that SCDC have been faced with this year which include:

- Finance: Councils are having to find large amounts of funding to replace the drop in government funding of £7million. They will need to look at new ways of funding to replace this money and may need to look at increasing business rates. The plan to join forces with Waveney Council could be one way of saving money overall. Parish councils will be required to start taking on responsibility of funding additional extras like grass cutting.
- Housing: In the revision of the local plan SCDC will be required to build an additional 11,000 new houses. The new homes bonus will bring in more money for every new house that is built.
- Working together will be the way forward in future. Combining Village Plans into Neighbourhood Plans could be an achievable way of doing this. Affordable housing will be a prerogative and funding will be available from the government for this. The need for this housing needs to be managed by the community and will be essential for villages with a high level of second homes.

iii. A report from MP Theresa Coffey was read out by the Chairman MH. The text can be read on www.shottisham.onesuffolk.net

iv. **Sorrel Horse Report**

Chris Harvey reported to the meeting that he has taken over the role of acting chairman of the board of directors of the Sorrel Horse after the recent resignation of the outgoing chairman Paul Venediger. He gave thanks to Paul for the sterling service that he has given as chairman over the last 6½ years the pub has been going as a community pub. During this time the pub has offered employment opportunities to local teenagers from the village and surrounding area. The last twelve months have been very tough for the board because they have lost two key members of staff to the opposition and have had problems recruiting and keeping a suitable chef. There has been a downturn in trade as a result which has made it extremely difficult to recruit new staff. The good news is that a new chef has now been recruited and a new management team is taking over this month too. Events are still flourishing in the pub and Monday music nights, Wednesday quiz nights and the Bonfire Night event continue to grow in popularity.

v. **Village Recorder's Report**

Diana Bickerton has completed the photographic project she started last year which features all the buildings in the village, culminating in a book of photos which have been sold locally and a profit of £200 has been made. She thanked SCC and SDCC for their generous grants which were used to fund the project. Diana would like the profit to benefit the village in some way and welcomes any ideas on how to spend this money.

Early suggestions include 1) providing shelving in the telephone box for leaflets on tourism in the local area 2) more Trees and hedging 3) photos of Trust Hall old and new to show in the hall. Ideas will be shared via the village newsletter.

vi. **Women's Institute Report**

Christine Blocked thanked everyone for attending or helping out at the recent flower show/plant sale which was a huge success, attended by most of the village and raised over £800 towards the insurance costs of the Trust Hall. She then went on to outline the refurbishment plans that the WI have in hand that will make a number of well-deserved improvements to the Trust Hall. These proposals include:

- a. lowering the kitchen floor, re-doing the kitchen units and repainting
- b. opening up an existing doorway, repainting and a new heating system
- c. extending out the back to make 3 unisex toilets and a small committee room
- d. slabs outside for a seating area
- e. insulating the large space/room above the kitchen and providing a loft ladder.

Plans are well in-hand to apply for a Prince's Trust grant of £30,000 as well as applying to the Pargeter's Fund for two or three thousand pounds. They are also considering applying for Heritage Funding to which could then include opening up the inglenook fireplace. Suffolk Parish Council have generously offered a grant of £1,000 towards the project. It is hoped that the project will advance at a reasonable pace which will mean the Trust Hall is closed for a few months and then there will be a grand re-opening.

6-09/05/17 Open Forum:

Grass cutting was raised as an issue for the playing field as it was felt that the field will need flattening before the grass can be cut by Norse. A parishioner also asked whether a portable speed sign like the one used in Hollesley could be used for traffic calming at Ford Hill. The funding for this was provided for by Hollesley Parish Council, Suffolk County Council and Suffolk Coastal District Council who all provided a third of the money. There was a unanimous vote to look into purchasing one for Shottisham.

Meeting closed at 8.30pm.

Chairman:

Dated: