

Shottisham Parish Council

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Tuesday 25th May 2021
at St Margaret's Church, Shottisham

Present: Chairman Ray Kay (RK)

Attendees: (SCC) Cll A Reid, (ESC) Cll J Mallinder (JM), Cll P Widdup (PW), Cll P Bouscarle (PB), Cll P Southgate (PS), Cll David Wass (DW), Cll K Emerson (KE), Clerk L Roberts (LR) and fourteen members of the public.

1-25/05/21 Chairman's Welcome and Apologies for Absence

Chairman RK welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them all for attending.

2-25/05/21 Chairman's report:

A full copy of the chairman's report can be found on the website at www.shottisham.suffolk.cloud. Cll RK then went on to say that for reasons obvious to us all the last 15 months have been very difficult, despite this the parish council met regularly by Zoom and were joined by a number of parishioners who were very welcome. I would also like to thank Andrew Reid (SCC) and James Mallinder (ESC) both of whom managed to join us at meetings. Thanks to you both for your input and guidance. Special thanks to James for the goody bags from ESC which were given to the elderly and vulnerable members of the village.

DURING THE PERIOD THE PARISH COUNCIL ACHIEVED A NUMBER OF TASKS, COVID PERMITTING.

- **Covid Plan:** Parish councillors identified the likely needs of villagers and produced a one page worksheet of useful contact numbers and services they were able to offer such as lifts, shopping, prescription collection and delivery plus the odd bit of gardening/lawn cutting.
- **Play Area:** Responsibility for the play area is overseen by Cll Pat Southgate who ensures a system of regular reviews and repairs have taken place including the annual RoSPA check which identifies areas of concern. Councillors Bouscarle, Widdup and Wass have carried out a number of minor repairs which have saved the Parish Council a considerable amount of money.
- **Highways:** Peter Widdup is the councillor responsible for the Speed Indicator Device (SID) which involves Peter removing the batteries from the device, charging them, and relocating the SID on one of the three poles around the village. Peter is currently reviewing the positioning of a fourth pole at the Hollesley end of the village.
- **New Councillor:** Katie Emmerson has recently been co-opted onto Shottisham Parish Council and made most welcome as besides dragging the average age down substantially presents a young mother's voice to the proceedings and we expect to benefit substantially from her presence.
- **Future Plans:** The council plans to continue with much of the same for the rest of the year with special emphasis on improvements to the play area and investigation into speeding hot spots in the village. A litter pick is being planned soon and any help with this would be much appreciated. Road signs have already been cleaned and the foliage around them cleared and any ongoing help with this would also be very welcome.

3-25/05/21 Reports:

Full copies of all reports received can be found on the website at www.shottisham.suffolk.cloud



a) SCC Report

Cll A Read was pleased to confirm that he has been re-elected as a County Councillor for a further four years. Highlights from his Annual Report for 2020/21 include:

- Majority of staff have been working from home since the start of the first lockdown in 2020.
- Suffolk's first drive-thru COVID testing centre was opened in April 2021 at Copdock.
- SCC met the challenge of supplying PPE for Care Homes, provided physical support for residents who needed to shield and set up the "Home But Not Alone" service in Suffolk.
- Household Waste Recycling Centres were re-opened with an online booking system set up.
- Over 750 Carephone devices were delivered to elderly/vulnerable people.
- The total budget for this 2021/22 is just under £600m which is £40m more than last year.
- A higher rate of road repairs was achieved during 2020 with 1,000 miles resurfaced since 2017.
- Government money has been used to create dedicated space for more walking and cycling.
- A regional adoption agency called Adopt East was set up in October 2020.
- Funding has been secured to explore improvements to the A12 east of Ipswich.
- SCC has gained over £3m of government funding to use to promote capital energy efficiency.
- The Better Broadband project aims to achieve 98% cover of premises by the end of 2021.
- £3m has been set aside to develop a range of Suffolk-wide community projects.
- SCC have been working with EDF and Scottish Power on two major energy infrastructure projects in Suffolk currently being assessed by the government's Planning Inspectorate.

b) ESC Report

A full copy of Cll J Mallinder's report from ESC for May 2021 can be found on the website www.shottisham.suffolk.cloud. He made further comment on his role this year which included: Using his Enabling Community budget to fund projects and support those that need help the most. His links with community partnerships have helped provide support too and he was responsible for the distribution of East bags in the village. He often speaks out at planning applications to support the parish view and conducted a review into car parks in the area to make sure they are fit for purpose. He is constantly monitoring fly tipping and littering which has been more of a problem with the increase in visitor numbers. In his role of cabinet member for the Environment at ESC he has three big departments to look after which keeps him really busy. A number of new policies have been set up under the title Nature First and include the Pardon the Weeds campaign which has been expanded to 100 sites across East Suffolk this year. The use of glyphosate to kill weeds has been reduced by 45% too and his ambition is to reduce it completely. A clean air strategy is being introduced at cabinet too to reduce air pollution in East Suffolk.

c) Church Warden's Report

Highlights from Anne Buswell's report from the church include:

- Church attendance was prohibited from 23 March until end June and then limited for the rest of the year. A peninsula wide service in Shottisham in July conducted by Rev Giles was electronically broadcast by Zoom. Other non-regular services held since then at Shottisham were the Pet Service, Harvest Praise, Carol Service and "Midnight" at Bethlehem on Christmas Eve.
- Average attendance for a 'typical' Sunday at Shottisham across the year was 10 including 3 children. Attendance for services that were held were Pet Service in the churchyard 22 plus 9 dogs, Harvest 11, Village Carol Service 20 and Christmas Eve Midnight (9.30 pm) 13.
- Only two of the usual Fund Raising Events took place and these were the Pancake Party and the National Cycle Ride. The party raised £210 and the cycle ride £215. Planned future events include Pet Service on 15th August at 3.00 pm, Summer Fete on 29th August, Harvest Festival on 19th September and a Concert of Remembrance on Sunday 14th November at 2.30 p.m.
- The church council met three times during the year but now Stuart Beeston (treasurer) and Gareth Williams (secretary) have now moved to Woodbridge and we only have one village

resident on the council. We would very much like to encourage at least another two people from the village to join us and if they felt able to fill either the now vacant posts of treasurer or secretary.

Anne then welcomed Reverend Mandy Reynolds to the village who explained that she joined the parish in September and gave a brief talk explaining who she is and what her role in the church will be.

d) Village Association's Report

Highlights from the secretary Rod Cardnell's report on the work the village association have been doing all year include:

- Concerns about the poor mobile phone signal in the village led to the group cleaning out the BT phone box and asking for the phone to be fixed so that it can be used in case of emergency. This has now been accomplished and the phone is now in working order.
- An attempt was made to set up a Community Speedwatch in the village and several volunteers went to watch one in operation. The police have also been made aware of the association's interest in setting one up. Unfortunately, it has not been possible to recruit the number of volunteers that would be required to man this as yet.
- The association worked with the parish council to access a grant of £350 from AONB which was used to purchase eight hedgehog boxes which have been distributed around the village, with one being placed in the Trust Hall garden. Two of them have possible residents so far.
- To help alleviate the problem of dogs fouling on the footpaths around the village the association have signposted on several posts the location of the Dog Bins and provided dog poo bags, which are regularly replaced.
- The association is looking to gain more members to join their group and help them with their future plans which include:
 - The possible purchase of a speed camera to help with the Speed Watch initiative.
 - Conducting further research on the viability of installing a mobile phone mast on the church tower.

e) Village Recorder's Report

The village recorder Diana Bickerton reported that although unable to participate in village life this year except at a distance she has kept in touch via village friends, email and social media. All have been recorded for the future and will be included in her report to the Suffolk Local History Council at the end of 2021. She has been working hard on her project to research the history of Shottisham. Much of her research was in the Suffolk Record Office which closed in March 2020 but will hopefully reopen soon. All the chapters have been written and are now with her editor. She is now working on the title deed of the old houses of Shottisham and is very grateful to all residents who have lent her their deeds. Photographs will be needed too and Diana would be grateful if she could borrow these too. She hopes to finish the book by the end of this year but is unsure how to publish it as it will probably need to be self-published. Another idea is to create a website and put the book on it for all to see but she has a feeling that residents would prefer their own hard copy. She would be grateful for any feedback on these ideas and is happy to answer any questions.

f) Women's Institute Report

Shottisham WI have a new committee. Unfortunately due to WI Federation and Government Covid 19 restrictions they are unable to hold their regular monthly WI meetings at the Trust Hall yet. They are however managing to arrange several outdoor "meet ups" during May within the safety regulations. They hope to recommence a programme of regular monthly meetings inside the Trust Hall from late June. There has been some work done in the orchard at the back of the Trust Hall. The apple and pear trees have been pruned. The fruit tree cages will be enlarged to

prevent the growing branches from rubbing and possibly becoming diseased. They cannot remove the cages as a herd of deer regularly graze in the orchard. Areas of nettles have been dug out and topsoil has been added. The ground will be levelled, reseeded with grass and then mown when needed. The Trust Hall has been painted inside and out. The last remaining double glazing unit has been replaced and new curtain have been fitted. Improvements will continue to be made to the hall.

4-25/05/21 Finance Report

At the close of business on 25/05/2021 the current account stands at £8,291.75 which includes:

- VAT repayment for 2020/21: £544.26
- Precept payment for 2021/22: £4,490.90

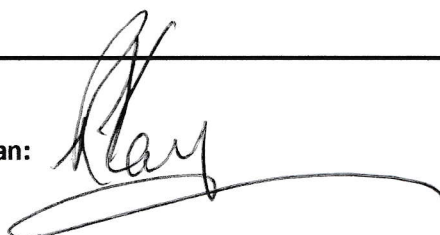
The council received £350 from AONB for Hedgehog Boxes and £1,163.40 from ESC in 2020/21 to pay for repairs to the playground. Donations from the parish council included £500 in 2019 to the Sorrel Horse to help set up the village shop during Covid. Three donations of £50 were paid out the three smaller Suffolk charities during 2020/21. Apart from this purchases spending was consistent with previous years. We ended 2020/21 with a net surplus of £300.65 unlike 2019/20 where we ended the year with a net deficit of £316.62.

5-25/05/21 Open Forum:

Concern was expressed by several parishioners about the poor mobile signal in the village and what, if anything could be done about it. The church tower was suggested as a possible site for a mobile phone mast but it was not felt that this was a viable option and that Hollesley church would probably be more suitable. The Village Association are doing some research into a company that installs mobile phone masts in churches to see if Shottisham is a possibility. Councillor JM has offered to investigate whether ESC is part of the Shared Rural Network and whether there are any plans to improve the mobile phone signal in East Suffolk in the near future. The parish council plan to discuss this issue at the next peninsula meeting to see if this is a common problem on the peninsula and find out what other parish councils have done about it.

Meeting closed at 9:00 pm.

Chairman:



Dated: 13th July 2021