

Shottisham Parish Council

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Tuesday 16th May 2023
at The Trust Hall, Shottisham

Present: Chairman Ray Kay (RK)

Attendees: 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 three members of the public.

1-16/05/23 Chairman's Welcome and Apologies for Absence

Chairman RK welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them all for attending. Apologies were received from (SCC) Cll A Reid (AR) and (ESC) Cll J Mallinder (JM).

2-16/05/23 Chairman's report:

Another year has flown by. It was good to get back to proper parish council meetings, although to be fair visitor attendance was better under zoom.

As usual our main focus during the year was the maintenance of the play equipment, it has not been easy getting regular grass cutting at a competitive price. Despite increased costs for services the parish council managed to limit the precept increase to 5% at the same time adding to sink fund for play area maintenance. The parish council also took over responsibility for the testing and maintenance of the defibrillator sited at the Sorrel Horse.

Early last year we managed to obtain a grant of £2500 for an additional piece of playground equipment. The grant was on a matched funding basis so the parish council needed to source the balance from its reserves. We acquired a tractor for youngsters which now has pride of place in the play area. We acquired a further £8,000 from the Big Lottery Fund for essential repairs to existing equipment and to purchase some equipment for bigger children which we hope to get this year.

In June 2022 we all celebrated the Platinum Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II with a "street party" in the car park of the Sorrel Horse. The pub provided a barbeque for us and villagers produced multiple side dishes and puddings. Thanks also for a very generous grant from our district councillor James Mallinder.

The parish council has served the year with one councillor short yet again and unfortunately one of our long term councillors Pat Southgate has decided to retire. This is quite a heavy blow as Pat has very successfully looked after the play area for the past 8 years. We are hopeful that we will recruit a new councillor soon.

The parish council will continue to support the village as best we can.

3-16/05/23 Reports:

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

- a) **SCC Report**
- b) **Church Warden's Report**
- c) **Village Recorder's Report**
- d) **Women's Institute Report**



4-16/05/23 Finance Report

- At close of business on 03/04/2023 the current account stood at £12,693.69 which includes donations of £8,250 ring-fenced for the playground.
- The precept for 2022/23 was increased to £5,000 from £4,890.90 from the previous year.
- A VAT repayment of £568.33 was claimed for VAT paid in 2021/22.
- Grants for the year included a £1,000 grant towards the Jubilee Event from ESC and £8,000 from the Lottery Funding for new playground equipment/maintenance.
- The clerk's wages of £1,800 remained the same as the previous year.
- The clerk's expenses of £32.16 were mainly spent on postage.
- The cost of maintaining the playground including grass cutting came to £2,794.07 which was £267.42 higher than the previous year.
- Miscellaneous for 2022/23 came to £1926.79 which was mainly spent on the Jubilee Event and covered by ticket sales and ESC's donation. New defibrillator pads were also purchased at a cost of £62.57.
- We ended 2022/23 with a net surplus of £7,372.37 which is an increase from 2021/22 where the net surplus was £1,321.32.

5-16/05/23 Open Forum:

- The council have been approached by Gary Miller who has proposed holding a village gathering at Rushlake House on Friday 30th June early evening for two purposes:
 - For the village to see how the bank at Rushlake House has been developed.
 - To encourage the community to get together and develop closer links.The council thought this was an excellent suggestion and look forward to this event.
- Feedback from the Big Picnic held to celebrate the King's Coronation has been very positive and it was well attended by the village. It has been suggested that this could become an annual event.

Chairman:

Dated: 11th July 2023

