

Shottisham Parish Council

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Tuesday 13th May 2025
at The Trust Hall, Shottisham

Present: Acting Chair Philip Bouscarle (PB)

Attendees: (ESC) Cll James Mallinder (JM), Cll Peter Widdup (PW), Cll Natalie Brett (NB), Cll Chrissie Darby (CD), Clerk Lesley Roberts (LR), and five members of the public.

1-13/05/25 Chair's Welcome and Apologies for Absence

Acting Chair PB welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them all for attending. Apologies were received from Chair R Kay (RK) and (SCC) Cll A Reid (AR).

2-13/05/25 Chairman's report:

Acting Chair PB read out the written report produced by Chair RK to the meeting:

This was our first year since Pat Southgate resigned from the Parish Council, who did a sterling job in looking after all things related to the play area. We realised what a large job it was and split it between a number of people. David Wass and James Campbell kept an eye on the play area reporting back on any necessary repairs (Repairs had taken up £3000 of our Big Lottery Grant of £8000). Philip helped out where he could sometimes, with interim grass cutting and repairs if we had a problem. Lesley took on board the grass cutting contract and I spent my time trying to find a replacement for Simon who did our repairs until February 2024.

The Trim Trail in the play area had become very unstable suffering badly from wood rot so it was decided we should replace it. James Campbell took on the task of finding a suitable replacement with the now remaining budget of £5000 from the Big Lottery. I found a local man in Alderton, Rob Thirkettle. He dismantled the Trim Trail, made good the land and managed to dispose of all the old equipment. The new Trim Trail was installed around the end of October and hopefully will be used this summer, especially as the campsite fills up. Thanks to James for his efforts in obtaining a suitable Trim Trail within budget. And to Rob for the work that he did.

As a council we were still existing with 5 parish councillors. For the first time for a number of years our council numbers were made-up to 7 with the co-option onto the council of Natalie Brett and Chrissy Derby. Natalie and Chrissy informed the council that they would very much like us to consider the introduction of a 20 mile per hour speed limit in the village. This was agreed provided there was enough support in the village. Natalie and Chrissy went round all the houses in the village and managed to get signature agreement from virtually every household. The next stage is to get estimates of costs, arrange fundraising and publicity.

It is unfortunate that we have recently lost three Councillors, Peter Widdup (9 years), David Wass (6 years) and James Cameron (2 years). I would like to thank them on behalf of the village for their service and wish them all the very best for the future. They will be sadly missed! We are now reduced to 4 Parish Councillors and urgently need to recruit. We need young blood onto the council, ideally people who can bring with them new ideas on what is expected for the village and the enthusiasm to deliver it.

NB

Last but not least I would like to thank Lesley our clerk for all her work over the past year, as well as looking after all council administration, minutes of meetings, she also keeps up to date with all legislation/procedures affecting the council and keeps Parish Councillors apprised.

Finally, we are entering unknown territory with Devolution which will involve the dissolution of our District and County Councils and the establishment of a Mayor and a Unitary Authority. I would like to thank James Mallinder, District Councillor and Andrew Reid, County Councillor for all their help in the past and hope they will be successful in securing a role in the new structure. It is unclear what this means to Parish Councils, but the likelihood is that they will have more to do.

3-13/05/25 Clerk's Finance Report

1. At close of business on 31/03/2025 the current account stood at £5,682.34
2. The precept for 2024/25 was increased to £5,550 from £5,250 from the previous year.
3. A VAT repayment of £443.03 was claimed for VAT paid in 203/24.
4. Donations for the year included a contribution of £300 towards the 80 D Day celebrations in June.
5. The clerk's wages of £2,100 remained the same as in 2023-24.
6. The clerk's expenses of £98.53 included postage, stationery and a Microsoft 365 subscription.
7. The cost of maintaining the playground including grass cutting, mole treatment and the RoSPA report came to £787.74, which was considerably cheaper than last year.
8. The old trim trail in the playground was replaced with a new one at cost of £5,316.34 using up the £5,000 donation from the Lottery Fund.
9. Miscellaneous for 2024/25 came to £674.71 which included £500 deposit to open the new Unity Trust Bank accounts, £120 web site hosting costs as well as monthly service charges from Unity Trust Bank.
10. We ended 2024/25 with a deficit of -£4,90.64 rather than a deficit of -2,516.42 the previous year. This was due to the purchase of the replacement trim trail and was covered by the Lottery Fund donation.

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

a) SCC Report

b) Women's Institute Report

c) Village Recorder's Report

Diana Bickerton attended the meeting and read out her written report. She was happy to report that since leaving the peninsula 3½ years ago she has finally found someone to take over the role of Village Recorder. Carole Lissauer who lives in the village has agreed to take over the role from Diana and is looking forward to the challenge.

d) Church Warden's Report

Anne Buswell also attended the meeting and read out her written report

Cll James Mallinder from East Suffolk Council attended the meeting and gave a verbal report, highlights of which includes:

- ESC's planned changes to Waste Collection will involve more sorting waste out at home by householders who will be expected to use up to 5 recycling bins to sort paper, plastics, glass, food waste and free garden waste. Cll JM expressed concern as to where these would be stored and the impact more plastic bins and more refuse trucks would have on the environment.
- Cll JM was the only councillor to vote against the budget this year because he thinks that ESC is financially imprudent and are wasting lots of taxpayers' money on vanity projects. This includes spending £50,000 rebranding the 'Pardon the Weeds' campaign by changing it to 'Nature First'.
- The push to build more houses is also an issue for Cll JM as he is concerned that the 65 houses planned for Eyke will have a detrimental effect on the peninsula, including road traffic issues.
- Local issues that he has been involved with this year include unauthorised parking at Bawdsey, major road incidents in Hollesley and flooding in Butley.
- Cll JM arranged a productive visit to the peninsula from the new Labour MP Jenny Riddell-Carpenter which he hopes will lead to useful conversations between her and residents.
- Devolution is the next thing on the agenda for Suffolk and Cll JM is fully in favour of it as he is of the opinion that there is a lot of duplication between local, district and borough councils, with over 300 councillors in role. The inclusion of a Mayor for Suffolk/Norfolk will be of benefit and provide additional monetary powers.

6-14/05/24 Open Forum:

Issues discussed at the meeting included:

- A parishioner gave thanks to the village volunteers who have spent time clearing some of the village footpaths and also wanted to thank the parish council for working so tirelessly on their behalf.
- The parish council wanted to say a big thank you to Diana Bickerton for all her sterling work over the last 11 years recording the history of Shottisham in her role as Village Recorder.
- A desperate plea was put out to encourage people from the village to apply to become new councillors to ensure that the council remains quorate and does not put itself in the position of being taken over by ESC.
- It was suggested that the recruitment drive for new councillors could include a leaflet drop round the village explaining the urgency of the situation, which was received positively by councillors.

Natalie Brett

12.05.26

Chair:

Dated: