

Shottisham Parish Council

**Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Tuesday 12th April 2016
at Shottisham Trust Hall**

Present: Chairman Mike Hazelwood,

Attendees: District Cll C Block, SCC Councillor Andrew Reid, Acting Clerk J Webb, twenty members of the public including Clls.

1-12/04/16 Chairman's Welcome

2-12/04/16 Reports:

- i. SCC Cll Reid in his report stressed Council Tax freeze, improvements to SCC Children's Services and Educational Attainment; Regional Infrastructure projects in Lowestoft and Ipswich; A12 improvements if Sizewell C is built; targets for better rural broadband provision; Rural Transport Provision with a single phone number for each area; Devolution Plans to combine Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambridgeshire with a directly elected mayor, he admitted was controversial and needed to be discussed thoroughly. It would involve 27 local authorities. He answered a question on the Government's proposal to force all primary schools to become Academies by saying that rather than having an Educational Department, each county could appoint a School's Commissioner. The full report can be read on the council's website www.shottisham.onesuffolk.net Chair Mike Hazelwood thanked Cll Reid for his support over the past year.
- ii. Cll Christine Block from SCDC continued the theme of devolution and the prospect of an elected Mayor for the combined counties, fearing that it could have a huge impact on all, leading to Parishes having to take on the duties that District Councils currently carry out, similar to what is happening with the police. SCDC and Waveney are merging in 2019 to become East Suffolk District Council. A boundary commissioner will review boundaries and it is likely that the number of councillors will be cut further. In the last review, the number of councillors was cut from 55 to 42, increasing the workload for councillors.
Regarding Site Specific Allocations, the final draft document is shortly to be sent out with a final opportunity for parish councils to comment. The only potential site in the village lies opposite the Sorrell Horse. Cll Block recommended the council consider a neighbourhood Plan, something Hollesley is doing.
The Coastal Community Team which has been looking into economic regeneration for the area with a pilot scheme focusing on the Deben Peninsula and Felixstowe has received £10,000 to write an Economic development Plan focusing on the visitor economy. If approved, grants could be made available for businesses to bid for.
Coastal erosion at East Lane, Bawdsey is becoming more urgent and is likely to cost in the region of £5-6 million. A new Visitor Centre and cafe is being planned at the Quay.
Cll Block conceded that broadband in the area is very patchy and she supported wireless broadband.
As Chair of Shottisham WI, she thanked SPC for the generous donation of £800 to improve the Trust Hall.
- iii. A report from MP Theresa Coffey was read out by the Clerk. The text can be read on www.shottisham.onesuffolk.net

3-12/04/16 Chairman's report: Chair Mike Hazelwood conceded it had been a difficult year with the council having to build up its complement of councillors slowly over the year. There is also a need for a permanent clerk. SPC has been very grateful for the support of Jenny Webb, who has been acting as Temporary Clerk since last July, but there is an urgent need to find a permanent successor.

Over the year there had been 4 planning applications. (See full report for details)

Regarding Highways matters, the road improvements on Ford Hill aimed at deterring speeding, ordered back in April 2015 are finally likely to take place in a few weeks' time. It is hoped it will help to modify driver behaviour.

The cost of a pair of white gates is being investigated although there is no evidence they deter speeding. Speeding in the Street and beyond Heath Drive has caused concern, jeopardising walkers. Talks have taken place with Bromeswell and it has been agreed in principle to work together and share equipment to monitor speed in the village. Serg Scott Cullum has identified 6 sites for monitoring purposes. There will be a need for more volunteers to be trained up to support this initiative. At present there are three. Anyone who would like to be involved in this initiative to make our roads safer is encouraged to speak to any Councillor.

Suffolk Coastal has now published their Local Plan, and has identified the Sorrel Horse field as being suitable for a small development. This gives a potential route to provide the housing need identified in the Housing Survey carried out last year, and at the same time could provide additional parking for the Sorrel Horse. This obviously needs a fair bit of work to achieve a viable solution, but the Parish Council has agreed to open initial discussions with the Sorrel Horse Board, and a Housing Association. The Adeane Estate still need to raise funds for work on property in Ramsholt, but the need to fund work to the river wall, which might have protected Shottisham, has been shown to be unnecessary but it seems that they may still attempt to pursue a development to the East of Heath Drive. This will now be more difficult for them because that site is no longer listed in the local Plan.

Looking forward

There has been no progress with the fencing to the Playing Field this year. It is hoped that with a full complement of Councillors for the coming year, progress will be made on this as well as keeping our footpaths in good condition. Any support with these activities will be gratefully received.

The Chair hoped that villagers will support plans to take a parish photograph outside the church on Saturday 28th May at 10:00 a.m. Kim & Cathy will be organising the Big Lunch on the playing field on Sunday 12th June. This year it has been arranged to coincide with the national celebrations of the Queen's 90th birthday.

MH concluded by hoping that parishioners will continue to share their views, and attend the meetings.

4-12/04/16 Finance

1. **Current Account:** £6,496.10
Savings Account 1: £1,670.52
Savings Account 2: £193.41

The end of year figures were distributed and questions invited. SPC has £8,360.03 in three accounts. (Copy enclosed) All documents relating to this meeting can be found on the Village website.

5-12/04/16 Village Reports from Paul Veniger of The Sorrell Horse, Anne Buswell of the PCC and Diana Bickerton Village Recorder.

Sorrell Horse: Recent significant investment in the kitchen has improved the environment for staff, efficiency and the maintenance of high hygiene standards. Fortnightly events included new music sessions, alongside the usual quiz nights. Major events in 2015 included: Shottitude, an eclectic music event in August and Bonfire Night, both free of charge. Thanks were expressed to the staff of the SH, a huge number of volunteers, the Parish Council for parking, and this year St Margaret's Church for the spectacular light show. PV mentioned that SCDC have identified the field opposite the pub as a potential site for housing development. It was stressed that that the owners of any areas deemed suitable for building are not obliged to develop plots. Finally PV urged locals to support their village pub and any offers of help would be warmly received by the directors who all work in a voluntary capacity.

PCC: Anne Buswell outlined the pattern of services at Shottisham over the course of the year including church attendance numbers and the extra services such as weddings, baptisms and funerals, a pet service and a harvest festival service at the allotments. The visitors' book listed 49 entries (not people) for 2015. A number of very successful events were held last year including Reminiscence Day, the Summer Fete, Pancake day at the Trust Hall, Carol singing and musical concerts.

The major project of the past year has been the tower restoration. Huge thanks are due to Stuart Beeston who has project managed the restoration. Total cost of the tower repairs was £143,770. A major grant from the Heritage Lottery and some smaller grants from other organisations helped pay for this.

Rev Judith retired in November and was given a good send off at a retirement party at Bromeswell VH. Services have subsequently been taken by Rev Ruth and Rev Michael Hatchett. Thanks were expressed to all the members of the PCC and to all those who regularly clean the church and provide flower arrangements. Looking to the Future, churchyard mowing and maintenance is a priority and a rota will be needed. Plans to mark off a wildlife area on the north side of the church are in progress. Future events include Churchyard clearance in June and the Fete on 30th July.

Village Recorder's Report: Diana stressed that the job of a parish recorder was to record current history for the future rather than researching the past. All data is sent to the Suffolk Record Office. Information for Reminiscence Day was found in records held there. Information is collected on a regular basis from the church, the WI, the PC and the Sorrell Horse. Sales of houses and village events are also noted. Diana is currently engaged in a photographic project featuring all the buildings in the village. This will culminate in a book of photos which will be on sale, the proceeds of which will go to future projects. She ended by issuing a plea to those present to inform her of any useful information regarding Shottisham.

6-12/04/16 Open Forum: No other matters were raised. MH finished by thanking the WI for their delicious refreshments. Meeting closed at 8.35pm.

Chairman