

Shottisham Parish Council

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Tuesday 14th May 2024
at The Trust Hall, Shottisham

Present: Chairman Ray Kay (RK)

Attendees: (ESC) Cll James Mallinder (JM), Cll Peter Widdup (PW), Cll Philip Bouscarle (PB), Cll David Wass (DW), Cll James Campbell (JC), Clerk Lesley Roberts (LR), and thirteen members of the public.

1-14/05/24 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).

2-14/05/24 Chairman's report:

It was good to have a year free of COVID with events back to normal.

Primarily due to work on the play area the Parish Council spent £8,264 during the year with Income of £5,747, and a deficit of £2,517. In the previous year we were granted £8,000 by the Big Lottery and around £3,000 has been spent. A number of repairs were carried out on the playground equipment as result of the ROSPA inspection of September 2022. The current situation is that our Trim Trail is rotting in the centre, and we have to make a decision on whether repair or replacement is best. We have a fund of around £7000 towards this but we may need to do further fund raising.

We had a very successful event last year for the Coronation which about 100 people attended, and we were blessed with fantastic weather. We are hoping to do similar events in future.

The Parish Council has existed for the past few years without a full complement of 7 Councillors, currently we have 5. We desperately need some new blood on the council, preferably younger members with a view to the future.

3-14/05/24 Clerk's Finance Report

1. At close of business on 03/04/2024 the current account stood at £10,177.27 which includes a £5,000 Lottery Funding donation ring-fenced for the playground.
2. The precept for 2023/24 was increased to £5,250 from £5,000 from the previous year.
3. A VAT repayment of £497.60 was claimed for VAT paid in 2022/23.
4. Donations for the year included a contribution of £241.80 towards the Coronation Party in June.
5. The clerk's wages of £2,100 increased from £1,800 the previous year to include a pay rise of £300.
6. The clerk's expenses of £73.48 included postage and a Microsoft 365 subscription.
7. The cost of maintaining the playground including grass cutting came to £3,687.99 which was £893.92 higher than the previous year but was covered by the £3,000 donation from the Lottery Fund.
8. Miscellaneous for 2023/24 came to £837.45 which included £350 to transfer over to gov.uk email accounts and a laptop purchase of £499.99 for the clerk.

9. We ended 2023/24 with a deficit of -£2516.42 rather than a surplus of 7372.37 the previous year. This was due to the additional playground maintenance costs and was covered by the Lottery Fund donation.

4-14/05/24 Other Reports:

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**
- d) **Church Warden's Report**

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

- Concern about ESC's recent lack of engagement with environmental policies including:
 - cancellation of the district wide litter pick,
 - disappearance of the "pardon the weeds, we're feeding the bees signs,
 - why ESC is not doing more to protect the environment.
- Jobs completed this year include:
 - working with Bawdsey Parish Council to improve parking policy up to 4 hours,
 - fighting off planning application for campsite by river Deben near Ramsholt,
 - attempting to fight off closure of doctor's surgery in Hollesley, unsuccessfully,
 - engaging with landowners at Shingle Street to clear ditches at Rectory Road,
 - gave radio interview highlighting the need to work together to reduce flooding,
 - providing funding to support community initiatives across the peninsula.

6-14/05/24 Open Forum:

Issues discussed at the meeting included:

- Lack of mobile phone signal in the village causing major problems especially during power cuts, and what can be done about it.
- Concern about the dangers of merging traffic at the Hollesley/Sutton T junction on the B1083, with another serious accident occurring recently as well as several near misses.
- Speeding in the village is another concern with the lack of pavements, narrow roads and more families moving into the village, making the chance of an accident more likely.
- A request for the ANPR to be situated halfway down the hill coming into the village from Hollesley on its next visit to check on the speed of cars from this direction.
- Shottisham WI have asked the council to consider providing a small contribution towards improvements required at the Trust Hall, as it is an asset to the village.

Chairman:

Dated: