

Minutes of the Shotley Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 19th March 2015 at 7:15pm in the Large Committee Room, Shotley Village Hall.

Present: Councillors R Wrinch (Chairman), G Richens, M Williams, I Peters, T Ingram, N Bugg, G Pugh, B Nichols, District Cllr J Deacon, County Cllr D Woods and Mrs D Bedwell (Clerk).

In attendance: Mr R Cushing, Mr B Powell and three members of the public.

1. **To receive and consider apologies for absence:** Apologies had been received (and were duly approved) from Cllr J Catling.
2. **To receive declarations of interest** and consider any dispensation requests received: Cllr T Ingram declared a pecuniary interest on item 19.3 and Cllr N Bugg on item 19.2.
3. **Suspension of standing orders:** *Meeting open for 10 minutes to allow members of the public to speak:* A member of the public wished to ask the Parish Council if members knew when Faster Broadband would be installed in Shotley. Apparently some new BT boxes had been installed at the Shotley Gate end but not at the top end of the village. The member of the public was informed of the BT website where the installation timing and technical information could be found.
4. **To approve Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held 26 February 2015:** It was resolved to approve the minutes as a true record of the meeting held.
5. **Matters to report from previous meetings and to consider any further action:** There were no further matters to report.
6. **To receive reports:**
 - 6.1 District Councillor (JD/TR): District Cllr J Deacon gave members a verbal report, including: The Local Plan consultation was due to carry on until the end of the month; He would be standing down from his role at the next District Council elections and thanked the Parish Council for its hard work, as well as congratulating the Stour Footpath Group on their recent Community Award.

D Cllr J Deacon informed members that he would be attending the Ganges Planning Committee meeting and that he would be making a representation against the proposals. When asked if he could have a copy of the comments that the Parish Council intended to submit to the Committee, the Clerk in turn asked whether the Parish Council could also have a copy of D Cllr Deacon's comments as a matter of transparency. D Cllr J Deacon was unsure as to whether he was able to or wished do so, therefore the Clerk informed D Cllr Deacon that once the Parish Council received his comments, it would then be in a position to exchange theirs.
 - 6.2 County Councillor (DW): County Cllr D Wood gave members a verbal report, including: Congratulations to the Stour Footpath Group for winning a Community Award (which was sponsored by the Locality Budget); news that the Sunday bus service would continue, as it had proved to be very popular; C Cllr D Woods was currently working on a scheme for

Freston Crossroads and would be applying for a 40 mile/hr speed limit between Freston and Wolverstone after the elections. Cllr B Nichols asked if there was any evidence that speed had been the main cause of the road traffic collisions that had happened in the area. C Cllr D Woods replied that he believed that to be correct and that there had been two fatalities, a number of smaller injuries and the bus stop had been demolished twice. Cllr B Nichols asked if evidence that speed had been a contributing factor in such incidents could be supplied, as well as the pending traffic survey, alongside the application for the speed reduction, to enable the Parish Council to make an informed decision as to whether it would be in support of it when the consultation process started.

C Cllr D Woods stated that he hoped that the Parish Council, as representatives of the local residents, would be in favour of that proposal. He added that he also had to consider the strategic plan for the whole peninsula for the next few years. Cllr B Nichols added that a majority in the number of parishes did not necessarily mean a majority in terms of numbers of residents.

6.3 Safer Neighbourhood Team: A report had been circulated to members ahead of the meeting.

6.4 Website: A short report had been circulated ahead of the meeting and was presented by Cllr B Nichols.

6.5 Stour Footpath Group (GR): A report had been circulated ahead of the meeting and was presented by Cllr G Richens.

6.6 Heritage Park (GR): Included in item 6.5.

7. Play Areas: Proposals for a kick-wall at the Lloyd Road play area-to receive update and agree any action: Deferred.

8. Street furniture:

8.1 Signage near entrance to Marsh Lane footpath-update: This matter was currently being progressed.

8.2 Replacement of the existing sign at Ganges Wood update: This matter was also being progressed.

8.3 Village footpaths signs proposals - to agree actions: The Clerk had received a large definitive footpath map, which she handed to Cllr I Peters so that he could take it to a company in Ipswich in order to request a quote for the proposed signs.

9. Finance:

9.1 To receive, consider and note third quarter accounts (to 31 December 2014): Deferred.

9.2 To receive and note bank balances: Deferred (Clerk was waiting to receive a new pin-sentry access card and could not access the accounts online).

9.3 To consider and approve any further accounts for payment : It was resolved to approve the following accounts for payment:

9.3.1 SVHMC meeting venue hire £193.00

10. **Babergh Housing:** To receive update on no 9 Kingsland (reportedly vacant for approx. 12 months): The Clerk had spoken with a representative of Babergh DC Housing and had been informed that they were aware of this case and that the matter was being investigated by the Enforcement Team.
11. **To receive and update the Clerk's Action List:** The list had been circulated to members and was updated at the meeting.
12. **To receive election briefing:** The Clerk gave members the election briefing, which would also be put on the Noticeboard for the general public. The Clerk agreed to collect all the nomination papers from Councillors wishing to stand and deliver them to Babergh's offices before the deadline. Cllr T Ingram asked when the Parish Council could go through the process of applying to have a larger number of Councillors and the Clerk agreed to include this item for consideration at a future meeting after the May APCM.
13. **To receive nominations for the Shotley Community Award:** A number of nominations were received from members.
14. **Former H M S Ganges Site-** To receive update and agree representation for Planning Committee meeting: It was agreed that Cllr R Wrinch would represent the Parish Council at the impending Babergh District Council Planning Committee meeting and the Clerk was asked to send the written comments, in favour of the proposals, to the Planning Committee ahead of the meeting. Other Shotley representatives were also expected to be in attendance, such as Cllr N Bugg (representing the local community), Mr Derek Davis (representing the Ganges Museum), and Mrs B Powell, G Richens and G Pugh (representing the Footpath Group).
15. **Planning matters:** To consider response on applications received from Babergh and note any decisions made:
 - 15.1 B/15/00095/ADV Lasan Indian Takeaway- advertisement consent: It was resolved to recommend the approval of this planning application.
 - 15.2 B/15/00135 Croftdown, Estuary Road, Shotley- Erection of 1 no. one and a half storey replacement dwelling following demolition of existing bungalow- It was resolved to recommend the refusal; of this planning application. The Parish Council firmly believed that the proposed development would have a devastating effect on the neighbouring properties and residents. The proposed development was too radically different in architectural design and dimensions, the materials proposed were certainly not in keeping with the area and the concept proposed is extreme. The proposed development would also have a very adverse effect on the character and appearance of this AONB (bordering and SSSI).

The proposed development would in effect remove all the visual amenity currently enjoyed by residents and would also result in an almost total loss of light. There was also an extremely strong concern that the proposed development would create a precedent and could also have a domino effect, with neighbouring properties being at risk of increasing the dimensions of their own properties in order to re-acquire the amenities that would be lost.

Furthermore, the Parish Council believed that the demolition works needed by the proposals would cause significant ground disturbance to the two closest neighbouring properties, fact already evidenced by the disturbance on the Shotley cliff.

The Parish Council was very concerned that the application itself had a number of inaccuracies and that the affected neighbouring residents had not been given sufficient time to submit their comments. The Parish Council would also like to ask the planning officer in this case to actually visit the site and carry out a consultation with the neighbouring properties.

- 16. To receive and note correspondence** and consider any responses required (DB): No further correspondence had been received.
- 17. Reports from Councillors on matters not itemised on agenda/to be included in next agenda (All):**
Cllr I Peters informed members that there was an impending drastic increase in the annual rent of Lasan Take Away. The Clerk informed members that as this was an item of commercial nature, it was outside of the remit of the Parish Council.

Cllr R Wrinch reported that a large crack was appearing on the culvert prior to Charity Farm and that it should be reported to SCC Highways.

Temporary exclusion of press and public: *That pursuant to the Public Bodies (Admission at meetings) Act 1960 the Public and Press be excluded from the meeting due to the confidential nature of the business to be discussed*

- 18. To receive update on the Noticeboard's current position and agree any actions**
- 19. To review the following contracts and agree any amendments needed:**
- 19.1 Grass cutting
 - 19.2 Shotley Street Warden
 - 19.3 Shotley Gate Warden and wc cleaner

Date of next meeting: 9th April 2015 (Osac); 16th April 2015 (PC); 23rd April (APM)

With no further matter to be conducted, the meeting ended at 10:10pm.

Signed: _____ Date: _____