

*Letter from Mr Barrie Powell, Chairman of the Shotley Parish Council, Bristol House, Bristol Hill, Shotley Gate*

"It is saddening to see the amount of incorrect information being levelled at the Shotley Parish Council. In this respect I would state the following:

At the Public Meeting, called for by Mr Derek Davis and held at the Bristol Arms on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> February, many gestures were offered by Council members to resolve any misunderstandings between certain groups without success.

This was followed up at the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> February, where it was noted that the Parish Council was doing all it could to facilitate Phase 3 of the coastal erosion protection.

It is very difficult to explain to a public the position of this Council whilst they are being fired up by remarks from persons about subjects of which they have limited or selective knowledge. However, it was a pleasure to see so many visitors come along to our Council Meeting and many of the problems were discussed in a polite and sensible manner resulting in, I am sure, a better understanding of the difficulties with the work on the foreshore.

A much needed meeting with the Statutory Bodies had already been called by the Parish Council in January following the storm damage, which will now be headed by Suffolk County Council on March 27<sup>th</sup> when, no doubt, all the challenges, legalities and possibilities will be discussed.

The Council is fully aware that something needs to be done to the foreshore and many efforts are being made in this direction, but it must be realised that many thousands of pounds are required before such a vast project can even be started.

Finance is not forthcoming from any source at this moment including the Statutory Bodies, let alone the Parish or District Councils. We have just received various quotations for repairs to the small section of damaged defences which, as mentioned at the meeting, were only completed six years ago. The quotes vary from a very simple temporary repair (sticking plaster) for £5,000 to a more comprehensive £55,000 as assessed by the Internal Drainage Board.

We are currently given the princely sum of £2,500 per year for upkeep of the foreshore, but this is a grant and as such is not guaranteed every year.

Unlike what may have been reported to you incorrectly, the Parish Council is fully supportive of Phase 3, as long as it is led and managed by a Statutory Body with all the relevant acumen and sufficient funding at their disposal."