

## **Shotley Parish Council Summary- September 2020**

While most of the Country went into lockdown in March, the Parish Council has continued to be as active as ever, even though we had to adapt to virtual meetings, which are due to continue for the foreseeable future.

There have been a lot of challenges during this time, from having to temporarily stand down all our contractors, to divesting additional powers to the Clerk to ensure service continuity. Our Public conveniences and play areas had to close and our open spaces couldn't be maintained for a while, but as lockdown eased, our efforts to get back to some normality continued in earnest.

Here are some of the things we have been "up to":

- We repaired barriers and steps at the Heritage Park, and removed a fallen tree
- We continued to support the Shotley Community Orchard
- We liaised with local authorities following reports of excessive coastal foraging
- We provided funding of £200 towards the defibrillator being organised by the Shotley Open Spaces
- We cut back the overgrown verges between the Primary School and East View Terrace
- We reported various matters to SCC Highways and these have been actioned
- We have worked with Shotley Corona Buddies in the provision of a food parcel scheme (full report on the next issue of "In Touch")

**Ganges swimming pool:** Whilst providing an update on the Ganges development, following an interview with BBC Radio Suffolk, it became apparent that some of our parishioners were not aware of changes with regards to the swimming pool.

The Parish Council had been approached in 2017 by the developers as it had become apparent that refurbishing the swimming pool would not be financially viable- *please refer to minutes of meeting held in June*

<http://shotley.onesuffolk.net/assets/Uploads/Parish/Meetings/Minutes/2017/MINUTES-20170615-PC-Meeting.pdf>. There had been an agreed amount of £40,000 for a feasibility study and it was suggested that this amount could, instead, be used for other community projects. This amount remains with the developers to this day.

At the August 2020 meeting, members of the public raised the possibility of forming a Community Group which would look at carrying out feasibility studies, applying for funding and putting together a business plan. The Parish Council agreed to approach the developers in order to request that the demolition was put on hold to give such a Community Group chance to be formed and look at possibilities.

The cost of clearing the site of asbestos and refurbishing it, about a decade ago, was estimated at just over £1.2Million. This is expected to have increased since. There would also be the additional revenue costs, such as energy, staff, maintenance, etc... All items which will need to be taken into account by the Community Group. We await Haylink's response.

**Mrs Eileen Bugg:** We would like to take this opportunity to wish Eileen a happy retirement from her role as Warden for the Shotley Parish Council. Eileen has looked after the "dry end" of the village for over two decades and has carried out her role with a smile on her face and a kind word to passers-by. For all your hard work and dedication Eileen, Thank you!!!