

This is a brief summary of the key points from the **Shotley Annual Parish Council Meeting**, held on **17 May 2012**. More details will be in the minutes next month.

Councillor Richard Wrinch and **Clr Mel Matthews** again agreed to stand as Chairman and Vice Chairman respectively. The line up of Councillors is broadly similar to last year, with one new face joining us in February – Michael Vaughan – a long-term resident of Shotley, Bob Higgs unfortunately having to stand down in late 2011.

HMS Ganges - Babergh Planning advised that they had reviewed all the documents from a validation point of view and found that they did not have all the information they needed to be able to determine the application. Haylink are currently now preparing these for submission.

Councillor David Wood advised that the Buzabout had lost its SCC fuel subsidy and would not be running its evening service any longer as it was not financial viable, day services however were safe for the next four years.

There had only been **one crime last month** – that of criminal damage to Jill Nunn’s plant pots in her front garden.

Babergh had approved the **planning application** for Blacksmiths Cottage – erection of a cartlodge with storage in roof.

The **Council** agreed to grant £500 to cover some Jubilee Celebration Funday costs and to provide a memento for primary school children.

Photographs were taken of all councillors, the clerk and the responsible financial officer to appear on the website along with a biopic of each – the website would be re-launched as soon as practicable.

The **Footpath Group** reported that things had moved forward regarding the picnic area’s owners and these enquiries were being followed up.

Councillor Tony Roberts advised that Babergh and Mid Suffolk’s Revenue and Benefit Services had combined with Ipswich and a new computer system was in place. The Joint Strategy Committee’s decision to not sell any surplus premises had been challenged and would be looked at in more detail.

Councillor Tony Ingram had attended a “Peer Group Review” of the BDC/MSDC merger of services and reported that the consensus of meeting was that communication had been very difficult over the past 2-3 months with many departments hard to get hold of either by phone or e-mail and that the Council Tax department had a 5-6 week backlog of work.

Nominations for the **Shotley Community Achievement Awards** were Allana Baxter, Matt Clarke and Derek Long – presentations to be made to the nominees at the Annual Parish Meeting on 24 May (depending on availability).

Linda Rowlands - Shotley Parish Clerk

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