

**Minutes of the Shotley Annual Parish meeting held on Thursday 27 May 2009 at
7.30pm in the Shotley Village Hall**

Present: Councillors: M Matthews (Chair), J Catling, T Ingram, B Nichols, G Steel, and Clerk: L Rowlands and RFO: D Bedwell

In attendance: PCSO Trish Gibson, County Councillor D Wood, District Councillors P Clarke and T Roberts and representatives from local organisations

Meeting commenced 7.30pm

The Chair welcomed participants to the meeting.

Susie Tyrell was introduced and gave a talk on the “**Surf and Turf**” project. Local schoolchildren would be working with The London Sinfonietta composing music and poetry inspired by Suffolk’s changing landscapes, traditions and memories. Local people were also urged to contribute their thoughts and ideas to the project and to attend the performances to be held at The Shipwreck on Thursday 4th June at 5pm and 7pm.

1. **Presentation of the Shotley Village Achievement Awards** – Ian Peters, Beverley Coleman, Richard Jackaman and Eileen Bugg were presented with certificates and thanked for their various good works in and around the village.
2. **Apologies for absence** – Cllr Wrinch (other commitment),
3. **To agree the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 22 May 2008** – These having been circulated beforehand were signed as a true and accurate record by the Chairman.
4. **Reports from:**
 - a. Chairman
 - Apologies from our chair Richard Wrinch, he’s been detained at the Suffolk Show on very important business, I believe it involves eating and drinking....!
 - I’ll start by repeating the beginning of Richard’s speech from last year...! There appears to have been very little change in the Ganges situation – I shant go into detail here as Cllr Steel will give us more information later. However the deteriorating condition of the mast will hopefully be addressed very shortly now that it has been seen by expert riggers - Galliard Homes have been made aware of how important this mast is to the public, both locally and nationally!
 - It’s very encouraging to see that two new volunteer led groups have started life in the village over the past year, The Community Responders and the Shotley Stour Footpath Renovation Group, both of whom we will hear from later. And after the launch of the Shotley Youth News Film on Tuesday, we have high hopes for the resurrection of a new youth group in Shotley
 - The work that should have started to knock down and replace Shotley Lodge with flats seems to have been delayed and as yet we have no starting date.
 - We are still waiting, the result of the Boundary Commission Report which was due last year to see how Suffolk will be governed in the near future.
 - The Alcohol Tagging Scheme launched by the Safer Neighbourhood Team last year has been a great success and has had the added benefit of reducing litter as our ‘outdoor drinkers’ all seem to be taking the evidence home with them!
 - Our Community Warden continues to be a very welcome addition to Shotley, many people have commented on how smart Shotley is looking these days and the young people do really appreciate the Graffiti Wall which was his idea, thank you Matt!

- We have a new webmaster for the Myshotley Website, which we believe continues to be the most visited village website in the County and possibly the Country
- Finally, I would like to welcome our two new Councillors, Graham Brown and Bernard Nichols, who were only gently press-ganged.... and thanks once again to Linda Rowlands our Parish Clerk, Dina Bedwell the Responsible Financial Officer and also my fellow Councillors for all their hard work, with a special thank you from the Council and Linda to Graham Steel for his continued efforts in dealing with the massive amounts of communications we, as a Council receive, in connection with the Ganges site
- and last but not least - our thanks are extended to the WI (and my mum) for the refreshments this evening.

Cllr Mel Matthews

b.

Responsible Financial Officer

- In the last financial year, the Council granted almost £7,500 to local organisations. We have increased next years' budget to £8.215 as it was felt that many small organisations may depend on our support to get their projects off the ground in the current financial climate.
- A few of those who benefited: Soup- a-Lunch, Over 60's Club, Headway, Optua, St. Mary's Church, Drama Group, Kidzone and Shotley Primary School
- The repair to the breached Stour footpath resulted in an unbudgeted spend of £5.933.15. The rest of the cost was covered by BELSP (£3000), SCC Rights of Way (£4000) and Locality Budget (£1000).
- The budget for Contingencies and Parish Property maintenance totalling £13.500.00 was not spent and this figure was reduced accordingly for the next financial year.
- In salaries, the Council spent £2.710.00 less than budgeted for and this is including the newly appointed Village Warden.
- The Playgrounds fund now stands at £15.000.00 and the Council still holds £7.000.00 from the BELSP funding for the Village Hall Kitchen and £10.000.00 for the Tennis Courts, totalling £32.000.00 in earmarked reserves.
- The Councils' general reserves stand at £16.435.54.
- The precept requested for 2009/2010 was £44.125.98, which represents an increase of £6.283.98 (16.605%). Taking into account that there are 1027 properties in the village, this increase translates into an extra £6.11 a year per household. It is this Council's objective to use this income to increase the Tennis Courts fund and to start the Parish Plan Implementation Plan 2. The Council has also increased its budget for S137 by nearly £3000, as previously mentioned.
- The year end accounts have been produced and there are nil differences to be explained. Please refer to the Notice Of Appointment Of Date For The Exercise Of Electors Rights on our notice board should you wish to inspect these accounts.

Dina Bedwell, Responsible Financial Officer

c.

Safer Neighbourhood Team – An annual report summarising the number of crimes was presented to the meeting for the period April 08-March 09. Crimes had come down compared to the previous year from 133 to 99.

d.

County Councillor - The County Council this year has yet again been extremely busy; with the preparation of business cases for the continually delayed Local Government review, as well as preparing for and setting the yearly budget in February. There have also been a number of county led consultations, with both the Schools organisational review, and on the potential incinerator sites.

County Council Budget - The County Council met in February to set a council tax of 2.45% for 2009/2010. This in conjunction with an extra grant from the Government of

£8.8m meant that the County Council has to find a further £12.5m of savings from the budgets. The savings for this year have come from a variety of sources,

Adult and Community Services	£7.112m
Children and Young Persons Services	£2.570m
Environment & Transport	£1.5m
Public Protection	£0.28m
Resource Management	£0.94m

These savings are mainly through so called efficiency savings; however, there are a number of areas which cause me concern.

- £55,000 savings from Public Transport
- £80,000 cut from Schools, forcing schools to pay for non-statutory services such as dance, drama and extra-curricular sports themselves
- £43,000 cut from trading standards
- £470,000 from Adult and Community Services who have removed the cap on charges for those using the Council care homes

As well as this the budget also sets out the number of capital programmes over the next few years. This included the Schools Organisational Review, as well as an investment into Social workers (£3.8m over three years) and safeguarding vulnerable adults (£660,000).

During the County Council meeting, an amendment was submitted, which called for a reinvestment into Adult and Community services, and freezing the salaries of those over £50,000. The Liberal Democrats supported this amendment as it addressed the shortfall in funding for Adult and Community Services, as well as the growing level of salaries at the county council.

The Local Government Review has been worked on throughout the year. Firstly draft proposals were released for consultation between July and September 2008. These drafts consisted of a recommended proposal of an Ipswich and Felixstowe unitary, and a Rural Suffolk Unitary. In addition to this the Boundary Committee allowed a consultation on a One Suffolk unitary, as it believed it had merit, but was not their primary choice. Both of these draft proposals excluded Lowestoft, and placed the town into a either a large Norfolk wide unitary or a wedge made up of Norwich, Great Yarmouth and Lowestoft.

The consultation up until this point had gone smoothly, with the announcement for the Boundary Committees recommendations expected in December of 2008, unfortunately this was then delayed until February, after districts in Devon (which was part of the wider changes) called for a Judicial Review. The resulting decision forced the Boundary Committee to consult on the proposals yet again, but to have equal merit on all draft proposals, both, the North Haven/Greater Suffolk Unitaries and the One Suffolk Unitary were presented in this latest document with equal weight. All of the proposals for Suffolk included the town of Lowestoft within their borders.

This second round of consultation began in March, and lasted until the 14th of May; the Boundary is now compiling the responses from this further consultation, and hopes to

report them to the Secretary of State on the 15th of July. This will then give the Secretary of State to put the order through parliament before a potential General election.

However, as soon as the consultation closed, three District Councils, Forest Heath, St. Edmundsbury, and Suffolk Coastal have submitted a paper to the High Court believing that the Boundary Committee had failed on its objectives as set out by the Secretary of State at the beginning of the process. These criteria were;

- Attract a broad cross section of support
- Provide for strong, effective and accountable strategic leadership
- Deliver the empowerment of citizens and communities
- Provide for value-for-money services
- Be affordable

The three district council's main issue is with the first of the five criteria, believing that a three unitary system across Suffolk does indeed have a broad cross section of support with a recent survey suggesting 76%, and not being allowed to consult on that option goes against this specific criterion. We are now waiting to hear on any further developments.

Previous to this recent decision the District and County Councils were asked to help the Boundary Committee in building the business cases for the draft proposals. A result of this is that the potential new councils can be costed, and compared for their affordability. These figures have now been released showing;

County unitary authority

The best estimate of the cost of changing from a system of two-tier local government to a county unitary authority is £41.7m.

It is estimated that this cost may be covered from savings of £68.4m, and that it will take about three and a half years to recover this cost.

Two unitary authorities Ipswich & Felixstowe and Rural Suffolk

The best estimate of the cost of changing from a system of two-tier local government to two unitary authorities is £64.5m.

It is estimated that this cost may be covered from savings of £90.1m and that it will take about 3 and a half years to recover this cost.

It will not be necessary to increase the average council tax in Suffolk as a result of the change to unitary local government. The actual levels of council tax will be decided by the new authorities.

I must commend the hard work of all the officers from both the County Council and the district councils in compiling all the required information for the Boundary Committee.

Further information will appear on the Boundary Committee website (<http://www.boundarycommittee.org.uk>).

School's Organisational Review - Suffolk County Council's Administration has continued with its plan to review the organisation of schools in Suffolk, moving to an all two-tier school system.

In March 2008 the second stage of the review, which saw middle schools in the Lowestoft and Haverhill areas abolished and plans to move to two tier system set in place. As part of these recommendations, all middle schools in these two areas would close, with young people remaining in primary schools until the age of 11 before transferring to a secondary school.

This has now been extended, with notices being placed for those schools in group 2 - Beccles, Bungay, Leiston, Mildenhall and Newmarket.

Further information about the next stages in the process can be found here: www.suffolk.gov.uk/sor - or by phoning: 08456 031842.

Public Questions - In May 2008, the County Council agreed a motion from the Liberal Democrats, to allow public questions in full Council meetings.

This means that members of the public now have a 20 minute period at the beginning of each Full Council meeting to question the administration and hold them to account.

The Council constitution has now changed so that the public can submit their questions four days before the council meeting, and either ask it at the meeting, or have a written answer provided for them.

For more information please head to -

<http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/CouncilAndDemocracy/CommitteesAgendasReportsandMinutes/PublicQuestionTimeatCountyCouncilMeetings.htm>

Waste - The waste consultation was held over the Christmas break, and asked for individual's thoughts into the five sites selected by the planning department. This was all site specific and did not commit to which technology would be used on the selected site.

The sites were:

1. **Former Sproughton Sugar Factory, Sproughton**
2. **Shepherds Grove Industrial Estate, Stanton**
3. **Eye Airfield Industrial Estate, Eye and Brome**
4. **Masons Quarry, Great Blakenham**
5. **Suffolk County Highways Depot, Great Blakenham**

Site five has already been earmarked to be the best place to receive Energy from Waste incinerator, but we have not yet had any indication what could be placed on the other four sites.

The incinerator option was originally intended to cost council taxpayers £541 million over a 28 year period from 2011, in March this figure was increased to £612 million over 28 years. Concerns have been raised about the facility regarding the potential effects on the environment, human health, house prices in the area and the effect on recycling rates in the County.

The Liberal Democrat group submitted a response covering the major points for each site, and urged the county council to reconsider the use of incinerator to deal with the waste in the County. We instead suggested that it would be better to employ Mechanical Biological

treatment, as it produces minimal emissions, and encourages recycling rates, which is essential to be the greenest county.

Please find the consultation document and further information at this address
<http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/Environment/MineralsAndWastePlanning/WastePlanning/WasteDevelopmentFramework.htm>

NATS - This year has also seen the suggested alteration of the stacking arrangements for Stansted airport. This could result in many of the stacks heading over rural areas in the county. A consultation was launched last year to test the public's responses to the proposals.

Originally the Conservative administration refused to hold any meeting with NATS and the Councillors affected, as they believed the issues were too complex. Eventually a small number of meetings were created and feedback over the proposals was given to the National Air Traffic Service.

More information over the location of the proposed stacks can be found at
<http://www.nats.co.uk> There is also news of a further consultation about the proposed stacks to be launched later this year.

Locality budget - Over the past year I'm pleased to have been able to help a number of organisations in my division. Some of the projects I have supported are listed through the link below. I'm pleased that the locality budget will be remaining at the same level next year. Should any of you have any projects or organisations which you feel would benefit from some locality money, please do get in touch.

<http://www.suffolkcc.gov.uk/central/members/LocalityBudgets.htm>

Cllr David Wood, Suffolk County Council

- e. District Councillor - Another year has passed. It has been dominated by the Local Government Review consultation following rejection of Ipswich's application to become an all services unitary authority. After further delays, we're now being consulted on two options. These are for one single Suffolk unitary, or two separate unitaries – North Haven, roughly covering Ipswich to Felixstowe and Rural Suffolk covering the rest of the county including Lowestoft – now thankfully, in the latest documents, back in Suffolk. Both signal the end of SCC and all the district and borough councils (but not the parish councils); all will then be integrated into whatever final decision is made by the Secretary of State. Status quo is not an option. After much careful consideration - of crucial issues such as equalisation of council tax and democratic representation - Babergh has continued to support the two unitary option - albeit pointing out that we continue to prefer our first suggestion, for a much more thoughtful east/west split. The Boundary Committee tell us they will publish their final recommendations on 15 July. Rumours abound as to whether all this will go ahead or not. Especially after the present hoo ha about MPs expenses.

This last year - and now, this year - Babergh managed to keep its 10% element of the total council tax down to 2.9% - within the lowest 20% nationally for District and Borough councils. The financial downturn made this year's budget incredibly difficult to prepare against rising costs and falling interest rates. You will have been relieved to learn Babergh did not invest in the Icelandic bank. Amongst Babergh's many activities are increases in affordable housing, energy efficiency projects, council housing improvements, disabled adaptations, leisure schemes including Hadleigh's proposed community provision, a major play area project in Great Cornard, the Youth Conference and sports projects, work with

the police on alcohol and antisocial behaviour issues, food inspection and all those planning and licence applications. A fuller list is with your parish clerk.

Of more direct interest

- Babergh has worked with parish councils to rescue 28 telephone boxes
- The Coop has bought the Wherstead Park site which can only help our local economy
- Babergh added £80 k to its community fund - which helps to fund all kinds of local projects.
- The Babergh East Local Strategic Partnership has arranged four credit crunch roadshows – details coming to all residents shortly
- With the sub regional Haven gateway, the possibility of establishing two dry ports is under investigation, one on the ex sugar site at Sproughton, one on the previous industrial site at Brantham.

Woolverstone is to be congratulated on commissioning and gaining acceptance of its Conservation Area Appraisal. Down at Pin Mill, after much hard work and engineering input, the planned restoration of the Hard and the setting up of a local management body has received funding from the Haven gateway sub regional body. In Shotley, substandard housing on Kingsland and Queensland is being replaced through a Housing Association. Valiant efforts to repair the Stour path are being made. Young people have interviewed residents and made a film. Things are beginning to move on getting more help for them. Everyone is to be congratulated on their efforts to keep the area clean via litter collection days. Emergency planning, both County wide and local has received a lot of attention; swine flu levels are being watched carefully. A County flood risk group (our worry is Ipswich) has also just been set up. Healthy living, obesity, getting young people into education or training, all of these is part of the overall Suffolk priorities, engaging all councils.

But the major preoccupation of Shotley residents and those living on the B1456 has to be the Ganges reserved matters planning application. This application consists of the details – called reserved matters – relating to the already approved and existing outline planning permission for 404 retirement homes. The developer resuscitated this after the previous application for 325 houses, challenged by residents, was rejected. The application includes a nursing home and has of course major health service implications. It is at last, nearing Development Committee consideration (no date yet though) following further consultation procedures on the Environmental Assessment. These include a report made by an independent specialist organisation. The main stumbling blocks are the existence of outline planning permission for the 404 retirement homes – and the retirement age quoted as 50 which have quite unrealistic implications for traffic and local services. Whilst this is entirely a Shotley application, the parishes of Freston, Woolverstone and Chelmondiston have all expressed strong concern about the potential traffic implications and there is strong support between them for ensuring their voice is heard. Your council has been particularly vigorous in keeping things under review. Shotley has kept a close eye on all the processes this application has engendered so that the Parish Council's final responses are fully thought through. To be honest, I have to say that the well informed quality of response from all four councils strikes me as outstanding.

The Ganges Mast, as you know, is required to be repaired and restored by the developer as it is now listed.

Your village is also involved in another very significant if long term Peninsula project. Working with Sustrans – and hopefully, local landowners - its aim is to create a cycle and pedestrian path between Shotley and Ipswich. It may take time and perseverance, but so do all the best schemes.

Cllr Penny Clarke, District Councillor

- f. Parish Plan Implementation Board - Of the 17 or so proposals in the Parish Plan the great majority have been implemented resulting in many thousands of pounds being invested in the community. The following are still being worked on:
- Developing the tennis courts at Shotley Gate
 - A working party including other parishes to discuss the future of the GP surgery
 - The refurbishment of the village hall kitchen
 - Youth Forum/Council

Earlier this year our very capable chair Anna Long decided to take early retirement from the Board and we thank her for her hard work. Janet Norden, Roger Ross and Jim Caitlin all joined the board throughout the past year.

We were also joined by Tessa Brown who has become the new "Webmaster" of www.myshotley.com replacing Jeremy Peters who moved away from the area. The community owes a great debt of thanks to Jeremy not only for establishing a great web site but also for his invaluable help in putting together the PP and ensuring so much of it was implemented. The website attracts more than 12,000 visitors a month and Tessa has already started making changes such as the new for sale and wanted facility to make it even more of a community resource.

The PP was published in late 2006 drawing on research and data from the previous 18 months. Five years is a long time in a community, new priorities may need to be set, this will require a fresh analysis of our aspirations and resources

Local Government Review, if implemented, will require the new unitary authorities to establish new Community Strategies, Local Area Agreements and Local Strategic Partnerships (the policies for all their activities) and a new Local Development Framework (the document that translates the policy into Planning Policy)

The political and local government agenda has moved on with new responsibilities and opportunities for PCs and communities for example Supplementary Planning Documents, greater possibilities for delegated services and more power to work in partnerships.

Tonight, therefore we begin the process of considering Parish Plan 2 to develop a new strategy for our community. If you want to help shape the future for Shotley and want to know more about the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats we face socially, economically and environmentally, then we want to meet you.

Cllr Graham Steel
Convenor Parish Plan Implementation Board

- g. Shotley Community Emergency Plan – The Plan was launched in early 2008 and an excerpt from it is reproduced below.

Welcome to the Shotley Parish Council Community Emergency Plan
Produced in partnership with the local community, parish council and Strategic Continuity Ltd, a consultancy specialising in emergency planning, our plan sets out how Shotley Parish Council will provide local assistance and parish information in support of the emergency services in times of a major emergency.
Emergency defined as an event or situation which: threatens serious injury to life or homelessness, damage to property, or effects the supply of food, water, energy or fuel, causes disruption of a system of communication, transport, health or serious damage to the environment.

Widespread **emergencies are generally related to severe weather and/or failure in essential public services/utilities. The former tends to cause the latter. If the emergency services are unable to meet the initial demand for assistance they may prioritise their response in favour of the neediest areas. Shotley may be physically or practically isolated from outside help in the short term.**

Civil Contingencies Act 2004 imposes a legal duty on local authorities and a moral responsibility for town and parish councils to prepare and maintain Emergency Plans.

Shotley Parish Council has formed a small team of volunteers to form an Emergency Team. It hopes to recruit more volunteers to help in times of emergency and make use of local resources. Good local pre-planning, coordination and communications will ensure that local assistance is applied to best effect in a widespread emergency.

How prepared are we for an emergency?

What would our community do if we were isolated and unlikely to receive external assistance for 24 hours or more?

- Who would take the lead in coordinating any local response?
- Do we know what resources, human or otherwise, are available within the community for use in such an emergency?
- Would our community be able to put these resources to best use and later integrate them with external assistance?
- Are we aware who the most vulnerable people are within our community during an emergency and what their special needs are?
- Is the community aware of any significant local hazards, which may exacerbate a general emergency situation?

In the initial stages of an emergency we will:

- Activate the Community Emergency Plan and emergency information webpage on MyShotley.com, providing timely updates, advice and information. Government resilience advice is that people should go home, tune in to the radio and follow advice.
- Open and set up a pre-designated Community Emergency Centre and nominate a Response Coordinator who will liaise with the emergency services.
- Advise the Police that the centre is open; provide contact details and a local situation report.
- Mobilise necessary human and physical resources.
- Ensure there are adequate communications with mobilised resources.
- Set up and staff a Temporary Rest Centre if necessary.
- Coordinate availability of human and physical resources on a priority basis.
- Provide information to the community, using MyShotley.com, local radio, and where necessary information posters on the community notice boards.

What should I do in an Emergency?

- Call 999 and listen to the advice of the emergency services.
- Check on your neighbours.
- Go in, stay in, tune in to the local radio and follow advice.

Prepare:

- A list of useful phone numbers such as your doctor and close friends and relatives.
- Home and car keys.
- Toiletries and prescribed medication.
- A battery radio with spare batteries.

- A torch, spare batteries, candles and matches.
- First aid kit.
- Mobile phone.
- Cash and credit cards.
- Spare clothes and blankets.

What should I do before an Emergency?

Know:

- Where and how to turn off water, gas and electricity supplies in your home.
- The emergency procedures for your children at school.
- The emergency procedures at your place of work.
- How you will stay in contact with your family in the event of an emergency.
- If you have elderly or vulnerable neighbours that might need your help.
- How to tune into your local radio station.
- How to contact your Household Insurers.
- If you are in a flood risk area, check by going to www.environment.agency.gov.uk or by calling 0845 988 1188.
- Keep a stock of bottled water, ready to eat food (e.g. rice, pasta, tinned food, and a bottle / tin opener.
- Stock up on heating products: coal, wood, bottled gas

Cllr Graham Brown

h. Stour Footpath Renovation Group - In 2008, Shotley Parish Council organised repairs to a section of the Stour Footpath to prevent the further loss of this well used amenity. The footpath has been a feature of the Shotley landscape for many years and once ran alongside an access road at the bottom of Bristol Hill to the former Brickyards.

In recent years a major upgrade of the access to Shotley Marina has transformed a once hazardous single track potholed 'road' into a virtual 'promenade' where residents and visitors can stroll to the Marina along a riverside walkway in safety, and vehicular access is along a properly constructed roadway, well lit and signposted.

Oh yes, Shotley Gate really has entered the 21st Century. Or has it? When you reach the bottom of Bristol Hill, take a look to your right - what do you see? A beautiful river view across to Parkeston Quay, in the distance the Essex shoreline up river towards Manningtree. The clock tower of the Royal Hospital School at Holbrook. Sailboats bobbing gently along the water often dwarfed by the impressive enormity of the 'Jewel of the Seas' cruise ship.

As many many people do, let me take you on a journey up the public footpath alongside the rivers edge. As we step off the road onto the mud we approach the picnic area. I say 'picnic area' because I recognise the remains of the benches that once used to frame the tables where families used to gather for sandwiches and a flask of tea. Maybe we could rest awhile and yearn for those days gone by....better make it quick, goodness knows how long before these remaining bits of timber join their tables at the bottom of the Stour. As we stumble on westwards down the remains of the footpath we eventually have to make a decision - do we go up the steps to Stourside or do we turn back? It really would have been lovely to carry on alongside the river as many Shotley residents and visitors have in previous years. Still, I suppose we should think ourselves lucky to have come this far, as who knows how long before the rest of the cliff collapses, the steel piles installed in the 1950's completely rust away and the authorities move their considerable expertise and resources into action and erect some really lovely signs - '**Footpath Closed**'.

Here's the deal. Give us three years and a bit of support. Imagine it's 2012. The picnic area is very busy. Through the secure gateway children and adults enjoy the afternoon sunshine. The viewing gallery is busy also, and the two pay-to-view telescopes are fully occupied as the Shotley Sailing Club regatta is in full swing. The proceeds from the telescopes are used to keep the newly re-instated footpath and picnic area clean and tidy. Along the footpath into the distance families with children in pushchairs are strolling along to Cockle Creek, occasionally stopping at one of several park benches provided for their comfort along the way.

It has been an amazing transformation. The footpath no longer disappears up the cliff to Stourside. The erosion of Shotley Cliff has been stopped, and the footpath restored along the foreshore all the way to Cockle Creek. Now, for a distance of about half a mile, the area is a credit to the community. A showcase for what is achievable with enthusiasm, organisation and of course, money.

That's the vision. In February this year, Shotley Parish Council organised a meeting to see if there was enough support from the community to form a Footpath Renovation Group. Support was overwhelming, and hence the formation of the Working Group. Our aim is to Reinststate, Repair and Improve the amenity of a half mile section of the Stour Footpath, and restore the existing picnic area to a high standard, for the benefit of walkers and wheelchair users.

Further information on the footpath to be improved can be seen on our display board which is on permanent view in the reception of the Shipwreck at Shotley Marina. As the Group begins to mature, progress will be reported on www.myshotley.com and in the local newsletter.

Gary Richens

5. Verbal/written reports from local organisations:

- a. Royal British Legion – The Shotley, Erwarton and District Branch of the Royal British Legion has been very active this past two years with members of the Branch attending Various Military and Civil Parades. These being the Anzac Parade in Woodbridge with the Branch Chairman assisting as a RAF Regt Parade Marshall, as the Standard Bearer at the County and Group Rallies in Aldeburgh and Ipswich. The County Rally 2009 is at Felixstowe on the 12th July at 14:00hrs at St. John the Baptist Church. The Group Rally will be at either Bramford or Ipswich. When the Chairman is unable to carry the Branch Standard, a Sea Cadet does it for us.

The Branch is making slow but steady recruitment of members and although there was no increase in overall numbers we are holding our own compared too many other branches, especially Ipswich which only has 20 Active Members!

The Chairman reports to the Branch and Parish that the affiliation process with the Ipswich Sea Cadets has happened and this should give the Branch extra Poppy Appeal Collectors, the Cadets their D of E Service Commitment and a base for youth members to join at the age of 14, at this moment but it may change very shortly to 12 align with the new Cadet / Youth Organisation ages Numbers, although we could do with a lot more local faces. Membership of this Welfare Organisation is open to all, please come and help/join if you can. We hope to have stand at events in the area.

The County Chairman said that we had done well in our outside profile this past two years reflecting all the work that had been put in. Various Ceremonial events had been attended as well as the Chairman and two other County members running a Youth Standard Bearers Competition for the County of Suffolk, this was successful in that a Suffolk Cadet since gone on to become the Eastern Region Champion and would have won the National Competition apart from the fact that he broke his ankle competing in a Cadet National

Cross Country Competition. It is hoped he will be nominated to carry the Cadet National Standard at the next Festival of Remembrance.

The Suffolk Show went well with Shotley's Standard taking part. The Remembrance Day, School and Sunday Parades went very well with a Sea Cadet (William Ives) from Shotley laying a wreath in the River Orwell on Behalf of the RBL. Many thanks to those who helped this happen, many will note a more wreaths are being laid than before, this is to include all whom have served, who live in or have lived in the village, remembering that service personnel do not have a choice on where they go, the politicians do that!

Pat Hall, the current Poppy Appeal Organiser reported that the Poppy Appeal had done well this year with a current total of £2085.68. Mark Packham, who assisted her, reported nearly giving himself a hernia collecting Poppy Appeal Monies from the Shotley School, as Small Poppy Collection Boxes had increased the amount being collected there. Thank you to all who donated monies, this last years appeal period will not finish until October, giving a chance for greater amounts to be achieved.

The Branch Annual Dinner was well received, being held at the Shipwreck this last year and it was decided to use the Shipwreck again in 2009.

The Branch Chairman stepped down as the County Welfare Vice Chairman but stepped up to the RBL Fundraising Team in Suffolk, where he hopes soon to announce a Golf competition to raise funds for the RBL Poppy Appeal

The Branches proudest event was the awarding of the Royal British Legions Gold Badge to Vic Whayman for Services above and beyond, to the Ex Service Community, those expected of a Legionnaire, the presentation was made at the meeting in March by the County Vice Chairman, Mr. David Kemp and was done in the presence of Vic's fellow Legionnaires.

Welfare: - There has been much behind the scenes welfare work taking place in the area but due to confidentiality names and amounts cannot be given but needless to say many are better off than they were.

b. Shotley & Erwarton Good Neighbours Scheme

- The Shotley & Erwarton Good Neighbours Scheme ("The Scheme") is a not for profit organisation with a governing Constitution and was launched on the 6th April 2005.
- The Scheme is one of over twenty set up within the County with the guidance of Suffolk ACRE. We currently have 22 volunteers including four new volunteers who joined in 2009. All volunteers are subject to Criminal Records Bureau clearance, either by the Scheme initiating a check, or confirmation of a recent check having been carried out by some other organisation. The Scheme is managed by a Committee elected annually.
- The Aims of the Scheme are "To provide short term help to the residents of Shotley and Erwarton such as transport, domestic support and household assistance, with the use of local volunteers. Also to encourage self-help and friendship within the community"
- In our Financial Year ended 31 July 2008 we carried out 220 tasks for 33 "clients" and have carried out 139 tasks in the nine months since 1 August 2008. Thus on average we have been carrying out between three and four tasks a week. We would stress that we only provide short term help; clients contact us each time they have a request as we do not offer regular services.
- The majority of the tasks are the provision of transport for such purposes as Ipswich Hospital visits where the client may be attending an Outpatients Clinic or visiting a relation, collecting prescriptions and providing transport to and from the Shotley

Surgery. Other tasks have included shopping trips, befriending, simple DIY tasks, etc. No charge is made for journeys within the two villages, but the client is required to pay the volunteer driver 35p per mile for trips outside of that area. Such expenses are the only payment a volunteer receives.

- We advertise our services by means of notices on the noticeboards in the two villages, and at the Surgery and also in each issue of The Shotley Noticeboard. We would appreciate any help in promoting awareness of the Scheme.
- In October 2008 we were pleased to be invited to participate in an edition of the BBC's The One Show and although our participation was very brief at least Shotley was brought to the nation's attention
- We are financed by donations and fundraising and did not apply to the Council for a Grant in the 2008/09 year as our funds were sufficient to meet our expenses. We are seeking a Grant of £250 in the 2009/10 year; the purpose of the Grant is to cover our annual insurance premium charge of c£150 and our annual mobile phone costs of c£100. The mobile phone is the means by which clients contact the Scheme and is held for two weeks on a rota basis by members of the Committee. When a request is received the Duty Officer contacts volunteers to ascertain who will be able to deal with the request.
- We are planning to be represented at the Annual Parish Meeting and our representative will be pleased to answer any questions regarding the Scheme.

c. Meals on Wheels – No actual report this year, but some interesting literature (on the entrance table) for you to read if you are interested in volunteering for this extremely worthwhile charity. WRVS are also seeking volunteer drivers and assistance in this area to provide a library service at home to people who, due to age, disability or restricted mobility are unable to use their local library. If interested, please contact Wilma Firman on 01473 211210.

d. The Mothers Union

- Purpose - To be specially concerned with all that strengthens and preserves marriage and Christian family life
- Aim - The advancement of the Christian religion in the sphere of marriage and family life
- Objectives - To uphold Christ's teaching on the nature of marriage and promote its wider understanding
 - To encourage parents to bring up their children in the faith and life of the Church
 - To maintain a world wide fellowship of Christian united in prayer, worship and service
 - To promote conditions in society favourable to family life and the protection of children
 - To help those whose family life has met with adversity
- Mission Statement - The MU is a Christian organisation which promotes the wellbeing of families worldwide by:
 - Developing prayer and spiritual growth in families
 - Studying and reflecting on family life and marriage and their place in society
 - Resourcing members to take practical action to improve conditions for families both nationally and in the communities in which they live
- The MU Today - MU is the world's largest Christian organisation and is about Christian care for families worldwide. Chelmondiston and Shotley have been joined by Freston and Holbrook to form the Shotley Peninsula Branch.

The MU works in over 60 countries around the world. Members share a commitment to improve their own family life and that of others through practical action and prayer. Projects range from small scale farming initiatives to a network of family support

groups in prisons around the UK. What is special is that these projects involve men and women working in their own communities whether in Aberdeen or Zambia.

The branch meets on the first Wednesday of each month

- e. Shotley Over 60's - Nothing much has changed during the last year. We do have a friendly meeting of roughly 25 members. We now have a small committee helping to keep the club running smoothly and organising outings during the year which are well supported by non-members. The highlight of our meetings seems to be when one of the members has a birthday – a present of wine or flowers plus a card is presented to the member along with a cake. Members also receive presents at Christmas and an easter egg at Easter.

Eileen Bugg

- f. Shotley Whist Drive - We have been going for a number of years now and provide a warm and friendly atmosphere for members to meet. Two members help with the refreshments and to run the whist drive. Norman helps with giving lifts to anyone who cannot walk very far.

Eileen Bugg

- g. Shotley Village Hall - It's been another successful year for the Village Hall, which continues to be a valuable asset for the Village and provides a safe, clean, hygienic, and warm venue for Social gatherings, Business Meetings Etc.

Bookings have remained buoyant throughout the year with the 3 Day Funfair, Dog Training Class, Images of Shotley Weekend and the Pantomime providing a good income.

A combined project with Shotley Drama Group has seen the provision of a generic backdrop and surround for the stage, which has enhanced the Stage area for all users. Thanks to the Drama Group for their assistance and expertise in providing this facility.

Hire charges have been discussed regularly at Committee meetings and although we are committed to ensuring that these are kept as low as possible, due to the rising costs of the day to day running of the Hall (costs of oil and electric etc), we have had to raise the hiring charges by a small amount.

The Kitchen Refurbishment has been progressing slowly and after a number of design changes, we are now waiting for the final design to be priced. It is hoped to complete the installation in this financial year.

Projects for 2009 include replacing some of the wheeled tables with new fold up, easier to store ones and replacing numerous damaged ceiling tiles throughout the Hall.

I would like to thank the Eileen, Norman, Beverly and Barbara for their continued assistance throughout the year, whose help, enthusiasm and commitment has ensured that the Hall has been managed to a very high standard.

I would also extend my thanks to the Members of the Committee for their continued support throughout the year and look forward to working with them in the next year.

Richard Jackaman

Chairman, Shotley Village Hall Management Committee.

- h. The Walking Club - The Walking Club is still going strong after over 15 years. Our next walk will be 5½ miles around the River Orwell on June 14th starting at 2.30pm from the Village Hall Car Park. We will take in some of the newly diverted footpaths. All are welcome to join us and there is no cost. For further information, please ring me on 787504, or just turn up on the day.

Jill Nunn

- i. Shotley Rose Bowls Club
- The Club is over 80 years old and faces a challenging future in that our membership is growing in age but diminishing in numbers.
 - We play league games on Monday and Tuesday evenings and practice sessions are arranged usually at weekends.
 - With the Football Club we organise the Annual Fete and Father Christmas delivery.
 - Anyone who interested in playing or having a trial please contact me on 787358.
Cllr Norman Bugg
- j. Shotley Church Heritage 700 - We continue to fundraise for the restoration and improvement of Shotley Church. We have funds available to install a toilet but await permission from the church authorities. We held a tea dance in May and will run another one in June in the village hall. Our monthly draw continues to provide £70+ per month and the same amount to the prize winners.
Cllr Norman Bugg
- k. St Mary's Church - St Mary's continues to provide regular services of differing styles each week as part of a four parish benefice. We are served by a number of ministers. Attendances at services remains stable but like many churches, we do not attract many young people
Cllr Norman Bugg
- l. Shotley and Erwarton Jubilee Community Council - Only three events are run each year now – a coach trip to the Suffolk Show; the Flower and Vegetable Show to which we are indebted to Les and Daphne Stebbings for their support and organisation; and finally a trip to Thursford for their Christmas Show.
Cllr Norman Bugg
- m. Soup-a-lunch - Soup a Lunch goes from strength to strength with 85 people attending the April Lunch. Both Erwarton and Shotley Churches have benefited from money raised at these lunches. Three times a year we have a raffle to help funds and sell greetings cards. Lunch remains at £3 for soup, roll, sweet and tea or coffee. There is no need to book just come along. May I take this opportunity to thank all those who help at and support this event.
Wendy Sadler
- n. Shotley and Erwarton WI - Shotley and Erwarton W.I. is still thriving. We have had three new members recently. We hold ten meetings with various speakers during the year in the village hall on the third Wednesday of the month at 7.15pm. Our July meeting is usually an educational trip out - last year we visited Languard Fort Felixstowe. In August we have a day out and last year we had a trip on the broads and then visited the Old Vicarage Gardens at East Rushden.
- Last year we gained a first in the flower arranging competition at the Suffolk Show and held an annual Senior Citizens party in December.
- During the year we hold fundraising events, a Strawberry Evening, BBQ and raffle at the Rose Fete. During the year we have been holding Coffee Mornings to raise funds for a new village seat which is now in place opposite the school. We would like to thank the Parish Council for their help in placing the seat.
- New members are always welcome at the meetings.
- o. Andrew Barfoot Charity Estate – It has been a successful year with eight allotments in full use. Eight elderly received a Christmas box last year and there is a little profit in the bank.
Les Stebbings

6. **HMS Ganges Development: Update** - It is becoming rather monotonous to report yet again that the future of the HMS Ganges site still remains unresolved. The PC has continued to put as much pressure as it can on Babergh to bring matters to a close.

Much of the year has been spent commenting on the Environmental Statement (ES) that has accompanied the Reserved Matters application for the retirement community of 404 homes. The ES describes the impact that the proposed development will have on transport, road infrastructure, the environment and the community and makes proposals for mitigating or compensating for their effects. It is of course in the developer's interest to keep the cost of these measures as low as possible. At this time all that is being proposed is two new bus shelters, a modest financial contribution to the additional costs that will fall on the surgery and the Civic Amenity site and a pittance of a sum for the management of the Stour/Orwell estuary.

Despite assurances that progress would be made on bringing forward a proposal for a mixed use development that would meet the shortcomings of the 325 application that was rejected by the Secretary of State, no new application has materialised and no further information has been received from the developer.

Permission for the stand alone access road was granted by Babergh. This was opposed by the PC as we felt it lays the site open to being parcelled up and developed "piecemeal".

The one piece of good news was the completion of the improvements to the road to the Marina. This of course allows the first 80 houses, of 150, on the marina to be started. No start date for the smaller development on the boatyard has been notified. Permission has also been given for Shotley Lodge to be demolished and replaced with 8 flats. A contribution towards the cost of building one home for social needs was part of this permission.

Cllr Graham Steel
Shotley Parish Council

Meeting ended: 9.15pm
Date of next meeting: 17 June 2010