

**Minutes of a meeting of the Shotley Parish Council Open Spaces and Amenities Committee on 11 September 2014 at 7pm in the large committee room at Shotley Village Hall.**

Present: Cllr J Catling (Chair), Cllr G Richens, Cllr T Ingram, Cllr I Peters, Mr R Cushing, Mrs D Potts, Mr B Powell, Mr D Gent and Mr A Pettersson. Clerk: Mrs D Bedwell.

Also in attendance: Cllrs N Bugg, Cllr M Williams and three members of the public.

1. **To receive apologies for absence (including brief from Clerk on due process):** Apologies had been received from Cllrs R Wrinch, B Nichols and G Pugh. The Clerk briefed members on recent changes in legislation, including the need to note and approve apologies received from members.
2. **To receive and sign completed Declarations of Interests forms from Mr A Pettersson and Mr D Gent (to include brief introduction by the Clerk):** A brief was received from the Clerk and the relevant forms were duly signed by the new members. Mr A Pettersson and Mr D Gent were welcomed into the Committee.
3. **To receive and consider declarations of interest and requests for dispensation:** No declarations of interest were received.
4. **Open forum for members of the public to speak on items appearing on the agenda (10 minutes):** Mr S Hyland commented on a letter recently received by the Parish Council regarding the deer culling being carried out at the Ganges site. According to National guidelines, it was necessary to carry out culls in areas where the deer population had become excessive and detrimental to crops/local flora and even health and safety (causing road traffic collisions). It was agreed that the PC would write to the resident explaining the reasons why it was necessary to manage the existing excessive deer population, which was not being helped by local residents feeding them near their homes and encouraging their interaction with humans. This encouraged the deer to venture closer to residential areas, where they caused most of the damage.  
  
Mr B Powell informed members that some 300 urban foxes had been released on the Peninsula (at Wolverstone) since December 2013.
5. **To approve minutes of the meeting held 14 August 2014:** It was resolved to approve the minutes as a true record of the meeting held.
6. **Matters to report from previous meetings (items not appearing on this agenda):** Cllr G Richens reported that the manhole cover at the Heritage Park had now been replaced and made safe by Anglian water.
7. **To receive updates/reports and to agree any actions (if appropriate) in response to information received on:**
  - 7.1 **Stour Footpath Group including sea defences, picnic area and Heritage Park: Including update on opening of the learning area:** A report had been circulated ahead of the meeting to all members. Cllr G Richens also gave members a follow-up verbal report.
  - 7.2 **Play Areas:** Mr A Pettersson had asked for a quote for works needed to the tennis courts nets. The cost for 3 rolls of chain link fencing and repositioning of posts was around £2000, including vat. The bars that had recently been vandalised would be quite costly to

repair/replace and would take 2 workers and 3 to 4 days to do. If the Parish Council simply wanted to replace the chain link fencing, the cost would be reduced to £1650, including vat. Members discussed whether this expenditure was acceptable at this point, as it did not appear that the area was used enough to justify it. There was also the issue of recent vandalism to a considerable amount of Parish Council property, including the bench on the tennis courts that the local youth had asked for, which had been vandalised/mis-used in less than a week after installation.

Mr Pettersson replied that as the youth had not been provided with what they really wanted, in this case a skatepark, they had used the new bench as an improvised ramp, which they had been spoken to about. Cllr G Richens stated that there were a number of decisions to be made: Did the Parish Council wish to repair/replace the fencing at the tennis courts? If not, then the middle section should be removed. There was also the point that youth provision was also needed at the Kingsland end of the village and that some form of seating in the area had been requested.

The Parish Council was in the process of carrying out new consultation on youth provision/recreation and it was hoped the consultation would highlight what was needed in the village. The current Youth Provision Working Group members were Cllrs G Richens and M Williams, as well as Mrs D Potts and Mr A Pettersson.

The Clerk was asked to place an appeal on the Noticeboard for local residents to join this Working Group.

It was also agreed that should the repair works to the tennis courts fencing be approved, another quote would be necessary, in line with current Financial Regulations.

**7.3 Litter Wardens:** Litter appeared to have reduced following the end of the school holidays. The toilets were being well used but unfortunately there had been another attempt at removing the lockable toilet paper unit. The extra bin requested from Babergh had still not materialised but Mr A Pettersson had offered to remove from site any excess waste.

**8. Osac budget-** to consider future Revenue Expenditure, areas for Capital Expenditure and impact on Reserves and Precept (in preparation for budget and precept setting): deferred to the next meeting.

**9. Accounts for payment:** It was resolved to approve the accounts for payment, as follows:

1. Clerk's salary (112 hrs)	£1181.68
2. HMRC	£291.98
3. E Bugg salary (19.5 hrs)	£136.50
4. D Bishop's (75 hrs) and expenses £4.00	£529.00
5. Mr Meacock (grass cutting)	£200.00
6. S Leach	£64.00
7. SVHMC (hire of hall for meetings)	£174.00

**10. Reports on matters not itemised on agenda/to be included in next agenda:** On the matter of cars speeding on Bristol Hill, Mr A Pettersson informed members that he had spoken with a number of young people and had informed them that the police would be vigilant, as a number of complaints

had been received. Mrs D Potts confirmed that the situation had improved quite a lot and that now there appeared to be a problem with motorbikes speeding in the village. Mrs D Potts added that the police were on board with regards to issues recently raised regarding speeding and appeared to be dealing with it.

Mr B Powell asked the Clerk to process payment of £20 for diesel used by Mr D Hazelwood in clearing allotment plots.

Cllr T Ingram reported that he had spoken with Mrs M Matthews and that she had seemed to be willing to continue running the Noticeboard, providing she was given some administrative support. Cllr G Nicholls had agreed to help Mrs Matthews with this matter.

Cllr J Catling asked the Clerk to add the recent change in bus service to the next agenda for consideration.

It was also reported that a number of sites in the village were being used for fly-tipping. Clerk to report recent identified incidents to Babergh DC.

**Date of next meeting: 16<sup>th</sup> October (Ordinary).**

**With no further matters to be reported, the meeting ended at 8:50pm.**

**Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_**