

SHOTLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Open Spaces and Amenities Committee

On 9 January 2014 at 7pm in the large committee room at Shotley Village Hall

Present: Cllrs J Catling (chair), T Ingram, G Richens, B Nichols, I Peters and Co-opted members R Cushing, D Potts and B Powell. Clerk: L Rowlands

In attendance: Cllrs N Bugg and M Williams

1. **To receive and accept apologies for absence:** Cllrs R Wrinch and G Pugh.
2. **To receive and consider declarations of interest and requests for dispensation:** Cllr Ingram declared a personal interest in item 6.2 and 6.5 and Cllr Richens in item 6.1.3.
3. **Open forum for members of the public to speak on items appearing on the agenda –** No public present
4. **To agree minutes of the OSAC meeting held on 12 December 2013 -** The minutes were signed as a true record by the Chairman.
5. **Matters to report from previous meetings –** The opening times sign for the Bristol Hill Loos had been ordered.
6. **To receive updates and to agree any actions (if appropriate) in response to information received on:**
 - 6.1 **Stour Footpath Group**
 - 6.1.1 **Sea defences** – Phases 1&2: The Quarterly Inspection Checklist noted the general condition of the cages was good with a small repair still outstanding to the wire; severe scouring of the footpath as a result of the storm surge in December with some geotextile being exposed along the single height gabion section, remedial repairs had been carried out although the surface was still quite muddy in places. It was felt that significant repairs to the surface were needed and a quotation for £1600 for materials/labour etc had been received. It was proposed to “do it ourselves” using free labour and hire in machinery etc – full plan to be worked up in the spring for agreement then – also still awaiting to hear from SCC RoW regarding their section of the footpath. The Technical Report had been received; settlement was complete with replenishing successful, overall condition of beach and gabions standing up well – only concern is of rotation of end gabion but no action needed at the moment. Phase 3: Nothing heard from MMO regarding issue of licence.
 - 6.1.2 **Picnic Area** – *To consider request for “No Parking” signs to be erected at the bottom of Bristol Hill sea wall adjacent to bus turning circle – Not agreed as it was felt this was unenforceable* – instead a polite notice to be placed on vehicle’s windscreen pointing out that this was a turning area for buses and as such their vehicle was causing an obstruction.
 - 6.1.3 **Heritage Park** – *To consider request for maintenance work on an oak tree* – It was agreed to see if the Babergh tree person could inspect the tree causing concern and report back.

During the recent storm surge many small trees had come down along the top footpath, most of them heavily clothed in ivy. It was suggested that to try to prevent this happening again, a working party is arranged to trim up to 25% of the ivy of any remaining trees; a temporary sign had been placed at the bottom of the steps - "DANGEROUS DO NOT USE STEPS" as agreed at last meeting; Locality funding had been secured for £1250 towards new steps - Babergh to be approached to see if s106 funds can be used for shortfall.

- 6.2 Bristol Hill Public Conveniences – Nothing to report.
- 6.3 Allotments – Four eviction notices had been sent out and all had been actioned with a fifth to go in next week; waiting list had been reviewed and those still interested have been contacted with some vacancies remaining – advert to be placed in Noticeboard.
- 6.4 Play Areas – Noting new to report at present.
- 6.5 Litter Warden(s) – The RFO suggested that our current Shotley Gate litter/loo warden take over the emptying of dog/litter bins in the spring, with a proposal to be considered at the next main meeting.
- 6.6 Emergency Plan – No update at present. Clerk to contact members in order to arrange a "review" meeting for early spring.
- 6.7 Community Use Project – Graham Steel had resigned as Convenor as he is moving out of Shotley and Cllr Pugh had kindly offered to take over temporarily until the Ganges call-in result was known and a meeting arranged for previous members is held.

- 7. Reports on matters not itemised on agenda/to be included in next agenda
 - 7.1 A quiz night was to be held at the village hall on Saturday 25th January and teams were needed.
 - 7.2 The SC&H AONB's volunteer bait digging code of practice was not being adhered to routinely and they were seeking volunteers to observe and report any flouting of the code from now until March.
 - 7.3 There was a serious water leak outside the Bristol Arm's garages – Clerk to contact Anglian Water.

Meeting ended: 8.50pm