

**Minutes of a meeting of the Shotley Parish Council Open Spaces and Amenities Committee on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> July 2015 at 7:15 pm in the large committee room at the Shotley Village Hall.**

**Present:** Cllrs G Richens (Chairman), Cllr T Ingram, Cllr G Pugh, Cllr M Williams, Mr D Gent, Mr R Cushing, Mr A Pettersson, Mr I Peters and Mrs D Bedwell (Clerk).

**Absent:** Mr B Powell

**Also in attendance:** Seven members of the public.

1. **To receive and consider apologies for absence:** Apologies had been received from Cllrs B Nichols and J Catling (approved) and Mrs D Potts.
2. **To note resignations:** Mrs D Potts recent resignation was noted by members. Mrs D Potts was thanked for all the time and effort she had dedicated to the Osac Committee.
3. **To receive and consider declarations of interest and requests for dispensation:** Cllrs declared interests as follows:  
Cllr T Ingram: non-pecuniary on items 6.1 to 6.3; pecuniary on items 6.3 to 6.6 and pecuniary on item 6.10 (relevant item)  
Cllr G Pugh: non-pecuniary on items 6.1 and 6.2.  
Cllr G Richens: non-pecuniary on items 6.1 and 6.2.  
Mr R Cushing: non-pecuniary on items 6.1, 6.2 and 6.3.  
Mr I Peters: non-pecuniary on item 6.10.
4. **Suspension of Standing Orders-** Open forum for members of the public to speak on items appearing on the agenda (10 minutes): There were no comments from the public.
5. **To approve the minutes of the meeting held 11 June 2015:** It was resolved to approve the minutes as a true record of the meeting held.
6. **To receive updates/reports and to agree any actions needed in response to information received on:**
  - 6.1 **Stour Footpath Group**, including sea defences and picnic area: A report had been circulated to members ahead of the meeting and was further updated by Cllr G Richens.
  - 6.2 **Heritage Park**, including Scattered Orchard Project proposal and new signage recommendations: Deferred.
  - 6.3 **Bofors Gun Emplacement**-Update: Cllr T Ingram gave members an update, including: The Working Group was in the process of preparing a proposal for consideration for the provision of a Bofors gun for the site and the cost was expected to be somewhere between £3,500 and £5,000. Cllr G Pugh reminded members that a public consultation ought to take place in order to ascertain whether residents were in favour of such a proposal. Cllr T Ingram assured members that a public consultation would form part of the process. Cllr G Richens insisted that a proposal may not be able to be considered until the Working Group put forward their proposed Terms of Reference and these were agreed by the council. The Terms of reference would also be necessary in order for the Group/Parish Council to be able to apply for external funding.
  - 6.4 **Play Areas**, including tennis courts refurbishment, kick-wall update and summer holidays event: A report was received from Mr Alex Pettersson. The newly refurbished tennis courts looked very good and were being well used and all the welding on the football posts had been completed. The kick-

wall was due to be built in the next few days and the feedback received from the children following the recent works and future proposals had been very positive.

Cllr G Richens added that such works had come at a cost of just over £4,000, which evidenced the Parish Council's commitment to the local young people.

Cllr G Richens proceeded to inform members that, as the Parish Council had been satisfied with the work of the contractor that had refurbished the tennis courts, he had been instructed to erect the kick-wall without further ado. There were some slight changes to the original plan with regards to materials and dimensions but all being well works were scheduled for July 17<sup>th</sup>, which was just in time for the Summer school holidays.

The Clerk reported on the recent e-mail exchange with a local resident about the "Shotley Vikings" netball team. The group had asked the Parish Council if one of the tennis courts could have netball markings and a mobile netball net. Prices were currently being sought for the markings and net, therefore this matter would be considered at a future meeting.

With regards to the planned skatepark and bouncy castle event, the Clerk reported that she had approached Sync for some funding and had secured a £700 contribution. Cllr G Richens was also willing to apply for further funding from the Suffolk Community Fund (for the skatepark element) if members were in agreement. This was agreed by all. However, it was also agreed that if sufficient external funding was not secured, the Parish Council should be prepared to cover any shortfall. It was also suggested that rather than charge an entry fee, children/parents could be asked for a token donation on the day. This was also agreed by all.

Mr A Pettersson volunteered to liaise with the company providing the skatepark and the bouncy castle and make the necessary arrangements.

- 6.5 Litter Wardens:** *Cllr T Ingram left the room.* A brief report had been circulated to members ahead of the meeting. It was agreed that a new litter bin should be purchased from Realise Futures and installed near the RSPB notice board. Clerk to action.
- 6.6 Public conveniences:** Miss D Bishop had reported that the lock in the wc had been broken and the Clerk had already instructed a contractor to replace it. There were no further matters to report and *Cllr T Ingram returned to the room.*
- 6.7 Whinney Queach:** The Clerk had approached Babergh DC with a proposal for the Parish Council to take over the ownership of the site, either by direct transfer or by lease with a peppercorn rent. Babergh DC was in the process of carrying out a consultation and a decision was due soon.
- 6.8 Shotley Gate Community Store-** To agree date for first Committee meeting (30.07.15) and prepare recommendations for full council re Committee's Terms of Reference: It was resolved to agree the suggested meeting date and the Terms of Reference circulated by the Clerk were approved by all.
- 6.9 Highways:** There were no new matters to report.
- 6.10 SYNC-** Including refurbishment of building, trustees and funding: A report had been circulated to members ahead of the meeting. The Clerk was due to attend a SYNC meeting at which she would be appointed Trustee and would report back after that meeting. Mr A Pettersson said that Mrs S Petterson, who used to be the Sync Treasurer, may be interested in joining again once the membership changes to be more locally based and active.

7. **To receive report on the proposal for 33Kv underground electricity cables between Shotley and Felixstowe from Up Power Networks and make recommendations to full council:** A report was presented to members by Cllr G Richens. It was resolved that a decision in principle would be made for ratification at the Parish Council meeting due to time constraints. This decision would be to allow UK Power Networks to make two bore holes, subject to verification that they would not cause any wildlife disturbance, and that the Parish Council would receive £250 per bore hole by way of compensation. Clerk to include on the PC agenda for ratification.

8. **To approve accounts for payment (DB): It was resolved to approve the accounts for payment, as follows:**

8.1	Clerk's salary	£1303.17
8.2	HMRC (tax and NI contributions)	£353.70
8.3	Clerk's expenses (mileage, May bt bill, postage)	£81.87
8.4	E Bugg salary	£156.00
8.5	D Bishop's	£603.19
8.6	Mr Meacock (grass cutting)	£200.00
8.7	Derek Davis (website)	£120.00
8.8	Peninsula Plastics-repair to Kingsland play area bridge	£80.00
8.9	Cllr G Richens expenses- Heritage Park	£168.75

9. **Reports on matters not itemised on agenda/to be included in next agenda:** Cllr T Ingram reported that the litter bin at the picnic area needed replacement hinges and asked if Mr A Colwill could be asked to have a look. An access key would be available from either Mrs D Bishop or A Pettersson. Clerk to action.

Cllr M Williams reported that one of the ramps on the play equipment at Kingsland was broken. Clerk to instruct repairs.

Mr I Peters reported that the overgrowth on the footpath near the school was yet to be cut back, even though SCC Highways had cut back the overgrowth on the other side of the road. Clerk to make enquiries.

Mr A Pettersson reported that Cllr G Pugh had repaired the seat at Crows' Nest but further work was required and that he would try and source the wood needed. Mr A Pettersson and Cllr G Pugh to action.

Cllr G Richens reported that the overgrowth between Stourside and Kirkton Close was quite bad and indeed one car had already been damaged by it. The Clerk was asked to inform Highways as a matter of urgency.

**Date of next OSAC meeting: 13<sup>th</sup> August 2015.**

**With no further matters to be transacted, the meeting ended at 9:15pm.**

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