

Minutes of an Extraordinary meeting of the Shotley Parish Council held on Wednesday 1st November 2017 at Kidzone, Main Road, Shotley.

Present: Cllrs B Powell (Chairman), R Wrinch (Vice-chairman), B Nichols, M Williams, N Green, R Green, J Catling and Mrs D Bedwell (Parish Clerk).

Public gallery: Mr S Humphreys, Mrs P Humphries and Mr T Peters.

1. **Apologies for absence:** Apologies had been received from Cllr B Higgs, which were approved.
2. **Declarations of interest with regards to items on the agenda and additions to register:** None received.
3. **Suspension of standing orders:** *Meeting open for 5 minutes to allow members of the public to speak:*
Meeting open: There were no comments from the public gallery.
4. **To consider and approve the Responsible Financial Officer's Report (Accounts for year ended 31 March 2017):** The RFO's report had been circulated ahead of the meeting and was approved by members.
5. **Preparation for Emerging Local Plan Consultation meeting to take place November 8th 2017:** The Clerk had prepared a draft agenda for the proposed meeting.

Members agreed with the list of consultation questions that should be put forward at the meeting to members of the public, with a section at the end which would allow for any additional points if necessary. Members were also of the view that it was important for such a meeting to go ahead in order to provide the additional consultation opportunity. It was resolved to hold this meeting on Wednesday 8th November at the main village hall, which the Clerk had already booked in advance.

6. **To consider the exclusion of the press and public** (pursuant to the Public Bodies (Admission at Meetings) Act 1960 due to the confidential and legal nature of the business to be considered): *In order to allow for any additional comments from the public present, items 8 and 9 were brought forward at this point.*

It was noted that for a number of legal reasons, some of the aspects within item 7 would not be able to be discussed or considered whilst members of the public were present. This had been verified by the Suffolk Association of Local Councils and in order to maintain the lawfulness of considerations under item 7, it was resolved to exclude the public.

Matters pertaining to this subject and any related resolution which were not protected by legal privilege would be made public in due course.

Members of the public left the meeting at this point.

7. **To consider items pertaining to the future of Phase 3 (Coastal Erosion Protection):** Members discussed in great detail a number of aspects pertaining to this matter and reached the conclusion that the Shotley Parish Council would not be in a lawful, morally acceptable or financially viable position to deliver the project in the foreseeable future.

There were a number of other larger Statutory bodies, such as Suffolk County Council, the Environment Agency and Natural England, which not only possessed the expertise and resources, but also the financial ability to take charge of such a considerable project. The Shotley Parish Council would not only welcome their involvement, but would be supportive in any way possible, providing there was no expectation that it would be the lead or manage it in any way.

It was resolved that this would be the position adopted by the Council and that it should be explained to members of the public at the next Parish Council meeting, including reference to the various underlying statutory reasons but excluding the items which were protected by legal privilege.

This resolution was approved unanimously, with a further agreement that a restricted detailed report was commissioned for future reference and clarity.

8. Chair's urgent business: any items not on this agenda but of such urgency as to merit, in the Chair's opinion, immediate action: An update on UK Power Networks and the recent issues with the cliff and footpath was received from Cllrs R Wrinch and B Powell. It was understood that the footpath area recently damaged would be resurfaced and made good once all works were completed.

9. Date of next meeting: 16th November 2017 and 5th December 2017.

With no further matters to be transacted, the meeting ended at 9.30pm.

Signed: _____ Date: _____