

Minutes of a meeting of the Shotley Parish Council held on Thursday 22nd February 2018 at the Village Hall, The Street, Shotley.

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

County and District Councils: District Cllr D Davis and County Cllr D Woods. District Cllr P Patrick's apologies were noted.

Public gallery: Ten members of the public.

- 1. Apologies for absence:** Apologies had been received (and were approved) from Cllrs B Nichols, B Higgs and M Williams.
- 2. Declarations of interest with regard to items on the agenda and additions to register:** A further request for dispensation on matters pertaining to Phase 3 Coastal Erosion Protection had been handed in to the Clerk at the start of the meeting by Cllr G Richens, which could not be considered due to Standing Order no. 7. Cllr G Richens then declared a non-pecuniary interest on item no. 9.
- 3. Reports**
 - (i) County Councillor's report (D Woods): A verbal report was received from Cllr D Woods.
 - (ii) District Councillor's report (P Patrick): Extracts of Cllr P Patrick's report were read to the meeting.
 - (iii) District Councillor's report (D Davis): A verbal report was received from Cllr D Davis.
- 4. Public participation at meetings (Meeting open to the public to allow members of the public to speak):** A member of the public expressed concern at the perceived heavy-handedness of maintenance works at the Heritage Park and asked that a more sympathetic approach was taken next time round.

Following the recent public meeting to discuss matters pertaining to Phase 3, a new Facebook group had been created and was open to anyone who wished to support the cause.

Cllr B Powell acknowledged that the clearance line has been exceeded by about one meter but was confident that any re-growth would soon be established. The fire break had been identified as a safety measure and all the relevant statutory bodies had been consulted in the process.

Cllr J Catling added that the clearance works had also uncovered a large amount of waste, with some 40 bottles having been disposed of.

Cllr G Richens reminded members of the details of the original business plan, which had facilitated some of the funding for the purchase of the Heritage Park and that the land in

question should be preserved as a public amenity, looking after wildlife and keeping flat areas free from disturbance.

Cllr B Powell produced an aerial photograph of the property adjacent to the Heritage Park and stated that it appeared that Cllr G Richens' garden was encroaching into the Heritage Park. Cllr G Richens explained that the area in question was cleared as a fire protection measure. However, members queried why there would be a "fire break" adjacent to just one section of his property.

A suggestion was made that the path that used to link the top with the bottom of the cliff at that point was re-instated but Cllr G Richens insisted that any recreational use of the land would have to be put out to consultation, as it would potentially disturb flora and fauna. It was noted that Cllr G Richens had done that himself by cutting back the area.

It was agreed that a small working group would meet on site to discuss the issues being raised and the future maintenance of the land in question.

Another member of the public added that some residents of Estuary Road had confirmed that they had visited Cllr G Richens' garden and were aware of the access created to the cleared area in the Heritage Park.

- 5. To approve the minutes of the meeting held 18th January 2018:** It was resolved to approve the minutes as a true record of the meeting held.

6. Planning matters

(i) To consider applications received from Babergh District Council:

- a) DC/18/00558 3 Hervey Terrace - Conversion of garage and erection of 1st floor extension: It was resolved to recommend the approval of this application.
- b) DC/18/00445 16 Tudor Close - Erection of single storey side extension: It was resolved to recommend the approval of this planning application.

(ii) To note Approvals/Refusals: There were no further approvals/refusals.

(iii) Planning Correspondence: there was no further planning correspondence.

(iv) To receive updates on ongoing planning issues and agree any actions:

- a) Gate Farm Road Caravan Park: A brief update had been received from the District Councillor.
- b) Ganges: A brief update had also been received regarding the unsuccessful government grant bid.
- c) Uninhabited Council bungalows in Queensland (ongoing for the past 2 years approx.): An update had been circulated to members ahead of the meeting.

7. Facilities and Open Spaces- To receive update and agree actions

- (i) To note meeting organised by the Parish Council with statutory bodies to discuss Phase 3 and damage to coastal path - due to take place on March 27th at the Village Hall 2pm start: Meeting noted.

- (ii) To receive technical assessments of coastal path/gabion damage and initial estimates (further consideration to take place at the March meeting with statutory bodies): The Clerk asked members if they had any objections with the sharing of pertinent information with Cllr G Richens, as it was specifically for repairs to existing sea defences rather than Phase 3, which was agreed by members.

The technical assessment commissioned by SCC's Mrs J Burch had returned an estimate of £55-60K for the repair work; Mr Andrew Hawes, who had designed and managed Phases 1-2, had returned an estimate of £29k for the repairs; Cllr R Wrinch had approached an independent contractor, who had come back with a "sticking plaster" solution at a cost of £5k. The area affected belonged to the RSPB and had not been part of the licences and permissions for Phase 1-2; therefore it wasn't a straightforward case. This matter would be further considered at the meeting with the statutory bodies on March 27th, as no decision could be reached at this point.

- (iii) Public meeting held 7th January 2018 re Phase 3 (Councillors' feedback report): Cllr R Wrinch gave members a brief update on what had taken place and reiterated that a positive solution could only be found if all the various parties worked together. With regard to matters of a legal nature that had been raised, Cllr R Wrinch explained that there was indeed a legal position, which could lead to a case being made, which members were not allowed to discuss in public and that demands for information of this nature were not productive and could place the Council in a difficult position. So, for the time being, members of the public were asked to remain patient in the knowledge that once the situation had reached a conclusion, this would be shared with the parish.

Cllr R Wrinch informed all that he had been the one who had proposed that the Shotley Parish Council could not and should not lead Phase 3 at the meeting held in November 2017.

The Council continued to be supportive of Phase 3 and wished to facilitate it but it could not, at this present time, lead it. However, if there was strong evidence that the Parish Council should lead it and council members agreed, providing there was a very clear mandate and legalities were observed, with Shotley as one parish, then this matter could be considered at a later date. Cllr R Wrinch also appealed for all the various parties to pull together in order to make it happen.

It was noted that the meeting of March 27th would not be open to the public, which some members found disappointing. It was agreed that a subsequent meeting, open to the public should take place and notes of the March meeting should be made available.

- (iv) Shotley Open Spaces maintenance schedule 2018 - Risk Assessment update: The "blanket" risk assessment forwarded by the group was acceptable for insurance purposes.
- (v) Condition of pavement/footway between the Rose Pub and the Shotley Post Office: This matter had already been reported to SCC Highways.

(vi) Dog fouling in Kingsland play area: Cllr M Williams had asked if awareness could be raised in the local publications, which it would be.

(vii) To consider quote for the cutting back of tree overgrowth encroaching on the highway on Lower Harlings: Ownership of the area in question had previously been raised as an issue, however it was important that the overgrowth was cut back for safety reasons and if SCC Highways was unlikely to do it, then the Parish Council should. A budget of £200 for the works was approved.

(viii) To consider correspondence regarding plastic waste on the north bank of the River Stour: The Community Payback team had been able to clear most of the waste in the area reported near Erwarton beach. There were still considerable amounts of plastic and other waste on the remaining beaches on the peninsula and an organised work party or beach clean exercise might be a good starting point.

8. To consider parishioner suggestion for the installation of benches in Great Harlings, Kitchener Way and top of Bristol Hill (nr bus stops): A brief discussion ensued and it was agreed that the matter should be considered in April, with the top of Bristol Hill being the preferred location.

9. “Walkers Are Welcome” - addition to village sign: To consider request for written support from the Parish Council for two signs to be placed under the Shotley signs either side of the B1456: Cllr G Richens explained the proposal to members. The request for written support was approved but for one WAW sign at the entrance to the village.

10. To consider the long term maintenance of the grass verge and hedges adjacent to the bus stop at the top of Kitchener Way and land between Mole End and East View Terrace: As SCC Highways only maintained the area once a year, it was routinely overgrown and was being maintained by volunteers. As this was the main route to school and pedestrian access between the two parts of the village, members agreed that it should be maintained more regularly. As the new grass cutting contract tender was under way, it was agreed that the incumbent would be asked for a quote for future consideration.

11. To consider request for permission from Natural England to take drone footage (Harwich to Shotley Gate stretch of coast): This request was approved by members.

12. Finance and administration

(i) To review and approve the annual insurance policy: Deferred to the next meeting.

(ii) To consider and approve the appointment of Salc as the Internal Auditor: It was resolved to appoint Salc as the Internal Auditor.

(iii) To consider and approve the appointment of Salc for the processing of PAYE from April 2018: It was resolved to appoint Salc for the processing of PAYE.

(iv) To consider and approve accounts for payment and note receipts: It was resolved to approve the accounts for payment and receipts, as circulated ahead of the meeting.

(v) Clerk's report: A brief report was received from the Clerk.

(vi) **To note any further correspondence received and agree any response needed:**
The receipt of the Shotley Village Hall Committee of Management Trustees report for 2017 was noted. No further responses to other correspondence were needed.

13. Reports from Councillors on matters not itemised on agenda/to be included in next Agenda (no decisions with a financial implication are permitted to be made at this point and should be added to a future agenda for consideration): Cllr G Richens asked if the previously mentioned reinstatement of the sheet piles, which had been damaged during the UKPN drilling works was in hand, which Cllr B Powell confirmed it was but not until works were completed.

Cllr J Catling reminded those present that the next Shotley Auction would take place on March 3rd 2018.

With no further matters to be transacted the meeting ended at 9.50pm.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

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