

Shotley Parish Council

Minutes of a Meeting of the Council held on Thursday 13th December 2018 (7.15pm) at the Village Hall, The Street, Shotley.

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

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

Public gallery: Seven members of the public.

1. **Apologies for absence:** Apologies had been received from Cllr B Higgs.

2. **Declarations of interest with regard to items on the agenda and additions to register:** Cllr G Richens declared a Pecuniary Interest on item 9.

3. **Reports**

a) County Councillor's report (D Woods): Cllr D Woods' report had been circulated to members.

b) District Councillor's report (P Patrick): No report had been received in time for the meeting.

c) District Councillor's report (D Davis): Cllr D Davis's report, which had been circulated to members ahead of the meeting, was also presented to members of the public and included updates on the Ganges development and the new builds in Kingsland.

Cllr G Richens thanked Cllr D Davis for his recent Felixstowe Radio interview, during which he had promoted a number of aspects about Shotley and the peninsula.

4. **Public participation at meetings** (Meeting open to the public to allow members of the public to speak): The Parish Council was thanked for the provision of the Christmas trees.

5. **To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 15th November 2018:** It was resolved to approve the minutes as a true record of the meeting held.

6. **BDC- Planning Matters**

a) To consider applications received from Babergh District Council: There were no applications to be considered.

b) To note Approvals/Refusals:

i) **DC/18/04733 Lindi, The Street-** Erection of rear and side two storey extension, single storey rear extension and new entrance porch: **Planning Permission Granted- Noted.**

c) Planning correspondence: There was no further correspondence to be considered.

7. **SCC- Briefing prepared for SALC on Suffolk County Council 2019-20 budget setting-** To note content and possible implications for the Peninsula: The contents of the briefing, which were in line with County Cllr D Wood's report, were discussed in some detail and it was agreed that the Parish council should register its concern with regards to matters affecting the peninsula directly, such as:

- the proposal for reduced spending on bus service provision
- the reduction in out-of-hours winter fleets
- grass cutting and hedge maintenance (in particular the path between the Shotley Primary School and East View Terrace)
- cessation of road sign maintenance/repairs and limited sign replacement

It was noted that Parish Councils could approach farmers and land owners with a view to seeking practical help in keeping road verges maintained. Cllr R Wrinch agreed to explore possibilities with local land owners, specifically those with responsibility for the Stingham area.

8. Finance and administration

- a) To consider and approve accounts for payment (including re-issue of un-presented First Responders grant cheque for £250) and note receipts/bank balances: It was resolved to approve the accounts for payment and the re-issue of the First Responders cheque.
- b) To consider contribution of £750 towards the Chelmondiston Recycling Centre (due to the loss of external funding in 2019): It was resolved to approve this funding application to the tune of £750.00. It was noted that this may be a recurring funding application in order for the facility to remain open in the future, should alternative funding not be forthcoming.
- c) To consider application for funding towards equipment for the Primary School children: The Clerk briefed members on her ongoing fundraising efforts to raise funds for the purchase of 170 high visibility vests for the local Primary School and volunteered to leave the meeting prior to the consideration of this request. Members agreed that the Clerk could remain in the room and approved a donation of £100 towards the cause.
- d) To approve the FWG recommendation (for approval) of the Internal and External Audit reports and recommendations therein (including clarification of points by Internal Auditor on items already compliant): Both reports had been reviewed by the Finance Working Group. It was resolved to approve the recommendation for approval. Clerk to prepare letter to the Internal Auditor raising queries about items noted within the report which the Parish Council had already addressed or did not appear to be applicable.
- e) To approve the FWG recommendation (for approval) of the first and second quarter accounts 2018/2019: It was resolved to approve the accounts for the first and second quarters, which had been reviewed by the Working Group in some detail.
- f) Initial budget and precept considerations for 2019/2020: The draft 2019/2020 budget and precept report and recommendations had been circulated ahead of the meeting and considered by the Finance Working Group. The forecast for the current and next financial year were explained, as were the variations on cost centres year-on-year and projected earmarked and general reserves by 31 March 2020.

It was noted that the Parish Council would potentially be in a position where it would be expected to take on additional services due to budget cuts within other local authorities and that this would need to be closely monitored and managed, as any precept increases would directly impact on our parishioners.

The recommended increase of 2.5% on last years' precept would need to be considered against next year's tax base, as that would affect the overall percentage rise. Taking into account that other local authorities were not expected to exceed a 2.9% increase, it was understood that The Parish council would remain within that bracket.

Figures pertaining to any CIL funds due to be received were still to be verified. Section 106 funds currently being held by Babergh had previously been earmarked for new play equipment provision, in conjunction with the Parish Council's accumulated earmarked reserves of £25,000 and the UKPN's contribution of £10,000.

Cllr G Richens referred to a statement which appeared to have been made by someone present at the recent Stour and Orwell Management meeting in reference to some £200,000 contribution towards the damage to the sheet piles following works last year.

The Parish Council was not aware of this and, in fact, when a financial contribution had been

suggested by the Clerk at a previous meeting with UKPN as compensation for the damage incurred (which she suggested could be put towards the coastal erosion protection project), she had been informed that UKPN would prefer to carry out the necessary repairs instead.

This matter was still pending and further updates would be requested but for the time being it was noted that the same legislation that currently prevented the Parish Council from leading on Phase 3 still applied and that if such a financial contribution from UKPN was to materialise, the Clerk would probably advise Council to enter into a 3-way agreement which would allow the funds to be diverted to SPS CIC and their project.

It was agreed that a final decision regarding the budget and precept would be deferred to the January meeting and that a further Finance Working Group meeting would take place on January 9th at 10.00am (available councillors to confirm attendance).

- g) Initial General and Earmarked Reserves considerations for 2019/2020: The detailed report regarding current and proposed reserves had also been circulated and discussed but a decision was deferred to January.
- h) Meeting dates 2019- to approve change of date in February (due to Panto) and additional meeting in May (following Elections): it was resolved to change the February meeting date to the 28th. The Clerk also suggested that she would recommend an additional meeting to take place in May following the elections, in order to prepare any new members for the full Council meeting, which was also agreed (date to be confirmed).
- i) Clerk's report: There were no further matters to report.

9. Phase 3 /coastal erosion matters: To consider the FWG's (Finance Working Group) recommendation regarding the application for funding from the SPS CIC (Shotley Peninsula Shoreline Community Interest Company) for £10,000. *Cllr G Richens left the room due a declaration of Pecuniary interest.* Cllr R Green read a detailed report to all those present, in which he explained the work carried out so far by SPS CIC, the surveys that were needed in order for the project to be able to progress, the quotes received for such surveys and the need for not just financial support from the Parish Council, but also the clear demonstration of partnership working, which would be indispensable in the future.

It was generally agreed that the Parish Council should be seen to support the project but that the level of support would need to be carefully considered. The quotes received for the surveys varied significantly and the most recent environmental reports were extremely worrying due to the forecast high levels of sea rise.

If such reports were to be believed, future-proofing the foreshore for such a long period of time (2-generational solution) would be unachievable due to its prohibitive capital and revenue costs, even if the Council was in favour of the ideology in principle.

It was also noted that although other sources of funding had not been approached on this occasion, it was important that SPS CIC did explore other sources in the future and that the Parish Council was not relied upon every time there was a shortfall or for other future financial commitments.

Members also stated how they found it extremely difficult to justify such a considerable amount of funding for one project, taking into account the area it benefited and the financial limitations of the Council, as well as the capital already spent in that same area to the detriment of the rest of the village.

The Clerk informed members that she had approached alternative sources of funding from her contacts and was confident that most of the £10,000 being sought by the group could be achieved, providing the Parish Council demonstrated a willingness to work in partnership and was able to make at least some contribution towards the total cost. The Clerk had also arranged for SPS CIC to meet with these contacts so that this funding application could be progressed, which was due to take place the following week.

Members agreed with the principle of working in partnership and resolved to approve the funding of £2,000 towards the cost of the survey. The details of both surveys would be considered by SPC CIC before a decision was made with regards to any appointments.

Cllr G Richens returned to the meeting.

10. Play areas: To consider quotes received for various tree works (Kingsland and Lloyd Road): The two quotes received were considered and it was resolved to approve quote no. 2. It was suggested that the alternative disposal of tree cuttings at a local farm might bring the total cost down and this was to be suggested to the contractor. Cllr B Powell to action.

11. To note any further correspondence received and agree any response needed, including:

- a) Notification of Police liaison meeting 19th December 7.30pm, Brantham Leisure Centre Noted, there were no volunteers able to attend on this occasion.
- b) Review of Polling Districts, Polling Stations and Polling Places (Elections 2019): Members agreed with review decisions and did not wish to add any comments.
- c) Cllr Luke Cresswell (Babergh District Councillor for Sudbury South) appeal to submit views on car parking strategy: No response to be issued.
- d) Request for representation in support of establishing a Local Green Spaces policy within the Joint Local Plan for all communities where there is no Neighbourhood Development Plan: Representation in support agreed by members.

12. 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):

Reference was made to clearance of overgrowth to a property on Bristol Hill and although it was not known who had carried out the work, it had been much appreciated by neighbouring residents.

Play area Working group and Neighbourhood Plan meetings to be organised in the new year.

Cllrs B Powell and M Williams to check distance for the installation of bollard at the entrance to the allotments on the Street.

13. Date of next meeting: 28 February 2019.

With no further matters to be transacted, the meeting ended at 8.50pm, followed by refreshments.

Signed: _____ Date: _____