

## Shotley Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2020 (7.15pm) at the Village Hall,  
The Street, Shotley.

**Present:** Cllrs R Wrinch (Chairman), B Powell (Vice -chairman), C Mills, D Davis, T Ingram, R Green, M Williams and Mrs D Bedwell (Parish Clerk).

**County and District Councils:** District Cllr D Davis.

**Public gallery:** Five members of the public.

**SPC/20/01: To receive and consider any apologies for absence:** Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs J Briscoe and R Bareham, which were approved. County Cllr D Woods' apologies were also noted.

**SPC/20/02: To receive declarations of interest with regards to items on the agenda, consider application for dispensation and note any new additions to the register:** Cllrs T Ingram and R Green declared a non-pecuniary interest on matters pertaining to item SPC/20/08; Requests for dispensation for the purpose of precept setting had been received from all members, with the decision making power being delegated to the Proper Officer. Dispensations were duly granted to all members for the duration of their term in office.

**SPC/20/03: Reports by County and District Councillors:** Reports from both Councillors had been circulated to members ahead of the meeting. District Cllr D Davis provided a verbal update for the benefit of members of the public.

**SPC/20/04: Public participation at meetings:** A member of the public asked for an update regarding the Ganges development. The brief update that followed included a notification that the developer had agreed to attend Parish Council meetings on a quarterly basis in order to keep the Parish Council informed of any developments.

**SPC/20/05: To approve final proposals re. the Community Orchard Project, including to consider funding application for £120.00 and for the Parish Council to handle financial transactions:** A detailed report was read out by a member of the public who was leading the project. This included detailed costings, types of trees identified as suitable for the site in question, feedback from statutory bodies and other organisations, as well as a reply to feedback received from a neighbouring resident. The Community Group had continued to grow, with a number of tree sponsorships already agreed. There was a small shortfall in the amounts needed to fund the project and the group hoped to apply for an additional small grant at a later date.

A number of queries were raised by a member regarding the possibility of protected species, such as Dormice and Nightingales, inhabiting the area and whether the Parish Council may be in breach of legislation by clearing the area in question. There appeared to be no evidence of the two species suggested, according to reports received. However, Cllr R Wrinch agreed to consult further in order to ensure that there would be no breach of any relevant legislation or considerable risk to identifiable wildlife.

It was suggested that although an amount of scrub may be lost in the process, the planting of fruit trees would introduce other beneficial species, which would improve biodiversity in the area. There was also an

amount of rubbish, including plastics, in the undergrowth which was not good for wildlife and the proposed clearance would remove this.

Cllr D Davis stated that although he applauded the project in principle, he wished for his reservations regarding the two named species and potential breach of legal Acts to be minuted.

It was resolved to progress with the project, including clearance of the area in question, once confirmation was received by the Chairman that no legal Act was being breached by doing so.

As the Group had already achieved match-funding from tree sponsors, it was also resolved to approve the funding of £120 towards remaining materials. A further application may be forthcoming and would be considered at that point.

**SPC/20/06: To consider sponsoring a Shotley Social Club outing in commemoration of VE Day 2020:** It was resolved to approve the funding of this activity at a rate of fifty per cent (£374.50).

**SPC/20/07 To consider funding application for £200 from the VE/VJ Committee and approve SPC handling of financial transactions (as with WW1 Centenary):** A report was received from the Clerk, which describe the activities being planned and the projected expenditure. It was resolved to support the event and to award the funding requested, in addition to the Parish Council also handling the financial transactions, as it had on previous occasions. The Clerk thanked members for their kind generosity and support of this event.

**SPC/20/08: To receive update from the Shotley Peninsula Shoreline Community Interest Company and consider any requests:** A member of the group, who was in the public gallery, put forward a query regarding the England Coastal Path proposals and the possibility that these may not include the foreshore path in Shotley Gate, which may work against the work that SPS CIC were trying to do.

It was explained that during the various stages of the initial consultations with stakeholders and landowners, concerns had been raised regarding the sustainability of the lower path and the legalities pertaining to some sections which were not actual rights-of-way. There was also the financial burden perceived to be attached to a path which would potentially be lost though the process of coastal erosion, which had seen a marked increase in recent times due to climate change and was set to worsen over time.

A brief report was also received on recent activities by the group.

**SPC/20/09: To receive reports from Committees, Working Groups and Representatives and agree any actions needed:**

- a) **Neighbourhood Development Plan WG:** Cllr D Davis reported that the group had met in December and that there had been some disquiet with regards to the proposed Terms of Reference, which were perceived to be too onerous and limit the activities of the Group. It also remained to be established whether Erwarnton wished to be included in the plan.

Following a brief debate, it was explained that the Terms of Reference would depend on whether the Group continued insisting on remaining a Working Group rather than a formal Committee, as both would be considerably different: If the group wished to remain as WG, there would be no delegated or decision making powers. However, should the Group wish to have a certain level of independence, the Terms of Reference would reflect this and members would need to be aware of the legal implications with regards to their roles.

It was agreed that one of the Group's members would prepare revised Terms of Reference for consideration by the Parish Council. The group's next step would be the development plan's "area designation" but this would depend on Erwarton's position, which was still to be decided.

**b) Facilities and Open Spaces:**

- i) To receive Play Areas WG update: Cllr C Mills provided a brief update.
- ii) Whiney Queech reinstatement: The Clerk provided a brief report. UKPN wished to bring to a close their involvement with this area and wished to know if there was anything else by way of reinstatement that needed to be done. The Tree Officer had requested that the three Silver Birches lost should be re-instated. Members agreed that a line of screening trees, to include the Silver Birches, should be planted in front of the neighbouring properties on Lloyd Road (to the right of the site entrance on Stourside).

There was a large section of the site where no changes could be made due to the new legal covenant, therefore it was agreed that any future improvements would be decided at a later date once the ownership debate between Babergh District Council and the Parish Council reached a conclusion.

**SPC/20/10: To approve the minutes of the Parish Council Meetings held on 21<sup>st</sup> November and 5<sup>th</sup> December 2019:** It was resolved to approve both sets of minutes.

**SPC/20/11: Babergh District Council- Planning Matters**

- a) To consider applications received from Babergh District Council:
  - **DC/19/05920 Shotley Hall, Church Walk-** Application for prior notification of agriculture or forestry development (proposed building) Town and Country Planning General Permitted Development Order 2015 Schedule 2, Part 6 - Erection of potato store with attached lean-to for accommodating machinery, equipment, seed, fertilisers and crops.- **No objections raised.**
  - **DC/20/00022 1 Styngam Cottages, Main Road-** Full Planning Application - Conversion of outbuilding to form part annexe, part games room and gym: No objections raised.
- b) To note Approvals/Refusals/Any other planning correspondence:
  - **DC/19/05464 Hill House Farm, Wades Lane-** Application for Non-Material Amendment following grant of DC/17/05704 dated 28/02/2018 (Conversion of barn into 2No dwellings). - Removal of 6No Rooflights, add 1no Rooflight, remove triangular windows to South and North Elevations, add an en-suite bathroom. **Amendments approved-** Noted.
  - **DC/19/05469 Former Peninsula Boatyard, King Edward VII Drive-** Non-Material Amendment to DC/19/02394 (Application under Section 73 of the Town and Country Planning Act B/03/00074 without compliance with condition 1 of associated non-material amendment DC/19/01076 to allow for changes to approved drawings raising roof levels of units 4,5 and 9 and ground floors of units 1- 9 in line with changes in updated 1 in 100 year flood level.) Amendments to include: Omission of the two central balcony posts to ground floors of units 1- 9; Enlargement of second floor balconies to units 4, 5 & 9, to match size of balconies on first floor; Enlargement of ground floor window to unit 9 on south east elevation, to match units 1- 8; Enlargement of roof lights to single storey lean-to roof of unit 9; Insertion of ground floor

windows to lean-to west elevation of unit 9; Proposal to raise unit 9 single storey lean-to roof 700mm to accommodate proposed new window. **Amendments approved**- Noted.

- **DC/19/04930 Innisfree, Estuary Crescent**- Discharge of conditions application for Condition 7 (Dig Details - Tree Protection Measures)- **Condition satisfied**- Noted.

#### **SPC/20/12: Finance and Administration**

- To consider and approve accounts for payment and note receipts/bank balances: It was resolved to approve the accounts for payment. Receipts and bank balances were noted.
- To consider and approve the Budget for 2020/2021: It was resolved to approve the budget for 2020-2021 (receipts for the period were projected at £81,851 and payments £90,523). The Earmarked Reserves accounts were also reviewed, with new amounts allocated and new accounts created as per listing.
- To consider and approve the Precept for 2020/2021: It was resolved to approve a precept of £63,991 for 2020/2021.
- Clerk's report: The detailed December Clerk report had been circulated to members. Due to the short space of time since the Clerk's return from annual leave and the preceding Christmas period, updates which would form part of the January report were still being gathered and were hoped to be available at the next meeting.

#### **SPC/20/13: To note any further correspondence received and agree any response needed, including:**

- Nomination of (former) Chairman to attend Buckingham Palace Garden Party on 27 May 2020: It was resolved to nominate Cllr B Powell.
- BDC Town and Parish Liaison Meeting 5<sup>th</sup> February 2020 10-12hrs (agree attendance): No Councillors were available to attend on this occasion.
- Spring Clean Suffolk 2020- To agree date/time: Members to select dates for a beach clean in March/April for consideration at the next meeting.
- Minutes of Police Liaison meeting held 4 December 2019 and date of next meeting: Noted.

#### **SPC/20/14: Reports from Parish Councillors on matters not itemised on 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 B Powell was asked to verify the padlock security number for the allotment bollard.

It was reported that some of the addresses on Stourside and Lower Harlings were difficult to identify and were causing issues to professionals tending to residents/making deliveries. A suggestion was made that a double sign, with the name of one road on one side and the other on the other side, could be installed where both met. However, there was also a view that excessive street furniture/signage was not supported by some. It was agreed that enquiries should be made with Babergh District Council (street naming service).

Cllr R Wrinch had looked at the England Coast path proposal between Shotley Gate and Felixstowe and it appeared to be as discussed in previous consultations. Breaches were to be expected at some point in the

future and there was no agreed roll-back, therefore alternative routes may or may not be available in the case of a big surge, for example.

Members raised concerns about parking on grass verges in various areas in Shotley and although one incident near the Doctor's Surgery had been successfully pursued by Babergh District Council, this was not always possible.

**SPC/20/15: Date of next meeting:** February 13<sup>th</sup> 2020 (full Council)

**SPC/20/16: To consider and approve the temporary exclusion of press and public-*if necessary: That pursuant to the Public Bodies (Admission at meetings) Act 1960 the Public and Press be excluded from the meeting due to the confidential nature of the business to be discussed***

**SPC/20/17: Matters of a confidential nature pertaining to budget for 2020/2021 (if needed):** None to be transacted, therefore there was no confidential session.

With no further matters to be transacted, the meeting ended at 9.20pm.

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