

**Minutes of a meeting of the Shotley Parish Council held on Thursday, December 9<sup>th</sup> 2021 at 7:15 pm, at the Shotley Village Hall.**

**Present:** Cllrs R Wrinch (Chairman), B Powell, J Briscoe, T Ingram, and Mrs D Bedwell (Parish Clerk).

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

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

**SPC/21/154: To receive apologies for absence:** Apologies had been received from Cllrs C Mills, R Green, M Williams, and S Pallant.

**SPC/21/155: Public participation at meetings** (Meeting open to allow members of the public to speak): Members from a local family described to those present a recent road traffic collision which had resulted in the death of one of their horses. Although the young person accompanying the horse had thankfully only suffered minor injuries, they and the whole family had been extremely distressed by the incident.

Concern was expressed that vehicles regularly travelled well over the speed limit through the village and that it was a question of time before another tragedy occurred. The family appealed to the Parish Council to put in place measures for reducing speed and/or traffic calming, and additional signage, in an effort to prevent any future fatalities or serious accidents.

Although the accident had occurred on the stretch of road which was clearly identified as having farm traffic, drivers seemed to disregard the fact that they were in a rural area as well as the speed limit, which at one point reduced to 20 near the primary school. Over time, there had been a number of near misses. The herd of cows belonging to this farming family used to cross the road to be moved to another field several times a year, but this practise was now greatly reduced because of the risk to the cattle and the farmers alike. There was also an element of anti-social behaviour, where drivers would sometimes shout abuse at the farmers managing the herd, due to impatience and perhaps lack of awareness about country living.

Despite the very sad circumstances which had brought the family to the Council meeting, they requested that it be minuted how impressed they had been with the efficiency demonstrated by the Parish Clerk and the Parish Council in their very prompt response. A letter had been hand delivered to the Clerk and within less than four hours the family had been contacted and a Parish Councillor had visited the family to offer the Council's condolences and full support, and for this the family was most thankful

The Clerk had also informed the County Councillor, and he too had been in touch with the family to offer his support.

The Parish Council informed those present that numerous meetings had been held in the past with Suffolk County Council to look into various speed reduction solutions and road improvements. There had been some resistance to the provision of any additional signage and /or alternative speed calming measures. Some of the options were not able to be considered due to the layout of the road, effect on neighbouring properties, safety considerations or resource availability. However, the Parish Council was committed to continue working with the County Council on these matters. To this effect , it was in the process of requesting a full traffic survey for the area. It was hoped that once the data was available, it would help any application that the Parish may wish to put forward in an attempt to address the various issues raised: From speeding on the main road, to anti-social behaviour on Bristol Hill and the Marina, to safe crossing points and concerns about projected traffic increases due to upcoming developments.

It was also agreed that the Parish Council and local news platforms would make a concerted effort to try to educate the public on the risks of driving carelessly or too fast in our country roads, near farms, and near schools. It was also suggested that neighbouring parishes could join forces and share expenditure in terms of road safety improvements if they were minded to work together in the future.

On a different matter, a presentation by a member of Suffolk County Council had been planned to take place but unfortunately the representative had sent their apologies. The presentation was deferred to the January meeting.

**SPC/21/156: To consider co-option onto the Council:** Deferred to the next meeting due to the low number of Councillors able to attend.

**SPC/21/157: Declarations of interest with regard to items on the agenda:** Cllr T Ingram declared a non-pecuniary interest on item 161.

**SPC/21/158: Reports**

- a) County Councillor's report: Cllr S Hartley's report had been circulated to members ahead of the meeting.
- b) District Councillor's report: A report had also been received from Cllr D Davis and circulated to all.

**SPC/21/159: To approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 18 November 2021:** It was resolved to approve the minutes as a true record of the meeting held.

**SPC/21/160: Planning matters:** To consider any applications: **Application:** DC/21/06150 - Farmside, Main Road: Erection of 1 No. replacement dwelling and garage (following demolition of existing dwelling): it was resolved to recommend the approval of this planning application.

**SPC/21/161: Shotley Peninsula Shoreline CIC** – To receive update and to consider proposals for damaged section: The SPS CIC continued to seek solutions to the damaged gabion steps but responses from contractors approached lacked consistency. Some were unable to quote, whilst others advised that prices of materials continued to rise, and quotes needed to be reviewed regularly. Other options also considered included second-hand steps recovered from buildings undergoing works.

A recommendation was made by a member of the public to approach local contractors and establish whether anyone may be able to manufacture a suitable solution. Cllr T Ingram agreed to liaise with this member of the public after the meeting in order to get contact details for locally recommended contractors.

It was also agreed that the barriers preventing access should be reinforced and additional signage place on site.

Cllr B Powell had received written permission which allowed for minor remedial works on the section of wall/footpath on land belonging to the Marchioness of Bristol Estate. However, the said letter would need to be addressed to the SPC CIC, as the Group operated independently from the Parish Council. It was agreed that the Group should prepare a letter for approval by the Council, supporting this request, for consideration at the next meeting.

**SPC/21/162: Highways matters:** To consider matters raised by members of the public and agree any recommendations to SCC Highways: Highways matters had been extensively considered earlier in the meeting and no further issues were discussed.

**SPC/21/163: Finance and administration:**

- a) To consider and approve accounts for payment and note receipts/bank balances and reconciliations: It was resolved to approve the balances/reconciliations and accounts for payment as follows:

Salaries, Tax, NI and pension liabilities	£1,864.09
Bristol Hill Public Conveniences cleaning contract	£330.00
Village Warden contract and materials	£705.87
Clerk's expenses	£266.97
C De Boer- SPS CIC materials	£4.60
Cllr B Powell expenses	£222.66
Food parcel scheme	£104.54
<b>Total:</b>	<b>£3,498.73</b>
<b>Receipts:</b>	
Food parcel donations (December)	£50.00

- a) To approve accounts for first and second quarters 2021/2022: The approval of the accounts was deferred to the following meeting once more members were in attendance.
- b) To receive update on ongoing matters: A brief report was received from the Clerk.

**SPC/21/164: To note any further correspondence received and agree response needed:**

- a) Correspondence from residents re. article about the Ganges development: The Councillors who had attended a meeting with the site developers provided members with a detailed update regarding recent developments. These included the various works proposed for phases 1, 2 and 3, works to the mast and Nelson's Hall and the temporary use of Caledonia Road for access/works. The Parish Council had also invited the developers to attend a future Parish Council meeting in order to provide further updates, and for a public exhibition at the Village Hall for the public in general.
- b) Correspondence from residents re. tree works in Tudor Close: This correspondence pertained to works on trees which had not been within the remit of the Parish Council or Babergh District Council. The resident had been referred to the organisation responsible and no further action was needed.
- c) Report from the Community Orchard: A brief report from the Community Orchard had been circulated to members.

The County Councillor arrived at 8.15pm and provided a verbal report in addition to the already circulated written report.

**SPC/21/165: Reports from Councillors on matters not itemised on agenda/requests for 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):** There were no reports from Councillors.

**SPC/21/166: Date of next meeting:** 10 January 2022 (Finance Working Group – budget and precept); 20<sup>th</sup> January 2022 (full Council): Noted.

With no further matters to be transacted, the meeting ended at 8.20pm.

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

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