

MINUTES OF SHOTLEY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING – 20 October 2005

Present: Cllr J A Mullan (Chair), and Cllrs N G Bugg, , B Hooper, A M Long, M J Matthews, G Steel and, Cllrs Wrinch

In attendance: Cty Cllr Wood, District Cllr Sadler, and one member of the public.
The meeting opened at 7.30 p.m.

Apologies: Apologies were received Cllrs Corness (sick) and Sullivan (sick), PC Campbell.

Declarations of Interest: There were no declarations of interest

At this point Cllr Mullan presented a formal letter of resignation. In view of his impending departure from the Village he felt that he could not provide the degree of commitment that the position of Councillor required. He thanked the Councillors for their help and friendship over the previous 6 and half years and wished them well.

After a short discussion Cllr Wrinch took over the chair. Cllr Wrinch then accepted the nomination of Chair and was elected unanimously. Cllr Long was invited to accept the position of Vice-Chair on a unanimous vote, which she accepted.

Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 15th September 2005, having been previously circulated, were amended as necessary, accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

Matters Arising

Waste Bins – There was further discussion on the locations of both the three large bins and the two small ones. It was agreed that it would be easier for the bins to be placed off the highway in each case. In order to ensure the District Council could empty them, the following locations were decided upon:

Bottom of Bristol Hill adjacent to the Shotley RSPB Information sign. – large bin.

Adjacent to the end of Lloyd Road close to the new Playground – large bin.

Kingsland adjacent to the playground – large bin.

Junction of Main Road and Kingsland close to the demolished bus shelter – small bin.

Off Main Road pavement by sign board in front of the Village Hall – small bin.

Mr. Bynoth would be approached to quote for installation as he had previously agreed to install each one in a legal position. The Parish Clerk would advise Babergh in advance to ensure the locations would be accessible for their waste contractors.

Trees in SHARP Field fouling neighboring property - Cllr Long spoke. The occupant of 23 Kirkton Close who had experienced the first problems has already had the trees trimmed. This should result in a revised and reduced quotation for the work in Sharp field. The Tree surgeon had made a second visit to Kingsland. He had recommended that the trees should not be cut as they would be spoiled. There had been complaints about interference with the light to neighbouring bungalows. It was agreed that the Babergh Tree Officer should be requested to comment as he had previously carried out a survey of all of the trees in Shotley.

Street Lighting – Cllrs were briefed on the contract that had been received from Suffolk County Council (SCC). This would cover elements including the notional electricity consumption and accidental damage to the lamp standards. The Clerk had reminded SCC about standard 25 in Kingsland. It could not be repaired. A revised quotation for its replacement was being sought. Cllrs agreed that there would be a safety issue if the standard was left in its current condition. Suffolk Acre had been consulted and they advised that up to £500 might be available towards the cost of the replacement. The Clerk was directed to pursue a solution. The replacement should be arranged and a claim could follow on.

Insurance – Cllr Long had investigated the insurance policy. It does not cover loss or damage to any of our equipment, only public liability for the playground equipment. Notwithstanding the initial Cllr Hooper advised

that it might be cheaper not to insure items as each claim required an excess of £100 and the limit might be too low to cover items economically. If the PC accepted the risk, the outlay required following damage could be less than the cumulative effect of paying premiums.

RFO Points

Play Area (Insurance). The Clerk would carry out further investigation.

Authorisation of payments

Cllr Steel – Miscellaneous expenses	£125.43
Cllr Long – Travel expenses	£24.80
SALC – Clerk’s Guide (new edition)	£10.00
(name in chequebook) Web Hosting – MyShotley	£35.18
SVHMC – Homestart (25 x £22)	£550.00
Mrs. Bugg – cleaning Sep & Oct	£152.80
PC use of VH till March 06?	£144.00

Mrs. Bugg would be paid for 2 hours per week cleaning from November because of the demolition of the bus shelter.

Planning Apps – (Unable to detail in full at this time as details are with clerk)

B/05/01544/FUL/MF 11&13 Queensland Shotley - No objections
B/04/02268/FUL/MF 11 Queensland Shotley – Application withdrawn
B/05/01621/FHA/LJR The Haven, Church Walk - No objections

Planning results

B/05/01324/FHA/MF 6 Stourside, Shotley Gate - Granted
B/05/00993/FHA/AT 5 Gate Farm Rd, Shotley - Granted
B/05/01286/FHA/AT 2 Netherall Cottages, Ipswich Rd, Shotley - Granted

HMS Ganges Development –

Cllr Steele had met with Dr Lelas and she had briefed representative of the other parishes. They seemed to be happy to use her services if needed. Woolverstone PC are maintaining a Fighting Fund to which individuals as well as organizations can contribute.. It had been agreed at that meeting that if any money was left after payment of professional help it would be donated to the Friends of the Surgery. Parish Councillors would need to approach their own PCs to confirm contributions. Holbook and Harkstead wished to see a breakdown of the likely costs before doing so. There was already £1700 in the fund. Shotley still has the balance of the £5000 agreed in 2004 to pay for Dr Lelas. Cllr Steele advised that the approximate costs for Dr Lelas are so far:

Phase 1 - £1920 to include preparation of the Note 6 submission to the Planning Inspectorate.

Phase 2 - £3000 for approximately 60 hours’ work at £50 to £60 per hour.

Phase 3 – Appearance at inquiry £4800 for approximately 80 hours’ work.

Miscellaneous including accommodation - £900

Total - £10620

There could be additional charges for expert witnesses. However, Dr Lelas might recommend some, but these would not be engaged without the prior agreement of all of the Parishes.

The Alliance believes that the Phase 1 and 2 costs have been covered by the money available so far.

Cllr Steele advised that Shotley Cllrs needed to decide upon the final content of our Section 106 submission by the end of November. A Chair’s Briefing would be arranged for Cllrs so that this could be discussed and the wording agreed. The content had been referred to frequently in correspondence previously submitted by the Parish Council on behalf of the community. The Final draft of the Parish Plan would be ready for that meeting. The Clerk was directed to book the Committee room when the date was confirmed.

Parish Plan

As the Parish Plan is almost ready for presentation it would be necessary for the Council to decide who should be appointed to carry forward the recommendations contained in it. This was discussed. As the plan is a strategy for the future the Council would be required to address its content at regular intervals. Nonetheless it was recognized that responsibility should be laid at the door of one person or group. The subject should be discussed at the next meeting.

Good Neighbours Scheme

No correspondence received to date

Parish Clerk's Points

Nominations for Babergh Awards. Required to be submitted by the end of November. No nominations from the village received so far. To be addressed at the next meeting.

Hanover Hardship Fund. A number of local people had benefited from this fund. The Clerk was directed to inquire about how much, on average had been spent locally. On receipt of this information the Cllrs could then decide on an appropriate donation.

East of England Draft Plan. Information passed to Cllr Steele for information and briefing at next meeting.

Awards for All. The availability of small grants from £500 to £5000 was explained by Cty Cllr Wood. Cllrs Long and Matthews agreed that it would be worth investigating the cost of a Trim Trail for installation in the playgrounds and then submitting a bid for them.

SALC/Suffolk ACRE Training.

It was considered that the training on offer at this time was not convenient for councillors to attend

Councillors' Points

Cllr Bugg: The ex-Alms houses were surrounded by scaffolding but there appeared to be no work in progress. The site is unprotected and therefore a danger to children. Because of overgrowth there was a danger that rats might re-appear. The Clerk was directed to write to Mr. Hyland, the joint owner, drawing to his attention to concern of the Council and requesting that the site be made safe.

The bus shelter on Queensland had been demolished by a vehicle. The debris was a danger. The Clerk had already investigated disposal and had received a budget cost of £250.00 to remove from site. She was authorized to arrange this as soon as possible. If the driver was charged for the accident, a claim for compensation would be submitted through the courts. Mr. Mullan agreed to investigate this aspect on behalf of the Council.

Wheelie Bins at the Church. The industrial sized wheelie bins opposite the Church provided for the occupants of homes in Frogs Alley were smelling and rats were in evidence. It was suggested that a hard standing could be created opposite the naval cemetery (?) further down Frogs Alley that would be better all round. The Clerk was directed to submit a suitable letter and map identifying the location to Babergh DC for consideration.

Work on the roads at Kingsland – Formal thanks should be passed to SCC Highways for the quality of the work Queensland Bungalows – The invitation to visit them had been taken up by Cllrs and the standard was found to be very high.

Street Signs for Queensland – these seem to be missing. The Clerk would inform Babergh as this is their responsibility as owners of the council estate.

Cllr Matthews: Collection of street rubbish in Shotley gate. As Robert (?) is no longer fit can we seek a new person to take on the role? Should they be paid? As we already pay Mrs. Bugg for Shotley the same arrangement should apply to Shotley Gate. A suitable advert should be placed on Myshotley.com and the subject should be formally addressed as an agenda item in the next meeting.

Substation at the end of Lloyd Road – the fence surrounding it has been damaged and children can enter. There is no sign on the fence to identify to whom it should be reported. The details would be taken from one of the other substations in the village and a report raised without delay

Shotley Peninsula Learning Alliance 10th October - RHS Holbrook

Cllrs Long and Matthews report on this meeting was distributed to all councillors.

County Cllr Wood: Buzabout – SCC will probably meet the balance of the cost of continuation of the Buzabout service.

The possible amalgamation of East Anglian Police Forces – As a member of the Police Authority, Cllr Wood was able to comment on the alternatives being examined by the Authority in conjunction with the Chief Constable and the other interested Forces, Norfolk, Suffolk, Essex and Cambridgeshire. Full publicity was being given to these deliberations to be the public and staff. The preliminary findings would be submitted to the Home Secretary on 28 October.

District Cllr Sadler: Cllr Sadler will take up the subject of the wheelie bins at the church on behalf of the parish Council.

Parking space opposite the Shotley Post Office. She had received representations that this should be extended to increase the number of places. The Clerk was directed to check with both Suffolk County Council Highways and Babergh DC to determine who owns the land, what can be done and who would be required to pay, and report at the next meeting.

The next meeting will be on Thursday 17 November at 7.30 pm.