

MINUTES OF SHOTLEY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 18 Aug 2005

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

In attendance: District Cllr Sadler, Pc Campbell and one member of the public.

The meeting opened at 7.30 p.m.

Apologies: Apologies were received from Cllrs Corness (on holiday), Wrinch (harvest), County Cllr Wood and District Cllr Clarke.

Declarations of Interest:

There were no declarations of interest

Police Brief:

Pc Campbell summarised the crime figures for July. The HMS Ganges Museum had had a window broken and an attempted break-in. This was unsuccessful. There had been break-ins at Alton Water Scout Hut, works vans in Pin Mill and in Chelmondiston again. Pc Campbell stressed the importance of garaging works vans wherever possible because of the attractive tools and equipment stored in them. He briefed on the introduction of the Neighbourhood Watch Newsletter's availability on the Police website, www.suffolk.police.uk. Cllr Long explained that there seemed to be little enthusiasm on the part of villagers to assist. However, phone messages continued to be received. It was suggested that the Neighbourhood Watch Newsletter could be linked to the MyShotley website for general availability. This would be actioned by the website administrator, Mr Peters. Pc Campbell had been briefed on the incidence of motorcyclists, particularly the mini bikes. He had been checking on this problem with them being ridden both along the public path below Shotley Cliff and round the SHARP Field play area. He advised that one person from Shotley had been imprisoned for drug offences and there were others who had been released recently and were now in the vicinity. He and the other community police would continue to monitor Shotley and the surroundings.

Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 28 July 2005, having been previously circulated, were amended as necessary, accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

Matters Arising

The Chair advised that he had still not contacted the Charities Commission for an indication of the monies for the Alms Houses to which we might be entitled.

Waste Bins. Three 210 litre Topsy Jubilee bins and two Super Trimline 50 HSL post-mounted bins had been ordered at a cost of £687.31. Two Topsy bins would be fixed at the foot of Bristol Hill and the other at the top of Bristol Hill opposite the post office. The Super Trimlines would be placed at the bus stop at Kingsland and by the Kingsland Play Area. Cllr Matthews asked about dog bins. It was agreed that the precise location of up to 3 bins should be confirmed and these would be ordered.

Trees in SHARP Field fouling neighbouring property. A quotation for £395 + £95 had been received. It was agreed that a modification to the work would be sought. This should exclude the removal of the oak tree but include the crowning of trees overhanging 28, 30 and 32 Kingsland if they were found to be the responsibility of the Parish. The revised work would be authorised.

Rubbish on field at top of Wades Lane. A response had been received. Although untidy the site is not considered sufficiently so to justify formal 'untidy site' action and there is no breach of Town Planning Control.

RFO Points

Homestart – The main hall is used for two hours per week and is considered to be a valuable facility for young families. It was proposed by Cllr Sullivan and Seconded by Cllr Hooper that the Parish Council should meet this cost in future. This was carried unanimously.

Play Area (Insurance). A question remained on what additional insurance was required for the play equipment. It was agreed that Cllr Long would check with Suffolk Acre regarding inspection frequency and content. The RFO would be asked to check with Zurich on our current insurance cover.

Donation towards replacement fireworks equipment for Chelmondiston PCC. The Chair would request details as to what equipment needed to be changed and its cost. This would be brought back to the next meeting.

Street Light maintenance contract. The Chair was investigating the current situation, as it appeared to be confused.

(Chair's Note: The contract for the Parish-owned lamps had lapsed but the funding had been set aside. The contract is being renewed and the unserviceable lamps will have been replaced before the next meeting)

Playground Equipment For SHARP Field. Now that it was confirmed that the SHARP Field is in the ownership of the Parish, the Chair had called in Adventure Playgrounds to agree the site of the equipment previously agreed. Provided that the quotation matched that of the Kingsland equipment, thereby enjoying a similar discount, the equipment would be ordered. On receipt of the plan it would be circulated for approval by the residents in the vicinity. It was hoped that the equipment could be installed by October.

Authorisation of payments

Play Area Repairs. Adventure Playgrounds – 3 seats @ £47.00.
Play Area Signs for Kingsland and SHARP Field = £99.26. These would be ordered and received before the next meeting.

Planning Apps

01286 2 Netherhall Cottages. Erection of rear conservatory and 2.4 m side boundary. Cllr Bugg spoke. There were no objections.

01324 6 Stourside – single-storey rear and two-storey side extensions. Front Porch and new access Cllr Long spoke. There were no objections.

Planning Amendments

75 Great Harlings – Slight alteration to plan. Cllrs Long and Mullan spoke. There were no objections.
10 Ganges Road – Slight alteration to

Results

4 Cherry Gardens – granted with conditions. The Cllrs were briefed on the background to the decision, as it had not been supported.

HMS Ganges Development – Public Enquiry. The development proposals had been called in by the Secretary of State. Wend Le-las had been consulted and was willing to brief councillors including representative from the other parishes. She also could visit Babergh to discuss the future position with Officers, accompanied by Shotley councillors. It was agreed that she should be invited. Future action would depend upon the outcome of the visit. Cllr Steel asked that the Enquiry admin officer should be reminded of the continuing deterioration to the site and of some previous history. The Chair would produce a suitable interim response to the Inspectorate by 30 August.

DEFRA Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005: Cllrs had read the documentation and were unanimously of the opinion that it simply devolved an increased responsibility for policing transgressions to the local councils such as ours, without corresponding funding to pay for support. We are too small a community and Council to take on the suggested responsibilities. It would be unfair if not taking on a non-statutory role affected the ability of the PC to earn the award of Quality Council.

Babergh Charitable Leisure Trust: No suggestions of a suitable name were forthcoming.

SALC Area Meeting – 5 September: As neither Cllr Long nor Cllr Steel could attend, Cllr Mullan agreed to go.

Parish Plan: The planned launch date is 28 October. The M.Shotley website continued to be popular with an average of 1400 hits each month. A link to a report on health services has been established.

Parish Clerk – Date of Interviews: These have been set for 7 and 8 September. It was hoped to hold the 8 September interviews in the late afternoon and they would be arranged accordingly.

Council Correspondence

National Seminar on Common Land – 13 September: Owing to distance and cost there were no volunteers.

HIP Local Authority Liaison Committee Meeting: This will be held on 23 September at Harwich. As Cllr Mullan is relocating, it would be sensible to have another representative attend this meeting with him. This would be decided nearer to the date.

Councillor's points:

Cllr Long asked whether a suitable seat could be provided for parents in the Kingsland playground. It was suggested that one similar to that used in the Golden Wood area would be robust enough. She would seek a cost for this and report back.

Cllr Matthews explained that older children play football against the boards set up on Kingsland. When the ball misses the board it often enters the playground. There is a danger of injuring children inside. Could the board be relocated? Cllr Mullan suggested that the erection of a 2.4 metre fence between the board and the playground could prevent accidents yet leave the board in place and the centre of the area open for other purposes. This would be costed for the next meeting.

Cllr Steel reported that the Amplifier Project would not be returning to Shotley in spite of its success in introducing various aspects of the music industry to young people. Those affected had already begun to lobby the organisers by email. It was agreed that if approached the PC would support this campaign. He also reported that the Youth event planned by Julia Catterwell would take place on 24 September and would include 5-a-side football, arts, crafts and a BBQ. It should be open from 12 pm to 3 pm.

Cllr Hooper had been approached about the dumping of spoil adjacent to a public footpath between Kingsland and the Street by a contractor working on a nearby garden. It was agreed that Cllr Hooper would speak to the owner of the property to ascertain whether she knew the eventual intention of the contractor. Normal contracts would include the removal and disposal of debris.

Cllr Mullan reported that he had suggested to Adventure Playgrounds that bringing teen play equipment to the Youth event would be a good advert and give the youngsters a chance to see what is available. They will see if this is possible.

Dist Cllr Sadler advised that she had attended a talk on eGovernment. She also briefed on the campaign by Hadleigh Town Council to replace its swimming pool. This could cost every parishioner in Shotley £5.20 on next year's Council Tax and it is not used by us. Hadleigh did not support charging for their car parks and this could have been an alternative source of funding.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.35 pm. The next meeting will be held on 15 September at 7.30 pm.