

Shottisham Parish Council

**Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Tuesday 12th May 2026
at The Trust Hall, Shottisham**

Present: Chair Natalie Brett (NB)

Attendees: (ESC) Cll James Mallinder (JM), Cll Philip Bouscarle (PW), Cll Chrissie Darby (CD), Cll Kathy Wilson (KW), Clerk Lesley Roberts (LR), and five members of the public.

1-12/05/26 Chair's Welcome and Apologies for Absence

Chair NB welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them all for attending

2-12/05/26 Chairman's report:

Ray Kay resigned in May after 7 years of chairing the SPC. All councillors thanked him and wanted it formally minuted for all his commitment and contribution over the 8 years he has been a full member of the SPC. Natalie Brett was voted in as chair of the SPC at the May meeting. We welcomed a new Councillor, Kathy Wilson who was co-opted at the July meeting. At this present time, we are only quorate if 3 of 4 members attend as we continue to explore new blood. I would like to thank Lesley our clerk for all her work over the past year, as well as looking after all council administration, minutes of meetings, she also keeps up to date with all legislation/procedures affecting the council and keeps Parish Councillors apprised. The play area continues to require maintenance, Cllr PB has kindly offered to keep an eye on the area and relevant works are being carried out in response to the September RoSPA inspection. Some of these works are paid and some are voluntary. The area is heavily used during the summer months, especially when the campsite is busy. There have been reports from several parishioners on misuse of the equipment, vandalism and behavioural issues, particularly during school holidays. It has been agreed that any broken equipment due to vandalism in the future would be removed and not repaired as we are uncertain that funds would be available to replace. Highways have been a challenge over the last year for many with long term road closures at Melton causing very lengthy round trips, road and water mains repairs and traffic lights to allow heavy vehicles over Ford Hill. We did sign a joint letter with Sutton Parish Council regarding the long closure of the Melton railway during August and the overall impact to local businesses as well as residents. The work had to be completed but better communication and acknowledgement of the situation could have helped alleviate the issues raised. The 20mph campaign is ongoing. We have been given the green light from Cllr Andrew Reid, and we have been informed that we meet all the criteria. Cllr James Mallinder continues to support us in our campaign. We had a walk through with both Cllr AR and Charles Harrison, Community Liaison Engineer from Suffolk Council in February and we continue to push them on funding for the first stage of the process and getting our road markings reinstated. A big thank you to Chrissie Darby for her persistence on this. By the time you read this the local elections will have been so we will know by then who to push next for our 20mph campaign and anything else that comes our way including Devolution. One ongoing issue is the roll out of digital landlines and the lack of mobile phone signal in the village. Natalie Brett Chair, Shottisham Parish Council

3-12/05/26 Clerk's Finance Report

1. At close of business on 31/03/2026 the current account stood at £685.34
2. At close of business on 31/03/2026 the savings account stood at £7,730.32.
3. The precept for 2025/26 was increased to £6,550 from £5,500 from the previous year.
4. A VAT repayment of £1,059.92 was claimed for VAT paid in 204/25.
5. Bank interest of £176.43 was received from the savings account during 2025/26.
6. Donations received during the year included a contribution of £100 from Diana Bickerton and £50 from the sale of left-over prosecco.
7. The clerk's wages of £2,100 remained the same as in 2024-25.
8. The clerk's expenses of £124.50 included postage, stationery and a copy of Microsoft Office 2024.
9. The cost of maintaining the playground including grass cutting and the RoSPA report came to £1,202.24.
10. Miscellaneous for 2025/26 came to £395.48.71 which included £250 web site hosting costs as well as £73 for a monthly service charge from Unity Trust Bank.
11. We ended 2025/26 with a surplus of £2,729.43 rather than a deficit of -£4,90.64 the previous year. This was due to the purchase of the replacement trim trail and was covered by the Lottery Fund donation.

Full copies of all written reports received can be found on the website at www.shottisham-pc.gov.uk which includes:

- a) **Church Warden's Report**
- b) **MP Report**
- c) **SCC Report**
- d) **Women's Institute Report**
- e) **Village Recorder's Report**

Cll James Mallinder from East Suffolk Council attended the meeting and gave a verbal report of his work this year, highlights of which includes:

- Providing funds from the Enabling Communities budget to fund local community needs including:
 - Meet up Mondays
 - Men's Shed Group
 - Providing additional litter bins
 - Supporting kitchen renovations including Shottisham WI Trust Hall
- Focusing on environmental concerns to promote a shared responsibility to protect our rural environment, especially our rural roads, resilience of our sea defences, and our wildlife.
- Tabling a motion at ESC to promote protecting our dwindling brown hare population by providing wildlife corridors and working with Suffolk Police to deter illegal hare coursing.
- Providing a voice for the community by challenging their concerns including long traffic delays, frequent closures of Melton Railway crossing, and the complexity of the new waste collection service.
- Complaining to our MP Jenny Riddell-Carpenter about the massive increase in heating oil and the unfair burden it places on rural communities and those on fixed incomes.

- Reporting highways concerns to SCC by commenting on the amount of debris on the roads including mud in winter, sand in the summer and flooding issues, making the roads inaccessible at times.
- Focussing in the coming year on environmental impact and social responsibility.

6-12/05/26 Open Forum:

Issues discussed at the meeting included:

- The phasing of the traffic lights at Melton appears to be out of sync which causes long delays going into Woodbridge from Shottisham side of the peninsula, especially noticeable in the morning and evening.
- The MP Jenny Riddell-Carpenter has been contacted by a parishioner complaining about the lack of mobile connectivity in Shottisham. Apparently, Three are considering building a phone mast in Sutton which might prove useful. Chair NB agreed to contact the Chair of Sutton Council to find out further information.
- The First Responder co-ordinator has been approached by a parishioner who would like Shottisham to consider funding someone locally. The £2,500 cost includes training and the kit, which the council could ill afford. It was agreed that it would be useful to find out if there is anyone interested in volunteering before further consideration.

Chair:

Dated: