

Shottisham Parish Council, Chair's report 2025/26

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