

**Shotley Open Spaces
Minutes 16th March 2017
Bristol Arms 19.00**

Apologies: Jane L, Derek F, Barrie P,

Attendees: Gary R, Pat R, Derek G, Roger C, Marian P, Geraint P, Ian P, Heidi G, Tony LR, Geraint P, Alex P, Ian S, Pat S,

1. **Minutes of last meeting:** Approved and signed.
2. **Walkers are Welcome:** Our application was accepted and commended for its thoroughness. Window stickers for our local businesses will be distributed, if we want more we can buy them. Babergh media team are on the case and we can expect them to advertise this success widely. A "launch" budget has been donated to us. We need to decide what form this launch will take. General agreement to hold a low key "soup a lunch" type event outdoors near the Village Hall. The Hall would be a backup in case of rain. Prospective date: 13 May (10.00 - 16.00). "Shotley Stroll" will be integrated into the event.
3. **Tourism Action Group:** £9,600 has been awarded for our Heritage Lottery Fund bid. It will pay for information boards, leaflets and way marking equipment. WDMTGTS trail and Arthur Ransome events are progressing to fruition. GP to forward copies of the acceptance email to the SOS committee members.
4. **Phase 3 Erosion Protection:** "Legal issues associated to Phase 1 and 2" are being blamed by Barrie for holding this up. He has been "advised" by SALC and Babergh that he shouldn't touch this project until these issues are addressed. The PC failed this year to apply for funding of £5000 from Suffolk Coast, the fund holders for sea defence maintenance work. There doesn't seem to be the will to complete applications for these monies. Perhaps they should approach Kate Lowe for advice. We all want to stay positive but it is becoming increasingly difficult in the face of continued inaction, seemingly to the point of obstructiveness, by some individuals.
5. **Heritage Park Maintenance:** The area is looking increasingly sad at present. Our enforced inaction will cause us even more work when we are finally allowed to attack the overgrowth. Some parts are becoming choked with weeds and nettles. The work in the play area, that used to be ongoing by Alex P, has also been delayed.
6. **Gun Deck Working Group:** Ian S emailed the Parish Clerk six

weeks ago but has had no response to date. He will try to get a response from her again. Apparently this is standard procedure nowadays. Seemingly nothing has changed in the last year or so.

7. **Marketing and Promotions:** There has been a poor response to date regarding photographic entries for the calendar. Marian asked that we get friends and families to enter and see if they could get their relations and friends to take part. "Spring" is in evidence at present and the trees, flowers and lambs in the village are ripe for photographing. Ian P informed Marian that the "may blossom" she remembers from her childhood is, in fact, "Marabellum Plum". (Perhaps she has a Welsh version of it in mind)! She wants to get our Photographs to the printers in August so "Autumn and Winter" shots should come in now along with Summer offerings.

8. **Treasurers Report: Balance today £7,396. There was no coffee or tea because of the power cut.**

9. **A.O.B:**

- a. Derek G will enquire if the Church would like our spare leaflet dispenser. Two already installed were used well last weekend.
- b. Bill Jenman has asked us to supply a representative of SOS to the Landscape Partnership Project Board. As RSPB and Green Light are currently onboard Ian P has volunteered to represent us.
- c. Casper de Boer has asked to join our volunteers through contacting our web site. He has already helped out on some of our projects. His expertise and enthusiasm is warmly welcomed.
- d. TLR is getting our three WaW walks set up as a PDF on our site.
- e. The VOTY banner was replaced at Corner Garage. Other damaged ones have been removed.
- f. SOS reports have gone in to Noticeboard.
- G. Gary is to flag up signage deficiencies with Rights of Way. Ian P pointed out that they needed addressing in our 7 mile walk.

Meeting finished: 21.00.

Next meeting Thursday 20 April 13.30.