

**Shotley Open Spaces  
Minutes 18th May 2017  
Bristol Arms 113.30**

**Apologies:** Jane L, Alex P, Shane R, Ian P, Ian S,

**Attendees:** Gary R, Derek G, Roger C, Marian P, Geraint P, Tony LR, Geraint P, Pat S, Matt Jones (Estuaries Officer AONB). Barrie P (SPC)

1. **Minutes of last meeting:** Approved and signed.
2. **Matt Jones** Outlined his responsibilities and highlighted that we could access the Suffolk Coasts and Heaths web site where the Stour and Orwell minutes were to be found. Next S & A Forum is at RHYC 4 July. Bill Jenman and others will be speaking there. A Suffolk wide salt marsh group has been set up to study best practise. BP was allowed to raise issues with Matt about removal of spoil from UK Power Networks drilling. He said the Environment Agency had vetoed the use of spoil from this to improve the Orwell banks and footpaths. Matt undertook to investigate. It has since transpired that some of Barrie's contentions were erroneous. GR explained our increased involvement with rights of Way and our WaW status.
3. **Walkers are Welcome:** GR reported on the WaW launch. There was £47 profit after the soup and raffle expenses. We unanimously agreed to donate this to the WI/Soup a Lunch team for their church charities. We will be involving ourselves in the "Health Walk" initiative in conjunction with Shotley Surgery. We voted to buy two sets of bunting (£50 max.) for using at the start and finish of our circular walks.
4. **Tourism Action Group:** Our involvement has been recognised and appreciated. The suggestion that we should trial two electric bikes over a six month periods agreed: £1000 from our funds, £1000 (Labour) matched funding and £2000 Grant funding. GR to compile bid.
5. **Parish Council:** Barrie Powell reported. Adverse Possession application has been put forward by the PC re. the picnic area. They want to take ownership. If no one comes forward they will do so. Neither the Admiralty nor the Marquis of Bristol is interested. Regarding the surprise alterations to the Sodexo terms of agreement to work on the foreshore he stated that "An employee of the Parish Council signed this without the agreement of the

Councillors”. On further questioning about the continued obstructionism we were suffering he said “I can only say, as far as the Council is concerned that there is no animosity towards your group”. TLR and MP asked why this situation had developed in light of recent promises he had made regarding disciplinary procedures being undertaken. He asserted that “Dina has not complied with the warnings that two solicitors gave her in my presence. They told her she should remember she was an employee, not the person in charge of the Council. She should not have done this, or signed it on our behalf, without us discussing it and agreeing to it. Her actions are plain stupidity.” Gp assured Barrie we realised he was in a difficult situation but seemed to be the only recent Chairman of the PC who had made any progress. He assured us that “We still want to work together with you and want you to expand that cooperation”. Barrie then had to leave to attend to some Queen Bees that he had in his pocket. A motion was passed unanimously: “To withdraw cooperation with the Parish Council if these current problems are not addressed in a meaningful way”.

6. **Heritage Park Maintenance:** The Payback Team did a lot of work last week, strimming and cutting. While they were doing this GR, JL and GP Installed a waymark post, way markers and two maps in Shotley and Shotley Gate. Afterwards they joined the team to do further cutting and strimming. GR has arranged for further payback sessions.
7. **Gun Deck Working Group:** Nothing to report. It seems there has been no resposner from the Parish Clerk.
8. **Marketing and Promotions:** There has been little further progress. MP has started contacting photographers on Facebook to elicit entries. SOS gained great PR from the WaW day. We own the Plaquet at an extremely reasonable cost. She showed us the stitch work that is now ready for us to use. We can buy articles for embroidering and have them customised for a small charge.
9. **Treasurers Report: Balance today £12,032.15. There was no coffee or tea at the last meeting because of the power cut.**
10. **Orchard East:** No one available to attend, clash with Shotley Fun Day.
11. **A.O.B:** We agreed to research “Easy Going Trails”. Meeting closed 16.00.