

**Minutes of the meeting of Shouldham Parish Council
held on Monday 15th February 2016 at 7.30pm in the village hall**

Those attending:

Mr G Hipperson, Chairman, Mr P Gascoyne, Mr K Matthews, Mrs A Berryman, Mrs A Caley,
Mr N Herbert, Mrs V Negus, Clerk.

Mr Hipperson informed the meeting that a former Councillor, Steve Brown, had died. Mr Brown had been invaluable in his knowledge and advice during his term on the Council and the clerk was asked to pass on condolences to his family

1. Apologies for Absence were received from Mr K Carter and Mr T Nickerson

2. Declaration of Interest No interests declared

3. Minutes of the meeting dated 18th January 2016 were signed as a true record

The Council agreed an additional item on the agenda for The Warren 11a

4. Matters Arising:

Ditch at the rear of Hallfields – the chairman has been assured that the ditch will be cleared straight away.

5. Maintenance of the Sports Pavilion

A quote has been received from Carter Cabinhire totalling £5800 plus VAT which would cover current repairs and cladding which will ensure another 10 years life for the pavilion. Mr Matthews reported that the Football Club are investigating the possibility of a grant for this work and will report back at the next meeting.

6. Borough Council Report

The delay in the local development plan continues.

Mr Hipperson passed on a map which has been produced by the Borough Council showing which areas of verges etc the Borough and County are responsible for.

7. Payments for Approval

Utility Warehouse – Electricity for January £37.98

Country Grounds Maintenance – Tree inspection £90.00

8. Planning

Land off Westgate Street – the application has been withdrawn

Orchard Caravan Park - Notice of Decision – refused by Borough Council

9. Grass cutting

(a) Additional cuts for The Green – after discussion it was agreed that extra cuts should be ad hoc rather than a regular request. Mr Gascoyne will inform the clerk if it needs extra cuts

(b) Playing Field – Mr Hipperson with Mr Hotson will cut the lower branches of surrounding trees to enable CGM to cut under the trees.

(c) Eastgate Street verge – Since a trod is not feasible for Eastgate Street the clerk will ask CGM if they are able to cut the verge

10. Fairstead Drove

Surface – Mr Hipperson was advised that, to achieve the best results, planings should not be laid until the weather is warm but he will place an order now to ensure they are available when needed and at the quoted price

Drainage – The clerk will ask if the Community Rangers will clear the ditch on the occasion of their next visit

11. Horse Chestnut Tree

The Council discussed the suggestion put forward by the PCC regarding the tree but agreed that, in view of the poor condition and location of the tree, the Council will stand by their decision to fell the tree.

The clerk will contact the Borough Council tree officer in the first instance before obtaining quotes for the necessary work.

11a. The Warren

Silica Sand Review - Response from NCC to the Parish Council's concerns on a review of sand extraction from the Warren was that, if at all, it would only be a small area and highways access via Shouldham village would not be acceptable

Tree Cutting - Response from the Forestry Commission to the Parish Council's concerns on transport of heavy loads through the village was that it is economically unfeasible to upgrade the track to the A134 and therefore it would be necessary to use the route through the village.

After discussion the clerk was asked to raise this issue again with the Forestry Commission pointing out that Lynn Road is designated unsuitable for heavy good vehicles by the Highways Department and Norfolk County Council also that the alternative to upgrading the track for use by heavy lorries would be to drop off the timber at the Sincks area for transporting from that point.

12. Village Car Park

The Road Safety Officer had been contacted and had verbally confirmed that he had no concerns regarding children crossing from a possible parking area on the opposite side of the road to the school, without the benefit of a formal crossing. The Council were not fully in agreement with this finding.

Mr Matthews reported that between 25 and 35 cars parked around the Green in addition to those using the drop off/pick up/move on system operated by the school.

After a long discussion it was felt that this is a very difficult problem to resolve but Mr Hipperson agreed that he would continue to try to find another source of advice.

13. Correspondence

(a) Kings Arms re Classic car meets. The Council agreed a monthly meet between April and October subject to the ground not being too wet.

(b) Borough Council re Queens Birthday Celebrations – a grant of £250 can be obtained from the Borough for any celebrations that may be organised. Mr Hipperson will make enquiries about a beacon.

(c) Borough Council confirmation that the discount on council tax for second homes will be reduced from 5% to 0%

(d) County Office requesting parish councils to join a petition for parish councils to be able to appeal against planning decisions which they are currently unable to do.

14. Other Business

There was no other business

15. The next meeting was set for Monday 21st March

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9pm