

Shouldham Annual Parish Meeting
Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of Shouldham held on
Mon 14th April 2025 at 7.00pm in the Village Hall.

Present: Parish Councillors: Nigel Walsh (Chairman), Keith Matthews, Geoff Hipperson, Claire Atterbury, John Carman, Sarah Sheldon, PC/BC Cllr Dr Pallavi Devulapalli.

Clerk: Mike Inder and Jo Lloyd (Clerk designate).

Apologies: BC/CC Cllr Jim Moriarty.

Public: One.

1. **Introduction:** Cllr Walsh welcomed those present and asked if anyone would like to put themselves forward to chair the meeting, there being no volunteers he was elected to chair the meeting.
2. **Accept Apologies for Absence:** apologies for absence were received prior to the meeting from the above.
3. **To agree the minutes of the previous meeting:** The minutes of the meeting held on 20th May 2024 were proposed as a true reflection of the meeting by Cllr Matthews, seconded by Cllr Atterbury and agreed.
4. **Matters Arising from the previous minutes:** None.
5. **Annual Report by the Parish Council Chair:** The PC Chair gave his report. (Annex A)
6. **Borough & County Councillor Reports:** Borough Cllr Devulapalli provided a report with key points being the refusal of the Methwold intense farming planning, c15,000 objectors and a high profile case. There is no new information regarding Local Government restructuring but she did emphasise the likely growing importance of Town and Parish Councils in championing local issue and priorities. The biodiversity competition is due to launch in May. There were questions relating to the LG reorganisation and the idea of Parishes working together on common matters to have a louder voice, which were answered to assure that it would only happen if supported by the public.
7. **RAF Marham Community Hub Report:** Regular reports provided to the PC rather than a once a year report.
8. **Shouldham Entertainments Cttee Report:** The Chair provided a report. (Annex B)
9. **Shouldham community organisations and clubs:** No other reports submitted.

All Saints Church: Cllr Atterbury in her capacity as a PCC member reported that there are still no Churchwardens, the previous 2 having retired a year ago. The Rev Dr David Karoon continues as the vicar for the 12 churches in the cluster. The Church has had a survey by an architect, and it is estimated that c£500k is needed to 'keep the roof on' and maintain the church in an operational condition. Whilst the PCC have held many successful fund raising events and increased the congregation by about two-thirds this is just the start and there are many more events and initiatives planned.

10. **Public Forum:** None

Chairman Initials _____

11. The Chairman thanked those present and closed the meeting at 7.33pm

Chair

Date

Prepared by

Mike Inder, Parish Council Clerk & RFO

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Annex A

Annual Report by the Parish Council Chairman

May 2024 – April 2025

It has been my honour to serve as Chairman throughout the past term of office.

The Council commenced the new term in May 2024 with seven councillors: myself, Nigel Walsh (Chairman), alongside Councillors Keith Matthews, Geoff Hipperson, Ant Hobbs, John Carman, Sarah Sheldon, and Dr Pallavi Devulapalli, who also serves as a Borough Councillor.

During the year, Councillor Elaina Friend and Ant Hobbs tendered their resignation. Additionally, we were formally notified that our Parish Clerk, Mr Mike Inder, will be stepping down from his role as of 30th April 2025.

We were pleased to welcome Councillor Claire Atterbury, who was co-opted in September and has since become a valuable member of the team. With her addition, we currently maintain an establishment of seven councillors. An application for co-option to fill the remaining vacancy has been received and is currently being processed. Upon completion, we anticipate returning to our full complement of eight councillors.

We also look forward to welcoming our new Parish Clerk, Joanna Lloyd, who will officially assume duties on 1st May 2025.

Governance and Planning

Significant structural changes in Local Government, including revised devolution arrangements and reporting lines, are anticipated. Final confirmation is expected shortly after the submission of this report.

These changes may affect planning and development procedures at both borough and county levels.

The Local Plan to 2036 remains unchanged at present. However, development within the parish continues.

Construction of five new dwellings on the Rhubarb Field is expected to commence this year, completing our quota of ten new builds. We also await confirmation of the Brown Field redevelopment of the derelict Matthews Bus Station site, which may yield an additional five dwellings.

All planning applications are rigorously reviewed by the Parish Council, with particular reference to the Local Plan and development boundary policies.

Neighbourhood Planning

The Neighbourhood Plan Committee continues its dedicated work to shape more sustainable and appropriate development within the parish. This plan remains vital for our future, and we urge all residents to support its goals and initiatives.

Key Issues and Projects

Flooding and Sewage Infrastructure:

Surface water flooding and the performance of the village's vacuum sewage system remain critical concerns. These issues have understandably caused considerable frustration. The Parish Council, together with the Surface Water Steering Group, continues to work proactively with relevant agencies. A long-term

Chairman Initials _____

solution is being explored to redirect major surface water flows away from the village. A detailed working document recording all incidents and actions has been compiled to support any future appeals to authorities for assistance or intervention.

School Parking and Traffic Management:

Parking issues during school drop-off and pick-up times have been partly mitigated by installing protective posts to prevent damage to grassed areas and inappropriate parking near residences. While improvements have been noted, safety and access remain areas of concern. The Parish Council collaborates closely with the school, Norfolk Constabulary, and Highways. Parents and guardians are regularly reminded via school communications to park considerately. Dedicated parking is available at the Village Hall and King George V Playing Field.

Additionally, discussions are ongoing with Highways to mark dedicated bus stop areas to prevent school minibus pick-ups from obstructing the main road.

Speed Awareness:

The Speed Awareness Monitoring (SAM) system continues to assist in tracking vehicle speeds through the village. Norfolk Constabulary has also increased mobile speed camera deployments in response.

Ground Maintenance:

The Parish Council's ground maintenance contract continues under new, more cost-effective arrangements, helping to maintain community areas within budget.

Ongoing Community Initiatives

- Community Orchard – Trod Extension
- Shouldham Youth Football Club – Proposal for New Clubhouse
- Lamson's Lane – Removal of Self-Set Trees
- King's Arms Cricket Club – Use of KGV Playing Field
- Heritage Oak Tree – Planting Project
- Village Phone Box – Adoption and Repurposing
- Closed Graveyard – Ongoing Management
- Playpark – Maintenance
- Litter/Dog Bins – Monitoring and Management

Acknowledgements

I extend my sincere thanks to our Borough and County Councillors, Dr Pallavi Devulapalli and James Moriarty, for their continued support and guidance over the past year. Their input has been invaluable to the progress and well-being of our Parish.

I express heartfelt thanks to my fellow Parish Councillors for their dedication, professionalism, and support throughout this past year. It is through their efforts that we continue to serve our community effectively.

I would also like to encourage members of the public to attend Parish Council meetings or to contact the Council through official channels. Open, clear, and concise communication ensures that concerns are heard and properly recorded for action.

As mentioned previously, Mike Inder, our Parish Clerk, will be stepping down from his role due to other commitments. It is with sincere gratitude that I thank Mike for his loyal, hardworking, and dedicated service to our Parish.

Mike's experience and advice have been truly inspirational and of immense benefit to the Council and the wider community. His involvement in the Sibelco consultation, as well as his exemplary management of the

Chairman Initials _____

Shouldham Emergency Contingency Team during the COVID-19 period, deserves special recognition. His meticulous attention to detail during those critical times ensured that the right outcomes were achieved. Beyond these standout contributions, Mike has consistently provided reliable and efficient administration across a wide range of council matters. His efforts have helped steer the Council in the right direction, enabling us to deliver positive results for our community.

As Chair, I cannot thank Mike enough for his unwavering professional support and guidance. On behalf of the entire Council and the community, thank you, Mike. I and the Council wish you every success and happiness in your future endeavours.

Annex B

Shouldham Entertainments Committee Annual Report

Another exciting and eventful year for Shouldham!

The Shouldham Entertainments Committee has once again had the pleasure of bringing a wide range of community events to life, continuing to foster the wonderful spirit of togetherness that our village is known for. Our success is only possible thanks to the incredible support from local volunteers and the close collaboration with our community partners, including the King's Arms, Bowls Club, Chalk and Cheese, Ladybirds, Football Club, and the Community Orchard.

Throughout the year, the Committee helped coordinate and deliver a full calendar of events that catered to all ages and interests. These included:

Calendar of Events – Last Year

- **March:** Easter Egg Hunt
- **April:** Village Golf Open
- **May:** Village Cycle Ride
- **June:**
 - Creative Arts East Film Show
 - 80th Anniversary of D-Day Commemoration
 - Village Cricket Day
- **July:**
 - Village Fete (*postponed due to bad weather*)
 - Village Evening Function
 - Village Yard Sale
- **September:**
 - Rearranged Village Fete
 - Village Litter Pick
 - Creative Arts East – *The Post Office Scandal*
- **October:** Halloween Trail
- **December:** Village Pantomime

Despite a few weather-related setbacks, it was a fantastic year of entertainment and community engagement. From sports, cinema and live shows to seasonal celebrations and thoughtful commemorations, the Committee is proud of the diversity and inclusiveness of the events offered. We are excited to carry this momentum forward into another busy and fun-filled year ahead. A big thank you to everyone who contributed time, energy, or enthusiasm — Shouldham wouldn't be the same without you!

Chairman Initials _____