

**ALL STRETTON, SMETHCOTT AND WOOLSTASTON PARISH COUNCIL
MEETING
held via Zoom
Wednesday 27th January 2021
at 7.30pm**

MINUTES

Present:

C'Ilr A McVittie (Chairman); C'Ilr J Burton; C'Ilr C Ecob; C'Ilr P Starns; C'Ilr A Phillips

C'Ilr D Morris attended from Item 8, as he had a prior Parish Council meeting

One member of the public had asked to join the meeting, the Clerk had sent the invitation and he joined the meeting for Item No. 3 on the Agenda.

Apologies

Apologies had been received from C'Ilr M Morris and C'Ilr Dale, as they did not have the technology to join the meeting.

1. Chairman's Introduction

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and wished them a very happy New Year.

2. Declaration of Interest

No declarations of interest were declared.

3. Public Comments

The Member of the public attending the meeting informed the Parish Council that he was exploring the possibility of applying for planning permission for an affordable dwelling on a single plot exception site in Batchcott. .

4. Minutes of Zoom Meeting held on 25th November 2020.

It was proposed by C'Ilr McVittie, seconded by C'Ilr Starns and unanimously agreed that the Minutes of the meeting held via Zoom on 25th November provided a true and accurate record of the meeting.

5. Matters Arising from the Minutes – not shown on Agenda.

C'Ilr Ecob told the meeting that negotiations with Open Reach to explore faster Broadband speeds in the Parish seemed to be progressing at a very slow pace. C'Ilr Dan Morris was attempting to help to get a response from Open Reach and the local MP is also getting involved to put pressure on Open Reach.

6. Smartwater – Clerk to give update on residents' response and Councillors to consider going ahead with the scheme.

The Clerk confirmed that the grant for 25% toward the cost of the Smartwater kits had been approved by the Police and Crime Commissioners. 138 kits had been ordered and the Police and Crime Commissioners would provide 35 kits free of charge and the Parish Council would pay for 103 kits at the discounted price of £8.90 per kit totalling £923.82. This discounted price is only available to Parish Councils who have a commitment to distribute 80% of the kits (this means 121 kits for this Parish)

To be eligible for the free signs to be erected by the Police and Crime Commissioner under the scheme 121 households would have to take up the offer of the kits. West Mercia Police will liaise with the Parish Council to establish the best position for the erection of the signage. To date the Clerk had received 45 positive replies from households in the Parish. When the Clerk receives the kits, it would be agreed how they would be distributed.

7. Correspondence

The Clerk circulates all correspondence by e-mail the day it is received.

The Clerk drew the Parish Council's attention to the e mail circulated which gave details of Motocross events being banned in AONB areas.

8. Planning

(a) Clerk to report decisions on applications previously discussed:-

South of Hollyhurst, Leebotwood Ref :20/02569/FUL

Erection of a local needs dwelling and detached garage. The Clerk told the meeting that this application is still shown as "Pending Consideration".

Corner Farm, Smethcott Ref : 20/04357/CPE

Application for lawful development for the continued use of the dwelling without an occupancy restrictions. This application was sent to the Parish Council for information only and was circulated to Councillors on 2nd November. The Clerk told the meeting that this application is shown as Agreed to be "lawful"

(b) Clerk to report any new applications received after 18th January
No new applications had been received.

10. Highways

(a) Clerk to report on highway matters previously reported:

The overhanging hedges in Church Lane had also been reported. The hedges on the right-hand side of the lane have been cut but the hedges on the left-hand side are still overgrown.

The state of the highway from Deadman's Hollow to Mynderley was deteriorating rapidly and had been reported following the September meeting. This will be reported again, and C'lr Burton agreed to post on MyShropshire.

C'lr Burton reported that in the recent heavy rains debris had been washed down the highway leading from Woolstaston to Leebotwood and as a result a very large pothole had appeared in the road just before Hill Cottage. C'lr Burton agreed to report on MyShropshire.

C'lr Burton also reported three deep potholes in the road from Woolstaston to High Park crossroads. C'lr Burton agreed to report on MyShropshire.

(b) New Highway matters reported

C'lr Dan Morris told the meeting that there had been problems with the local contractors in Parishes being able to access Shropshire Council to obtain permission to salt and grit in the recent snowfall and icy conditions. C'lr Morris told the meeting that he was receiving phone calls for residents

complaining about the lack of salting and snow clearance. The Contractors do not get paid if they do not obtain permission to go out and they were unable to access the phone numbers out of office hours. C'llr Morris had now obtained direct numbers for the contractors to call and the problems should have been resolved.

Councillors reported salt bins being empty and not replenished, although it was understood that Jeremy Dale had been out filling salt bins. In 2018 the Parish Council had requested new bins, including the site outside Rectory Farm in Smethcott. They have never been provided. The Clerk was asked to send the list to C'llr Dan Morris, and he would investigate. It was also agreed that a bin would be requested for Dead Mans Hollow.

C'llr Ecob had received a report about block drains and ditches in Smethcott. It was agreed that Jeremy Dale would be asked to investigate as part of the Environmental Maintenance work. If the job proved too much for him to carry out using Environmental Maintenance monies, he would be asked to report back to the Parish Council and Dan Morris.

(c) Environmental Maintenance Work carried out

The Clerk told the meeting that she had spoken to Jeremy Dale and he would submit the invoice for the 2020/21 work by mid-March to enable the Clerk to apply for the 2021/22 grant. The closing date for applications is 12th March 2021 and receipts for work carried out during 2020/21 must accompany the application.

11. Finance

(a) Accounts due for payment

HMRC tax due on clerk's salary £110 Cheque No. 00404

Clerks salary December and January including postage £448.08. Cheque No. 00405

Information Commissioner Data Protection Fee £40. Cheque No. 00406

It was proposed by C'llr Burton, seconded by C'llr Phillips and unanimously agreed the above accounts be paid.

(b) Balance held at Bank

The Clerk had circulated the bank reconciliation and a copy of the most recent bank statement ahead of the meeting. After payment of the above accounts the balance held at bank is £4,337.65 and this includes £1,500 Environmental Maintenance Grant, £1,500 matched funding, £6.31 balance in transparency fund and £300 election expenses which have been built into the precept.

(c) Agree 2020/21 Asset Register.

It was proposed by C'llr McVittie, seconded by C'llr Ecob and unanimously agreed that the asset register in the sum of £1,201, shown as follows, was an accurate record of the Parish Council assets:-

Notice Boards, Picklescott, Smethcott and Woolstaston	£900
Lawnmower held in Woolstaston to cut the village greed	£300

(d) Agree 2021/22 Precept

The Clerk had circulated the list of precepts claimed since 2016 and also showing the expenditure to date against the 2020/21 Precept and expected outturn. It was proposed by C'llr Phillips, seconded by C'llr McVittie and unanimously agreed that the 2021/22 precept would total £6,650, made up as follows:-

Clerks Salary	£3,300
Payroll costs	£ 60
Stationery/Postage	£ 150
Insurance	£ 350
Internal Audit Fee	£ 50
Hire of Hall for Meetings	£ 120
Smartwater Kits	£ 917
SALC Affiliation Fee	£ 200
Matched Funding Environmental Maintenance	<u>£1,500</u>
Total	£6,647
Say	£6,650

12. Shropshire Council Report

C'llr Dan Morris reported the following:-

- Free transport to Covid vaccination centres is shown on Shropshire Council website
- An extension to 26th February has been given for the final consultation on the 2016-2038 Local Plan.
- Meole Brace and Harlescott Park and Rides have been suspended due to the Pandemic and town centre shops closed.
- There is a rapid Test Centre at the Lantern in Shrewsbury where anyone can go in to book a test. There is also a rapid test centre at Craven Arms open on a Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Sunday.

13. Date of Next Meeting - Wednesday 24th March 2021

The Clerk told the meeting that the Annual Meeting would be held at 7.30pm, followed by the Parish Council meeting. .

The meeting, if Covid restrictions are still in place, will be a virtual meeting on Zoom.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.45pm