

**MINUTES OF
ALL STRETTON, SMETHCOTT AND WOOLSTASTON PARISH COUNCIL
MEETING
held at Picklescott Village
Wednesday 24th November 2021
at 7.30pm**

Present

C'llr Dale; C'llr Burton; C'llr Phillips; C'llr Morris, C'llr P Starnes; C'llr Morris;
C'llr Hibbott-Morris

Shropshire C'llr D Morris

Clerk : Mrs J Griffiths

Apologies

All Councillors were present at the meeting.

1. Chairman's Introduction The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and reminded Councillors to declare interests if there was anything on the Agenda which they considered they have an interest.

2. Declarations of Interest

C'llr Dale expressed an interest in the planning application for Holly Cottage (21/04892/FUL) as he carries out work for the applicant.

3. Public Comments

No members of the public attended the meeting

4. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 15th September

C'llr Ecob asked for the first sentence of Item 3 of the Minutes of the Meeting held on 15th September to read "C'llr Ecob told the meeting that 117 households are interested in the faster Broadband connection" and not "...17 households had applied for vouchers for faster Broadband. The amendment was made and the correction signed by the Chairman. It was then proposed by C'llr Burton, seconded by C'llr Dale and unanimously agreed that the Minutes of the meeting held on 15th September provided a true and accurate record of the meeting.

5. Matters Arising (not included on the Agenda)

C'llr Ecob told the meeting that they are still waiting for a response from Openreach and DCMS to progress with the faster Broadband. The MP had been contacted in an attempt to proceed with the application for a faster connection.

6. Correspondence

The Clerk circulated all correspondence as it was received. The following correspondence was reported at the meeting:-

- A letter had been received from a member of the public on 4th November concerning responsibility for maintaining "The Portway". This had been forwarded to all Councillors and Shropshire C'llr D Morris on 4th November. The Clerk was asked to acknowledge the letter and say the parish Council had noted the comments.

- Details of Shropshire Council Community tree Scheme had been circulated to all Councillors on 12th October. The Clerk told the meeting that the scheme was now closed.
- The Clerk had circulated details of the Lord Lieutenants Garden Party to be held in June 2022, on a date to be arranged. The Parish Council have until the end of January to nominate anyone in the Parish who voluntarily worked for the community during the pandemic.
- Clerk and Councils Direct Magazine November 2021. This was handed to C'lr Dale
- The next meeting of the South Shropshire SALC Area Committee will be held on Monday 6th December. Details had been forwarded to the Chairman.
- The Clerk had received a "Meet Your Safer Neighbourhood Team" poster from West Mercia Police. This will be displayed on the web site.

7. Planning

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

21/03670/TPO – Old Rectory, Smethcott

To deadwood lower crown and crown lift up to 3m of larch trees on driveway. This application had been circulated to Councillors on 2nd August. The Parish Council did not comment on the application. The Clerk told the meeting that this application had been granted on 28th September.

21/03321/LBC – Stone House, Picklescott

Installation of 2 No. additional casements to bathroom window. This Application had been circulated to Councillors on 12th August. The Clerk told the meeting that this application was granted on 27th September.

21/03704/FUL – The Retreat, Lower Wood

Erection of single garage with annexe ancillary to main dwelling (re-submission). This application had been circulated to Councillors on 19th August. This was discussed at the September meeting when it was proposed by C'lr Starnes, seconded by C'lr Burton that this was still an over development of this site. A vote was taken with one Councillor abstaining and four Councillors agreeing with the proposal. The following comments were posted on the planning portal:-

"The Parish Council made a site visit when the earlier application (21/01621/FUL) was submitted and objected to the application which was refused. The Parish Council have now discussed the resubmission and still object for the same reasons. The footprint is the same size as in the application, which was refused, and the Parish Council feel that this is an over development of the site".

The Clerk told the meeting that this application had been granted on 22nd October.

21/03399/FUL – Land south of Batchcott Hall

Proposed Exception Site dwelling and detached garage. This application was discussed at the September meeting. It was proposed by C'lr Starnes, seconded by C'lr Ecob and unanimously agreed that the Parish Council would support this application. The Clerk told the meeting that this application is shown as "pending consideration".

(b) Applications discussed at the meeting

21/04892/FUL – Holly Cottage, Lower Wood

Change of use of agricultural land to provide a shepherd's hut for holiday let use, excavation of a pond and siting of solar panels on

existing building.. This application was forwarded to Councillors on 10th November. C'Ilr Dale had expressed an interest in this application. See Item 2. It was proposed by C'Ilr Starnes, seconded by C'Ilr Philips and unanimously agreed that the Parish Council would not comment on this application.,

21/05235/FUL – Pagan Hall, Picklescott

Erection of extension to existing stables building; erection of 2-bay open fronted garage building. This application was forwarded to Councillors on 10th November. It was proposed by C'Ilr Starnes, seconded by C'Ilr Philips and unanimously agreed that the Parish Council would not comment on this application.,

21/05214/AGR – Parkgate Farmhouse, Parkgate, Pulverbatch

Erection of an agricultural building for storage of farm equipment. This agricultural application was sent for information only and circulated to Councillors on 4th November.

(c) Clerk to report any new applications received after 7th September

The Clerk told the meeting that she had made an online report to Shropshire Council concerning an alleged unauthorised development at Brook House, Lower Wood. Log cabins are being erected on site and a new access has been opened on to the highway. The Parish Council are not aware of any planning application for this activity. The report was made on 4th November. On 22nd November the Enforcement Team e mailed the Clerk asking for a post code which was provided.

8. Highways

C'Ilr Dale reminded all Councillors to let him know if any highway maintenance work needs carrying out. C'Ilr Dale told the meeting that he continued to clear drains and gullies but heavy rainfall blocks them again. C'Ilr Dale told the meeting that he had purchased a drain jetter and would jet drains when time allowed.

The Clerk told the meeting that she had received a request from a member of the public following a report of recent thefts from Top House Barn, Picklescott. The member of the public was requesting a further Smartwater sign to be erected on the roadside by the Slade, on the road approaching Picklescott as you travel up from Dorrington. The request was received on 18th October and forwarded to West Mercia Police. A reply was received from West Mercia Police on 20th October. They had contacted the member of the public asking for vegetation to be cut back to allow the sign to be erected. C'Ilr Dale told the meeting that he had cut this back but to date the sign had not been erected. The Clerk agreed to contact West Mercia Police to confirm the vegetation had been cut.

The Clerk also told the meeting that she had received a report from a member of the public that there is a broken step on the stile on a public footpath leading from Karuna to the lane leading to the Slade. This report was received on 30th October and passed on to C'Ilr Burton, the Parish Council Footpath Warden. C'Ilr Burton confirmed that this had been reported.

It was agreed that some pot holes in the Parish had been filled but others had been left unattended.

9. Finance

(a) Accounts due for payment

- Clerk Salary Oct/Nov plus postage, Totalling £467.28. Cheque No. 00418.
- HMRC Tax due on Clerk's salary £110 Cheque No. 000419

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

(b) Balance held at Bank

The Clerk circulated a bank reconciliation. After payment of the above accounts the balance at is £4,7548.75. This includes the following

sums:- . .

Matched Funding EMG	£1,500.00
EMG Received	£1,500.00
CIL	£ 379.09
Election Expenses	£ 300.00
Actual PC Balance	£ 869.66

The Clerk told the meeting that she had submitted a claim for the refund of VAT paid 2020/21 in the sum of £308.64 and this had not yet been paid. It will be added to the PC Funds when received. It was proposed by C'llr Ecob, seconded by C'llr Hibbot-Morris and unanimously agreed that the bank statement and the bank reconciliation provided a true financial record. The Chairman then signed the bank statement and the bank reconciliation.

(c) Agree Asset Register

The Clerk circulated copies of the asset register totalling £1,201. It was proposed by C'llr Dale, seconded by C'llr Burton and unanimously agreed that this was an accurate reflection of the assets register. The Chairman then signed and dated a copy of the asset register.

10. Shropshire Council Report

C'llr D Morris gave the following report:-

- It is "Grab a Jab" week and anyone can visit drop in centres set up in the Darwin centre and other locations throughout Shropshire.
- Shropshire now has the highest Covid infection rates in the west Midlands.
- Late night Shopping in Shrewsbury starts tonight.
- Shropshire Council have a £15k grant scheme for Community Assets details of which are displayed on the Shropshire Council web site.
- The "Warmer Shropshire Homes" programme ends at the end of December. Up to £4,500 is available to homes who have no central heating and matched funding is not required. This scheme can be viewed on the Shropshire Council web site
- Shropshire has an £800,000 "School Fund" this includes support with food over the Christmas holiday and Spring Term. It is meant for those such as those who receive free school meals. Applications can be made through the schools and it is hoped that the schools will publicise this.
- 3,600 households who are on income support have been identified and written to. They will be given a unique reference number to enable them to claim £150 for heating etc.

- Shropshire Council have applied to the “Government Bus Back Better Scheme” for funding to provide more subsidy and better service on a Sunday to support rural area.
- There is now a second trial to reduce traffic flow in the town centre with streets including the Square being closed to traffic from 10am to 4pm each day.
- The full Council Meeting planned for 16th December has been postponed as it clashes with the North Shropshire By Election date.

The Shirehall has been deemed not safe to use and this includes the Council Chamber. There is a skeleton staff only in the Shirehall. It was thought that the Council offices would move into the Darwin centre but studies have shown that this would not be suitable. The Darwin Centre will become part of the “Big Town Plan” and will probably see Hotels, restaurants and a casino.

9. Date of Next Meeting - Wednesday 19th January 2022

The dates for other 2022 Meetings was circulated as follows:-

Wednesday 16th March Annual Meeting followed by Parish Council Meeting

Wednesday 25th May Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 27th July

Wednesday 28th September

Wednesday 23rd November

Cllr Ecob agreed to pass to the Village Hall Committee

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.25pm