

MINUTES
ALL STRETTON, SMETHCOTT AND WOOLSTASTON PARISH COUNCIL
held via Zoom following the Annual Parish Meeting
Wednesday 24th March 2021

Present:

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

C'lr D Morris attended from Item 10, 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 via Zoom.

Apologies

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

1. Chairman's Introduction

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting .

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 applying for planning permission for an affordable dwelling on a single plot exception site. He asked the Parish Council to confirm his local connection. It was agreed that the Clerk would prepare the letter confirming the connections and post to the member of the public.

4. Minutes of Zoom Meeting held on 27th January, 2021.

It was proposed by C'lr McVittie, seconded by C'lr Burton and unanimously agreed that the Minutes of the meeting held via Zoom on 27th January provided a true and accurate record of the meeting.

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

C'lr Ecob and the member of the public present were both members of the Broadband Working Party. C'lr Ecob told the meeting that the survey had been carried out six weeks ago and they were expecting the quote from Open Reach within the next 48 hours.

6. Smartwater Roll Out

The Clerk confirmed that 70% of the kits ordered had now been circulated to residents. They had been sent to all residents who expressed an interest in receiving a kit and the remaining kits to make up the 70% had been picked at random from the electoral roll. The Clerk had gone into the Police Station and assisted with the recording and packaging of the kits.

As 70% of the kits had been given out the signage could now be erected in the Parish. C'lr Ecob had agreed to liaise with the Police where signs would be erected.

The Clerk has a record of households who have received kits and will put a notice in the Church magazine and on the web site to advise residents that kits were still available if they wished to contact the Clerk.
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". The Clerk also told the meeting that the application was validated on a 20th July, 2020. A Draft Determination Notice given approval is shown on the web site dated 24th November and an amended application is shown dated 12th January, 2021.

(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:

Although the Parish Council continue to report defects on MyShropshire the replies are totally unsatisfactory.

C'llr Ecob and C'llr Burton agreed to meet a member of Shropshire Council to take them around the parish pointing out the long list of defects.

C'llr Dan Morris agreed to contact the new head of highways to arrange a site visit.

Jeremy Dale had visited and sort out the flooding problems at Smethcott which were reported in January.

A letter had been received from a resident praising the contractors for the work carried out to the highway at the Larches, Picklescott. C'llr Dan Morris had forwarded this letter to Shropshire Council Highways.

C'llr Phillips told the meeting that off road vehicles were using unadopted road from Smethcott to Peys Lane causing damage. C'llr D Morris agreed to report this to Shropshire Council.

(c) Environmental Maintenance Work carried out

Jeremy Dale ahead submitted the invoice for the 2020/21 works carried out. This extensive list had been copied to all Councillors with the Agenda for the meeting. It was unanimously agreed that Jeremy did a sterling job and many areas which previously flooded and were constantly reported to Shropshire Council were now much improved due to the work Jeremy had carried out.

The Clerk confirmed that she had submitted the application for the 2021/22 Environmental Maintenance grant in the sum of £3,000 with £1,500 match funding and Shropshire Council providing £1,500.

11. Finance

(a) Accounts due for payment

Information Commissioner Data Protection Fee £40. Cheque No. 000407
Smartwater £1,100.04. Cheque No 000408
HMRC tax due on Clerk's salary. £110. Cheque No 000409
Clerk's February and March including postage £454.90. Cheque No. 000410

Cheque No. 000411 had been prepared in the sum of £3,567.60 payable to Jeremy Dale for the 2020/21 Environmental Maintenance work. The Clerk had spoken to Jeremy and explained that the Smartwater account would be paid and this would be repaid to the Parish Council in the 2021/22 precept. Jeremy had agreed to await payment until the precept is received. The cheque will then be forwarded to Jeremy Dale.

It was proposed by C'lr Burton, seconded by C'lr 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 at the year end would be £2,681.91.

The Clerk told the meeting that she had submitted the VAT return on on 15th February in the sum of £308.64 and when received, if after the year end, this would be shown as income in 2021/22.

12. Shropshire Council Report

C'lr Dan Morris reported the following:-

- Free school meals will still be provided to Shropshire School children throughout the Easter and Summer half term holidays.
- Shropshire Council have given £130m in grants to businesses forced to close due to the Coronavirus Pandemic. He reminded the meeting that the grants were now coming to a close but anyway affected could still apply up to 31st March.
- The Council Tax has risen by 3.99% making a Band D property £1,501.
- With effect from 12th April, when shops re-open and until 25th April, car parks operated by Shropshire Council, will offer free parking.
- TheCovid infection rate in Shropshire is now 29.4 per 100,000 and compares well with other areas
- The Gigabit £5b Project is now in Phase 1 which ends on 31st March but will start again in April.

13. Date of Next Meeting

As this follows the election the date of the May meeting will be brought forward to Wednesday 19th May. The clerk told the meeting that unless the legislation changed meeting held after 8th April have to be face to face meetings and a risk assessment had to be prepared. However, it was agreed that is the legislation changed again to allow virtual meetings the meeting would be held via Zoom.

Before the meeting closed C'lr McVittie told the meeting that he would not be re-standing in the May elections and thanked everyone for their support. C'lr Ecob offered a vote of thanks to C'lr McVittie for all the work he had carried out during his time on the Parish Council.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.45pm