

**MINUTES OF
ALL STRETTON, SMETHCOTT AND WOOLSTASTON PARISH COUNCIL
MEETING
held at Picklescott Village
Wednesday 18th May 2022
held following the Annual Meeting**

Present

C'lr Dale; C'lr J Burton; C'lr C Ecob; C'lr Phillips; C'lr P Starnes; C'lr Morris;
C'lr Hibbott-Morris
One member of the public attended
Clerk : Mrs J Griffiths

Apologies

Shropshire C'lr Dan Morris

Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were declared.

1. Election of Chairman

It was proposed by C'lr Phillips, seconded by C'lr Morris and unanimously agreed that C'lr Dale be elected as Chairman to serve until the 2023 AGM.

2. Election of Vice-Chairman

It was proposed by C'lr Burton, seconded by C'lr Dale and unanimously agreed that C'lr Phillips be elected as Vice Chairman to serve until the 2023 AGM.

3. Election of Parish Council Representatives to the Henry Fletcher Charity

C'lr Morris and C'lr Phillips are the current representatives. It was proposed by C'lr Burton, seconded by C'lr Dale and unanimously agreed that C'lr Morris and C'lr Starnes be elected to serve as the Parish Council representatives on the Henry Fletcher Charity until the 2023 AGM.

4. Election of Footpath Warden

It was proposed by C'lr Dale, seconded by C'lr Ecob and unanimously agreed that C'lr Burton would serve as Footpath Warden until the 2023 AGM.

5. Election of Tree Warden

It was proposed by C'lr Burton, seconded by C'lr Morris and unanimously agreed that C'lr Phillips would serve as Tree Warden until the 2023 AGM.

6. Public Comments

The member of the public attending the meeting said he thought that the Parish Council should have a local plan which encouraged affordable housing to be provided in the Parish.

The member of the public also reiterated his comments at previous meetings concerning the state of the highway throughout the Parish.

7. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 16th March 2022

It was proposed by C'lr Burton, seconded by C'lr Phillips and unanimously agreed that the Minutes of the meeting held on 16th March provided a true and accurate record of the meeting.

8. Matters Arising (not included on the Agenda)

C'lr Ecob told the meeting that the provision of high speed Broadband was progressing and he would circulate any further progress to all Councillors.

9. Finance

(a) Approve 2021/22 Accounts

The Clerk circulated copies of the 2021/22 Accounts showing all income and expenditure for the year. This showed a balance of £3,381.37 at the year end. Made up as follows:-

Matched Funding EMG not paid before year end	£1,500.00
Matched funding EMG received from SCC	£1,500.00
CIL Money	£ 379.09
Election Expenses	£ 300.00
Actual PC Balance at year end	£ -297,72

The £618.41 VAT paid out in 2021/22 had been reclaimed on 2nd February but had not yet been received. When it is received it will be added to the Parish Council funds in 2022/23

It was proposed by C'lr Dale, seconded by C'lr Burton and unanimously agreed that this was as accurate reflection of the transactions for the accounting year 2021/22

(b) Agree Annual Governance Statement

The Clerk explained the Annual Governance Statement. The Internal Auditor had carried out the internal audit and concluded that she had reasonable assurance that the Councils affairs are properly conducted and are free from material mis-statement.

It was proposed by C'lr Starnes, seconded by C'lr Phillips and unanimously agreed that the Clerk and Chairman would sign the Annual Governance and Accountability Return.

(c) Accounts due for payment

- Clerk Salary April/May plus postage, Totalling £462.05 Cheque No. 00485.
- HMRC Tax due on Clerk's salary £110 Cheque No. 00486
- Jeremy Dale Environmental Maintenance work £3,600 Cheque No. 000487
- L Pardoe Internal Audit £50 Cheque No 000488
- SALC Annual Affiliation fee £214.13 Cheque No. 000489
- SALC 50% of the fee for Clerk attending SALC training Preparing for Audit. Shared with Cardington PC. £15 Cheque No. 000490

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

The clerk told the meeting that the previous Insurers Came and Co. had been taken over by Gallaghers. The premium in 2021/22 with Came & Co was £338.55. However the renewal with Gallaghers was £394.81. The Clerk had

spoken to SALC who advised that a lot of Parish Councils were seeing a 100% rise in premiums with Gallaghers. SALC provided a link to Clerks to get a quote from Zurich. The Clerk has obtained a quote of £241, inclusive of Insurance Premium Tax. This includes the following cover:-

Public Liability £12,000,000
Employers Liability £10,000,000
Legal Expenses £250,000
Fidelity Guarantee £250,000
Libel and Slander £250,000
Personal accident cover for employees, clerks, councillors and volunteers
Cover for money stolen or damaged, whilst under employee or councillor supervision
All risks (contents) cover – Buildings not included

It was proposed by C'lr Ecob, seconded by C'lr Dale and unanimously agreed that the Parish Council would take insurance with Zurich in the sum of £241. Cheque No. 000491 was prepared in the sum of £241.

(b) Balance held at Bank

The Clerk circulated a bank reconciliation. After payment of the above accounts the balance at bank is £5,339.19. This includes the following sums:- .

CIL	£ 379.09
Election Expenses	£ 300.00
Actual PC Balance	£ 4,692.18

The Clerk told the meeting that she had submitted a claim for the refund of VAT paid 2021/22 in the sum of £618.41 and this had not yet been paid. It will be added to the PC Funds when received. It was proposed by C'lr Ecob, seconded by C'lr 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 Exemption from Full Audit

Although agree at the March meeting the Clerk told the meeting that the external auditor wanted Parish Council to agree this after 31st March 2022. It was proposed by C'lr Philips, seconded by C'lr Hibbot-Morris and unanimously agreed that the Parish Council would apply for exemption from the full audit.

10. Planning

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

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'lr Dale had expressed an interest in this application. See Item 2. It was proposed by C'lr Starnes, seconded by C'lr Philips and unanimously agreed that the Parish Council would not comment on this application., The Clerk told the May meeting that this application was Granted on 1.4.22. The decision had been circulated to all Councillors on 1.4.22.

(b) Applications discussed at the meeting

22.00711/FUL Hill Farm, Church Stretton

Erection of replacement dwelling to include annex within rebuilt/converted barn. This application was received between meetings. Members of the Parish Council attended a site visit. The Parish Council objected to the application. The Clerk told the May meeting that the application is shown on the web site as "Pending Consideration".

22/-139/FUL – Holly Bush House, Church Stretton

Erection of domestic machinery store, widening of existing access from highway (part retrospective) This application was received between meetings. Members of the Parish Council attended a site visit. The Parish Council objected to the application. The Clerk told the May meeting that the application is shown on the web site as "Pending Consideration".

22/01763/AGR – Wilrack Farm, Picklescott

Agricultural application. Proposed agricultural building for storage of hay/straw/machinery. Sent to the Parish Council for information only. The Clerk told the May meeting that it had been decided that prior approval is not required.

No further planning application have been received.

11. Highways

C'llr Ecob told the meeting that he was trying unsuccessfully to arrange a site visit with Graham White and discuss the highway issues in the Parish.

He agreed to attempt to arrange a meeting as soon as possible. He would copy Dan Morris into all the correspondence in an attempt to secure a date for a site visit.

The Clerk told the meeting that the 2022/23 Environmental Maintenance Grant application in the sum of £3,000 (£1,500 matched funding) had been submitted but had not yet been received.

12. Jubilee Celebrations

C'llr Philips told the meeting that the Village Hall Committee had commissioned a local artist to produce coaters for children in the Smethcott Parish as agreed at the March meeting the Parish Council will contribute 50% of the cost up to a maximum of £250. The Village Hall will forward a copy of the invoice for the Parish Council to make payment at the July meeting.

C'llr Ecob outlined all the other events planned in the Parish from Thursday 2nd to Sunday 6th June which included lighting the Beacon at 9.45pm at Smethcott on Thursday 2nd June.

13 Correspondence

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

- E mail from The Yew Tree Inn advising they have applied to Shropshire Council for a road closure for a Street Party on Friday 3rd June from around 10.30am – 6pm.
- Clerk and Councils Direct Magazine. This was handed to C'llr Dale
- West Mercia Police asked us to review the top three concerns in the Parish. They were previously 1. Anti Social Behaviour; 2. Thefts

(Outbuildings) and 3. Off roading. After consulting with the Chairman it was agreed we would revise and change the priorities as follows:-

1. Thefts (outbuildings)
2. Anti Social Behaviour
3. Off roading

The Clerk notified the Police of these changes on 12th April.

- SALC Zoom Training delivered over 3 sessions Wednesday 8th, 22nd and 29th June. Introduction to Town Planning from a local council perspective. Cost per delegate £95.

14. Shropshire Council Report

C'llr Dan Morris had e mailed the following report prior to the meeting. This had been circulated to all Councillors as follows:-

- There is a new highways technician in our Area. Jonathan Ingoldby has moved to a different part of Shropshire, and Andy Oliver has taken his place E mail andy.oliver@shropshire.gov.uk or [01743 257853](tel:01743257853). Graham Downes remain in place and is Andy's manager
 - There is to be a council by election in the SC ward of Highley. Dave Tremellen, an Independent Cllr, has resigned due to ill health
 - 94.6% of parents received their first choice places at school to start this September
 - At a recent OFSTED inspection of Shropshire Councils Children Services, SC were rated Good again.
 - The new purple lidded re-cycling bins are on their way, deliveries started in South Shropshire and they will sweep their way North!
 - Shropshire Supports Refugees have opened two support hubs in Shrewsbury with help from Shropshire Council and the town centre management team. Initial data pulled from the Governments 'Foundry' system shows we are expecting 434 individual Ukrainian guests into Shropshire across 156 hosts. To date we have had 74 individuals arrive.
 - A new way of tackling potholes on Shropshire's rural roads has enjoyed a successful 12 month trial. Under Shropshire Council's 'find and fix' service, six gangs operate across the county. They identify, or respond to, defects on the county's U and C roads, and go out and fix them permanently. The gangs generally tackle potholes that are three metres or less and considered dangerous. They will cut out the hole, clear it of debris, add emulsion to help adhere the tarmac, add the tarmac, flatten it with a wacker plate, then paste around the edges to make it as water-tight as possible.

15. Date of Next Meeting - Wednesday 27th July 2022

The dates for other 2022 Meetings was circulated as follows:-
Wednesday 28th September
Wednesday 23rd November

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.25pm