

**MINUTES OF  
ALL STRETTON, SMETHCOTT AND WOOLSTASTON PARISH COUNCIL  
MEETING  
held at Picklescott Village  
Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2023**

**Present**

C'Ilr Dale (Chairman); C'Ilr Phillips; C'Ilr Burton; C'Ilr Starns; C'Ilr Ecob ; C'Ilr Hibbot-Morris; C'Ilr Morris

Two members of the public attended the meeting

Clerk : Mrs J Griffiths

**Apologies**

Shropshire C'Ilr Dan Morris was unable to attend the meeting due to family illness

C'Ilr Ecob

**1. Chairman's Introduction**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and reminded them to express an interest in anything on the Agenda whee they consider they have an interest.

**2. Declarations of Interest**

C'Ilr Phillips declared n interest in the planning application for Greenfield, Pulverbach (Ref 23/04851/FUL) as the applicant is a neighbour and friend. C'Ilr Morris also declared an interest as his land borders this property. Both left the room when the application was discussed.

**3. Public Comments**

A member of the public drew the Parish Council's attention to the Neighbourhood Plan leaflet for the Strettons which had been circulated to households in the area.

A member of the public commented on the poor state of the road and poor state of repairs on the road leading from Dorrington to Picklescott. This was further discussed under Item 8 Highways.

**4, Minutes of the Meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> September 2023**

It was proposed by C'Ilr Burton, seconded by C'Ilr Phillips and unanimously agreed that the Minutes of the meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> September provided a true and accurate record of the meeting. The Chairman then signed a copy of the Minutes .

**5. Matters Arising (not included on the Agenda)**

There were no matters arising not covered on the agenda.

**6. Correspondence**

The Clerk circulates all correspondence as it is received. The Clerk also reported the following correspondence:-

- Clerk and Councils Direct Magazine – November – handed to the Chairman

- Town & Parish Councils D Day 80 celebrations 6<sup>th</sup> June 2024. Further details
- Shropshire Council Strategic treescape Officer e mail received 2<sup>nd</sup> November asking if there are potential sites that would be suitable for woodland creation. Forwarded to all Councillors on 2<sup>nd</sup> November
- Letter from member of the public received on 2<sup>nd</sup> November, concerning climate change etc . Together with newspapers cuttings. This was circulated to all Councillors on 2<sup>nd</sup> November
- E mail received on 27<sup>th</sup> October from SLC forwarded on behalf of Emergency Planning asking for information of flooding as a result of the recent “Storm Babet”. C’lIr Hibbot-Morris; C’lIr Morris
- E mail received on 16<sup>th</sup> November from West Mercia Police giving results of the PCC recent survey. Forwarded to all Councillors on 1<sup>th</sup> November.

## **7. Planning**

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

#### **23/01896/FUL Redcote, Lower Wood**

An application for a single plot exception site affordable dwelling south of Redcote, Lower Wood had been received on 12<sup>th</sup> May. The Clerk had contacted Shropshire Council to say that the Parish Council had not been approached to confirm the local connection. The Clerk had received a letter of apology from the Housing Enabling Officer to say she had omitted to ask the Parish Council for their confirmation and now asked them to establish the local connection.

This application was discussed at the May meeting. The Clerk told the meeting that to be eligible for this scheme applicants have to demonstrate a “Strong Local Connection” to the parish area within which the plot of land lies. It was agreed that the applicant met the following two criteria:-

- They are lawfully resident in the local area and have lived there for at least the previous five years
- They are currently employed or routinely carry out self-employment work within either the local area or 5km of the site

The Clerk prepared a letter to the Housing Enabling Officer confirming that the applicant meets the above criteria.

The application was discussed at the May meeting and it was proposed by C’lIr Philips, seconded by C’lIr Hibbot-Morris and unanimously agreed that the Parish Council would not comment on this application. .

The Clerk told the July meeting that she had written to the Housing Enabling Officer on 22<sup>nd</sup> May confirming the local connection and had received an acknowledgement.

The Clerk told the November meeting that this application is still shown as “awaiting a decision”.

#### **23/04002/FUL Smithy Cottage, Lower Wood**

Erection of single storey extension to replace existing conservatory and erection of front a rear gables, surface cladding enhancements and fenestration alterations. This application was received and forwarded to all Councillors on 18<sup>th</sup> September. It was agreed that the proposed extension did not increase the existing footprint and it was proposed by C’lIr Starnes, seconded by C’lIr Dale and unanimously agreed that the Parish Council would not comment on the application. Permission was granted on 26<sup>th</sup> October. The decision notice was forwarded to all Councillors on 27<sup>th</sup> October.

#### **23/04083/FUL The Hill, High Park**

Erection of 4 bay garage with external staircase to home office/storage. Received and forwarded to all Councillors on 22<sup>nd</sup> September. As shown in item 2, of the September Minutes the Chairman declared an interest in this planning application and left the room when this application was discussed. It was then unanimously agreed that a site visit would be arranged. The Chairman then rejoined the meeting. A site visit was arranged and the following comments were posted on the planning portal

“Members of the Parish Council have visited the site. It is a majority decision that as the proposed building is positioned on the slope below the existing house, and behind existing hedges, it will sit in the landscape quite well and not appear too prominent. It was agreed that the Parish Council would not oppose this application”

This application was granted on 7<sup>th</sup> November and a copy of the decision was forwarded to all Councillors.

#### **23/04097/FUL Walkmills Farm**

Erection of an agricultural building. The application was received just prior to the September meeting. The Chairman, as stated in Item 2 of the September Minutes, declared an interest. He did not leave the room as the application was not discussed. It was agreed that the Clerk would forward the link to the application for Councillors to consider and report back to the Clerk. The Parish Council did not comment on this application. This application was granted on 10<sup>th</sup> November and a copy of the decision was forwarded to all Councillors.

#### **(b) Clerk to report on application received between meetings**

No applications were received between meetings

#### **(c) Applications discussed at the meeting**

#### **23/04851/FUL Greenfields, Pulverbatch**

Alterations and Extensions. This application was received and forwarded to all Councillors on 16<sup>th</sup> November. As reported in item 2, C'Ilr Phillips and C'Ilr Morris declared an interest in this application and left the room when it was discussed. The application was discussed and it was agreed that the property was hidden from view and the proposed extension would not be visible. It was proposed by C'Ilr Starnes, seconded by C'Ilr Dale and unanimously agreed that the Parish Council would not comment on this application.

## **8. Highways**

### **(a) Clerk to report on highway matters previously reported**

Shropshire Council confirmed by e mail some time ago that that Keir would be instructed to erect the Not Suitable for HGV sign to be erected at the Picklescott end of Church Lane. This has still not be carried out at the time of the September meeting. .Shropshire C'Ilr D. Morris had previously chased this work and would continue to do so. The Clerk had e mail Shropshire Council following the September meeting and would chase this again.

The damaged railings on Church Road have still not been repaired, A road closure was planned for 11<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> September to enable this work to be carried out. However, Shropshire C'Ilr D Morris told the September meeting that the contractor was required to provide further training to the employees before they could carry out this work. This work is now planned for 5<sup>th</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> February when the road would be closed.

A member of the public contacted Shropshire Council on on 12<sup>th</sup> November and forwarded photographs of large pot holes on the road leading from Dorrington to Picklescott. Some of the pot holes have now been repaired.

However, as the member of the public had commented in Item 3 the Parish Council agreed that the work carried out was too a very poor amateurish standard and the road had been left very uneven. Tarmac had been put into potholes full of water and in one instance the contractor had merely run over the filled pot hole with lorry wheels. The Clerk was asked to contact Shropshire Council, Shropshire Councillor Dan Morris and the MP to complain about the standard of work carried out.

### **(b) Any further highway issues to be reported**

The Clerk reported the following road closure:-

- Farm Lane, All Stretton - 26<sup>th</sup> January 2024 – Openreach replacing pole.
- Church Road - 5<sup>th</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> February to repair damage to barrier.

### **(c) Environmental Maintenance work**

Jeremy Dale continues to carry out the Environmental Maintenance work and told the meeting that he continues to jet the gullies and cleans culverts in the parish. He continually jets the gullies near New Hall Farm and has now cut a channel to take water off the highway. He will return to jet this again hen the jetter returns to the Parish.

## **9. Finance**

### **9.1 Accounts due for payment**

The following accounts are due for payment:-

Clerk salary and expenses Oct/Nov, The claim totalled £489.68. Cheque No. 000518

HMRC Tax due on Clerk's salary £118.80 Cheque No. 000519

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

### **9.2 Balance held at Bank**

The Clerk circulated a bank reconciliation.

After payment of the above accounts, the balance at bank is £6,726.30. This includes the following sums:- .

CIL	£ 379.09
EMG Match Funding	£1,500.00
SCC EMG	£1,500.00
Neighbourhood Fund	£1,041.43
Actual PC Balance	£2,305.78

It was proposed by C'llr Dale, seconded by C'llr Burton, 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.

## **10. Boundary Commission Review**

The Boundary Commission decision is now known and the Parish Council will join Bishops Castle with effect from the May 2025 elections.

## **11. Shropshire Council Report**

Cll'r D Morris was unable to attend the meeting. He sent the following report which was circulated to all Councillors ahead of the meeting:-

### **Dorrington to Picklescott Road and Fix My Street**

There have been a lot of comments regarding the condition of this road. Please rest assured that I am putting all the pressure I can to get the necessary improvements. I understand that some holes have been repaired, but there is still some way to go. The recent announcements from national government have allocated over £3m for SC to be allocated to repairing this financial year, and this will inevitably help ease the pressure. With regard to fix my street, we are aware that reports are stating an issue is closed when the issue hasn't been repaired. This is due to an officer recognising the issue then an automated response being sent which can be misleading. FMS is an off the shelf package, not designed by SC, and so not as easy to fix as we would like. I have an imminent meeting with the relevant officer in the council, an officer called Stephen Gadd leads this team, where I will share the frustration we all feel and I am confident this will be resolved in the short to medium term. I will keep you all posted.

### **546 Pulverbatch to Shrewsbury On Demand Bus**

I was pleased with the turnout for both road show events at Pulverbatch Village Hall. There will inevitably be some teething troubles when the bus moves fully into operation next week, but I would say that the majority of people seemed happy with what they saw and heard. Please do continue to feedback to me with issues/ideas that I can feed back into the team.

### **Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) for Dogs**

People are being asked for their views about proposals to issue fines to dog owners who allow their animals to foul pavements and public amenity spaces without clearing up afterwards. An eight-week consultation began this week into plans to introduce a 'public spaces protection order'. The PSPO would enable Shropshire Council 's dog warden service to issue fixed penalty notices of up to £100.

Under the PSPO, dogs would also be excluded from play and sports areas and would be required to wear a lead on the public highway. Officers would also have the power to ask for a dog to be put on a lead where they aren't under the control of their owner or are acting aggressively. The consultation runs until 21 December [2023] and the findings will then be brought back to the council's Cabinet for further consideration early next year. It is envisaged that there will be exemptions for working dogs where appropriate. Please do however comment and share the consultation amongst your contacts.

### **Grant funding has allowed more than £300,000 to be invested in projects reducing Shropshire Council's carbon footprint and increasing energy efficiency.**

The Sustainable Energy in Public Buildings (SEPuBu) programme, led by Herefordshire Council in partnership with Shropshire Council and Telford and Wrekin Council, and supported by the Marches Local Enterprise Partnership, has enabled the installation of over 1.68m kWhs of new renewable energy generation capacity and an annual decrease of 509 tonnes of carbon dioxide.

### **All Shropshire schools clear of RAAC concrete**

A survey by Shropshire Council has found that all schools in the Shropshire Council area – including council-maintained schools, academies and voluntary-aided schools – are clear of RAAC (reinforced autoclaved aerated concrete). It follows intensive work to assess all schools in the Shropshire Council area which has been managed by Property Services Group, Learning and Skills in conjunction with the Department for Education (DfE).

### **Shropshire Council has on 10th November signed its ground-breaking agreement with three other English and Welsh councils**

The Marches Forward Partnership became a reality at an official event held at Hay Castle on the Welsh and English border. The new partnership sees Shropshire Council join forces with Herefordshire Council and Monmouthshire and Powys county councils, to take on some of the big challenges they all share. The four local authorities will now work even more closely together with both UK and Welsh governments to progress this exciting cross border collaboration. This will include working jointly to secure funding support from both governments as well as with a wide range of other partners to unlock more investment and explore new approaches to make major projects that benefit the Marches region become reality. Covering 80% of the English/Welsh borderland, the local authorities have similar characteristics and geography as well as an overriding mutual ambition for the region as a whole. The Partnership provides a unique commitment to work cross border, cross country and cross party on major projects that are in the overall best interests of the region. Transport, skills and housing, alongside energy, climate change, tourism and digital connectivity are high on the agenda, all common issues for the area's population of almost 750,000. By working together the four local authorities hope to deliver cross border successes and unlock millions of pounds for identified initiatives that support the Marches rural economy and green growth.

#### **Finance report shows almost 75% of spending reductions identified so far**

In the first six months of the financial year, Shropshire Council has identified £38m of the £51.4m spending reductions that it must make by the end of March 2024. Its quarter 2 financial report shows that an additional £8m spending reductions are expected to be confirmed over the third and fourth quarters, whilst the council's prudent approach has seen it boost its general reserves from £7m to £27m.

#### **Shrewsbury North West Relief Road has got the council go-ahead**

The next step in completing the 'missing link' in Shrewsbury's road network has been given the go-ahead, after the planning application for the Shrewsbury North West Relief Road was approved by Shropshire Council's Northern Planning Committee on Tuesday 31 October. A full business case for the Shrewsbury North West Relief Road (NWRR), outlining the scheme and the up-to-date costings, will now be prepared for consideration by Council next year, before submission to the Department for Transport (DfT) shortly after. If approved, work to build the road could start as early as summer 2025. The government has recently announced that it would fully fund the road build cost.

#### **11. Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting was planned to be held on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2024 commencing at 7.30pm.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.15pm