

ALL STRETTON, SMETHCOTT AND WOOLSTASTON PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF ANNUAL MEETING
held at Picklescott Village Hall
on
Wednesday 22nd March 2023
at 7.30pm

1. **Present**

C'llr Dale (Chairman); C'llr Phillips (Vice Chairman); C'llr Morris; C'llr Burton, C'llr Ecob, C'llr Hibbot-Morris
Shropshire Councillor D Morris
Clerk Mrs Jennie Griffiths

Five members of the public attended the meeting.

2. **Apologies**

C'llr Starns

3. **Chairman's Introduction**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

4. **Declaration of Interests**

No declarations of interest were received.

5. **Minutes of Annual Meeting held on 16th March 2022**

It was proposed by C'llr Ecob, seconded by C'llr Burton and unanimously agreed that the Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 16th March 2022 provided a true and accurate record of the meeting.

5. **Report from the Chairman**

C'llr Dale gave the following report:-

We have continued to meet bi monthly and carefully consider and comment on planning applications..Wherever possible we hold site visits before making comments. It is not always easy to get sufficient Councillors together for site visits. I know it is frustrating when Officers do not always appreciate or act on our comments, and I recognize that we are all very busy but it is important that we do make site visits, especially to sensitive planning applications, to enable the Parish Council to make constructive comments.

We are extremely grateful to Shropshire C'llr Dan Morris for attending our meetings and giving us such detailed Shropshire Council reports.

We are also very grateful for all the support he gives to any problems we encounter in the parish, especially with highway issues. Highways and lack of maintenance or response to issues reported continues to be a problem. However, it would appear that the new highways team are now making some progress although there is still some frustration on the lack of response to highway issues reported. We thank C'llr Dan Morris for fighting our corner and attempting to get remedial works done as quickly as possible.

I have been honored to serve as your Chairman since the 2021 Annual General Meeting and I thank each and every one of you for your support.

7. Footpath Warden Report

C'llr Burton gave the following report:-

Footpaths in the Woolstaston & All Stretton Parish continue to be regularly walked throughout the year and mostly in good accessible order with new way markers in place on some of the footpaths.

The National Trust have put up more signs on the Longmynd to raise awareness of 'cycle rights of way' that are clearer to cyclists; to make the general public aware of sheep with lambs, nesting birds and the need to keep dogs under close control while out on the Longmynd.

Shropshire Council and the National Trust continue to be made aware of concerns regarding the excessive use of mountain bikes & scramble bikes on Plush Hill and the Longmynd; the replacing of way marker post when they have fallen over and dead livestock on the actual footpaths.

Local volunteers are always welcome to come forward during the year to help improve the public rights of way and repair stiles etc within our parish. In previous years no volunteers have come forward, so at the present time I am unable pursue this with Shropshire Council's Countryside Access Team to make our paths much more accessible for all and a greater asset to our community. If anyone knows of any problems regarding footpaths and stiles if they get in touch with me I can either inform the N.T. or Shropshire Council's Countryside Access Team and they can assess what needs doing and repair or replace as needed.

6. Rev Fletcher, Munslow and Poor Land Charity Report

C'llr Morris gave the following report:-

The Charity continued to support deserving cases in the Parish and there is always an opportunity for Charities or individuals in the Parish to apply for funding. Approximately £1,500 is distributed to individuals and good causes in the parish each year.

7. Tree Warden Report

C'llr Phillips gave the following report:-

Shropshire Council had, once again, opened up the "Tree Scheme" and this was publicised via the Whatsap Group some residents taking advantage of the scheme.

I continue to receive monthly updates from the AONB and can circulate these to any Councillors who would like to receive a copy.

Shropshire Council have now appointed a Project Officer with responsibility for ancient woodlands within the County.

A member of the public present at the meeting reported had tress had been damaged during the recent heavy snowfall.

8. Shropshire Council Report

Cllr Dan Morris gave the following report, which had been circulated to all Councillors prior to the meeting.

In May 2022 Shropshire Council set out its 4 priorities in its strategic planning document for 2022-2025 - Healthy People - Healthy Economy - Healthy Environment - Healthy Organisation

Healthy People: - SC will tackle inequalities, including rural inequalities, and poverty in all its forms; providing early support and interventions that reduce risk and enable children, young people, adults and families to achieve their full potential and enjoy life. - SC will support Shropshire residents to take responsibility for their own health and wellbeing, choosing healthy lifestyles and preventing ill-health, reducing need for long term or hospital care. - SC will work with partners to develop, commission and deliver the right services and support that meet the needs of children, young people, adults and families in the right place, at the right time

Healthy Economy - SC will provide access to lifelong learning, supporting people and our communities to prosper, and through providing the right skills developing greater productivity and improved wages. - SC will develop Shropshire as a safe, strong and vibrant destination to attract people to live in, work in, learn in and visit the county. - SC will deliver excellent connectivity and infrastructure, increasing access to social contact, employment, education, services and leisure opportunities. - SC will ensure an appropriate mix of housing in the right areas of the county when supporting people with disabilities and to attract the right workforce for the employment needs and opportunities located there; reducing distances travelled to work

Healthy Environment - SC will deliver the Council's Corporate Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan, promoting the means to tackle climate change and reduce the carbon footprint including the adoption of low carbon energy for council's assets and for communities. - SC will enable safer, sustainable, diverse and inclusive communities that pull together by reducing anti-social behaviour and risk of harm; addressing the issues they face; and adopting the waste hierarchy to reduce, reuse, recycle and recover from all household waste. - SC will maintain, protect, and enhance our outstanding natural and historic environment, promoting positive behaviours and greater biodiversity and environmental sustainability.

Healthy Organisation - SC will enable a skilled, happy, healthy, diverse, inclusive, empowered, and proud workforce that influences and leads change, addressing any inequalities. - SC will continuously develop our response to disruptive incidents affecting Shropshire communities, strengthening our ability to absorb shock, adapt and make changes, sustain positive change, and anticipate future shocks. - SC will communicate clearly and transparently about what Shropshire Council delivers, signposting to the right places for services and support, and listen to what communities say about their place and what they need. - SC will put our resources in the right place using accurate data, insights, and evidence to support the delivery of the organisation's priorities and balance the books. - SC will ensure councillors are supported to advocate for their constituents but to also be ambassadors for the council

The recently agreed Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) last week (2nd March) is the key strategic document within The Shropshire plan that defines how finances over the medium term will be allocated and aligned to the outcomes set within the plan. Council tax

has been set at 4.99% for the coming year at the same council meeting. The MTFS is determined by The Shropshire Plan outcomes and priorities – the budget for next year has been led by SC priorities, rather than the other way around. The MTFS brings together the planned revenue and capital estimates for resources and spending across the coming 5 years. It is shaped by the priorities of the Shropshire Plan, and clearly sets out the financial challenge and the opportunity created by successfully tackling that challenge. SC still must close a budget gap of £51m. Most of these savings will come from continuing to think, act and work differently, as set out in the above-mentioned Shropshire Plan. Since the Plan was launched, SC colleagues are responding to this and challenging positively to how things are done. To achieve such a target of closing £51m budget gap, SC will need to transform and reduce the size and shape of the council, how it works and align this to the Shropshire Plan. SC has no choice but to do this because it must become sustainable. To achieve this SC expects to invest between £1m - £3m over the next three years with a transformation partner to help accelerate and implement the changes needed. When the Council launched the Shropshire Plan, the council said it would appoint this transformation partner to work to make these changes. The partner will help SC put in place the 'machinery' needed to enable services to transform and provide the much-needed capacity, capability, and resource to move at pace and achieve the savings that have to be made. The priority of the council for the coming year will therefore be to make transformative change to make the council fit for the future within the priorities of The Shropshire Plan.

11, Date of next Annual Parish Meeting - 20th March 2024

There being no other business the meeting closed at 7.50pm