

**MINUTES OF  
ALL STRETTON, SMETHCOTT AND WOOLSTASTON PARISH COUNCIL  
MEETING**

**held at Picklescott Village  
following the Annual Meeting  
Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2023**

**Present**

C'llr Dale (Chairman); C'llr Philips; C'llr M Morris; C'llr Ecob;  
C'llr Hibbott-Morris; C'llr Burton  
Shropshire C'llr D Morris;  
5 members of the public attended the meeting  
Clerk : Mrs J Griffiths

**Apologies**

Apologies had been received from C'llr P Starnes.

**1. Chairman's Introduction**

The Chairman welcomed everyone present. .

**2. Declarations of Interest**

All Councillors were reminded to declare an interest in any items on the agenda.

C'llr Dale declared a prejudicial interest in the planning application 23/00984/FUL and left the room when this application was discussed.

**3. Public Comments**

One member of the public expressed concern that during the period of heavy snow the snow plough did not leave any passing places and snow had been pushed into gateways leaving some residents unable to get out of their property.

The same member of the public express concern that although some pot holes had been filled recently, they were filled with water still laying in the pot holes and the repairs were unlikely to be successful.

The member of the public also expressed concern that housing for local needs was required in the parishes.

Another member of the public expressed frustration and the delay when trying to contact Shropshire Council by telephone.

**4. Minutes of the Meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> January 2023**

It was then proposed by C'llr Burton, seconded by C'llr Hibbott-Morris and unanimously agreed that the Minutes of the meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> January provided a true and accurate record of the meeting.

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

There were no matters arising not covered on the Agenda.

**6. Correspondence**

The Clerk forwards all correspondence as it is received.

The Clerk also reported the following correspondence at the meeting:-

- Clerk & Councils Direct Magazine, March. Handed to the Chairman
- As instructed at the January meeting the Clerk sent an E mail to Shropshire Council on 4<sup>th</sup> February expressing concern that although there was very little snow the contractor was not instructed to grit the roads in the parish which led to many problems in icy conditions. Comments from residents were included in the e mail. No reply was received. C'llr Dan Morris agreed to contact Shropshire Council to ask for a reply.
- BBC Radio Shropshire – Make a Difference Awards. Circulated to all Councillors on 14<sup>th</sup> February.

## **7. Planning**

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

#### 22/05503/FUL Weston, Lower Wood

Erection of rear extension, replacement garage with link, new roof with first floor accommodation, surface finish alterations, fenestration alterations and internal layout alterations. This application had been forwarded to all Councillors on 14<sup>th</sup> December. This application was discussed at the January meeting when it was unanimously agreed that the Parish Council would not comment on this application. The Clerk told the March meeting that permission was granted on 1<sup>st</sup> March.

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

#### 23/00374/AGR – Bank Farm, Smethcott

Erection of general purpose agricultural building. This agricultural application had been sent to the Parish Council for information only. It was circulated to Councillors on 30<sup>th</sup> January. The Clerk told the March meeting that this application had been determined that “Prior approval Not Required” on 24<sup>th</sup> February.

#### 23/00628/FUL – The Larches, Picklescott

Erection of extension to existing annex following removal of an adjoining building. This application was forwarded to Councillors on 20<sup>th</sup> February. The Parish Council did not comment on this application. The Clerk told the March Meeting that this application was shown on the Planning portal as “Pending Consideration”

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

#### 23/00984/FUL – The Hill, High Park

Replacement Outbuilding. This application was received and circulated to Councillors on 13<sup>th</sup> March. Concern was expressed that the plans did not include any dimensions relating to height or size. The Clerk had placed the following comments on the planning portal on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> March:-

“The Parish Council meet on Wednesday 22nd March. I have circulated this application to Councillors ahead of the meeting. However, they are concerned that the drawings contained in the application give no indication of size or height. The Parish Council would ask for revised plans giving this information before they can carry out a site visit and make comments on this application. We trust that no Officer decision will be made before the Parish Council have this information and can make comments.”

Before this application was discussed C'llr Dale, who had expressed a prejudicial interest left the room. The Vice Chairman, C'llr Phillips then took the chair to discuss this item.

The clerk told the meeting that, although there was no scale shown on the drawings attached to the planning application, the Planning Officer has sent an e mail shortly before the meeting, giving the dimensions as approximately 8.9m x 23.5m and the height would be approximately 6.5m.

It was proposed by C'llr Burton, seconded by C'llr Philips and unanimously agreed that Standing Orders would be lifted to allow a member of the public, who has also the applicant for the planning application to address the meeting and explain the application.

The applicant agreed to contact the Architect and forward detailed plans showing the dimensions to the Clerk. The Clerk would then circulate the plans and a site visit would be arranged before the Parish Council comment on this application.

The Chairman, C'llr Dale then rejoined the meeting.

## **8. Highways**

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

Shropshire Council confirmed by e mail that Keir would be instructed to erect the Not Suitable for HGV sign would be erected at the Picklescott end of Church Lane.

E mail received from Shropshire Council saying that they had raised a job for the ditch between Picklescott and Betchcott to be cleaned out. C'llr Ecob replied to say that this work had been done as part of the Environmental work.

Email from a resident concerning potholes on the road from Dorrington to Picklescott between New Hall Farm and New Hall Cottages, as other potholes on this stretch of road had been repaired but these more dangerous pot holes had been not been repaired. C'llr Dan Morris had been copied into the e mail and had answered the resident to confirm that this had been reported on Fixmystreet. This work has now been carried out, although it was agreed that the potholes had been filled with water still lying in the pot holes.

Shropshire C'llr Dan Morris agreed that the stretch of road from Picklescott to Dorrington did need resurfaced and he would be pushing for this to be included in a future works programme.

The damaged railings on Church Road have still not been repaired but are in the programme for repairs.

The Clerk reported a road closure on Starr Lane, All Stretton from 15<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup> May

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

C'llr Ecob commented on the amount of litter left on roads in the County particularly the A49 and the A5. It was agreed that the Clerk would send an e mail to National Highways.

No further highway issues were reported. C'llr Ecob continues to report defect on Fixmystreet web site.

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

The invoice for the Environmental Maintenance Work had now been received in the sum of £3,000. However, the actual work carried out totalled £4,741.20.

C'Ilr Dale told the meeting that he was happy to carry the additional £1,741.20 into 2023/24 as he felt he was now on top of the work and there would be less work in 2023/24.

The Clerk told the meeting that she had asked C'Ilr Dan Morris for advice if Shropshire Council could meet the cost of some of this extra work. The work carried out had actually saved Shropshire Council carry out work in the Parish. C'Ilr Dan Morris had taken this up with Shropshire Council Highways although it was not considered likely to be agreed.

## **9. Finance**

### **(a) Agree Accounts due for payment**

- Clerk Salary Feb/March plus postage and stationery Totalling £457.02 Cheque No. 00504.
- .HMRC Tax due on Clerk's salary £110 Cheque No. 00505
- A Cleaver. Repairs to Smethcott Notice Board. Totalling £220. Cheque No. 00506
- Information Commissioner. Data Protection Fee. Totalling £40. Cheque No. 00507
- J Dale, Environmental Maintenance Work. £3,000 plus £600 VAT. Totalling £3,600. Cheque No. 00508

It was proposed by C'Ilr Phillips, seconded by C'Ilr 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, with the exception of the £3,600 Environmental invoice, which will be paid when the 2023/24 precept is received, the balance at bank is £3,558.85. This includes the following sums:-

CIL	£ 379.09
EMG Match Funding	£1,500.00
EMG from S. Council	£1,500.00
Actual PC Balance	£ 179.76

It was proposed by C'Ilr Ecob, seconded by C'Ilr 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.

The Clerk told the meeting that she would now apply for the VAT refund for 2022/23 expenditure.

### **(c) Agree Internal Auditor**

The Clerk told the meeting that Mrs L Pardoe was willing to act as the Internal Auditor for the sum of £75 which was built into the precept. It was proposed by C'Ilr Ecob, seconded by C'Ilr Burton and unanimously agreed that Mrs L Pardoe would be invited to act as Internal Auditor for the 2022/23 accounts.

## **10 Agree Policies (circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting)**

The following policies had been forwarded to all Councillors on 31st January

- Financial Risk Assessment
- Privacy policy
- Complaints Procedure

- Personal Data and Audit Policy

It was proposed by C'llr Phillips, seconded by C'llr Dale and unanimously agreed that the above policies had been reviewed.

### **11. Shropshire Council Report**

C'llr Dan Morris had made a full report to the Annual Meeting, held prior to this meeting. However, he added the following:-

- Open Reach had informed him of road closures in the parish to allow poles to be erected as part of the fibre broadband connections. The Clerk had not been notified. C'llr Morris agreed to forward the information to the Clerk for circulation.
- The Consultation period to make comments on Shropshire Council Customer Services would run from 13<sup>th</sup> March to 23<sup>rd</sup> April.
- Shropshire Council were reaching out to families who may be suffering hardship to make them aware of help available
- The HAF programme aimed at the age group 4 – 16, would be set up in 43 locations across Shropshire from 3<sup>rd</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup> April and meals would be available to those who now receive free school meals. .
- The intake for senior school in September in Shropshire had received 3.026 applications for places, with 90% getting their first choice of school and 96.5% had been successful in obtaining one of their first 3 choices.
- The £2 “ride around” bus journeys would be held at £2, one way, until June 2023.

### **12. Date of Next Meeting – planned for Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> May**

As building work is being carried out in the hall, commencing 22<sup>nd</sup> May, it was agreed to bring the meeting forward to Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> May.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9pm