

**MINUTES OF
ALL STRETTON, SMETHCOTT AND WOOLSTASTON PARISH COUNCIL
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
held at Picklescott Village
Wednesday 29th May 2024**

Present

C'llr Dale (Chairman); C'llr Starns, C'llr Morris, C'llr Burton
Shropshire C'llr Dan Morris
Two members of the public attended the meeting
Clerk : Mrs J Griffiths

Apologies

C'llr Ecob and C'llr Phillips who are both away on holiday and C'llr Hibbot-Morris who was working late and sent her apologies.

1. Chairman's Introduction

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting

2. Declarations of Interest

The Chairman reminded everyone to declare any interest in any items where they thought they have an interest. No declarations of interest were received.

3. Election of Chairman

It was proposed by C'llr Starns, seconded by C'llr Burton and unanimously agreed that C'llr Dale be elected as Chairman to serve until the 2025 AGM.

4. Election of Vice-Chairman

C'llr Phillips had indicated to the Clerk that he was willing to restand. It was proposed by C'llr Burton, seconded by C'llr Dale and unanimously agreed that C'llr Phillips be elected as Vice Chairman to serve until the 2025 AGM.

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

C'llr Morris and C'llr Phillips are the current representatives. It was proposed by C'llr Dale, seconded by C'llr Burton and unanimously agreed that C'llr Morris and C'llr Philips be elected to serve as the Parish Council representatives on the Henry Fletcher Charity until the 2025 AGM.

6. Election of Footpath Warden

It was proposed by C'llr Morris, seconded by C'llr Dale and unanimously agreed that C'llr Burton would serve as Footpath Warden until the 2025 AGM.

7. Election of Tree Warden

C'llr Phillips had indicated to the Clerk that he was willing to restand. It was proposed by C'llr Burton, seconded by C'llr Dale and unanimously agreed that C'llr Phillips would serve as Tree Warden until the 2024 AGM.

8. Public Comments

One member of the public commented that the recent patching work on the road leading from Picklescott to Dorrington was starting to crumble. However, the whole stretch of this road is in the 2024/25 programme to be resurfaced.

The other member of the public expressed concern that good agricultural land in Pickelscott had been purchased by Forestry England and they intend to plant a new Coronation Woodland to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III. He also expressed concern that the infrastructure in the parish would not cope with the increased traffic using this site.

9. Minutes of the Meeting held on 27th March 2024

It was proposed by C'Ilr Dale, seconded by C'Ilr Morris and unanimously agreed that the Minutes of the meeting held on 27th March provided a true and accurate record of the meeting. The Chairman then signed a copy of the Minutes .

10. Matters Arising (not included on the Agenda)

There were no matters arising not covered on the agenda.

11 Finance

11.1 Agree Exemption from Limited Assurance Review

As The Parish Council do not have gross income or gross expenditure exceeding £25,000 they can apply for exemption from a full audit, unless they are one of the 5% of Parish Councils who are called in for a full audit. It was proposed by C'Ilr Starns, seconded by C'Ilr Morris and unanimously agreed that the Parish Council would apply for exemption and the Certificate of Exemption was then signed by the Chairman and the Clerk,.

11.2 Approve 2023/24 Accounts

The Clerk had circulated reports showing the income and expenditure 2023/24, the year end bank reconciliation and a copy of the year end bank statement, and showed a year end balance amounting to £1,780.84, made up as follows:-

£ 379.09 CIL
£1,041.43 Neighbourhood Fund
£ 360.32 PC Funds

It was proposed by C'Ilr Dale, seconded by C'Ilr Burton and unanimously agreed that the reports circulated proposed a true and accurate record of all income and expenditure during the period 1st April, 2023 to 31st March 2024.

11.3 Agree Annual Governance Statement

The Internal Auditor has checked the 2023/24 Accounts and completed the Internal Auditors Report. The Clerk had completed 6 of the AGAR showing the financial details, giving a year end balance of £1,780.84.. Page 5 of the AGAR (Annual Governance Statement) was agreed and completed. It was then proposed by C'Ilr Dale, seconded by C'Ilr Morris and unanimously agreed that the Clerk and Chairman would then sign the Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2023/24.

11.4 Accounts due for payment

The following cheques were due for payment:-

Tax due on Clerk's salary £125.40 cheque No 000527
Clerk's salary and expenses £522.50 cheque No 000528
SALC Annual Subscription. £231.00 cheque No 000529
L Pardoe, Internal Auditor. £90. Cheque No.000530
Zurich Municipal Insurance Renewal £241.00. Cheque No. 000531
Unlimited Web Hosting, PC Website. £59.88. Cheque No. 000532
Information Commissioner, Data Protection fee £40. Cheque No. 000533

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

11.5 Bank Reconciliation

The Clerk circulated the Bank reconciliation showing a balance held at bank, after payment of the above accounts, amounting to £7,131.06

It was proposed by C'lr Dale, seconded by C'lr Starns and unanimously agreed that this provided a true and accurate financial record. The Bank reconciliation was then signed by the Chairman.

C'lr Starns had told the March meeting that the notice board in Picklescott needed repairing. He had agreed to obtain a quotation before the May meeting. He had spoken to the contractor who had not yet provided the quote. It was proposed by C'lr Dale, seconded by C'lr Morris and unanimously agreed that if the quote was £200 or less this should be accepted and the work carried out. C'lr Starns agreed to forward the quote to the Clerk.

12 Planning

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

23/05148/FUL Proposed Agricultural Workers Dwelling

Proposed agricultural workers dwelling SW of Walkmills . Erection of agricultural needs dwelling. This application was discussed at the January meeting when C'lr Dale had declared an interest as shown in Item 2, as the applicant is known to him and he carries out work for the applicant. He left the room when this application was discussed. This application was received and forwarded to all Councillors on 22nd December. The Clerk had asked Councillors to contact her if they wish to arrange a site visit. A site visit had not been requested. The Clerk had downloaded the plans and circulated these at the meeting. This application was discussed at the meeting and it was proposed by C'lr Ecob, seconded by C'lr Hibbot-Morris that there were no objections and the Parish Council would support this application. A vote was taken with 1 Councillor. Therefore the proposal was carried by a majority vote. The Clerk told the May meeting that this application was granted on 24th May.

24/00871/VAR Hall Farm, Picklescott

Variation of Condition no 2 attached to Listed Building Consent Ref. 16/05367/LBC dated 11.4.2018. This was received and forwarded to all Councillors on 6th March 2024. As this is a variation on a previously approved Listed Building consent the Parish Council did not wish to comment. The Clerk told the May meeting that this application was granted on 11th April.

24/01000/HHE Greenfields, Pulverbatch

Erection of a single storey rear extension to a detached dwelling. This application was received and forwarded to all Councillors on 12th March. This was sent for information only and the Parish Council cannot comment. The Clerk told the May meeting that this application is shown on the planning portal as "no longer available to view".

24/01091/FUL Tiryfon, All Stretton

Erection of a single storey side extension. This application was received and forwarded to all Councillors on 21st March. This application was discussed at the March meeting and it was proposed by C'lr Starns, seconded by C'lr Phillips and unanimously agreed that the Parish Council would not comment on this application. The Clerk told the May meeting that this application had been granted on 24th April

24/01119/FUL Shropshire County Brides Limited, Leebotwood

Erection of extension and alterations. This application was received on 25th March and forwarded to all Councillors. This was discussed at the March meeting when it was proposed by C'lr Starns, seconded by C'lr Phillips 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 29th April.

(b) Clerk to report on application received between meetings

No applications were received between meetings

(c) Applications discussed at the meeting

Forestry England, New Woodland at Picklescott

A letter was forwarded to the Clerk by a resident on 22nd April. The letter was from Forestry England dated 19th April. This was asking for feedback via an on line survey on the new "Coronation Wood to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III".

The Clerk forwarded the letter and comments from the resident to all Councillors.

The Clerk e mailed Forestry England saying the letter had been passed to her and she knew the Parish Council would wish to comment. However, the meeting was not until the end of May and she would contact them again after the meeting. She also asked them to note her address for any future correspondence.

This was discussed at the May meeting. The Chairman told the meeting that, to date, no residents had contacted him with any concerns. It was proposed by C'lr Starns, seconded by C'lr Burton and unanimously agreed that the Parish Council would not comment at this stage they would wait until the public consultation was announced in the Autumn.

24/01631/FUL Lower Wood Farmhouse, Lower Wood

Erection of single storey extension to rear elevation, changes to fenestration and erection of detached double garage. This application was received and forwarded to all Councillors on 15th May. It was proposed by C'lr Starns, seconded by C'lr Dale and unanimously agreed that the Parish Council would not comment on this application.

24/02026/OHL Land at Home Field, Batchcote

Installation of additional wood pole support in the existing 11KV overhead line. It was proposed by C'lr Starns, seconded by C'lr Dale and unanimously agreed that the Parish Council would not comment on this application.

13. 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'lr D. Morris had previously chased this work and would continue to do so. This had been continually chased up by C'lr D Morris and the Clerk.

The road leading from Dorrington to Picklescott had now been patched and was in the 2023/24 programme to be resurfaced.

Another member of the public at the March Meeting reported potholes by Jinlye. C'lr Ecob agreed to drive that way home after the March meeting and report on FixMyStreet. At the May meeting it was reported that this pothole was now much deeper.

Another member of the public at the March meeting asked if the road would be resurfaced from the crossroad to Smethcott. C'Ilr Dan Morris said this was also in the 2024/25 budget.

C'Ilr Burton had sent her apologies for the March meeting but had asked the Clerk to report that the road from Leebotwood to High Park has many many potholes and although she has reported on FixMyStreet nothing has been done. This road is well used by locals and visitors accessing the Longmynd. C'Ilr Burton told the May meeting that this had not been repaired,

C'Ilr Dale told the March meeting that while the road works were being carried out on the road from Dorrington to Picklescott he would, once again, jet the drain by New Hall. C'Ilr Dale told the May meeting that this had been done but was now blocked again and he would revisit the site and jet the drains again. However, he added that this requires a more permanent solution to stop flooding at this point.

Pot holes by the Lynches were reported at the meeting and would be added to the reports on FixMyStreet.

(b) Any further highway issues to be reported

The Clerk reported the following road closure notices received:-

- Cwms Lane, 13th May2024 - 13th November 2025 – road closure due to highway safety issues. Notice was circulated to all Councillors on 26th April.
- Farm Lane, All Stretton 20th August – Open Reach Access to Overhead Network – cabling for new customer connection
- Farm Lane, All Stretton 5th - 6th October – Severn Trent

No further highway matters were reported.

(c) Environmental Maintenance work

The Clerk told the meeting that she had applied for the 2024/25 Environmental Maintenance Grant in the sum of £3,000 (£1,500 grant and £1,500 matched funding), which had been built into the 2024/25 precept. She had not yet heard if the application had been approved. However, a letter from Shropshire Council Highways, which was circulated by SALC, stated that they were not able to accept any further applications after 31st May, as the final budget allocation will then be decided. As expected they are over prescribed this year for the budget available and will be in touch in early June to confirm the grant allocation.

14. Correspondence

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

- Details of the Lord Lieutenant of Shropshire “King's Award Voluntary Service”. This was received and forwarded to all Councillors on 18th May.
- The Clerk had requested the official portrait of King Charles III. This had been received and the Clerk handed this to the Chairman for the Village Hall.

- An e mail was received from a resident enquiring about the criteria for Shropshire Council being up for a National Award for Road Maintenance, This was passed to Shropshire Council and they responded on 24th April.

15. Shropshire Council Report

C'llr D Morris gave the following report

Temporary lights on A49 south of Leebotwood for gas main work

Although outside the Parish, I thought it would be useful for the PC to know that Two-way temporary traffic lights will be in place on the A49 south of Leebotwood (between properties The Dingle and Greenfields) from Monday 10 June to Friday 2 August 2024, while Cadent Gas carry out gas main replacement work. The side road off the A49 will also be closed. The work is required as Cadent Gas has identified a section of medium pressure gas main underground beneath the A49 which is considered high risk and needs to be replaced urgently. Contractors working on behalf of Cadent will undertake excavations within the highway laying 215 metres of new polyethylene gas pipe underground, with the excavations backfilled and reinstated upon completion of the engineering works.

General election 2024 – information for voters in the Shropshire Council area

A general election will be held on Thursday 4 July 2024. Polling stations will be open from 7am to 10pm. In the Shropshire Council area voters will be voting to elect an MP for the following constituencies: North Shropshire; Shrewsbury; South Shropshire; The Wrekin.

Due to boundary changes two constituencies in the Shropshire Council area now have new names, and some people will vote in a different constituency in this election. The Shrewsbury & Atcham constituency is now called Shrewsbury; the Ludlow constituency is now called South Shropshire. People living in the Severn Valley and Burnell electoral divisions move from Shrewsbury constituency to South Shropshire constituency.

Lists of candidates for the three constituencies will be added to the council website after 5pm on Friday 7 June.

To vote in this election you must be registered to vote. If you're not already, the deadline for registering to vote is midnight on Tuesday 18 June, To register go to www.gov.uk/register-to-vote

To vote at a polling station you'll need an accepted form of photo ID, to see what ID is accepted – and to apply for free ID (known as a Voter Authority Certificate or VAC) visit the Electoral Commission website. The deadline to apply for a Voter Authority Certificate (VAC) is 5pm on Tuesday 26 June, but please apply as soon as you can. Note: If you already have a VAC you don't need to apply for a new one.

Voters will need to show original documents at the polling station; copies or duplicates won't be accepted.

The deadline for applying for a postal vote is 5pm on Wednesday 19 June, to apply for a postal vote visit the Electoral Commission website. Please note that you're no longer able to simply drop off your completed postal vote pack at Shirehall or at your polling station, You must also complete the appropriate form,

You can have someone you trust vote on your behalf. The deadline for applying for a proxy vote is 5pm on Wednesday 26 June. To apply for a proxy vote visit the Electoral Commission website.

Overseas voter registration - British and eligible Irish citizens living overseas can now register to vote in UK general elections no matter how long ago they left or were last registered. There's no longer a 15-year limit. They'll be registered at the constituency where they were last registered to vote, or where they lived if they weren't registered

Schools encouraged to apply for £1,000 of active travel funding

Shropshire Council is inviting schools to apply for a grant to help encourage children to cycle, walk or scoot to and from school. The council has been awarded £30,000 of funding from Active Travel England and schools can apply for a grant of up to £1,000 to spend on active travel initiatives. Suggestions for how the grant can be used include buying scooter or cycle racks; buying hi-viz jackets; a bike or scooter loan scheme; or anything that will help their school to increase active travel. The closing date for applications is Wednesday 19 June 2024, and the council's sustainable travel team are happy to talk to schools about an idea they may have prior to an application being submitted.

Consultation begins into Shropshire's Local Plan

Shropshire Council has begun an important public consultation regarding the emerging Local Plan for the county. When adopted, the draft Shropshire Local Plan will set the overall growth strategy for the county to 2038, and will provide the policy framework for how the council takes decisions on planning applications. Shropshire Council submitted the draft Local Plan for examination in September 2021, and public hearings, led by appointed planning inspectors, were held in 2022 and 2023. This consultation, which runs until 11 June 2024, focuses on a number of new documents the council has been asked to prepare by the appointed examining inspectors following the publication of their Interim Findings in February 2023. The documents Shropshire Council is now inviting comment on are:

- an updated Sustainability Appraisal.
- new topic papers relating to housing and employment land requirements and matters relating to the proposed release of some Green Belt land.
- a proposed new policy relating to how the housing needs of older people and those with disabilities and special needs will be met.
- As part of these documents, and having assessed a number of options, the council is proposing an increase to both the overall housing and employment requirements for the county to 2038, but that no new site allocations are required in order to deliver this proposed increase.

The consultation documents and other information relating to the consultation, including how to respond, can be found on the Shropshire Council website. All responses will be considered by the council and sent to the Planning Inspectors for their consideration. It is anticipated that there will be further public hearings into the Local Plan in the autumn.

Road Closure

Although outside the Parish I thought it would be useful for the PC to know that Multevo Ltd, on behalf of Shropshire Council, are planning to carry out essential carriageway repairs along the C5150 Longden Road - Longden Road Crossroads to Wrentnall Jct. These works will be completed with a Road Closure in place from Friday 21st June to Tuesday 25th June 2024 between the hours of 09:30am – 16:00pm. Planned roadworks are subject to change due to weather conditions, or unforeseen circumstances.

During the works, access to the area will only be allowed to the following:

- Essential Highway personnel
- Emergency Service Vehicles
- Residents (access will be maintained to residents' properties but at times may be subject to slight delays to ensure safety for the residents and workforce)

Advance notice signs, advising of the forthcoming closure, will be erected prior to work starting, and a fully signed diversion route will be placed for the duration of the works. Letters will also be issued to the local residents and businesses that will be impacted.

New powers agreed to help tackle dog mess

Shropshire Council's Cabinet has agreed to introduce a 'public spaces protection order' (PSPO) to help tackle dog fouling and nuisance. The PSPO will come into effect on Saturday 1 June 2024. It follows an eight-week public consultation into the proposals held late last year, that received a largely positive response – and that led to small number of amendments being made to the original proposals. The PSPO will enable Shropshire Council and the police to issue fixed penalty notices of £100 – or £50 if paid within 10 days – to owners who allow their animals to foul pavements and public amenity spaces without clearing up afterwards.

Under the PSPO, dogs will also be excluded from fenced play and sports areas, and will be required to wear a lead on the public highway. Officers will also have the power to ask for a dog to be put on a lead in public areas where they aren't under the control of their owner or are acting aggressively. The PSPO will be implemented with a public education and information exercise, adequate bin provision and signage for enclosed exclusion zones so that any enforcement action taken is both 'reasonable and proportionate'.

12. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 24th July commencing at 7.30pm.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.35pm