

**MINUTES OF
ALL STRETTON, SMETHCOTT AND WOOLSTASTON PARISH COUNCIL
MEETING
held at Picklescott Village
Wednesday 25th September 2024**

Present

C'lr Dale (Chairman); C'lr Starns, C'lr Morris, C'lr Phillips,
Shropshire C'lr D Morris
Two members of the public attended the meeting .
Clerk : Mrs J Griffiths

Apologies

C'lr Ecob and C'lr Burton, who are both on holiday away on holiday
C'lr Hibbot-Morris who had work commitments.

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. Public Comments

Both members of the public expressed concern about the state of the roads in the Parish, particularly pot holes not filled when the contractors carried out work on the Picklescott to Dorrington road, including a large pothole opposite the Slad.

4. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 24th July 2024

It was proposed by C'lr Starns, seconded by C'lr Phillips and unanimously agreed that the Minutes of the meeting held on 24th July 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 September – handed to the Chairman
- Restore verges in three Shropshire Parishes – forwarded to all Councillors on 27.7.24
- The Woodland Trust – details of community free trees. Received and circulated to all Councillors on 2.9.24
- Shropshire Hills Conservation Fund Open for applications. Forwarded to all Councillors on 12.9.24
- Resident's letter dated 29.8.24 which was a copy of a letter sent to the MP concerning the proposed Woodland at Picklescott. Received and forwarded to all Councillors on 3.9.24

- Shropshire Council Tree & Urban Forest – asking for residents who may have land available for tree planting. Received and forwarded to C'llr Phillips, Tree Warden.
- West Mercia Police – Parish Policing Priorities. Quarter 3. This was discussed and it was agreed the priorities would be theft from outbuildings and theft from residential properties.

7 Planning

Applications previously discussed

Public Consultation on draft design proposals for new woodland at Picklescott

On 22nd July the Clerk had received an e mail giving details of the launch of the public consultation on the draft design proposals. Details are available on the web site and comments can be submitted on line. A drop-in event was held at Picklescott Village Hall from 4pm – 7pm on Tuesday 30th July. The Woodland Creation Project Team were there to answer any questions residents may have. The consultation was open from Monday 22nd July until Sunday 11th August. All responses will be summarised and included in a consultation report together with Woodland Creation Forestry England's response to key issues raised and will be published on their website.

21/03794/ENF Alleged Breach of Planning Permission

The Clerk received a report that an alleged breach of planning permission had taken place at the property known as The Retreat, Lower Wood. The application approved was for a single garage with annexe ancillary to main dwelling. It was reported to the Clerk that the North elevation which showed t garage doors on the plan approved has only two small windows. The South elevation has a large picture window and the finish is unmistakably that of a dwelling. The Clerk made a report to planning enforcement on 14th August and the Enforcement notice issued on 16th August.

(b) Clerk to report on application received between meetings

No applications were received between meetings

(c) Applications discussed at the meeting

No other applications were discussed.

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, 2023 meeting. This had been continually chased up by C'llr D Morris and the Clerk.

C'llr Burton told the July meeting that she had reported that the road from Leebotwood to High Park has 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'llr Ecob would also be asked to make a report on FixMyStreet.

C'llr Burton told the meeting that the white lines need replacing at High Park crossroads and also at the crossroads for Smethcott off the Picklescott to Dorrington road. Again C'llr Ecob would be asked to make a report on FixMyStreet. .

Road closures reported at the July Meeting:-

- Farm Lane, All Stretton 5th - 6th October – Severn Trent
- A49 Church Stretton Pavement Scheme. 20th September - 28th October 7.5 tonne weight restriction whilst works are undertaken on A49. Also B4371 Sandford Avenue East will be closed at the same time, Weekend working from Friday 20.00 to 06.00 Monday between 20th September and 28th October,
- Crown Lane, Little Stretton temporary road closure 8th - 18th October. Closure 8th October - 11th October full closure 8am – 5pm. And 14th - 18th working 8am – 5pm. Network Rail for positioning of jetting machine on the bridge to access the railway cutting.
- Road closure at A49 Lower Wood, Womerton and Mynderley jct during the hours of 9am – 4pm on 10th October for carriageway repairs.

(b) Any further highway issues to be reported

C'llr Ecob was unable to attend the meeting. On the day of the meeting he forwarded an e mail from a resident regarding potholes on Smethcott Bank. The work recently carried out to repair potholes has missed a large running gully down the right hand side of the road. He had attached photographs. C'llr Ecob will report on FixMyStreet and the resident had also copied Shropshire C'llr Dan Morris into the e mail sent to C'llr Ecob.

C'llr Burton was unable to attend the meeting. She had sent an e mail to the Clerk asking her to raise the state of the highway from Mynderley through Dead Man's Hollow up to the crossroads. There are so many potholes and bad road surface. C'llr Burton felt there were too many potholes to report on FixMyStreet and this would further deteriorate in the winter months. The Clerk had passed this to Shropshire C'llr Dan Morris and C'llr Ecob.

(c) Environmental Maintenance work

C'llr Dale reported that he is continually clearing gullies in the parish and attempt to keep on top of the flooding near New Hall Farm on the road from Picklescott to Dorrington.

9. Finance

(a) Accounts due for payment

The following cheques were due for payment:-

Tax due on Clerk's salary £125.40 cheque No 000537

Cheque No. 000538 was spoilt

Clerk's salary and expenses £515.80. Cheque No. 000539

Heywood Accountants Payroll provider year ended April 2023 and year ended April 2024 £144. Cheque No. 000540

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

(b) Bank Reconciliation

The Clerk circulated the Bank reconciliation showing a balance held at bank, after payment of the above accounts, amounting to £6,322.46.

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

(c) Application for Exemption from External Audit

The Clerk told the July meeting that she had now received a confirmation e mail from the External Auditor advising that Exemption had been granted and the Certificate would follow. The Clerk told the September meeting that the Exemption Certificate had now been received.

10. Gov.uk e mail and web site address.

The Clerk told the meeting that she had attended a Teams Meeting with a representative from the Cabinet Office. Although not mandatory the recommendation was for Parish Councils to apply for gov.uk e mail addresses and web site address. There is a list of approved contractors which the Cabinet Office who can facilitate this change. A grant of £100 is available towards the cost for the first 1,000 Parish Council' to apply for the grant. It was proposed by C'llr Phillips, seconded by C'llr Starns and unanimously agreed that the Parish Council would not seek to have the gov.uk web site or email address.

The Clerk told the meeting that at this time she used her personal e mail address for the Parish Council. She would obtain an e mail address purely for Parish Council use.

10. Shropshire Council Report

C'llr Dan Morris had sent his apologies but had sent the following report, which the Clerk read out to the Meeting:-

- NWRR will go to full business case before Christmas
- Move from Shirehall to Guldhall will start before Christmas
- Raven Meadows footbridge in Shrewsbury has been taken down
- Household recycling centre, user ill need to book in from 4th November 2024. Rationale is to stop people from outside the community using the centres
- Green bin need to be paid for from next week. The cost is £56 for one bin, you can order online or through the customer service centre
- New government targets on housing announced in the summer. Current Shropshire Council target is 1,079, new target 2,059 per year.
- £100k recently announced to support community transport operators
- New look to the Park and Ride buses in Shrewsbury
- Proposals being put before Council to put council car park on long term lease thereby releasing capital funds to help council transformation programme
- Financial conditions in the council remain very tight, and all non statutory services are being scrutinised heavily for cost savings. An example is paying for green waste

The newly appointed MP had been invited to attend the meeting to give the Parish Council an insight into his vision for the Constituency. This had been intended to be an agenda item for him to address the Parish Council as opposed to a public meeting. He had initially accepted the invitation and then sent a further message to say he was unable to attend. C'llr Starns and C'llr Phillips expressed surprise that this had not been discussed and agreed by all Councillors before the invite was issued. The Clerk explained that she had invited the MP after being contacted by C'llr Ecob and did not realise that all Councillors were not aware that the invitation had been issued and apologised for any misunderstanding.

It was agreed that after the May 2025 elections, when the Parish Council move to the Shropshire C'llr for Bishops Castle they will be invited to attend a Parish Council Meeting.

11. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 27th November commencing at 7.30pm.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.15pm.