

**MINUTES OF
ALL STRETTON, SMETHCOTT AND WOOLSTASTON PARISH COUNCIL
MEETING
held at Picklescott Village
Wednesday 26th March 2025**

Present

C'lr Starns, C'lr Morris, C'lr Phillips (Vice Chairman), C'lr Hibbot-Morris
3 members of the public attended the meeting .
Clerk : Mrs J Griffiths

Apologies

C'lr Dale (Chairman), Shropshire C'lr D Morris

1. Chairman's Introduction

The Vice Chairman, C'lr Phillips took the Chair. And welcomed everyone to the meeting

2. Declarations of Interest

The Vice 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

One member of the public told the meeting that, as a horse rider in the Picklescott community he was heartened by a recent national comment to make the Nation's forests as welcoming and available to visitors as possible including the equestrian community.. Therefore it is very disappointing that Forestry England are disallowing local equestrians access to the new Picklescott Coronation Woodland

He added that the road to Picklescott from Dorrington on the A49 is used by large agricultural vehicles during harvest time and more recently by very large tractors towing slurry tankers dumping slurry in the new pool at Smethcott and on the hill near the Thresholds. There is also an industrial scale beef farm at Sallins Farm above Picklescott so livestock and feed lorries regularly use the road through Picklescott to and from the farm. The South Shropshire Way runs through the woodland and therefore taking a route through the woodland would avoid riders having to use the more dangerous road through Picklescott.

He added that the British Horse Society's vision is to enable every user to be able to ride from their stable onto a safe network of off-road paths. As King Charles III is Patron of the British Horse Society he feels it would be rather ironic for Forestry England to disallow access to a woodland created to commemorate his coronation and asked for the Parish Council support. It was agreed that this would be added to the Agenda for discussion at the May meeting.

He also referred to the recent planning application for an access to the woodland and expressed concern as to how timber would be transported from around the woodland to this access location. Although probably 25-30 years

from now if transported along the route of the public footpath, the footpath would become very cut up.

The other two members of the public attending the meeting expressed concern about the state of the roads in the parish, many of which are full of potholes.

4. Minutes of the Meeting held on 22nd January 2025

It was proposed by C'lr Phillips, seconded by C'lr Morris and unanimously agreed that the Minutes of the meeting held on 22nd January provided a true and accurate record of the meeting. The Vice 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:-

The quarterly police priorities were requested. It was proposed by C'lr Starnes, seconded by C'lr Phillips and unanimously agreed that theft from farms and outbuildings and theft from properties were still the main priorities.

7. Planning

Applications previously discussed

24/04521/FUL Smithy Cottage, Lower Wood

Erection of replacement dwelling and detached garage following demolition of the existing dwelling. This application was received and forwarded to all Councillors on 29.11.24. The Parish Council did not comment on this application. The Clerk told the March meeting that this application was granted on 30.1.25

24/04727/FUL Walkmills Farm, Walkmills

Proposed agricultural slurry lagoon. This application was received and forwarded to all Councillors on 19.12.24. The Clerk had posted a comment on the planning portal to say this application would be discussed at the Parish Council meeting on 22.1.25. The Clerk had downloaded plans from the web site. These were discussed at the January meeting and it was proposed by C'lr Phillips, seconded by C'lr Starnes and unanimously agreed that the Parish Council would not comment on this application. The Clerk told the March meeting that this application was granted on 28.1.25

(b) Clerk to report on application received between meetings

The three applications received between meetings were discussed at the meeting as shown below.

(c) Applications discussed at the meeting

25/00327/FUL Proposed Outdoor Day Centre north of Lower Wood, All Stretton

Change of use of field to outdoor-based dementia day centre (Class E(f) with associated operational development and creation of wildlife pond. This application was received and forwarded to all Councillors on 3rd March. This was discussed at the March meeting when it was proposed by C'lr Phillips, seconded by C'lr Starnes and unanimously agreed that the Parish Council would not comment on this application.

25/00713/FUL Picklescott Wood, SY6 6NT

Upgrade of existing access to widen the entrance, excavate, lay aggregate and tarmac to highway specification and create short section of aggregate forest road. This application was received and forwarded to all Councillors on 11th March. This was discussed at the March meeting when it was proposed by C'Ilr Phillips, seconded by C'Ilr Starnes and unanimously agreed that the Parish Council would not comment on this application.

25/00866/LBC Hall Farm, Picklescott

Repair of Oak Farme gable end wall. This application was received and forwarded to all Councillors on 17.3.25. This was discussed at the March meeting when it was proposed by C'Ilr Starnes, seconded by C'Ilr Phillips and unanimously agreed that the Parish Council would not comment on this application.

8. Highways

(a) Clerk to report on highway matters previously reported

C'Ilr Burton told the July meeting that she had reported that the road from Leebootwood 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. This has been reported on FixMyStreet. This work has still not been carried out. . .

C'Ilr Burton told the September 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'Ilr Ecob would be asked to make a report on FixMyStreet. This work has still not been carried out. At the November meeting the Clerk agreed to report again. It was agreed at the March meeting that the Clerk would once again contact Shropshire Council highways.

C'Ilr Burton was unable to attend the September 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'Ilr Burton felt there were too many potholes to report on FixMySteet and this would further deteriorate in the winter months. The Clerk had passed this to Shropshire C'Ilr Dan Morris and C'Ilr Ecob. The state of the highway in Deadmans Hollow was discussed again at the November Meeting. In public comments members of the public also commented on the state of the road, particularly following the recent heavy rainfall when debris was washed on to the highway. This had been cleared by C'Ilr Dale and reports made to Shropshire Council. The Clerk agreed to contact Shropshire Council to ask when this road would be repaired as it is almost unusable.

At the November meeting the Clerk was asked to contact Shropshire Council to ask when a permanent solution would be carried to avoid the flooding by New Hall Farm on the Dorrington to Picklescott road. This has been reported many times throughout recent years and the Chairman and other Councillors have attended site visits with members of Shropshire Council Highways team. C'Ilr Dale continues to carry out work to avoid serious flooding but a more permanent solution is required.. C'Ilr Phillips told the January meeting that he had been in contact with local landowners and it was hoped that they would provide the machinery to dig a trench to help to solve this flooding. The Chairman, J. Dale does keep jetting the drains to no avail as they silt up again

very quickly. A site meeting would be arranged with members of Shropshire Council, the Chairman and Vice Chairman to discuss the proposals. At the March meeting the Clerk told the meeting that C'Ilr Dale was aware that a local landowner was willing to dig a trench to allow water to flow into pipes on his land. However, C'Ilr Dale thought that unless a filter was fitting to stop mud and silt entering, this would not be solution.

At the March meeting C'Ilr Phillips told the meeting that he had attempted to arrange a site visit with members of Shropshire Council Highways and the local landowner. Shropshire Council had not responded. He agreed to follow this up and report back to the May meeting.

At the November meeting it was suggested that an additional grit bin be provided on bank on the road leading from Dorrington to Picklescott. The Clerk had made the request to Shropshire Council however, she told the January meeting that she had not received a reply to the e mail. The Clerk told the meeting that the Chairman had an empty grit bin on his premises and he could place this on site and fill with salt. It was agreed that the position of the grit bin would be discussed at the site meeting described above.

C'Ilr Morris told the March meeting that he had arranged for J Dale to carry out work in Picklescott, at his expense, to alleviate flooding in front of Foxtrot Villas. This work was now complete.

(b) Any further highway issues to be reported

The Clerk has circulated the e mail giving details of the extended road closure at Cwms Lane. This has been closed from 13th May 2024 and is now extended until March 2026

(c) Environmental Maintenance work

C'Ilr Dale has submitted the invoice Amounting to £2,250 plus £450 VAT for work carried out during 2024/25. He is continually clearing gullies in the parish and attempts to keep on top of flooding in the Parish. He has now undertaken far more work than the funding available. He provided the following report with the invoice:-

“Quite largely at my own expense I have carried out as much highways maintenance work as I can. Again this year it is utterly impossible to maintain the road in the three parishes for the sum I receive.

I had hoped to concentrate on gullies this year, however, the continuous storms and flooding have caused an unprecedented amount of work and damage.

For the next financial year there is still the flooded cluvert at the end of Pease Lane to reinstate.

My other priorities are the flooding further up Pease Lane towards Wilrack Farm, creating a layby above Picklescott before Sallins bridge where the verge is so cut into.

Verge reinstatement and ditching on the Womerton road from Woolstaston and more work on the gullies downhill from Smethcott.

Please let me know if you wish me to add any other works.

Regarding the flooding at New Hall the overflow outlet has now been wrecked by tractors, how they need to drive on the hedgerow baffles me. I could rebuild it but a long term solution is needed.

Michael Oakley has said he would allow connections to his drainage system but it would be pointless without a method of trapping all the sludge from blocking the system. A permanent solution is needed.

I do have a spare grit bin (large) if anyone can be bothered to name a location where it is needed I will site and fill it".

It was unanimously agreed that the Clerk would write to C'Ilr Dale to express how very grateful the Parish Council are for all the effort and hard work he puts into alleviating problems in the parishes.

9. Finance

(a) Accounts due for payment

The following cheques were due for payment:-

Clerk's salary plus expenses £573.36. Cheque No. 000546

Tax due on Clerk's salary £130.40. Cheque No 000547

Information Commissioner Date Protection Fee £40.00 Cheque No. 000548.

J R Thomas flowers sent to C'Ilr Burton as agreed by e mail between meetings £41.00 Cheque No 000549

J Dale Environmental Maintenance Work £2,700 cheque No.000550

It was proposed by C'Ilr Hibbot-Morris, seconded by C'Ilr Starnes 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 £1,392.80.

It was proposed by C'Ilr Morris, seconded by C'Ilr Starnes and unanimously agreed that this provided a true and accurate financial record. The Bank reconciliation and bank statement were then signed by the Vice Chairman.

(c) Bank Mandate Additional Signatories

At the November meeting it was unanimously agreed that Councillors Starns, Phillips and Morris would be added as signatories on the account. The mandate was completed and the Clerk handed the individual forms for personal details to each of the Councillors asking them to complete their personal details and return the form to the Clerk. The mandate changes would then be forwarded to TSB for action.

The Clerk told the January meeting that when she had the individual forms from the three Councillors she had spoken to TSB to go through the mandate form to ensure everything had been completed correctly. However, she was then told that she had to complete the mandate on line, which she did. The bank then sent the Clerk an e mail asking her to provide an IPhone number to enable them to forward details of how to complete the identity check on an IPhone which she did. The Bank then said C'Ilr Dale, one of the existing signatories would have to follow the same process and when this was complete they would then contact the other new signatories. The Clerk had completed her identity checks but unfortunately the Adobe system TSB use at this time did not trigger the second process to allow C'Ilr Dale to carry out his identity check. The Clerk has been in contact with TSB to discuss this problem and has been instructed to start the on line process again. This has now been done on three separate occasions but again the system has broken down after checking the Clerk's identity. The bank agree that there are problems with the Adobe system and they intend to move to a new simpler system at the end of March. At the January meeting it was proposed by C'Ilr Phillips, seconded by C'Ilr Starns and unanimously agreed for the Clerk to wait until the end of March to ascertain if the bank are now using a new system. If not, Councillors agreed to attend the branch in Telford.

At the March meeting it was agreed to leave any changes until after the May elections.

10. Reiew Polices circulated to all Councillors prior to the meeting

The Clerk had circulated copies of the following policies to all Councillors prior to the meeting:-

Personal Data Management and Audit Policy

Privacy Policy

Complaints Procedure

Strategic and Operational Risk Assessment

Financial Risk Assessment

It was proposed by C'llr Starnes, seconded by C'llr Phillips and unanimously agreed that the policies had been reviewed and no changes were needed.

11.Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be the Annual General Meeting and will be held on Wednesday 21st May commencing at 7.30pm

As the May meeting has to be held within 14 days of the date of the May election (1st May), excluding Sundays and Bank Holiday, the meeting has to be held no later than Thursday 22nd May. it was agreed at the January meeting that the May meeting would be brought forward and would be held on Wednesday 21st May. At the January meeting the Vice Chairman agreed to contact the Village Hall caretaker to advise them of this change.

Remaining 2025 meeting dates as follows:-

Wednesday 23rd July

Wednesday 24th September

Wednesday 26th November.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.40pm