

**MINUTES OF  
ALL STRETTON, SMETHCOTT AND WOOLSTASTON PARISH COUNCIL  
MEETING  
held at Picklescott Village  
Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2025**

**Present**

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

**Apologies**

C'llr Dale (Chairman)

**1. Chairman's Introduction**

The Vice Chairman, C'llr 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**

The members of the public present all commented on the state of the roads in the Parish. Although some potholes do get repaired, the repair does not last and they need re-filling again within a few weeks.

One member of the public told the meeting that he had written to Shropshire Council and to C'llr D Morris about the state of the lane leading to the Larches and questioned how Shropshire Council Highways determine priorities for repairs. C'llr Starns also lives on this lane and produced photographs of the state of the road, which he agreed to forward to C'llr D. Morris and the Clerk. Shropshire C'llr D. Morris explained to the meeting how stretched the County Council's highways budget is and that when defects are reported the Highways Department have to score defects and respond to those with the highest priority scoring.

**4. Minutes of the Meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> November 2024**

It was proposed by C'llr Starns, seconded by C'llr Morris and unanimously agreed that the Minutes of the meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> November 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 correspondence:-

- The Clerk confirmed that she had submitted the Parish Council priorities to the Police for the quarter, including theft from farms, theft from out buildings etc.
- The Clerk had received and forwarded SALC weekly briefing dated 20.1.25, this included details of the Unitary Council and Local Elections which will be held on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> May. The Notice of Election will be posted on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> March.

## **7. Planning**

### **Applications previously discussed**

#### **24/04306/LBC The Gate House, Picklescott**

Alterations to boundary fence. This application was received and sent to all Councillors on 15<sup>th</sup> November. At the November meeting it was proposed by C'lr Starns, seconded by C'lr Phillips and agreed that the Parish Council would not comment on this application. The Clerk told the January meeting that this application was granted on 19.12.24 and the notice had been circulated to all Councillors.

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

#### **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 January meeting that this application is shown as "awaiting a decision"

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

#### **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 and it was proposed by C'lr Phillips, seconded by C'lr Starns 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'lr 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. This has been reported on FixMyStreet. This work has still not been carried out. . .

C'lr 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'lr 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. .

C'lr Burton was unable to attend the September meeting. She had sent an email 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'lr 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'lr Dan Morris and C'lr 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'lr 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'lr Dale continues to carry out work to avoid serious flooding but a more permanent solution is required.. C'lr 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 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. .It was agreed that the position of the grit bin would be discussed at the site meeting described above.

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

The lane leading to the Larches was discussed as reported in item 3 above. As J Dale has already carried out far more work than he will be able to bill, C'lr Morris told the 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.

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

C'lr Dale 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.

### **9. Finance**

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

The following cheques were due for payment:-

Tax due on Clerk's salary £148.60. Cheque No 000543

Clerk's salary including back pay agreed at November meeting plus expenses £603.70. Cheque No. 000544

Picklescott Village Hall hire of hall for year (6 meetings @ £15). Total £90. Cheque No. 000545.

It was proposed by C'lr Phillips seconded by C'lr Hibbot-Morris 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 £4,837.56.

It was proposed by C'llr Starns, seconded by C'llr Phillips and unanimously agreed that this provided a true and accurate financial record. The Bank reconciliation was 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'llr 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 Abobe system TSB use at this time did not trigger the second process to allow C'llr 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 Abobe system and they intend to move to a new simpler system at the end of March. It was proposed by C'llr Phillips, seconded by C'llr 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.

#### **(d) Agree Asset Register**

The Clerk forwarded the asset register amounting to £1,201. It was proposed by C'llr Starns, seconded by C'llr Morris and unanimously agreed that this was a true record of the Parish Council assets. The Vice Chairman then signed a copy of the asset register.

#### **(e) Agree 2025/26 Precept**

The Clerk told the meeting that the precept claimed for 2024/25 was £6,660 and for every additional £100 claimed for 2025/26 would show an annual increase of 54p per band D property and every additional £1,000 increase would show a £5.36 increase per annum. Likewise, for every £100 decrease in precept claimed would see a reduction of 54p per annum for a Band D property or a reduction of £5.36 for every £1,000 decrease.

The Clerk circulated a working sheet showing the precept claimed each year since 2016/17 and also showing the expected out-turn against the 2024/25 Precept. It was proposed by C'llr Phillips, seconded by C'llr Hibbot-Morris and unanimously agreed that the 2025/26 would be £7,250. This would be a £590 increase on the 2024/25 precept.

### **10. Parish Councillor Vacancies**

C'llr Chris Ecob, having moved from the Parish, has resigned as a Parish Councillor representing All Stretton Parish. The formal notice advertising a casual vacancy to serve until the May 2025 elections was prepared and put

on village notice boards and on the web site on 14<sup>th</sup> November. The period for anyone to contact the Clerk to express an interest in filling this vacancy was 4<sup>th</sup> December. No one expressed an interest and this vacancy will remain until the May 2025 elections. The Clerk has informed the Elections Team.

The formal notice for a vacancy following the resignation of C'llr Jo Burton the Councillor serving Woolstaston Parish was prepared and dated 28<sup>th</sup> November and was placed on village notice boards and on the web site from that date. The period for anyone to contact the Clerk to express an interest in filling this vacancy expired on 19<sup>th</sup> December. No one expressed an interest and this vacancy will remain until the May 2025 elections. The Clerk has informed the Elections Team.

## **11. Shropshire Council Report**

C'llr Dan Morris reported the following:-

- Central Government intend to convert all County Councils to Unitary Authorities within the next two years. As Shropshire Council do meet the electoral numbers for a Unitary Authority it is likely that Shropshire will be amalgamated with another Authority.
- Under this new regime planning will change and officers will have more delegated powers to determine planning applications.
- The Shropshire Local Plan had been submitted. However is likely to be withdrawn and revisited as the target for new housing has increased by 2,000 houses per year over the next five years.
- As the 5 year land supply will not meet this target there may be more sporadic development.
- Money available in Shropshire is shrinking all the time. When measured in the top 151 tier authorities for funding Shropshire is in the bottom 3.
- HS2 has been cancelled by the newly elected Government and it is hoped that the money put aside for HS2 will still be available. Some of this had been allocated to the NW Relief Road although, at this time, it is unsure if the NW Relief road will go ahead.
- In the past if a Council's Core Spending power did not reach 4% this would be made up to 4%. Shropshire Council's Core Spending Power is currently 3.1% but this is no longer made up to 4%.

## **11. Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> March Annual Meeting followed by Parish Council Meeting commencing at 7.30pm.

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

Remaining 2025 meeting dates as follows:-

Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> May Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> July

Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> September

Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> November.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.50pm