

**MINUTES OF  
ALL STRETTON, SMETHCOTT AND WOOLSTASTON PARISH COUNCIL  
MEETING  
held via Zoom  
Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2020  
at 7.30pm**

**Present**

C'llr A McVittie (Chairman); C'llr J Burton; C'llr C Ecob; C'llr Phillips; C'llr P Starnes

Shropshire C'llr D Morris attended for item 10.

Clerk : Mrs J Griffiths

**Apologies:**

Apologies were accepted from C'llr M Morris and C'llr J Dale.

**1. Chairman Introduction**

the Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**2. Declaration of Interests**

No declarations of interest were received.

**3. Public Comments**

No members of the public had expressed an interest in joining the Zoom meeting.

**4. Minutes of Zoom Meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> May 2020**

It was proposed by C'llr McVittie, seconded by C'llr Burton and unanimously agreed that the Minutes of the meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> May provided a true and accurate record of the meeting.

**5. Matters Arising from the Minutes – not shown on Agenda**

There were no matters arising not covered on h agenda.

**6. Correspondence**

The Clerk circulated all correspondence by email on the day it was received. The Clerk drew the Councillors attention to the appeal from Hope House Children's Hospice for donations. It was proposed by C'llr McVittie, seconded by C'llr Burton and unanimously agreed that the Parish Council were not able to make a donation.

**7. Planning**

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

- Parkgate Cottages, Picklescott (20/01461/FUL) Erection of a double garage – circulated to Councillors on 14h April. Granted 4.6.20
- The Pool Farm, Smethcott. 20/01019/FUL Erection of dwelling and garage following demolition of existing; formation of new access) New application. New plans submitted Parish Council commented on 23.6.20

Parish Council comments agreed by e-mail and posted on the planning portal on 23<sup>rd</sup> June were as follows:-

“Having considered the revised plans and the overlay posted on the planning portal today, the majority decision of the Parish Council is no objection to the revised plans. However, some members of the Parish Council do still have reservations and these can be summarised as a detrimental impact on the AONB landscape due to the increase in size, design and position (not on the original footprint),”

The Clerk had noticed a further plan posted on the web site on 3<sup>rd</sup> July which she had forwarded to all Councillors. It was agreed that the clerk would make further comments as follows:-

“The Parish Council commented on the original plans dated 6<sup>th</sup> March and the new drawing submitted in June. However, a further plan has now been posted on the planning portal on 3<sup>rd</sup> July, which the Parish Council were unaware had been posted. The Parish Council are concerned that this is a material change without the Parish Council being consulted.

On the site plan of 6<sup>th</sup> March it shows the garage on the plan in the lower part of the site, whereas on the plan submitted in June the garage was not included and on plan dated 3<sup>rd</sup> July the garage appears to have been moved to a higher part of the site. However, this is a two storey building ie rooms in the roof, so higher than a normal garage and now sited on the raised part of the plot. The Parish Council suggest that the garage needs to be the west of the proposed house on the site of the demolished Pool Farm House building to minimise the visual impact in this AONB.”

**(b) New applications for discussion**

South of Hollyhurst, Leebotwood 202569/FUL

Erection of a local needs dwelling and detached garage. circulated to councillors on 13.7.20. It was proposed by C'lr Burton, seconded by C'lr McVittie and unanimously agreed that the Parish Council had no objections to this application.

Stone House, Picklescott 20/02154/FUL

Erection of single storey extensions and internal remodelling of existing dwelling. This application had been circulated to all Councillors. It was proposed by C'lr Starnes, seconded by C'lr Ecob and unanimously agreed that the Parish Council had no objection to this application.

**(c) Clerk to report any new applications received after 14<sup>th</sup> July**

No further applications had been received,

**8. Highways**

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

Since the May meeting the following highway matters have been reported:-

- Railings Repair on road to Sallins, Jeremy was going to carry out this repair as it had not been done by Shropshire Council. However, this was likely to swallow up 50% of the Environmental Maintenance Grant. Dan Morris chased Shropshire Council and the Clerk sent the following e-mail

“I believe that Dan Morris may have forwarded you my earlier e-mail to the Parish Councillors and Dan concerning the railings on the road leading to Sallins.

The word Steven Davenport used when he saw the railing when he did a tour of the area with Parish Councillors in November 2018, following his meeting with the Parish Council to discuss highway issues, was that this work was an "emergency".

After several more enquiries by the Parish Council expressing concern that this work had not been carried out Ian Walshaw e mailed on 5th September 2019 to say this work would be done.

To date the railings have not yet been repaired and are a danger to road users having completely collapsed. As you will see from the e-mail Dan Morris forwarded to you if we carry out this work and use our Environmental Maintenance grant this is likely to swallow up 50% of the grant leaving little with which to carry out work to clear drains to prevent our highways from flooding during the winter and damaging the road surfaces.

I would be very grateful if you could investigate this as a matter of urgency and let me have your comments”

Dan was also copied into this mail following which Steve Davenport asked Andy Wilde, Shropshire Council to look into this. To date we have heard nothing more. C'lr Dan Morris agreed to follow this up.

- Willie Kerswell photographed the unacceptable repair carried out the the large pothole on the edge of the highway on the access to Sallins. The photos were forwarded to Dan Morris and Andy Wilde, Shropshire Council.
- We received the surface dressing programme for the Parish. The road leading from Smethcott Common to the A49 was included in the programme. After the Clerk circulated the programme Councillors reported other roads in the parish more in need of surface dressing. The Clerk sent the following e-mail to Andy Wilde, Shropshire Council with a copy to Dan Morris.

“The Parish Council have been informed that the road leading from Smethcott Common to the A49 will be surface dressed. However, Councilors feel that the road that really needs repairing is the road that goes from the cross roads above Woolstaston through Dead Man’s Hollow and up past Mynderley onto the Longmynd at Plush Hill. That road is in a terrible state of disrepair, many pots holes

and road surface breaking up. This road is heavily used by people using the road from Picklescott to Church Stretton. Councillors inspected this road during a site visit with Tim Sneddon some ten years ago when it was agreed that this stretch of road needed attention and nothing has been done.

From recollection the Councillors also think that the road that the County Council are planning to surface dress has actually been surface dressed twice, possibly thrice, since 2004.

The road from Dorrington to Picklescott which gets much more traffic has, to the best of our recollection, never been surface dressed in the last 16 years.

It would appear that the prioritisation process seems hopelessly flawed. The Parish Council would ask if the programme could be amended to take in some of the higher priority roads in the Parish as mentioned above.”.

Dan Morris also followed this up with Shropshire Council. The Clerk did not receive any feedback from Shropshire Council.

At the July meeting it was reported that the surface dressing has been done on the road leading from Smethcott Common to the A49

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

The Clerk was asked to once again report the overhanging hedge on the road from Woolstaston to Leebotwood. It is understood that the landowner is now in residential care. C'Ilr Burton agreed to supply the Clerk with photographs to accompany the report.

The Clerk was also asked to report that the hedge in Church Lane, fronting land in the ownership of Karuna, needed cutting back.

#### **(c) Receive report of Highways Maintenance work carried out 2019/20 and agree work to be carried out 2020/21**

C'Ilr Dale had provided a list of all works done and hours spent on Environmental Maintenance work for the period 2019/20. the hours far exceeded those he had charged for. The clerk agreed to scan and circulate to all Councillors.

C'Ilr Dale had agreed to repair the railing on the road leading to Sallins. However, it was agreed that this was work which should and had been agreed would be carried out by Shropshire Council. C'Ilr Starnes agreed to take a photograph showing the drop off the side of the road for the Clerk to forward to Alun Morgan and Andy Wilde at Shropshire Council with a copy to Dan Morris.

## **9. Finance**

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

- Refund Clerk who paid Unlimited Web Hosting for the period 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2020 - 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2021. £39.49. It was proposed by C'Ilr

Burton, seconded by C'lr Phillips and unanimously agreed that this account be paid. Cheque No. 000396 was proposed in the sum of £39.49.

- Clerk Salary June/July plus postage of Agenda etc ahead of the May meeting and posting cheques after May meeting. Total £446.72. It was proposed by C'lr Burton, seconded by C'lr Phillips and unanimously agreed that this account be paid Cheque No.000397 was prepared in the sum of £446.72.
- HMRC Tax due on Clerk's salary. £110. It was proposed by C'lr Burton, seconded by C'lr Phillips and unanimously agreed that this account be paid . Cheque No.000398 was prepared in the sum of £110.

#### **(b) Balance held at Bank**

After payment of the above accounts the balance held at Bank will be £6,210.78 as shown on the attached bank reconciliation forwarded to all Councillors prior to the meeting. .

#### **(c) Annual Governance Statement**

It was proposed by C'lr McVittie, seconded by C'lr Burton and unanimously agreed that the Parish Council had met all the objectives outlined on Section 1 of the Annual Governance Statement 2019/20 ensuring that there is a sound system of internal control, including arrangements for the preparation of the accounting statements.

### **10. Shropshire Council Report**

The following report has been received from C'lr Dan Morris on 6<sup>th</sup> July and circulated to all Councillors:-

- Covid19 is now thought to have cost SC £36m. We have already received £18 million in grants to use however we wish and expect our share of the £500 million announced last week to be between £2 and £3 million so that gives a figure of £20 million. Other pots from the Government should make the total add up to £32m. This will end up leaving a hole of £4 million which SC will have to finance ourselves.
- The government have made it clear they will not cover loss of income where they think we can collect it ourselves, e.g. car parking charges, so we do need to reintroduce those as soon as practicable and earlier than we feel comfortable with but we have little choice if we are to get maximum grants from the government.
- Overall that means we can cover our revenue budgets for this year and next if we maintain tight control of money and use some of our general fund reserves. We may need a spending freeze which actually stops directorates and senior officers from spending and maybe a stop to recruitment (unless clearly needed as in social services).
- The government had invited councils to bid for capital funds for shovel ready schemes that can be introduced quickly and these bids are being assessed through the Marches LEP.
- The schemes that are now approved by the LEP and going forward to government are Paul's Moss at Whitchurch, refurbishment of the Pride Hill Shopping Centre, business park investment in Ludlow and Bishops Castle, a

gigabyte voucher scheme to improve Broadband in the county and extra cash for the North West Relief Road/ Oxon Link Road project

- As you know there was a petition set up to remove the Clive statue from the square in Shrewsbury. Despite all the noise on this, the signatures needed to be from within Shropshire to count, and the number collected were way below the threshold in order to force it to be debated by Council. It will however be put before a scrutiny committee.
- The local plan review will be out sometime this week. This pre-submission version of the local plan is the culmination of four previous stages of consultation: issues and options (2017); preferred scale and distribution of growth (2017); preferred site options (2018/19); and strategic sites (2019). If approved by Cabinet the pre-submission version of the plan will be subject to consultation over the summer for eight weeks, and will then be submitted to Government for examination in January 2021, subject to Full Council approval later this year. Key dates
  - Cabinet – 20 July 2020
  - Consultation for at least eight weeks: July – September 2020
  - Opportunity for Council to make minor changes to plan: September – December 2020
  - Full Council decision to submit the Plan to Government for Examination: December 2020
  - Submission and examination: January to December 2021
  - Adoption: early 2022
- A Property Flood Resilience (PFR) Recovery Support Scheme [2020] is going live soon. It will consist of some grant funding for people to claim up to £5000 (minus survey costs) towards making their properties more resilient to flooding. To qualify the property/business must have been internally flooded during the February storms. Steve and Eira at the Oak are aware of this.
- Following concerns about the recent amount of and – and upsurge in – on-street parking by visitors to Carding Mill Valley, and the ensuing public safety issues caused, Shropshire Council has introduced a ‘prohibition of parking’ on Shrewsbury Road and Churchill Road in Church Stretton. The temporary traffic order will be effective on:
  - Shrewsbury Road between the school and Lutwyche Road.
  - On the north side of Churchill Road, from its junction with Shrewsbury Road to its junction with The Paddock.
  - On the south side of Churchill Road, around its junctions with Kennedy Close and Chartwell Close.The temporary traffic order can be identified on site by the presence of enforceable ‘no waiting’ cones.  
Residents who park on Churchill Road are asked to ensure that they adhere to the new restrictions by parking on the south side only.

Shropshire Council has begun the search for its new chief executive. The council is looking for a new CEO following the departure of Clive Wright by mutual agreement on 25 February. Since then, Andy Begley, executive director of adult social care and housing, and Karen Bradshaw, executive director of children’s services, have been serving as acting interim chief executives. Applications for the role opened in late June, with more details available online at [www.futureshropshire.com](http://www.futureshropshire.com). The council is

looking for an experienced officer who can drive forward Shropshire Council in what will be a challenging post-COVID-19 environment, and provide leadership and direction to its 2,500 staff. The new chief executive's key challenges will be dealing with the rising costs of adult care, the council's digital transformation agenda, and developing the county's many and varied town centres and communities. Mounting adult care costs are a challenge for the council, increasing by £10m a year. Out of the council's £600m gross turnover, £400m goes on adult's and children's social services. And economic growth is a priority in a largely rural county where 98% of businesses are small enterprises.

At the July meeting C'llr Morris also added the following reports:-

- The Public Local Plan Review was passed by Cabinet on 20<sup>th</sup> July. This covers the period 2016 – 2038 the new housing stock allocation had been 28,500 houses and this had been increased to 30,500 houses. There is no impact on our Parish.
- Full Council Meeting had agreed to investigate school drop off and pick up to encourage move people to walk or cycle to school. 20Mph signs would be erected outside school and many school roads would be closed to traffic.
- The County Pension Fund had been voted on to invest in more environmentally friendly companies, which would back up Shropshire Council's green agenda.
- It had been voted and agreed that the Clive statue would remain in the Square in Shrewsbury
- C'llr Morris told the meeting that he had attended a Zoom meeting of Leebotwood Parish Council earlier in the evening when they had a presentation by the police on Smartwater under the police "We don't buy Crime Scheme". He was very impressed with the presentation. The Clerk also told the meeting of the success in launching the scheme in another Parish Council where she is the Clerk. It was agreed that the Police would be asked to make a presentation to the Parish Council at the September meeting.

## **11. Date of Next Meeting - Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> September**