

**ALL STRETTON, SMETHCOTT AND WOOLSTASTON PARISH COUNCIL
MEETING
held via Zoom
Wednesday 25th November 2020
at 7.30pm**

MINUTES

Present:

C'Ilr A McVittie (Chairman); C'Ilr J Burton; C'Ilr C Ecob; C'Ilr P Starns; C'Ilr A Phillips

C'Ilr D Morris attended from Item 8, as he had a prior Parish Council meeting

Two members of the public had asked to join the meeting, the Clerk had sent the invitation and two members of the public joined the meeting.

Apologies

Apologies had been received from C'Ilr M Morris and C'Ilr Dale, as they did not have the technology to join the meeting.

1. Chairman's Introduction

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Declaration of Interest

No declarations of interest were declared.

3. Public Comments

The Chairman asked members of the public not to comment at this stage on Items 6 on the agenda as there would be an opportunity to comment when this was discussed. No other public comments were received.

4. Minutes of Zoom Meeting held on 23rd September 2020

It was proposed by C'Ilr McVittie, seconded by C'Ilr Burton and unanimously agreed that the Minutes of the meeting held via Zoom on 23rd September provided a true and accurate record of the meeting.

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

C'Ilr Ecob told the meeting that a member of the public was in contact with Open Reach and members of the public exploring the opportunity for faster broadband speeds. When he joined the meeting C'Ilr Dan Morris also told the meeting he had been speaking to the member of the public who was doing the negotiating with Open Reach and understood that progress was being made. The Parish Council extended their appreciation to the member of the public for all the hard work he was undertaking on behalf of residents to achieve faster speeds in the Parish.

6. Smartwater – Clerk to give update on residents' response and Councillors to consider going ahead with the scheme

Following the presentation given by West Mercia Police at the September meeting the Chairman had agreed that the Clerk would circulate details to every household in the parish to determine the amount of residents who were interested in receiving the Smartwater pack.

To be eligible for the Police and Crime Commissioners advantages rates to purchase the Smartwater kits and to attract the 25% grant aid towards the

cost of the kits the Parish had to achieve at least 80% coverage of the households in the parish taking up the offer of the free kits. As there are 173 households in the parishes the parish council must order 138 kits. The Police and Crime Commissioners would provide 35 kits free of charge and the Parish Council would pay for 103 kits at the discounted price of £8.90 per kit totalling £923.82. This discounted price is only available to Parish Councils who have a commitment to distribute 80% of the kits (this means 121 kits for this Parish)

To be eligible for the free signs to be erected by the Police and Crime Commissioner under the scheme 121 households would have to take up the offer of the kits. To date the Clerk had received 45 positive replies from households in the Parish. The Clerk had spoken to West Mercia Police who were very encouraged by the response. They knew of some parishes where circulation to households as opposed to holding a public meeting often that no response. If the Parish Council went ahead with the scheme, Covid restrictions allowing, time would be set aside when households could collect the kits from the village hall. Kits would be registered on the West Mercia database at the time of collection. Following which West Mercia Police deliver kits to those who have not collected to achieve the 121 kit circulation. Signage is then erected in the Parish at sites agreed by the Parish Council.

The Clerk had determined that the kits could be ordered in February and paid for in April. As the bank reconciliation (item 11 (b)) shows the Parish Council at this time are likely to have a balance held at the bank at the end of March totalling £3,795 which includes "ring fenced" items. It was proposed by C'lrr McVittie, seconded by C'lr Ecob and unanimously agreed that the Parish Council would go ahead and order the kits.

7. Correspondence

The Clerk circulates all correspondence by e-mail the day it is received.

The Clerk drew the Parish Council's attention to the e mail circulated on 18th November to say the Community Tree Scheme had re-opened as when the scheme opened on 6th October all trees had been taken on that day. C'lr Ecob told the meeting that he had applied in October and had collected trees which is was now planting.

A resident had written a six page letter expressing concerns about highway issues. The letter had been received and circulated to Councillors on 26th October 2020.

8. Planning

- (a) Clerk to report decisions on applications previously discussed:-
- South of Hollyhurst, Leebotwood Ref :20/02569/FUL
Erection of a local needs dwelling and detached garage. The Clerk told the meeting that this application is still shown as "Pending Consideration"
 - Corner Farm, Smethoctt Ref : 20/04357/CPE
Application for lawful development for the continued use of the dwelling without an occupancy restrictions. This application was sent to the Parish Council for information only and was circulated to Councillors on 2nd November. The Clerk told the meeting that this application is shown as "Pending Consideration"
- (b) Clerk to report any new applications received after 16th November

No new applications had been received.

10. Highways

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

The repairs to the bridge on the road to Sallins have now been carried out by Shropshire Council. On behalf of the residents the Parish Council thanked C'lr Dan Morris for all his efforts in moving this work forward and achieving the end result.

The overhanging hedges on the road from Woolstaston to Smethcott were reported and Shropshire Council had now cut the hedges. C'lr Burton had received messages thanking the Parish Council for arranging this work. .

The overhanging hedges in Church Lane had also been reported. The hedges on the right hand side of the lane have been cut but the hedges on the left hand side are still overgrown.

The state of the highway from Deadmans Hollow to Mynderley was deteriorating rapidly and had been reported following the September meeting. This will be reported again and C'lr Burton agreed to post on MYShropshire.

(b) Any further highway matters to be reported

C'lr Burton reported that in the recent heavy rains debris had been washed down the highway leading from Woolstaston to Leebotwood and as a result a very large pothole had appeared in the road just before Hill Cottage.

C'lr Burton also reported three deep potholes in the road from Woolstaston to High Park crossroads.

The Clerk will report by e mail and C'lr Burton agreed to post on MYShropshire pinpointing the area on the map. This will then generate a reference number which will show progress.

C'lr Burton had sent an email to the Clerk and C'lr Morris expressing concern about the contractors working on the highway. C'lr Morris told the meeting that he had received three separate complaints about the contractors that week and had forwarded the complaints to Shropshire Council who had agreed to speak to the contractors.

The Clerk told the meeting that the Environmental Maintenance Scheme was being extended and grants would be available in 2021/22. The closing date for applications is 12th March 2021 and receipts for work carried out during 2020/21 had to accompany the application.

11. Finance

(a) Accounts due for payment

Stamps to send Smartwater letters to every household totalling £123.37.

Cheque No. 00401

HMRC tax due on clerk's salary £110 Cheque No. 00402

Clerks salary October and November including postage £454.12. Cheque No. 00403

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

(b) Balance held at Bank

After payment of the above accounts the balance held at bank is £4,945.73 and this includes £1,500 Environmental Maintenance Grant, £1,500 matched funding, £6.31 balance in transparency fund and £300 election expenses which have been built into the precept. Therefore the actual Parish Council balance is £1,260.33. The predicted expenditure to the end of March is likely to be in the region of £1,1150. The Clerk also has to do VAT return for the £300 VAT paid for the Environmental Maintenance work which was paid in April. Therefore the Parish Council carry forward is likely to be £110.33 (current balance £1,260.33 less £1,150 commitment to year end) plus £300 VAT to be reclaimed plus the £6.31 left in the transparency fund giving a total predicted Parish Council carry forward of £416.54.

12. Shropshire Council Report

C'lr Dan Morris reported the following:-

- Shropshire Council have announced further Business Rate Grants for local businesses who have been told to close in the latest “lock down”. Details can be viewed on Shropshire Council web site.
- The Tier Announcement will be made on Thursday 26th November. The 7 date rate of infection per 100,000 has dropped in the last 7 days from 244 to 169 but it is expected that we will remain in tier 2.
- Shropshire Council Community Reassurance Team are supporting Covid related problem areas/food hardship etc. Details are shown on Shropshire Council website.
- Elections will go ahead in May. If restrictions still apply it is likely to be 100% postal votes.
- New social distancing measures are being introduced in the Shropshire market towns.
- There will be free car parking in all Shropshire Council run car parks for the period 3rd December - 17th January from 11am until 6pm each day to encourage people to visit the town centres.
- The Census date is 21st March 2021 and a recruitment drive will soon be launched to recruit temporary staff to help with the Census.
- The Planning Consultation will close on 1st December.
- The Chancellor announced the spending review today. Local Authorities can now add a further 1% to the Council Tax (1.99% plus a further 3% for adult social care – this was previously 1.99% plus 2% for adult social care).

13. Date of Next Meeting - Wednesday 27th January 2021

The Clerk told the meeting that the date of the next meeting is Wednesday 27th January and not Wednesday 22nd January as shown on the Agenda for this meeting.

The meeting, if Covid restrictions are still in place, will be a virtual meeting on Zoom.

Before the meeting closed Cllr Ecob told the meeting that a local resident was willing to act as the Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator. The Parish Council welcomed the offer and Cllr Ecob agreed to speak to the resident.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.35pm.