

**ALL STRETTON, SMETHCOTT AND WOOLSTASTON PARISH COUNCIL
MEETING
held via Zoom
Wednesday 23rd September 2020
at 7.30pm**

MINUTES

Present:

C'llr A McVittie (Chairman); C'llr J Burton; C'llr C Ecob; C'llr P Starns; C'llr A Phillips
C'llr D Morris attended from Item 8

Estelle Stock of West Mercia Police attended for Item 6
Chris Taylor of Connecting Shropshire attended for Item 8
Chris New from Secure Web Services attended for Item 8
Nine members of the public had expressed an interest in joining the meeting and the Clerk had sent invitation to join the zoom meeting. Eight members of the public attended.

Apologies

Apologies had been received from C'llr M Morris and C'llr 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

The Chairman declared a personal interest in the planning application for Stone House, Picklescott as the applicant is known to him.

3. Public Comments

The Chairman asked members of the public not to comment at this stage on Items 6 or 8 on the agenda as there would be an opportunity to ask the presenters questions when these items were discussed. No other public comments were received.

4. Minutes of Zoom Meeting held on 22nd July 2020

It was proposed by C'llr McVittie, seconded by C'llr Burton and unanimously agreed that the Minutes of the meeting held via Zoom on 22nd July provided a true and accurate record of the meeting.

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

There were no matters arising.

6. Presentation by West Mercia Police "We Don't Buy Crime"

Estelle Stock from West Mercia Police gave a presentation on "We Don't Buy Crime" stressing the value of the area being protected by Smartwater and signs erected in the parish to deter criminals. The initiative had proved very successful in other areas driving down the crime statistics.

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 158 households in the parishes the parish council must order 111 kits. The Police and Crime Commissioners would provide 32 kits free of charge and the parish council would pay for 94 kits at £8.90 totalling £843.72. Due to Covid restrictions the Parish Council cannot arrange a public meeting to establish interest. The Clerk was asked to put notices on all notice boards and the parish magazine.

Following the meeting the Chairman agreed that the Clerk would do a mail shot to all households.

7. Correspondence

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

8. Connecting Shropshire Broadband Presentation

Chris New of Secure Web Services and Chris Taylor of Connecting Shropshire joined the meeting for this item.

Chris Taylor explained the Gigabit voucher scheme, for households and business not getting 100mb service, which can be viewed on Connecting Shropshire website. This enables households, with poor broadband speeds, can claim a £4,000 voucher to have a high speed broadband connections and Business can claim a £7,000 voucher. The voucher can be used for any part of the infrastructure including wireless networks to get faster speed into households. Ideally a cluster of eight households who currently have poor speeds can group together to apply for the voucher, thus giving £32,000 to provide faster speeds to those eight households.

Chris New went on to apologise on behalf of Secure Web Services for the poor response time during the Covid pandemic. However, SWS had attempted to respond to problems as soon as they were made aware of problems in the Parish.

A number of residents expressed concern about the response they had from SWS and outlined the problems they were experiencing. Chris New agreed to follow these up.

One member of the public told the meeting that he was attempting to contact Open Reach to achieve a solution for 49 properties with poor broadband speeds.

Chris New further explained the Gigabit Voucher Scheme and told the meeting that he was happy to discuss this further with any residents who wish to contact him. He reminded residents that their homes may be capable of receiving faster speeds but were currently restricted to the package they had chosen with SWS.

Cllr Starns told the meeting that he felt encouraged by the presentations.

The Chairman thanked both Chris New and Chris Taylor for attending the meeting.

9. Planning

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

- 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. The Clerk told the meeting that this application has been Granted
- South of Hollyhurst, Leebotwood 20/02569/FUL Erection of a local needs dwelling and detached garage. The Clerk told the meeting that this application is still "Pending Consideration"
- Stone House, Picklescott 20/02154/FUL Erection of single storey extensions and remodelling of existing dwelling. The Clerk told the meeting that this application has been Granted.

(b) Clerk to report any new applications received after 15th September

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 has been programmed and will be carried out by Shropshire Council in October.

The overhanging hedges on the road from Woolstaston to Smethcott were reported. Jeremy Dale has offered to cut back the hedges as they front land in the ownership of a member of the public now in a care home. As the overhanging hedges were proving a hazard to road users, it was unanimously agreed that if Shropshire Council did not cut the hedge back within the next few weeks Jeremy Dale would be asked to do this as part of the Environmental Maintenance work.

The overhanging hedges in Church Lane were also reported.

(b) Any further highway matters to be reported

C'llr Burton reported that the state of the highway from Deadmans Hollow to Mynderley was deteriorating rapidly. The Clerk agreed to report.

11. Finance

(a) Accounts due for payment

Clerks salary July and August including postage and the £60 payroll costs, for which the Clerk paid the £120 account. This is split between the two Parishes the Clerk is employed by. Total £517.95 Cheque No. 00400

HMRC tax due on clerks salary £110 Cheque No. 00399

It was proposed by C'llr Burton, seconded by C'llr McVittie 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 £5,633.32 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 £1,947.92. The predicted expenditure to the end of March is likely to be in the region of £1,750. The Clerk also has to do VAT return for the £300 VAT paid for the Environmental Maintenance work which was paid in April.

12. Shropshire Council Report

C'llr Dan Morris reported the following:-

- Shropshire Council have appointed a new Chief Executive.
- The 2020 Pantomime has been cancelled due to the Covid restrictions
- Full Council took a vote and the Robert Clive statue will remain in the Square, Shrewsbury
- Shropshire Council Pension Fund, in line with Shropshire Council's carbon initiatives, have agreed not to invest in carbon heavy stocks. The Pension Fund have been given three years to change investments.
- A trial of "school streets" where traffic is not allowed during drop off and pick up times from schools is being trialled. This is to encourage more cycling or walking to school. Also 20mph signs are to be erected outside all schools. This could cost £2.9m out of highways funds.
- Shropshire Council have applied for funding to put in more cycle routes to make it easier for people to cycle. Although initially these additional cycle tracks are likely to be around the satellite towns.
- Flu vaccinations are now being offered to the age group 50-64. for the first time and all residents are encouraged to take up the offer.

13. Date of Next Meeting - Wednesday 25th November

This meeting, due to Covid restrictions, will be a virtual meeting on Zoom.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9pm.