

ALL STRETTON, SMETHCOTE AND WOOLSTASTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

MINUTES

Minutes of the Meeting of All Stretton, Smethcott and Woolstaston Parish Council held on Wednesday 23rd November 2016 at Picklescott Village Hall.

1) **Present and Apologies:**

C'Ilr A McVittie (Chairman)
C'Ilr Burton
C'Ilr Morris
C'Ilr Davies
C'Ilr A Phillips

Clerk Mrs J Griffiths (Clerk)

Member of the public present: Mr W Kerswell

Apologies

C'Ilr A Beagle and C'Ilr J Dale. Apologies had also been received from C'Ilr T Barker, who had provided a Shropshire Council report by e mail on 30th October and this was forwarded to all Councillors and is shown below under Item 12 "Shropshire Council Report".

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2) **Declaration of Personal and Pecuniary Interest**

The Clerk reminded all Councillors to declare any interests in any items being discussed. No declarations were made at this time. However, when Item 11 (Correspondence) was discussed C'Ilr McVittie declared an interest in the correspondence relating to Broadband Updates, as he is a client of secure Web Services.

3) **Approve Minutes of Meeting held on 28th September 2016**

It was proposed by C'Ilr Burton, seconded by C'Ilr Morris and unanimously agreed that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 28th September 2016 provided a true and accurate record of the meeting.

4) **Matters Arising from the Minutes (Clerk to report for information only)**

The Clerk had also circulated the notice for village notice boards giving the address of the Parish Council website. (Item 7 of previous Minutes)

5) **Public Comments**

Mr Kerswell told the meeting that he understood funding was available from a "Catch 22" fund for community projects involving 15-17 year olds. Details had been circulated to school children by Church Stretton School. Mr Kerswell agreed to let the Clerk have a copy of the details provided and the Clerk would circulate them to all Councillors.

Mr Kerswell also expressed concern that business rates were crippling small businesses in rural areas. In his opinion business rates should be abolished for small businesses in rural areas.

He also understood that rural transport would be improved. He hoped that this would extend to our parishes.

Mr Kerswell also told the meeting that where hedges had been cut thorns were left lying on the road which caused puncture for cycles using these roads and farmers should clear the hedge cuttings from the highway.

6) Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator

The Clerk told the meeting that she had contacted David Harte to ask for details on the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme as she wished to put a notice in the Church Magazine to ask for a volunteer neighbourhood watch co-ordinator. (Item 7 of previous Minutes).

David Harte had put the Clerk in touch with Michael Jones of West Mercia Police who is the contact for anyone volunteering to act as the Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator. It was agreed that the Clerk would contact Mike Silence to check what was actually involved and which of our Parish Council area he actually covers.

The Clerk had circulated a notice for all village notice boards appealing for a volunteer. This notice will also appear in the December Church Magazine

7) Planning Applications

Applications discussed at earlier meetings:-

Park Head Cottage, Smethcott Ref 16/02907/FUL

Change of use of field to hardstanding; demolition of existing garage and erection of double stable building; aviary building and breeding pens; storage building for feed and machinery. This application had been received and forwarded to all Councillors on 27th July. No comments had been received. The Clerk told the November meeting that this application was shown on the planning website as "awaiting a decision"

Yew Tree Villa, Lower Wood Ref 16/03580/FUL

Erection of part single part two storey side and rear extension following demolition of existing; conversion of barn to holiday let, This application had been received and e-mailed to all Councillors on 5th September and was discussed at the September meeting when it was proposed by C'llr Beagle, seconded by C'llr Phillips and unanimously agreed that the Parish Council had no objection to this application. The Clerk told the November meeting that this application was shown on the web site as "awaiting a decision".

C'Ilr Burton told the September meeting that a large building had been erected at the bungalow on the right just passed Upper Farm, Batchcott. The Clerk had reported this to planning enforcement.

New applications discussed at the November meeting:-

Old Rectory, Smethcott

Ref 16/04614/FUL

Erection of veranda and alteration to window on north elevation. This application had been received and forwarded to all Councillors by e-mail on 18th October. It was proposed by C'Ilr McVittie, seconded by C'Ilr Burton and unanimously agreed that the Parish Council did not have any objection to this application.

The Parish Council had received reports from residents that a wooden holiday chalet at Jinlye had been demolished and a substantial building erected. As the Parish Council are not aware of any planning application relating to this structure it was agreed that the Clerk would report this to Planning Enforcement.

The Parish Council had received reports from residents concerning a building at Malthouse Farm which it is understood by residents is being used as a dwelling. It was agreed that this would also be included in the letter to Planning Enforcement.

8) Police Reports

David Harte forwarded the monthly police report October which was forwarded to all Councillors 29th October

David Harte also sent the Shrewsbury Rural South and West Safer Neighbourhood Christmas Newsletter 2016. This was forwarded to all Councillors on 16th November and placed on the web site.

David Harte is retiring and the Clerk sent an e-mail on behalf of the Parish Council to thank him for all his help and wishing him a long and happy retirement.

9) Highway Matters

Mr Tim Sneddon, Shropshire Council attended the March meeting when highway problems were discussed. C'Ilr McVittie had attended a site meeting with Tim Sneddon on Monday 21st November during the heavy rain.

The sites visited were as follows:-:

- Culvert fronting Foxtrot Villas needing larger pipe to stop flooding on the highway. Mr Sneddon had previously advised that they were aware of the problem but as the overflow on the highway is over a relatively short length before it enters the watercourse and was not currently a high priority and should funding become available they will consider the provision of a larger capacity pipe. However, the site visit on 21st November showed that this was a real problem with a large quantity of water flowing onto the highway. Mr Sneddon agreed that this was a

serious problem and when funding allowed this would be addressed.

- Tree roots growing in the highway between Dead Mans Hollow and Mynderley are causing humps to appear in the highway. Mr Sneddon told the March meeting that an overlay would be applied. He confirmed in the e-mail that a temporary patch repair has been done. The length from the cattle grid to High Park cross roads is in the future surfacing overlay programme.
- A pothole has appeared in the side of the road outside Mynderly and the edge of the highway appeared to be eroding for a length of approximately 10 metres. Mr Sneddon confirmed that temporary pothole repairs have been done to maintain until the overlay is applied.
- Flooding on the road leading from Picklescott to Dorrington near New Hall Farm. At the March meeting Mr Sneddon agreed that this was a problem which would be investigated as the problem does need to be addressed. Mr Sneddon confirmed in the e-mail that this is difficult to completely resolve. They have dug the ditches out on two occasions. The problem being that there is no positive pint of discharge to a watercourse. The chamber at the end of the pipe run goes to a soakaway. The ground conditions are also difficult in this area as there are rocky outcrops, shallow soil and no obvious local point for such a discharge. They will keep monitoring and deal with storm debris as necessary. It was agreed at the July meeting that the Parish Council would request a meeting with the Technician Johnathon Ingolby to discuss solutions to this problem. This site was also included in the site visit on 21st November.
- Flooding was also reported at the entrance to Netley. Mr Sneddon told the March meeting that this is the same problem where ditches are not deep enough and this will also be investigated. It was confirmed in the e-mail that the ditches have been dug out for a second time as the first time they were not dug deep enough. It was agreed at the July meeting that the ditches were still not deep enough and the Parish Council would request a meeting with the Technician Johnathon Ingolby to discuss solutions to this problem. This site was also included in the site visit on 21st November.
- At the March meeting Mr Sneddon also made a note of the poor state of the little used road leading from Smethcott to Netley (passed the Bynards). He confirmed in the e-mail that this requires an overlay and it is hoped this will be included in a future programme. This site was also included in the site visit on 21st November.
- At the July meeting the Clerk was also asked to report white lines at the crossroads on the road from Picklescott to Dorrington at the Smethcott turning need repainting. This site was also included in the site visit on 21st November and Mr Sneddon had agreed to get this work done.
- At the July meeting the Clerk was also asked to report that the white lines at the High Park crossroads need repainting. This site was also included in the site visit on 21st November and Mr Sneddon had agreed to get this work done.
- At the July meeting the Clerk was also asked to report that the salt bin on the road from Woolstaston to High Park was smashed and needs

replacing. At the site meeting on 21st November Mr Sneddon had agreed this would be replaced and a salt bin would also be placed by Church House on the approach road from Dorrington to Picklescott. .

- The road leading from Dorrington to Picklescott above Netley is badly eroded due to oversized combines using this route. This was reported to Tim Sneddon following the September meeting.
- C'llr Phillips reported the road surface at the crossroads below Picklescott as you turn for Smethcott needs attention. This was reported to Tim Sneddon following the September meeting.

The Clerk agreed to forward the extract of the Minutes relating to Highway Matters to Tim Sneddon and ask for feedback before the January meeting.

Mr Kerswell, the member of the public attending the meeting, reported that the repairs at Deadman's Hollow were starting to collapse again. C'llr Burton agreed to investigate and report back to the Clerk.

10) Finance

(a) Accounts due for payment

The following accounts were due for payment:-

HMRC – tax due on clerk's salary for October/November £108.20. It was proposed by C'llr McVittie, seconded by C'llr Burton and unanimously agreed that this be paid. Cheque no 00294 was prepared in the sum of £108.20.

Clerks Salary October/November plus postage, hire of hall for tonight's meeting, cartridge for printer, and telephone totalling £463.30. It was proposed by C'llr McVittie, seconded by C'llr Burton and unanimously agreed that this be paid. Cheque no 00295 was prepared in the sum of £463.30. As the Clerk had forgotten to bring the £10 cash to pay for the hire of the hall tonight, which formed part of the £463.30 claimed, it was agreed that a further cheque (chq No. 297) would be prepared in the sum of £10 to pay the hire of the hall. The Clerk would then have the £10 cash to pay tonight and she would use this to pay the hire of the hall at the next meeting and not make a further claim.

Updating website October/November £15 per month as agreed. It was proposed by McVittie, seconded by C'llr Burton and unanimously agreed that this be paid. Cheque no 00296 was prepared in the sum of £30.

The Clerk told the meeting that she had made the declaration to the Pensions Regulator on 9th November and had received a letter dated 10th November from the Pensions Regulator giving an acknowledgement of declaration of compliance.

(b) Total cash held at Bank

The balance held at bank after payment of the accounts approved tonight is £2,498.97. This includes the £56.86 Neighbourhood Fund CIL monies.

(e) Highway Maintenance Grant

At the September meeting the Clerk agreed to speak to Tim Sneddon again about the amount that can be claimed for a highway maintenance grant. The Parish Council could then complete the application for the grant. The Clerk had e-mailed Mr Sneddon but had not received a reply. It was agreed that the Clerk would ask if a highway maintenance grant could cover the work to be done to improve the drainage at Foxtrot Villas.

11) Correspondence

The Clerk reported the following correspondence received:-

- Clerk and Councils Direct Magazine – October
- Weekly Shropshire Rural Hub Newsletters forwarded each Monday
- Press Release – Funding available for Community and Public Sector forwarded to all Councillors 27th September.
- Local Government News - forwarded to all Councillors 28th September.
- NHS Future Fit – Health Leaders to consider location for the Emergency Centre - forwarded to all Councillors 29th September.
- SALC Information Bulletin 16th September - forwarded to all Councillors 29th September.
- NHS Survey for those who have used Out Patients or A & E - forwarded to all Councillors 29th September.
- Planning for Real training Course in Birmingham - forwarded to all Councillors 29th September
- Pop Up Events in Shropshire – Real Truth about NHS Fit for Future - forwarded to all Councillors 29th September.
- SALC – Press Release NHS Fit for Future Event - .forwarded to all Councillors 29th September.
- Information of Shropshire Choices – Social Care – forwarded to all Councillors 30th September. Also placed on website.
- David Harte, Monthly crime statistics September. Forwarded to all Councillors 1st October.
- NALC – Larger Local Council Conference 2016 – 30th November – forwarded to all Councillors 3rd October.
- Shropshire Outdoor Partnership Newsletter – Summer 2016 – forwarded to all Councillors 3rd October,
- NALC – Information Bulletin – Finance Consultation – forwarded to all Councillors 3rd October
- Shropshire Council Public Open Space Review – forwarded to all Councillors 3rd October
- Shropshire Council Community Tree Scheme – forwarded to all Councillors 5th October
- Health Watch Annual Event 3rd November 2016 – forwarded to all Councillors 6th October
- SALC AGM – forwarded to all Councillors 6th October.
- LJC – 16th November – including personal security event – posters

forwarded to all Councillors and placed on the web site 7th October.

- Remembrance Sunday – Invitation to service – forwarded to all Councillors 11th October
- Health Watch Annual Event – forwarded to all Councillors 11th October.
- Half Term Holiday Activities – forwarded councillors and placed on website 12th October.
- Letter from Shropshire Playing Fields Association. Forwarded to all Councillors 14th October.
- Came & Co Insurers – Council Matters Autumn 2016 Newsletter – 14th October
- Budget and Audit Training 23rd November – forwarded to all Councillors 14th October.
- Rural Housing Spotlight Newsletter – forwarded to all Councillors 19th October
- Proposed formation of an independent conservation board for the Shropshire Hills AONB – forwarded to all Councillors 20th October
- Shropshire Local Plan Review – Sustainability Appraisal – forwarded to all Councillors 21st October
- NALC National Bulletin 28th October – forwarded to all Councillors 30th October
- NALC Funding Bulletin – forwarded to all Councillors 31st October
- NALC Newsletter November – forwarded to all councillors 1st November
- Rural Services Network – Grants and Funding – forwarded to all Councillors 3rd November
- SALC Training Introduction to Business Planning Top Ten Tips 2nd December – forwarded to all Councillors 3rd November
- Connect Shropshire State Aid public consultation outcome report – forwarded to all Councillors 4th November.
- Shropshire Council Newsroom – appeal for foster carers for unaccompanied minors from Europe – forwarded to all Councillors 4th November
- NALC – National Development Updates forwarded to all Councillors 7th November
- SALC – AGM/Conference 19th November – forwarded to all Councillors 7th November
- The Shropshire Drug and Alcohol Team Newsletter November 2016 – forwarded to all Councillors 8th November
- Shropshire and Health and Wellbeing Newsflash forwarded to all Councillors 10th November
- Local Government News 11th November. Forwarded to all Councillors 11th November
- Shropshire Housing Group Annual Report 2015/16. Forwarded to all Councillors 14th November
- SALC Town and Parish Council Forum 24th November. Forwarded to all Councillors 15th November
- Early Help Newsletter November 16. Forwarded to all Councillors 21st November.

- Connecting Shropshire Broadband Update. Forwarded to all Councillors on 21st November. C’lrr McVittie declared an interest in this item (see Item 2). C’lrr McVittie told the meeting that Mr Mike Silence had contacted him expressing concern over the provision of broadband in the area. It was agreed that the Clerk would contact Connecting Shropshire to ask if the statement in the Broadband Update which stated “credible and robust plans to provide NGA broadband to 3,728 premises over the next 3 years” included properties in our parish council area. The Clerk would also inform Mr Silence that this had been discussed at the parish council meeting and inform him that the parish council were asking for clarification.
- Open letter from Worthen and Shelve Parish Council regarding the provision of services. Forwarded to all Councillors on 21st November.
- NHS – Fit for Future Newsletter November 2016. Forwarded to all Councillors on 23rd November.
- The Clerk reminded all councillors that elections will be held on Thursday 4th May 2017. The statutory closing date for nomination will be 4pm on 4th April. The clerk circulated the forms to request a free copy of the register of electors and monthly updates for completion by Councillors.

12) **Local Joint Committee**

The Clerk had circulated details and notices for village notice boards concerning the next Local Joint Committee Meeting in December. C’lrr Dale will attend this meeting as the Parish Council representative.

13) **Shropshire Council Report**

C’lrr Barker was not present at the meeting but had sent the following report by e-mail on 30th October and this had been forwarded to all Councillors.

“October and November look to be busy months.

As you all know I am not inclined to play politics and I shan't now. What I will say however that we are now some six months away from the May 2017 elections for Shropshire Council and games are already being played and positioning is taking place on all sorts of issues. The latest is that of the Quarry swimming centre in Shrewsbury.

Enough of this though. Turning to matters of real interest.

Firstly highways. Work on the network continues to focus on areas of failure and areas where intervention is needed to prevent failure. Having recently visited the Isle of Wight I can report to you that our Shropshire Roads are way ahead of theirs, and we have far worse weather than they! Needless to say though our highways and environmental maintenance teams do need to know where problems exist so please keep reporting them.

Still on highways let's look at the A49 which as you know is not Shropshire Council's but Highways England's responsibility. Hopefully the disruptive

closures overnight South of Church Stretton have now finished and the HGV traffic can stay where it is supposed to be!

Harvest is nearly complete so farmers and contractors will have completed the task for this year. This in my view has been undertaken with the usual consideration to us rural dwellers and, on behalf of all of us, I thank them for their consideration.

Shropshire Council continues, like its fellows across the country, to grapple with financial constraints and the ever growing pressure on social care budgets. This pressure seems unremitting and is increasingly seen as being linked to Primary Health Care issues as well as hospital discharge for the chronically ill. I can talk at some length on this subject and am always happy to do so, but will spare you for the moment. Now though, acute hospital provision. It seems to me barmy that we have two A and E centres so close whilst also having on those two sites excellent provision for trauma care, maternity and many other facilities. To me it's quite straightforward. Where does the A and E need to be to service the population, given others (Wolverhampton, Stoke etc) in close proximity. At the other centre locate an Urgent Care Centre for most issues leaving the real crises to go to the nearest A and E. From my perspective the A and E should be Shrewsbury. I know that's hardly an in depth analysis but I have much more behind it if we want to chat further.

So, I've probably failed to cover something of burning interest to someone (other of course for any really local issues which we need to deal with at a parish level) but I hope this has been useful".

14) Date of next Meeting

The date of the next meeting will be Wednesday 25th January 2017.

15) Agree dates for 2017 Meetings

22nd March - Annual Meeting
24th May - Annual General Meeting
26th July
27th September
22nd November

C'llr Morris reminded everyone that money was available to worthy causes through the Henry Fletcher Poor Lands Charity. If no individuals or other causes asked for help the Trustees would donate the money not claimed this year to help with repairs at Smethcott Church.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.50pm

Signed.....(Chairman) Date.....