

# ALL STRETTON, SMETHCOTE AND WOOLSTASTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

## MINUTES

Minutes of the Meeting of All Stretton, Smethcott and Woolstaston Parish Council held on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> September 2016 at Picklescott Village Hall.

1) **Present :**

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

Clerk Mrs J Griffiths (Clerk)

Member of the public present: Mr G Holbourn-Williams; Mr W Kerswell

2) **Apologies**

Apologies had been received from C'Ilr J Dale, who is away on holiday and C'Ilr T Barker, who has other meetings this evening.

3) **Introduction**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

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

The Clerk reminded all Councillors to declare any interests in any items being discussed.

5) **Public Comments**

Mr Holbourn-Williams expressed concern about flooding in Picklescott when there is heavy rain. He explained that there are two gullies on each side of the entrance to his property. The gully positioned on the bridge side of his entrance sits too high in the roadway and does not take the water. He produced photographs of the flooding on the roadway. The Clerk agreed to report this to Tim Sneddon and request a site visit.

Mr W Kerswell made the following comments:-

Affordable housing is needed in Picklescott as staff are commuting in to work in the village.

The Bottle and Glass is for sale in Picklescott and he stressed that funding should be sought by the community to convert this into housing for local people.

Mr Kerswell expressed concern about the prolonged periods of road closures in the area when road repairs take place.

Mr Kerswell was concerned about the lack of public transport to Picklescott and told the meeting that it would help if the Shuttlebus could be diverted to Picklescott via Wilderley.

**6) Approve Minutes of Meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> July 2016**

It was proposed by Cll'r Burton, seconded by C'llr McVittie and unanimously agreed that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> July provided a true and accurate record of the meeting.

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

The Clerk reminded the meeting that Mr Mike Sillence wished to resign as the Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator in November (see item 12 of previous Minutes). The Clerk agreed to speak to Mr Sillence and put a notice in the Church Magazine at the end of October.

The Clerk agreed to prepare a notice for village notice boards giving the address of the Parish Council website.

**8) Finance**

**(a) Accounts due for payment**

The following accounts were due for payment:-

HMRC – tax due on clerk's salary for August/September £108.40. It was proposed by C'llr Beagle, seconded by C'llr Phillips and unanimously agreed that this be paid. Cheque no 00290 was prepared in the sum of £108.40.

Clerks Salary August/September plus postage, hire of hall for tonight's meeting, cartridge for printer, and telephone totalling £462.86. It was proposed by C'llr Beagle, seconded by C'llr Phillips and unanimously agreed that this be paid. Cheque no 00291 was prepared in the sum of £462.86.

SALC Membership 1<sup>st</sup> April 2016 – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017. £181.45. . It was proposed by C'llr Beagle, seconded by C'llr Phillips and unanimously agreed that this be paid. Cheque no 00292 was prepared in the sum of £181.45.

Updating website August and September £15 per month as agreed. It was proposed by C'llr Beagle, seconded by C'llr Phillips and unanimously agreed that this be paid. Cheque no 00293 was prepared in the sum of £30.

**(b) Total cash held at Bank**

The balance held at bank after payment of the accounts approved tonight is

£2,185.49.

(c) The Clerk told the meeting that Mazars, the external auditors, had now completed the external audit. The report is as follows:-

“On the basis of our review of the annual return, in our opinion the information in the annual return is in accordance with proper practices and no matters have come to our attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met. There are no matters which we draw to the attention of the authority”

The Clerk told the meeting that no fee is payable to the external auditor.

(d) Workplace Pension

The Clerk told the meeting that the staging date for enrolment for the Parish Council is 1<sup>st</sup> October. The Parish Council must enrol staff who meet all of the following criteria:-

Earn over £192 per week (or £833 per month)  
Aged 22 or over  
Are under pension age

As the Clerk does not meet these criteria she would not automatically become a member of the pension scheme, but can request that she joins the pension scheme.

The Clerk had issued a letter to herself from the Parish Council to formally ask if she wished to opt into a pension scheme. The Clerk confirmed that she did not wish to opt into a pension scheme.

(e) Highway Maintenance Grant

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.

## 9) Planning Applications

Applications discussed at earlier meetings:-

Land at The Lynches, Smethcott PREAPP/14/00401  
Erection of an agricultural workers dwelling on land at the Lynches, Smethcott. The Clerk told the September meeting that this application was now being submitted as a single plot exception site. The Clerk had not been contacted by Shropshire Council, however, the applicant's agent had asked the Parish Council to contact Shropshire Council to confirm the applicant's local connection. The Clerk told the September meeting that she had written to the Housing Enabling Officer to confirm the local connection as Mr Collins

lives and works in the parish and attended local schools and the Parish Council fully support this application.

The Clerk told the July meeting that this was still shown on the web site as an application for an affordable dwelling and shown as awaiting a decision.

The Clerk told the September meeting that this application had been granted on 1<sup>st</sup> August.

Gate House, Picklescott Ref 16/02748/LBC

Works within curtilage of Listed Building to facilitate the erection of detached single garage and workshop. This application had been circulated to all Councillors by e-mail and was discussed at the July meeting. It was proposed by C'Ilr McVittie seconded by C'Ilr Dale and unanimously agreed that the Parish Council had no objection to this application. The Clerk told the meeting that this application had been granted on 8<sup>th</sup> September.

New application discussed at the September meeting:-

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 27<sup>th</sup> July. No comments had been received. The Clerk told the September 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 5<sup>th</sup> September. It was proposed by C'Ilr Beagle, seconded by C'Ilr Phillips and unanimously agreed that the Parish Council had no objection to this application.

C'Ilr Burton told the meeting that a large building had been erected at the bungalow on the right just passed Upper Farm, Batchcott. The Clerk agreed to contact Planning.

## **10) Highway Matters**

Mr Tim Sneddon, Shropshire Council attended the March meeting when highway problems were discussed. The following works are still outstanding:

- Culvert fronting Foxtrot Villas needing larger pipe to stop flooding on the highway. Mr Sneddon had 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 it is not currently a high priority. Should funding become available they will consider the provision of a larger capacity pipe.

- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- The road Picklescott to Smethcott is due to be surface dressed this season
- At the July meeting the Clerk was also asked to report the hedge on the road from Woolstaston to Leebotwood on the left above Hill Cottage had been cut in the bottom but the top was still overhanging the roadway and forcing vehicles into the centre of the road. C'llr Burton told the September meeting that one side of the roadway had been cut low down but the overhang still caused problems. The Clerk agreed to contact Tim Sneddon again.
- At the July meeting the Clerk was also asked to request the road sweeper to sweep the road from Woolstaston to Leebotwood the road surface was very rough due to a build-up of debris on the highway. C'llr Burton told the September meeting that this had been done but debris is building up again. The Clerk agreed to contact Tim Sneddon again.

- 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 work had not been carried out and the Clerk agreed to contact Tim Sneddon again.
- At the July meeting the Clerk was also asked to report that the white lines at the High Park crossroads need repainting. This work had not been carried out and the Clerk agreed to contact Tim Sneddon again.
- 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. This work had not been replaced and the Clerk agreed to contact Tim Sneddon again.

Further highway matters reported at the September meeting:-

- The road leading from Dorrington to Picklescott above Netley is badly eroded due to oversized combines using this route. The Clerk agreed to report this to Tim Sneddon.
- C'Ilr Phillips reported the road surface at the crossroads below Picklescott as you turn for Smethcott needs attention. The Clerk agreed to report this to Tim Sneddon.

## 11) Correspondence

The Clerk reported the following correspondence received:-

- Clerk and Councils Direct Magazine – September-
- E mail received on 5<sup>th</sup> August from Shropshire Council asking for views on the “Shropshire Way Main Route”. This had been forwarded to C'Ilr Burton, the Parish Council Footpath Warden on 5<sup>th</sup> August.

Since the July meeting the following correspondence had been forwarded to Councillors as follows:-

- Weekly Shropshire Rural Hub Newsletters forwarded each Monday
- Rural Vulnerability Fuel Poverty received and forwarded 10<sup>th</sup> August.
- First Meeting of Town and PC Working Group 21<sup>st</sup> July at the Shirehall. Notes of meeting forwarded to all 10<sup>th</sup> August.
- Rural Services Newsletters forwarded each week
- NALC Newsletter 23<sup>rd</sup> August forwarded 26<sup>th</sup> August
- Rural Services Network – Spotlight on the Heart of the Village forwarded 24<sup>th</sup> August
- Police Monthly Report – August – forwarded 1<sup>st</sup> September also placed on web site
- Shropshire Housing Group Stakeholder Event 8<sup>th</sup> September forwarded 11<sup>th</sup> August.
- Shropshire Council – latest update for traffic tender schemes. Forwarded 18<sup>th</sup> August.
- Rural Conference 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> September at Gloucester University. Forwarded 18<sup>th</sup> August.
- Battle of Britain Service and Wreath Laying 18<sup>th</sup> September 18<sup>th</sup> September forwarded 18<sup>th</sup> August.

- A49 road closures – forwarded 11<sup>th</sup> August. Also placed on web site
- Town and Parish Council Forum Meeting 29<sup>th</sup> September. Forwarded 20<sup>th</sup> September.
- Rural Economy Spotlight – forwarded 21<sup>st</sup> September.
- Energise Convention in Shrewsbury 22<sup>nd</sup> September. Forwarded 31<sup>st</sup> August.
- Rural Services Network – Spotlight on Older People. Forwarded 20<sup>th</sup> September.
- Press Release – Health Watch and Community Sector Research – Funding. Forwarded 27<sup>th</sup> September.

**12) Shropshire Council Report**

C’lir Barker was not present at the meeting but following the meeting he sent the following report by e-mail. The Clerk forwarded this to all Councillors on 29<sup>th</sup> September.

“The Council front remains financially tight with spending being very carefully monitored to ensure we meet our social care, safeguarding and other important statutory commitments. Sadly some other areas inevitably suffer cuts.

Personally I remain absolutely committed to ensure that Health (especially primary care) and Social Care become much closer together in terms of activity commissioning. What one area does or does not do properly impacts directly upon the other! There are signs that this is beginning to happen but I’m afraid that the press focus on the acute hospitals. I admit there are problems there but the big prizes are in addressing integration at the primary and social care level”.

**13) Date of next Meeting**

The date of the next meeting will be Wednesday 23rd November

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.25am

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