

**ALL STRETTON, SMETHCOTT AND WOOLSTASTON PARISH COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF ANNUAL MEETING**  
**held at Picklescott Village Hall**  
**on**  
**Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2019**  
**at 7pm**

1. **Present**

C'Ilr McVittie (Chairman); C'Ilr Dale (Vice Chairman); C'Ilr Morris; C'Ilr Beagle; C'Ilr Davies; C'Ilr Phillips

Shropshire C'Ilr Dan Morris  
Clerk Mrs Jennie Griffiths

One member of the public attended the meeting.

2. **Apologies**

C'Ilr Burton who is away on holiday

3. **Chairman's Introduction**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

4. **Declaration of Interests**

No declarations of interest were received.

5. **Minutes of Annual Meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2018**

It was proposed by C'Ilr Dale, seconded by C'Ilr Phillips and unanimously agreed that the Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2018 provided a true and accurate record of the meeting.

6. **Report from the Chairman**

Over the last year we have continued to meet bi-monthly and have carefully considered all planning applications which come before us for comment and made site visits where we believe it has been appropriate to do so. Thanks to Councillor Jo Burton and Councillor Jeremy Dale for accompanying me on those visits. We have found them to be very interesting and informative.

During this financial year we have seen two successful planning applications for Single Plot Exception Site affordable dwellings for local needs, one in Smethcote Parish Council area and one in All Stretton Parish Council area

The Parish Council continue to complain about the state of the roads in the Parish. We have been escalating highways problems for many years but seen very little action to remedy these issues. In November Shropshire Councillor Dan Morris kindly arranged meeting with Shropshire Councillor Steve Davenport who is portfolio holder for Highways to enable us to express our concerns regarding long running highway issues in the Parish.

Councillor Davenport asked the Parish Council to identify the four most important highways issues which needed to be resolved and it was agreed that these were :-

- 1)the flooding near New House Farm on the Picklescott to Dorrington Road;
- 2)railing damage between Picklescott and the entrance to Sallins Farm
- 3) white lines missing at the 4 turns  
Picklescott/Smethcote/Wilderley/Dorrington crossroads leading and
- 4)flooding on the road outside Fox Trot Villas.

Following the meeting I took Shropshire Councillors Davenport & Morris on a short tour to point out our priority highways issues. Councillor Davenport described the damaged railings between Picklescott and Sallins Farm as an “emergency” however 4 months on nothing has been done to repair the railings. This is very disturbing. On a more positive note work has been done to alleviate the flooding problem below the entrance to New House Farm. However I regard this as a temporary solution. A permanent solution is needed before next winter as there is no outflow from the ditch. I fear that it will be some time before we see a permanent solution being implemented but I will continue to press as hard as I can for that.

Our own C’lir Dale has carried out a lot of remedial work to alleviate flooding in the Parishes on a voluntary basis and the Parish Council would like to thank him for carrying out this work.

Recently a number of parishioners have expressed concern about the noise emanating from weekend moto cross events at the Picklescott Enduro Track. We understand Shropshire Council Planning Enforcement officers are looking into this & I look forward to receiving an update from Shropshire Councillor Dan Morris later.

I’m pleased to report that the Shropshire Shuttle Bus route is being amended to include a stop at the Bottle & Glass in Picklescott.

The Portway was resurfaced recently. Sadly not in time for the late Mr Ford of Christmas Tree Farm to benefit from it.

The Parish Council received a total of £379.07 as the Parish Council percentage of the Community Infrastructure Levy for the period 2012-2017. No further payments were due in May 2018 or May 2019. The National CIL regulations state that the use of funds must be used to support development by funding (a) the provision, improvement, replacement, operation or maintenance of infrastructure; or (b) anything else concerned with addressing the demands that development place on the area.

To comply with the Data Protection Act the Parish Council pay a registration fee to the Information Commissioners Office and adopted the Personal Data Management and Audit Policy (April 2018), the Privacy Policy and the Subject Access Policy, all of which can be seen on the Parish Council web site.

The web site is kept up to date and has the dates of meetings, agendas and Minutes on the site.

The Parish Council will continue to serve the Parish and welcomes members of the public to all our meetings where they are free to make public comments at the start of every meeting.

Thanks to my fellow Parish Councillors, Councillor Dan Morris for your support throughout the year and special thanks must go to Jennie our Clerk without whom we would simply not function.

7. **Report from Longnor School**

No report has been received.

8. **Police Report**

9. **Footpath Warden Report**

Footpaths in the Woolstaston & All Stretton Parish continue to be regularly walked throughout the year and are mostly in good accessible order. Members of Smethcott Parish Council and local residents keep me informed of any problems in their area and have been helpful in clearing paths and bridleways that have become overgrown and bringing to my attention footpath markers that have fallen down. The Shropshire Access team were informed but I did not receive any response.

There continues to be evidence mountain bikes, scramble bikes and off road vehicles using some of the footpaths and the bridleways for 'off' road activities. This makes these tracks very muddy with deep ruts in places.

The large group of ponies on Plush Hill and surrounding areas of the Longmynd continue to do damage to some cars by biting paintwork and rubbing along the side of the cars. The N.T. are aware of this but have still declined to put up any signage to inform people of the risks to their cars.

There have also been several reports of dogs worrying sheep on Plush Hill, and in late February two sheep were severely mauled. N.T. rangers and the local farmers were informed.

I still hope that local volunteers might come forward to help improve the public rights of way and repair stiles etc within our parish. To date no volunteers have come forward, so at the present time I am unable pursue this with Shropshire Council's Countryside Access Team to make our paths much more accessible for all and a greater asset to our community.

10. **Rev Fletcher, Munslow and Poor Land Charity Report**

C'llr Morris told the meeting that the Charity continued to support local causes.

11. **Tree Warden Report**

C'llr Phillips told the meeting that he had nothing to report. C'llr McVittie expressed concern that trees on the road leading passed C'llr Phillips property travelling towards Pulverbatch were leaning against the telephone wires. C'llr Phillips agreed to investigate.

## 12. **Shropshire Council Report**

C'llr Dan Morris gave the following report:-

Strategy & Overall Direction

➤ Finance – Council Tax Precept. At Full Council on 28th February we agreed a 3.99% Council Tax rise for 2019/20. I know it's a difficult decision to raise Council Tax but it is important to protect vital services and deliver a balanced budget. The Police & Crime Commissioner is increasing their precept by 9.94% and Shropshire & Wrekin Fire Authority are increasing their precept by 2.99%.

➤ County Councils Network – Fairer Funding Review. As members of the County Councils Network the CCN have been regularly updating me on the progress at a national level of the campaign for fairer funding from Government for the Shire Counties. The CCN are of the opinion that the current funding review for Local Government being undertaken by Central Government is likely to give a more favourable result to rural councils such as Shropshire and go some way towards redressing the heavy bias towards urban authorities. We continue to regularly lobby our local MPs to raise the issue of fairer funding with Government and explain the implications of the current funding imbalance on Councils such as Shropshire.

Corporate Support, Commercial Services & Economic Growth

➤ Economic Development – Future High Streets Fund. Shrewsbury and Oswestry could be set to receive a share of the Government's £675m Future High Streets Fund, with Shropshire Council agreeing to submit funding bids on behalf of both towns. After a number of towns across the county expressed initial interest in being put forward, a short proposal form was produced based on the criteria set out in the prospectus for the Fund and officers asked for proposals to be returned to the Council for consideration by a majority independent panel. It is a fantastic opportunity to be able to submit two bids to the Future High Street Fund and hopefully secure a share of the national funding towards helping us to achieve our goals. To give Shropshire the greatest potential for success, it will be important to ensure that both bids meet the eligibility criteria of the Fund and are truly transformational in their proposals.

➤ Economic Development – MIPIM. Shropshire is once again sending a small delegation to MIPIM in France, it is the world's leading investment event bringing together the most influential players from all international property sectors: office, residential, retail, healthcare, sports, logistics and industrial. The Shropshire team will once again be part of a large Midlands UK delegation and will be giving two presentations. The first is Shrewsbury based, focusing on the Big Town Plan and town centre regeneration. The second will be promoting the Oswestry Growth Corridor and other investment opportunities across the county. The team will be targeting key companies and investors that have been identified as potential partners in helping to fulfil the Shropshire Economic Growth Strategy.

Children & Young Peoples' Services

➤ Children's Services – Looked After Children. The growth in demand for Children's Services has put renewed pressure on the Council to look for better ways of providing for children who cannot be placed with foster carers. Some of our Looked After Children have very complex

needs and challenging behaviour. At present these children have to be placed in specialist private residential homes, sometimes far away from Shropshire. It's not right for the children or their families if they have to live in Devon or Scotland; and some of these homes are very expensive – as much as £6,000 per week. Of course, our Social Work staff have to visit too – long and costly journeys. So now we are starting the process of providing places in our own residential homes for some of these children. The Council has agreed in principle that three homes should be provided locally. They will be much closer for the children, their families and our Social Work staff. Although the capital cost of buying three properties, adapting them and fitting them out will be significant and the running costs will be high there will be a saving of nearly £250,000 in 2019/20 – and this should increase as time goes by.

Adult Services, Public Health & Social Housing

➤ Adult Social Care, Public Health & Social Housing – National Awards Nominations. We proud of the hard work of all the teams across Adult Social Care, Public Health and Housing. This has been recognised nationally by five projects for the prestigious LGC (Local Government Chronicle) Awards. The five nominations are: adult safeguarding enquiry cards entered for the Community Involvement category, team of team social prescribing entered for the Public Health category, The Broseley Project entered in the Future Places category, 2 carers in a car entered in the Health & Social Care category and the Integrated Community Services Team has been entered for the Team of the Year award.

➤ Adult Social Care – Recruitment Drive. Building on previous successes we have launched a further drive to increase recruitment and retention of social workers. Shropshire Council is taking part in the national Every day is different when you care recruitment campaign. The campaign showcases how rewarding a career in social care can be and the opportunities available to embark on a new career in the sector. ASC continues to be a big draw on the Council budget, for 2019/20 the cost has increased by £8m alone.

Highways

A difficult past 12 months but there is light at the end of the tunnel. The full restructure will be in place by June 1st. I am pleased that Steve Davenport has put his head above the parapet so to speak and been out to visit parishes. Still lots of work to do, but we will see the improvement continue especially with the digital transformation programme.

13. **Date of next Annual Parish Meeting - 25<sup>th</sup> March 2020**