

ALL STRETTON, SMETHCOTE AND WOOLSTASTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

MINUTES

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of All Stretton, Smethcott and Woolstaston Parish Council held on Wednesday 24th January 2018 at Picklescott Village Hall.

1) Present :

C'llr McVittie (Chairman)
C'llr J Dale (Vice Chairman)
C'llr J Burton
C'llr M Morris
C'llr V Davies

Clerk Mrs J Griffiths (Clerk)

Shropshire Councillor D Morris (arrived late as previous Parish Council Meeting)

Members of the public present:

Mr W Kerswell.

2) Apologies

Apologies were received from C'llr Beagle and C'llr Phillips

3) Declaration of Personal and Pecuniary Interest

The Clerk reminded all Councillors to declare any interests in any items being Discussed. C'llr Dale declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the Planning Application for Bullocks Moor Farm as he had submitted the application. He left the room when this application was discussed. All other councillors present declared a personal interest as C'llr Dale is known to them.

4) Chairman's Introduction

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and wished everyone a happy new year.

5) Public Comments

Mr Kerswell expressed concern that small rural farmers who claim benefits under the present system could be affected by the introduction of Universal Credits if they were not earning the minimum wage. He handed press cuttings highlighting this problem to the Chairman.

Mr Kerswell also expressed concern about the state of the roads in the Parish. This is reported under Item 10.

6) Approve Minutes of Meeting held on 22nd November 2017

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

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

There were no matters arising which were not covered on the Agenda. .

8) Correspondence

The Clerk forwards all correspondence by e-mail as received.

The Clerk reported the following correspondence to the meeting:-

- Clerk and Councils Direct magazine – January 2018 – handed to C’Ilr Dale
- E Mail – Outdoor Partnerships Annual User Survey – forwarded to C’Ilr Burton PC Footpaths Representative) and Chairman on 9th January.
- Shropshire Rural Communities Charity – Re: Lunch Clubs – forwarded to all Councillors 5th December. The Chairman confirmed he would refer this to the Village Hall Committee.

9) Planning Applications

Applications discussed at earlier meetings:-

Hall Farm, Picklescott Ref 16/05366/FUL

Works to Grade II listed building to create 4 No. residential dwellings. This application was received and forwarded to all Councillors following which a site visit was held on 19th December, 2016. The Parish Council had no objection to this application. The Clerk told the January meeting that this application is still shown on the web site as “Awaiting a Decision”

Land Adjacent to Heath House, Leebotwood REF 17/04907/FUL

Erection of an affordable dwelling with detached double garage. The applicant had attended the August meeting and explained that she intended to apply for an affordable dwelling on a single plot exception site. Following the application being validated members of the Parish Council had attended a site visit. It was unanimously agreed that the Parish Council had no objections and supported this application. The Clerk told the January meeting that this application is still shown on the web site as “Awaiting a Decision”

Cedar Lodge, Highfields Farm, Leebotwood Ref 17/05474/FUL

Change of use from agricultural workers dwelling to an affordable dwelling. It was agreed that there was insufficient information contained in the application to explain the change of use. It was agreed that Councillors would carry out a site visit. Before making any comments. Following the site visit the Parish Council had no objection to this application. The Clerk told the January meeting that this application is still shown on the web site as “Awaiting a Decision”

Applications received between November and January Meetings:-

Sallins Farm, Picklescott Ref 17/05649/FUL

Erection of a single bay extension on existing grain store. This application was forwarded to all councillors on 5th December. It was agreed that the Parish Council would support this application. However, when making comments the Parish Council expressed concern at the impact this extensive farming operation has on the surrounding country lanes and damage caused to the Portway. The Parish Council asked if permission was granted a Condition should be applied stating any damaged caused should be repairs as quickly as possible and all roads should be kept clear of mud. This application was granted on 16th January but the conditions requested were not applied.

Sallins Farm, Picklescott Ref 17/05650/FUL

Erection of an agricultural storage building. This application was received and

forwarded to all Councillors on 5th December. It was agreed that the Parish Council would support this application. However, when making comments the Parish Council expressed concern at the impact this extensive farming operation has on the surrounding country lanes and damage caused to the Portway. The Parish Council asked if permission was granted a Condition should be applied stating any damaged caused should be repairs as quickly as possible and all roads should be kept clear of mud. This application was granted on 12th January but the Conditions requested were not applied.

New application received 23rd January:-

Bullocks Moor Farm, All Stretton Ref 17/05839/FUL
Erection of a steel framed agricultural storage building. This application had been submitted by C'Ilr J Dale, who declared a personal and prejudicial interest and left the room. It was proposed by C'Ilr McVittie, seconded by C'Ilr Burton and unanimously agreed that the Parish Council had no objection to this application as it appeared to be in keeping with other farm buildings.

The Clerk had forwarded the document from Planning "Planning Types and Commenting" to all Councillors by e-mail. A hard copy was handed to the Chairman at the meeting.

10) Highway Matters

Highway Matters reported at the August meeting:-

- Following earlier complaints the residents of Christmas Tree Farm had made further complaints about the state of the Portway on 15th November. The e-mail was forwarded to C'Ilr Dan Morris who had contacted C'Ilr Steven Brown, Shropshire Council. C'Ilr Morris had now been informed that work to the Portway would be complete by 6th December. However, C'Ilr Morris had visited the site and told the meeting that the main problem was beyond the County Council maintained highway and farming operations had seriously affected the bridleway and the entrance to Christmas Tree Farm. C'Ilr McVittie agreed to visit the site and forward photographs to Dan Morris which had been done. C'Ilr Dan Morris told the January meeting that he felt he had exhausted all contacts within the County Council other than speaking to the Leader. It was agreed that C'Ilr Dan Morris and the Chairman would make another visit to the site.

Further highway matters reported at the October meeting:-

- The Clerk was asked to remind Shropshire Council that the white lines on the crossroads at High Park and the crossroads leading to Smethcott on the road leading from Picklescott to Dorrington were faded. They had been previously reported but not yet re-painted although the Technician, Jonathon Ingolby, when he visited the Parish with C'Ilr Morris, had agreed that the lines needed repainted. It was agreed at the January meeting that the lines had been repainted at High Park on 24th January.
- C'Ilr M Morris reported that grass is growing up the centre of the road in Stank Lane. The Clerk agreed to report this to Shropshire Council. It was agreed at the December meeting that no improvements have been carried out.

Further highway matters reported at the November meeting:-

- A tree is overhanging the roadway and thought to be in a dangerous condition. This is situated on land in the ownership of C'llr Martin Morris and he agreed to investigate. C'llr Morris told the January meeting that he had ordered a contractor to carry out this work.
- The railings over the brook on the right hand side of the road from Picklescott to Sallins have been damaged by large agricultural vehicles. It was agreed at the January meeting that this has not been repaired.

Further Highway Matters reported at the January meeting:-

- It was unanimously agreed that the Snow Clearance carried out this year was nowhere near the standard carried out by the previous contractor. No grit or salt had been applied and the roads in the Parish were left in an icy condition. C'llr Burton reported that residents were unable to leave Woolstaston for a few days in the heavy snow.
- It was agreed that grit bins had not been replenished and additional grit bins would be requested to be positioned at the crossroads for Smethcott on the road leading from Picklescott to Dorrington; outside Rectory Farm, Woolstaston and on Parish Bank as you leave Picklescott to travel to Dorrington.
- The flooding near New House Farm on the road from Picklescott to Dorrington was still a problem. Shropshire Council had attempted to solve this problem in the past but with no success. C'llr McVittie has supplied C'llr Dan Morris with photograph with recent photographs of flooding in this area.
- The flooding by Foxtrot Villas in Picklescott was still a problem. This has been reported previously but no permanent solution has been reached.
- There are potholes in the road passed Thresholds.
- The ditch on the edge of the highway from High Park crossroads for around 250m travelling towards Woolstaston is silted up and causes severe icing when temperatures are below freezing.

C'llr Dan Morris agreed to arrange a site meeting with representatives of Shropshire Council Highways and members of the Parish Council to visit the problem areas.

11) Finance

(a) Accounts due for payment

The following accounts were due for payment:-

HMRC – tax due on Clerk's salary for Dec/Jan £108.40. It was proposed by C'llr McVittie, seconded by C'llr Burton and unanimously agreed that this be paid. Cheque no 00326 was prepared in the sum of £108.40.

Clerk's Salary Dec/Jan plus postage totalling £437.07. It was proposed by C'llr McVittie, seconded by C'llr Burton and unanimously agreed that this be paid. Cheque no 00327 was prepared in the sum of £37.07.

Village Hall fee for hire of Village Hall for the November meeting totalling £20. It was proposed by C'llr McVittie, seconded by C'llr Burton and unanimously agreed that this be paid. Cheque no 00328 was prepared in the sum of £20.

Web site updates Oct/Nov totalling £30. It was proposed by C'llr McVittie, seconded by C'llr Burton and unanimously agreed that this be paid. Cheque no 00329 was prepared in the sum of £30.

It was unanimously agreed that the Clerk would attend the year ending reporting seminar to be held by the newly appointed External Auditors. In February

(b) Total cash held at Bank

The Clerk told the November meeting that Parish Council could not reclaim VAT in the year in was paid unless it exceeded £100. The Clerk had made a claim for repayment of VAT for the period May 2012 – March 2017 totalling £72.07. However she had received a letter from HM Revenue and Customs stating that claims must be made within three years and they had reduced the claim to £37.80 which has been paid.

The balance held at bank after payment of the accounts approved tonight is £2,764.87.

The Clerk told the meeting that the projected balance at the end of March 2018 was £2,180 compared to the carry forward of £1,289 at the end of March 2017. The extra £891 projected carry forward at the end of March 2018 can be largely attributed to £322 CIL money paid in April 2017 and £255 Transparency Fund Grant received in 2017 and £300 held for election expenses.

(c) Agree 2018/2019 Precept

The 2018/19 Precept was discussed. It was proposed by C'llr Dale, seconded by C'llr McVittie and unanimously agreed that the 2018/19 precept would be £4,374. The Clerk told the meeting that £4,374 would show a 0% increase in the Band D Council Tax charge for the Parish Precept.

(d) Agree Asset Register

It was proposed by C'llr McVittie, seconded by C'llr Dale and unanimously agreed that the asset register would remain at £1,801.

12) Local Joint Committee

The date of the next Local Joint Committee meeting has yet to be agreed.

13) Shropshire Council Matters

C'llr Dan Morris reported the following:-

- Shropshire Council have now completed the purchase of the shopping centres in Shrewsbury. It is anticipated that the income generated from this investment will exceed the interest received on the capital held at the bank.
- A Management Company will be appointed to manage the day to day running of the centres.
- C'llr Morris reminded the Parish Council that the deadline is looking to put forward any updates to the Parish Plan, especially if Parish Councils wish

to identify projects on which to spend CIL money.

14) Agree Risk Assessment and Standing Orders

The Clerk circulated the draft Risk Assessment at the November meeting for Councillors to read ahead of the January meeting. It was proposed by C’lr Dale, seconded by C’lr McVittie and unanimously agreed that the Risk Assessment be adopted. The Chairman signed a copy of the Risk Assessment.

The Clerk circulated the draft Standing Orders at the November meeting for Councillors to read ahead of the January meeting. It was proposed by C’lr McVittie, seconded by C’lr Dale and unanimously agreed that the Standing Orders be adopted. The Chairman signed a copy of the Standing Orders.

15) Agree Draft Protocol – Councillor/Clerk Relations

The Clerk circulated the Draft Protocol Councillor/Clerk Relations with the Agenda for the meeting. It was proposed by C’lr McVittie, seconded by C’lr Burton and unanimously agreed that the Protocol be adopted.

16) Date of next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 21st March – The clerk reminded Councillors that this will be the Annual Meeting followed by Parish Council Meeting. C’lr Burton reported that she is unable to attend and was under the impression that C’lr Phillips would not be able to attend. As both councillors bring reports to the meeting (C’lr Burton – Footpath Warden and C’lr Phillips – Tree Warden) it was agreed that the Clerk would contact C’lr Phillips and if he was unable to attend the meeting would be put back until 28th March.

Dates for the remaining 2018 meetings were agreed as follows:-

- Wednesday 23rd May – Annual General Meeting
- Wednesday 25th July
- Wednesday 26th September
- Wednesday 28th November

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.45pm

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