

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 21st March, 2018 at Picklescote Village Hall. This meeting followed the Annual Parish Meeting.

1) Present :

C'lr McVittie (Chairman)
C'lr J Dale (Vice Chairman)
C'lr M Morris
C'lr T Phillips
C'lr A Beagle

Clerk Mrs J Griffiths (Clerk)

Shropshire Councillor D Morris

Members of the public present:

Mr W Kerswell.

2) Apologies

Apologies were received from C'lr Burton and C'lr Davies

3) Declaration of Personal and Pecuniary Interest

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

The applicants of the planning application relating to 100 Acres, Smethcott are known to Councillors.

4) Chairman's Introduction

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

5) Public Comments

Mr Kerswell told the meeting that an announcement had been made recently which contained guidance on relaxing planning laws to allow farmers to build a retirement home on their land so that their children could move into the farmhouse and continue farming.

Mr Kerswell also expressed concern at high rents being charged for rental properties in the area and as a result locals were not able to afford to stay in the area. As holiday lets attract high rentals many residential properties in the area were being changed to holiday lets.

Mr Kerswell had also reported some highway issues which were cover in Item 10.

6) Approve Minutes of Meeting held on 24th January 2018

It was proposed by C'llr Dale, seconded by C'llr Beagle and unanimously agreed that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 24th January provided a true and accurate record of the meeting.

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

The Clerk told the meeting that she had forwarded details of the meeting to the Parish Magazine on 7th February. However, the notice did not appear in the magazine.

There were no other 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 – March 2018 – handed to C'llr Dale
- An e-mail from Will Bruce (Willyweather) offering a Weather Warning Service for All Stretton. He asked for a link to be put on the Parish Council web site. This was discussed and unanimously agreed that this would not be added to the web site.

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 March meeting that this application is still shown on the web site as "Awaiting a Decision". C'llr Dan Morris told the meeting that there had been an amendment to the application and this referred to the access. The Parish Council had not been consulted. It was unanimously agreed that the Clerk again would post the Parish Council's support on the planning portal.

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 March 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 March meeting that this application had been withdrawn on 8th February.

Bullocks Moor Farm, All Stretton Ref 17/05839/FUL

Erection of a steel framed agricultural storage building. This application had been submitted by C'llr J Dale, who declared a prejudicial interest and left the room.

The Clerk told the March meeting that this application was granted on 28th February.

New application discussed at March meeting:-

Land at 100 Acres, Smethcott

Ref 18/00277/FUL

Erection of an affordable dwelling with detached double car port with storage above, creation of access drive and installation of sewage package treatment plant. The applications had visited the Parish Council meeting to explain the local connection and the Parish Council had confirmed the local connection. The application was received and forwarded to all councillors on 14th February. This was discussed and it was unanimously agreed that the Parish Council would support this application. However, before making comments they wish to attend a site visit. The Clerk agreed to arrange.

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'llr Dan Morris who had contacted C'llr Steven Brown, Shropshire Council. C'llr Morris had now been informed that work to the Portway would be complete by 6th December. However, C'llr 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'llr McVittie agreed to visit the site and forward photographs to Dan Morris. Dan Morris agreed to establish if this part of the roadway was classed as a bridleway and if so what responsibility the County Council had for this part of the roadway leading to Christmas Tree Farm.

Other 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'llr Morris, had agreed that the lines needed repainted. It was agreed at the November meeting that this work had still not been done. The Clerk will write again to Shropshire Council and copy to C'llr Dan Morris.
- C'llr 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 November meeting that this work had still not been done. The Clerk wrote again to Shropshire Council and copy to C'llr Dan Morris. At the March meeting C'llr Dale reported serious flooding in Stank Lane vehicles are unable to negotiate the flooding and are reversing back down the lane into Woolstaston. Urgent action is now required. The Clerk agreed to contact Shropshire Council.
- The hedges in Church Lane are becoming very overgrown. It was agreed that this would be reviewed at the next meeting and is hedges had not

been cut a report would be made to Shropshire Council. It was agreed at the November meeting that the hedges on land belonging to Karuna had not been cut. The Clerk to report to Shropshire Council and copy to C'lr Dan Morris.

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'lr Martin Morris and he agreed to investigate. C'lr Morris told the March meeting that this had been lopped.
- The railings over the brook on the right hand side of the road from Picklescott to Sallins have been damaged by large agricultural vehicles. The Clerk to report to Shropshire Council and copy to C'lr Dan Morris.

Further highway matters reported at the January meeting

- 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. At the March meeting it was agreed that these had not been replenished and the Clerk was given a list of bins to pass to Shropshire Council.
- 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'lr McVittie has supplied C'lr Dan Morris with photograph with recent photographs of flooding in this area. C'lr McVittie told the March meeting that once again this road was flooded. He had e-mailed Shropshire Council (Ian Walshaw and Tim Sneddon) on 20th March asking for a long term solution to this problem. C'lr McVittie had visited the site again on 21st March and attempted to clear gullies but they appeared completely blocked. He had again e-mail Ian Walshaw and Tim Sneddon and copied the mail to C'lr Dan Morris.
- The flooding by Foxtrot Villas in Picklescott was still a problem. This has been reported previously but no permanent solution has been reached. C'lr McVittie told the March meeting that he had included this in the e-mail to Shropshire Council on 20th March and again a solution should be sought.
- 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.

Further Highway matters reported at the March Meeting:-

- Flooding on the road above Picklescott about a quarter of the way towards Sallins Farm driveway. Mr Kerswell had supplied photographs which had been forwarded to Shropshire Council on 21st March and copied to C'lr Dan Morris.
- It was noted that Shropshire Council may be considering improvements on

the corner opposite Top House in Picklescott by taking some land from Landscape. The Parish Council have asked to be consulted if this scheme is considered.

- Mr Kerswell told the meeting that badgers have seriously eroded the underside of the highway on the right hand side of the roadway just before Sallins Bridge as you travel from Picklescott. Unless this is viewed from underneath the damage is not apparent. However, heavy vehicles using this lane could cause the roadway to collapse.
- It was unanimously agreed that the Parish Council were disappointed at the level of service given by the contractor responsible for gritting and snow clearing in the parishes. The service offered by the new contractor did not seem to measure up to the previous contractor and it was agreed that roads did not appear to have been gritted. The school bus had skidded on ice and slipped off the road as it turned for Smethcott off the Picklescott to Dorrington road.

The Clerk had previously prepared a spreadsheet showing all the outstanding highway matters and this had proved helpful when visiting the problem areas with Shropshire Council.

The Clerk agreed to report the latest highway issues and update the spreadsheet with the latest matters reported.

11) Finance

(a) Accounts due for payment

The following accounts were due for payment:-

HMRC – tax due on Clerk's salary for Feb/Mar £108.40. It was proposed by C'llr Dale, seconded by C'llr Beagle and unanimously agreed that this be paid. Cheque no 00331 was prepared in the sum of £108.40.

Clerk's Salary Feb/Mar plus postage and stationery totalling £458.89. It was proposed by C'llr Dale, seconded by C'llr Beagle and unanimously agreed that this be paid. Cheque no 00330 was prepared in the sum of £458.80.

Village Hall fee for hire of Village Hall for the March meeting totalling £20. It was proposed by C'llr Dale, seconded by C'llr Beagle and unanimously agreed that this be paid. Cheque no 00333 was prepared in the sum of £20.

Web site updates Feb/Mar totalling £30. It was proposed by C'llr Dale, seconded by C'llr Beagle and unanimously agreed that this be paid. Cheque no 00332 was prepared in the sum of £30.

Information Commissioner – Data protection fee £35. It was proposed by C'llr Dale, seconded by C'llr Beagle and unanimously agreed that this be paid. Cheque no 00334 was prepared in the sum of £35.

SALC training courses and Good Councillor Guides totalling £72.40. It was proposed by C'llr Dale, seconded by C'llr Beagle and unanimously agreed that this be paid. Cheque no 00335 was prepared in the sum of £72.40.

(b) Total cash held at Bank

The Clerk had prepared a list of financial transactions for the period 1st April 2017 to date and this was circulated at the meeting. The Clerk explained that the balance held at bank after payment of the accounts approved tonight is £2,040.09. This includes £379.07 CIL Money; £300 to be paid in May for election fees for the May 2017 election and £340.21 balance in the Transparency Fund, leaving a carry forward in real terms of £1,020.81. This is £134 more than the actual carry forward of £886.60 in April 2017. (Actual carry forward £1,289 which included £332 CIL; £80.60 balance in Transparency fund giving real term carry forward of £886.40). The £134 extra carried forward can be attributed to £93 underspend against 2017/18 precept and £41 VAT reclaimed during 2017.

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.

12) Local Joint Committee

C'llr Dale told the meeting that the Local Joint Committee Planning Meeting had been held this evening at 5pm at Acton Scott Village Hall. He is unable to attend meetings arranged for 5pm. The date of the next Local Joint Committee Meeting has not been announced.

13) Shropshire Council Matters

C'llr Dan Morris gave the following report to the meeting:-

Full Council signed off the Budget at the February Meeting. As a result the Council Tax for a Band D property in 2018/19 will increase 5.99% (1.99% they are allowed to raise legally, plus 2% for increased adult social care and a further 2% allowed to be levied for adult social care). In 2019/20 this will drop back to 3.99% (as the additional 2% will not be added).

Any shortfall in the 2018/19 budget will be covered by capital reserves.

It is hope in 2019/20 the County Council will be able to retain all of the business rates and they hope to attract more business into the area.

Shropshire Council have a safe budget and know their spending for the next three years and this has been audited and signed off.

C'llr McVittie told C'llr Morris that the Village Hall had received a letter from Shropshire Council which suggested that the 100% Council Tax relief may be reduced for village

halls and this would have a serious impact on the operation of the village hall. C'llr Morris asked to be supplied with a copy of this letter and he agreed to investigate. .

14) Data Protection Officer – Appoint Data Protection Officer

The Clerk told the meeting that new legislation replacing the Data Protection Act 1998 comes into force on 25th May 2018. Anyone who processes personal data must register and comply. There are very heavy fines for none compliance and data breaches. As required the Clerk has registered the Parish Council for Data Protection with the Information Commissioners Office. The annual fee for registration is £35.

A Data Protection Officer has to be appointed by law. They are expected to have a BCS (British computer Society) qualification as a minimum qualification. All Parish Councils are required to appoint a Data Protection who will check the Clerk's computer to ensure compliance and give advice. However, the ultimate responsible officer for compliance is the Chairman.

The Clerk told the meeting that today a further training sessions for smaller parish Councils had been arranged for Monday 26th March when it was hoped a simpler solution would be announced for smaller Parish Councils. The Clerk is attending this meeting and will report back to the Parish Council.

16) Date of next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 23rd May – Annual General Meeting.

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

Wednesday 25th July
Wednesday 26th September
Wednesday 28th November

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.05pm

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