

**MINUTES OF
ALL STRETTON, SMETHCOTT AND WOOLSTASTON PARISH COUNCIL
Wednesday 22nd January 2020
held at
Picklescott Village Hall**

MINUTES

Present:

C'llr McVittie (Chairman); C'llr J Dale (Vice Chairman); C'llr Burton;
C'llr Phillips' C'llr Ecob, C'llr Starnes, C'llr M Morris

Shropshire C'llr D Morris attended from Item 8 on the Agenda.

Clerk : Mrs J Griffiths

One member of the public attended the meeting.

Apologies

All Councillors were present at the meeting.

1. Chairman's Introduction

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and wished them a Happy New Year.

2. Declaration of Interest

No declarations of interest were declared.

3. Public Comments

One member of the public expressed concern about the state of the roadway from Dorrington to Picklescott saying the mud and slurry on the highway was making it unsafe for walkers and cyclists. It was agreed that the roads in the Parish were covered in mud from heavy tractors delivering slurry and were in a worse mess than ever seen before. It was agreed that this would be discussed in Item 8 when C'llr Dan Morris joined the meeting.

4. Minutes of Meeting held on 27th November 2019

It was proposed by C'llr McVittie, seconded by C'llr Ecob and unanimously agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on 27th September provided a true and accurate record of the meeting.

5. Matters Arising from the Minutes – not shown on Agenda

There were no matters arising which were not included in the Agenda.

6. Correspondence

The Clerk forwards all correspondence by e-mail as received. The Clerk reported the following additional correspondence to the meeting:-

- Clerk and Councils Direct Magazine January – handed to C'llr Dale
- An e-mail received 21st January concerning a training course on creating affordable housing. C'llr Dale agreed to attend.

7. Planning

(a) Clerk to report decisions on applications previously discussed

Parkgate Cottages, Picklescott

Ref 19/04805/FUL

Change of use from 2 No. holiday lets into 1 No. dwelling. Copied to all Councillors on 14th November. This application was discussed at the November meeting when the applicant attended the meeting and explained the application under Item No. 3 (Public Comments). C'llr McVittie and C'llr Phillips had declared a personal interest under Item No. 2 as the applicant is known to them. This application was discussed and it was proposed by C'llr McVittie, seconded by C'llr Phillips and unanimously agreed that the Parish Council had no objection to this application. The Clerk told the January meeting that this application is shown on the web site as "pending consideration".

Greenfields, Pulverbatch

Ref 19/05158/FUL

Erection of 2 No. bespoke tree houses for use as holiday let accommodation and associated ancillary works. This application was discussed at the November meeting. C'llr McVittie and C'llr Phillips had declared a personal interest under Item No. 2 as the applicant is known to them. It was agreed that the Clerk would arrange a site visit before the Parish Council made any comments on this application. A site visit was held and the Parish Council supported the application. Following the meeting a site visit was arranged for Monday 9th December, following which it was agreed that the Parish Council had no objection to this application. The Clerk told the January meeting that this application is shown on the web site as "pending consideration".

(b) New applications received before the meeting

No new applications had been received.

8. Highways

The Clerk told the meeting that she had invited Mr A Wilde (Shropshire Council Highways Operation Manager) and Mr A Morgan (Interim Head of Shropshire Council Highways) to the meeting but had not received a reply. It was agreed that they would be invited to attend the March Meeting.

(a) Clerk to report on highway matters previously reported

- A tractor and trailer had demolished the white railings over the brook in the centre of Picklescott and there is a steep drop into the brook and the railings need repairing as a matter of urgency. Mr Walshaw replied on 1st August to say the technician would inspect the damaged fence. Barriers have been erected but the repairs were not carried out. C'llr Dale had since repaired the fence. C'llr McVittie told the meeting that the residents had complimented the Parish Council for carrying out this work.

At the July meeting the Clerk was asked to contract Shropshire Council to enquire if there was any progress on the three highway repairs discussed with Steve Davenport, the Shropshire Council Portfolio Holder for Highways, in November 2018 as follows:-

- Flooding outside Foxtrot Villas. Ian Walshaw had replied by e-mail on 1st August to say at present there is no further progress with the issue at Foxtrot Villas. Although C'llr Dale attempts to keep this clear in an attempt to reduce the flooding. C'llr Dan Morris told the meeting that

he had arranged a site visit with Johnathon Stigwood the new County Drainage Officer on site the following Friday and would report back to the Parish Council.

- Both the Chairman and C'llr Dan Morris have been in correspondence with Shropshire Council concerning the flooding near New House Farm on the Picklescott to Dorrington Road. This was also discussed at the meeting with Steve Davenport. The Clerk contacted Ian Walshaw on 31st July to ask if there was any further progress. Ian Walshaw replied on 1st August to say The Ditch and drainage system at New House Farm had been cleaned out and appears to be working. He had not received any further reports of flooding in this area. C'llr Dale had also attempted to clear the ditch but explained this needed jetting in a particular area. C'llr Dan Morris told the meeting that he had arranged a site visit with Johnathon Stigwood the new County Drainage Officer on site the following Friday. C'llr Dale also agreed to attend to fully explain the problem.
- Repairs to the parapets in Deadmans Hollow. Steve Davenport had visited the site with members of the Parish Council in November and stated that this was dangerous and in need of urgent repair. Ian Walshaw responded to the Clerk by E mail on 1st August saying that he was still waiting for a quote for repair to the fence at Deadmans Hollow and although it requires repair it is not dangerous. He had visited the site with Keir's representative and had still not received a quote. He would pursue this again. This work is still outstanding.

Further highway matters reported following the September meeting:-

- The tree roots were now causing real problems in the road leading from Deadmans Hollow to Mynderley. Tree roots were causing severe ruts in the highway.
- C'llr Burton again expressed concern about overhanging branches on hedges on the highway leading from Woolstaston to Leebotwood particularly on the sharp bend by Hill Cottage. The bottom of the hedges had been cut back leaving the top overhanging forcing vehicles to use the opposite side of the road. This had been reported to Shropshire Council on numerous occasions. It is understood that the landowner has recently been admitted to a Nursing Home.
- Jetting work is needed at Lower Wood Crossroads. C'llr Dale does attempt to keep this clear but this needs jetting. C'llr D. Morris has made Shropshire Council aware of this problem.

C'llr Dan Morris told the January meeting that Mr Glen Smith had replaced Ian Walshaw at Shropshire Council.

C'llr Ecob told the January meeting that he would report the potholes in Smethcott on "MYShropshire website".

(b) Environmental Maintenance Grant

It was proposed by C'llr McVittie, seconded by C'llr Burton and unanimously agreed that the Parish Council would apply for a £2,000 Environmental Maintenance Grant for 2020/21 offering £1,000 matched funding (£750 to be built into 2020/21 precept and £250 taken out of the 2018/19 carry forward).

C'Ilr Dale told the meeting that he had been clearing ditches as part of the 2019/20 Environmental Maintenance Grant. He agreed to prepare a detailed report showing the work he had undertaken and submit an invoice for payment at the March Meeting.

9. Finance

(a) Accounts due for payment

Clerk's salary Dec/Jan plus out of pocket expenses totalling £444.43. It was proposed by C'Ilr McVittie, seconded by C'Ilr Dale and unanimously agreed that this account be paid. Cheque No. 383 was prepared in the sum of £444.43.

HMRC tax due on Clerk's salary £110.00. It was proposed by C'Ilr McVittie, seconded by C'Ilr Dale and unanimously agreed that this account be paid. Cheque No.384 was prepared in the sum of £110.00

Hire Village Hall for January Meeting £20. It was proposed by C'Ilr McVittie, seconded by C'Ilr Dale and unanimously agreed that this account be paid. Cheque No. 385 was prepared in the sum of £20.

(b) Balance held at Bank

The Clerk circulated the bank reconciliation showing a balance of £3,591.79, which included £379.09 CIL and a £.33p balance in the Transparency Fund, £750 Environmental Maintenance Grant and £1,447.84 Parish Council carry forward at the end of the financial year. Therefore the actual money left from the £4,500 precept for 2019/20 is £1008.55. The Clerk told the meeting that she anticipated an outturn at the end of the 2019/20 financial year to show a carry forward from the 2019/20 precept in the region of £434. The Clerk also reminded the meeting that the £750 matched funding for the Environmental Maintenance Grant would be met from the £1,447.84 carry forward at the end of the 2018/19 financial year.

The Chairman signed a copy of the Bank statement.

(c) Agree 2020/21 Precept

Before the precept was discussed it was proposed by C'Ilr McVittie, seconded by C'Ilr Dale and unanimously agreed that the Parish Council would only have the Internal Audit for the 2019.20 Accounts.

It was proposed by C'Ilr Burton, seconded by Dale and unanimously agreed that the precept for 2020/21 would be set at £5,255, made up as follows:-

	£
Clerks Salary	3300
PAYE costs	60
Stationery/Postage/Telephone	150
Insurance	350
Internal Audit Fee	50
Election Fees	200
Hire of Hall for meetings	120
SALC	175

Training	100
Match funding Environmental Maintenance	<u>750</u>
Total	5255

14. Shropshire Council Report

Cll'r Dan Morris reported the following:-

- The housing report for a new school at Bowbrook had now been signed off
- Full Council had met on 19th December and agreed full support for a feasibility study to introduce 20mph restrictions outside all schools. The study will be completed within 6 months.
- Full Council had also agreed to install LED lighting for all street lights. This will cost £6m and a £3 grant had been received.
- Full Council had agreed an ownership structure for the shopping units in Shrewsbury which was now held on shore rather than off shore.
- Pride Hill Shopping Centre has some empty units and is likely to change and be more leisure based.
- Occupancy in the Darwin Centre is good
- C'llr Morris agreed that the value of the asset for the shopping centres had dropped but was still nearing a 5% return on the investment which was in excess of that which would be achieved by investing the £50m in a bank account.
- Redevelopment of the Riverside shopping centre would be considered and perhaps also be more leisure based. With hotel chains interested in the area.
- Shropshire Council aim to be carbon neutral by 2030.
- VE Day will be on 9th May and there are likely to be road closures in Shrewsbury on that day.
- The MP is battling to get more funding for social care in Shropshire.
- The Council ~Tax will rise 3.99% which is the 2% allowed to increase plus an extra 1.99% for social care.

11. Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting will be Wednesday 25th March 2020. Annual Meeting to commence at 7pm followed by the Parish Council Meeting.

Future 2020 meetings are as follows:-

Wednesday 27th May Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 22nd July

Wednesday 23rd September

Wednesday 25th November

The Clerk agreed to supply the dates to Pat Holbourn, the Caretaker of the Village Hall.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.45pm