

**MINUTES OF  
ALL STRETTON, SMETHCOTT AND WOOLSTASTON PARISH COUNCIL  
Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2019  
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

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

Clerk : Mrs J Griffiths

4 members of the public attended the meeting.

**Apologies**

Apologies were received from C'llr M Morris

**1. Chairman's Introduction**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**2. Declaration of Interest**

C'llr McVittie and C'llr Phillips declared personal interests in the planning application ref 19/04805/FUL as the applicant is known to them.

C'llr McVittie and C'llr Phillips declared personal interests in the planning application ref 19/05158/FUL as the applicant is known to them.

**3. Public Comments**

One member of the public explained the planning application she had submitted for Parkgate Cottages, Picklescott (Ref 19/04805/FUL)

Another member of the public told the meeting that under the Self Build and Custom Housing Act 2015 he understood that grants were available for self-build projects.

**4. Minutes of Meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> September 2019**

It was proposed by C'llr Dale, seconded by C'llr Burton and unanimously agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> 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 November – handed to C'llr Dale

## **7. Planning**

### (a) Clerk to report decisions on applications previously discussed

There were no outstanding planning applications to report.

### (b) New planning applications circulated prior to the meeting

Parkgate Cottages, Picklescott Ref 19/04805/FUL  
Change of use from 2 No. holiday lets into 1 No. dwelling. Copied to all Councillors on 14<sup>th</sup> November. 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 have no objection to this application.

### (c) Applications received after 20<sup>th</sup> November

Greenfields, Pulverbatch Ref 19/05158/FUL  
Erection of 2 No. bespoke tree houses for use as holiday let accommodation and associated ancillary works. 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.

Following the meeting a site visit was arranged for Monday 9<sup>th</sup> December, following which it was agreed that the Parish Council had no objection to this application.

## **8. Highways**

### (a) Clerk to report on highway matters previously reported

Items previously reported which had not yet been remedied were as follows:-

- 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 1<sup>st</sup> August to say the technician would inspect the damaged fence. Barriers have been erected but to date no repairs carried out.
- White lines not replaced at the four turns on the road leading from Picklescott to Dorrington as you turn for Smethcott. C'llr D Morris had received an e-mail from Shropshire council saying that this work would be carried out shortly.

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 1<sup>st</sup> 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.

- 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 31<sup>st</sup> July to ask if there was any further progress. Ian Walshaw replied on 1<sup>st</sup> 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.
- 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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.

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.
- 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 D Morris has been in correspondence with Shropshire Council regarding the stones dumped in the lay by towards the Thresholds.

Shropshire Council had confirmed in an e-mail to C'llr D Morris that a team were on site on 27<sup>th</sup> November scoping the work to the gabion wall on the road to Mr Fulwood's property in Picklescott.

### **(b) Environmental Maintenance Grant**

It was agreed at the May meeting that the Clerk would apply for a £1,500 Highway Maintenance Grant with the Parish Council offering £750 matched funding and if successful the Parish Council will invite estimates from local contractors, including C'llr Dale, to carry out maintenance to ditches.

The Clerk told the September meeting that the application had been successful and the £750 grant from Shropshire Council was now in the Parish Council's bank account and the Parish Council would contribute £750 matched funding.

Following the September meeting the Clerk had invited two local contractors plus C'llr Dale to submit pricings for an hourly rate for a man and a shovel and for a man and machine to carry out maintenance work as directed by the Parish Council. Two of the contractors R J Parry and B Cookson had informed the Clerk that did not wish to submit a price for this work.

C'llr Dale had submitted a quote of £14 per hour for a man and a shovel and £32 per hour for a man and machine. As C'llr Dale also carried out maintenance work completely free of charge it was proposed by C'llr McVittie, seconded by C'llr Burton and unanimously agreed that C'llr Dale would carry out the highways maintenance work. The priority areas were agreed as follows:-

- Foxtrot Villas regular maintenance to avoid flooding.
- New House Farm attempt to keep the drains clear to avoid flooding
- Lower Wood crossroads ongoing clearance of ditches
- Attempt to keep all gullies in the parish clear of debris
- Problem just before the Slade where the verge is encroaching on to the highway

C'llr Dale will report progress at future Parish Council meetings.

## **9. Finance**

### **(a) Accounts due for payment**

Clerk's salary Oct/Nov plus out of pocket expenses totalling £443.83. It was proposed by C'llr Dale, seconded by C'llr Burton and unanimously agreed that this account be paid. Cheque No. 380 was prepared in the sum of £443.83.

HMRC tax due on Clerk's salary £110.00. It was proposed by C'llr Dale, seconded by C'llr Burton and unanimously agreed that this account be paid. Cheque No.381 was prepared in the sum of £110.00

Hire Village Hall for September Meeting £20. It was proposed by C'llr Dale, seconded by C'llr Burton and unanimously agreed that this account be paid. Cheque No. 382 was prepared in the sum of £20.

### **(b) Balance held at Bank**

The Clerk circulated the bank reconciliation showing a balance of £4,166.22, which included £379.07 CIL and a £6.31 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 £1,552.98. 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 £420. 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.

## **14. Shropshire Council Report**

Cll'r Dan Morris reported the following:-

- Full Council were due to meet on 12<sup>th</sup> December. As this is the date set for the General Election this meeting will be delayed until 19<sup>th</sup> December. The meeting will examine the 9.7m over projection which is being driven by adult social care. A recruitment and purchase ban has

been imposed and it is hoped to be near budget by the end of the financial year. C'lr Morris reminded the meeting that the budget is £585m.

- C'lr Morris told the meeting that he had proposed a motion that rural schools do not have the same level of safety in place as urban schools. If the motion gets passed he intends to push for 20mph zones around all rural schools. Officers would then have six months to assess the feasibility and report back to Council.
- Adrian Cooper has been appointed as the officer with responsibility for climate Change and it is anticipated that Shropshire will be carbon neutral by 2030.
- John Bellis has been appointed as Flood Manager with specific responsibility for flooding off fields onto private property and vice versa. Landowners have a responsibility to help to alleviate the problem of flooding from their land discharging on to the highway.
- A further A49 road safety meeting had been held in Dorrington the previous week. The Community Speed Watch Team are looking for funding for larger vehicle speed activated signs which will also record speed and give data.

#### **11. Date of Next Meeting**

The date of the next meeting will be Wednesday 22nd January 2020

The Clerk agreed to circulate the dates for all future 2020 meetings.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.50pm