

**MINUTES OF
ALL STRETTON, SMETHCOTT AND WOOLSTASTON PARISH COUNCIL
Wednesday 25th September 2019
held at
Picklescott Village Hall**

MINUTES

1. Present

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

Shropshire C'llr D Morris

Clerk : Mrs J Griffiths

3 members of the public attended the meeting.

2. Apologies

No apologies were received.

3. Chairman's Introduction

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

4. Declaration of Interest

No declarations of interest were declared.

5. Public Comments

One member of the public told the meeting that it had been reported in the local paper that Permitted Development was likely to be deleted in the Queens Speech and he was very concerned as this was National Planning Policy.

He also told the meeting that the sale of logs was likely to be banned if they had not been kiln dried.

He also told the meeting that stone was still being stored in the lay by by Crow Quarry. C'llr Dan Morris agreed to investigate.

The member of the public also expressed concern about the route of the Shuttlebus. C'llr McVittie explained that this had been raised before with the Shuttlebus and was not viable. C'llr Dan Morris promised to send an e-mail to the member of the public explaining the problems in re-routing the shuttlebus.

6. Co-option of Parish Councillor to serve All Stretton Parish Council

The vacancy for a Councillor to be co-opted to serve as a Parish Councillor for All Stretton Parish Council was advertised asking anyone interested to contact the Clerk by 20th September. Mr C. Ecob had expressed an interest in being co-opted as a Parish Councillor. It was proposed by C'llr Morris, seconded by C'llr McVittie and unanimously agreed that Mr. Ecob would join the Parish Council as a co-opted member until the next election. Mr Ecob then completed the Acceptance of Office form which he handed back to the Clerk. The Clerk also handed Mr Ecob the Disclosure of Pecuniary Interests form for

completion and returning to the Monitoring Officer. Mr Ecob then joined the meeting.

7. Co-option of Parish Councillor to serve Smethcott Parish Council

The vacancy for a Councillor to be co-opted to serve as a Parish Councillor for Smethcott Parish Council was advertised asking anyone interested to contact the Clerk by 20th September. Mr P. Starnes expressed an interest in being co-opted to serve as a Parish Councillor. It was proposed by C'Ilr McVittie seconded by C'Ilr Dale and unanimously agreed that Mr Starnes would join the Parish Council as a co-opted Parish Councillor to serve Smethcott Parish Council until the date of the next elections. Mr Starnes completed the Acceptance of Office form. The Clerk also gave Mr Starnes the Disclosure of Pecuniary Interests form for completion and returning to the Monitoring Officer. Mr Starnes then joined the meeting.

8. Minutes of Meeting held on 24th July 2019

It was proposed by C'Ilr Dale, seconded by C'Ilr Burton and unanimously agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on 24th July provided a true and accurate record of the meeting.

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

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

10. Correspondence

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

- E mail from Madleys Chartered Surveyors. Their representative had agreed to attend the Parish Council meeting to explain the Woodland Management Plan at Old Mills Farm, Walkmills. The e-mail confirmed that the item could be removed from the Agenda as this matter has now been resolved.
- Clerk and Councils Direct Magazine September – handed to C'Ilr Dale
- Road closure notice – Farm Lane, All Stretton junction with A49. Closed 9th – 12th December. This had been circulated to all Councillors on 11th September
- Shropshire Council- Expression of Interest CIL

11. Planning

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

Land adjacent to The Smithy, Lower Wood Ref 19/02809/FUL
Conversion of residential outbuilding to holiday let, together with the erection of a porch and other associated works. C'Ilr Dale had expressed an interest as he carried out work for applicant and did not vote on this application. It was proposed by C'Ilr McVittie, seconded by C'Ilr Phillips and agreed that the Parish Council had no objections to the application. The application was granted on 5th August.

- (b) Clerk to report any further applications received after 13th September

No further applications have been received.

12. Highways

(a) Clerk to report on highway matters previously reported

At the July meeting the Clerk was asked to report the following highway matters and she had contacted Ian Walshaw, Highways Manager, Shropshire Council on 31st July to report the following:-

- 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 to date no repairs carried out.
- A deep pothole on the road at Robin Hood Butts was reported together with a photograph of the pot hole. Mr Walshaw replied on 1st August to confirm that the Technician would arrange the repair to the pot hole. It was agreed at the September meeting that this work had now been carried out.

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.
- 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.
- 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.
- White lines not replaced at the four turns on the road leading from Picklescott to Dorrington as you turn for Smethcott. Although they had been painted on the new road surface on the Portway.

Further highway matters reported at the September meeting:-

- Some potholes in the Parish had been repaired and other deep potholes not repaired.
- 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 Leebootwood 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.

(b) Environmental Maintenance Grant

The Parish Council had applied for an Environmental Maintenance Grant in the winter of 2018/19 as the school bus routes in the parish were not considered priority gritting routes. At the end of January the Clerk had informed all Councillors that the application had been successful and £500 had been paid into the Parish Council Bank. As Shropshire Council had added this route to their programme of gritting this money had not been spent. The Clerk told the May meeting that she had now received an e-mail from Shropshire Council asking for details how the grant had been spent. Replies were requested by 30th April. The Clerk told the meeting that she had replied explaining that it was understood that this had been added to the County Council gritting route and the money had not been spent.

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'lr Dale, to carry out maintenance to ditches.

The Clerk told the September meeting that the application had been successful. However, as the Parish Council hold the unspent grant of £500 from 2018/19 this could be carried forward to be spent on the ditches etc in 2019/20 and the County Council agreed to pay a further £250, making a total County Council Grant of £750 with the Parish Council spending £750 matched funding.

The Clerk reminded the meeting that the work had to be carried out before the end of the financial year and to keep the £750 grant the Parish Council had to spend £1,500 and produce receipts from this work.

It was agreed that the priority were the ditches from High Park Crossroads downhill to Woolstaston; ditches and drainage at New Hall, C'lr Dale had already cleaned out the chamber, and ditches on the highway from Picklescott to Dorrington.

It was agreed the Clerk would request two hourly rates, one for a man and a shovel and one for a man and a digger. C'lr Dale would provide a quote and the Clerk would also approach another local contractor.

The Clerk told the meeting that she understood that the Highway Maintenance Grants will also be available in the 2020/21 financial year. .

13. Finance

(a) Accounts due for payment

HMRC tax due on Clerk's salary £110.00. It was proposed by C'lr Dale, seconded by C'lr McVittie and unanimously agreed that this account be paid. Cheque No.375 was prepared in the sum of £110.00

Clerk's salary Aug/Sept plus out of pocket expenses and updating web site totalling £479.50. It was proposed by C'lr Dale, seconded by C'lr McVittie

and unanimously agreed that this account be paid. Cheque No. 376 was prepared in the sum of £479.50.

Cheque No. 377 spoilt

Hire Village Hall for September Meeting £20. It was proposed by C'llr Dale, seconded by C'llr McVittie and unanimously agreed that this account be paid. Cheque No. 378 was prepared in the sum of £20.

SALC 2019/2020 Affiliation Fees £177.57 plus 50% of the costs (shared with Cardington Parish Council) for the Clerk end of year audit training with new external auditor £13.50. It was proposed by C'llr Dale, seconded by C'llr McVittie and unanimously agreed that this account be paid. Cheque No. 379 was prepared in the sum of £191.07.

(b) Balance held at Bank

The Clerk circulated the bank reconciliation showing a balance of £4,490.05, which included £379.07 CIL and a £6.31 balance in the Transparency Fund, £500 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 £2,126.81.

The Chairman signed a copy of the Bank reconciliation.

14. Shropshire Council Report

Cll'r Dan Morris reported the following:-

- C'llr Morris told the meeting that he had written to all Highway Officers, including the Chief Executive expressing concern about the lack of progress with highway repairs.
- The day before the serious road traffic incident in Dorrington C'llr Morris had met with Managers from Highways England and Steve Davenport, Shropshire Council Portfolio Holder for Highways, to discuss road safety in Dorrington. Variable speed signs reducing the speed as you approach Dorrington from Church Stretton had been discussed. Speed checks had been carried out the week before the meeting and results do not warrant more speed restrictions. Although vehicle activated signs may be erected. Daniel Kawczynski is involved in safety on the A49. The meeting thanked C'llr Dan Morris for all his efforts to improve safety.
- The Parking Strategy Consultation will run from 23rd September to 23rd November.
- A new Housing Development Company has been formed to help to address the housing shortage. 100 affordable and shared ownership houses will be built in Monkmoor and Oswestry.
- Shropshire Housing Association will build 24 shared ownership houses on a site north of Condover School.
- A feasibility study is being carried out to extend the M54 to Shrewsbury as this may help investment in the town.
- Two new schools are being built at Bowbrook one will be an Academy and one a Special School.
- Hackney cabs are now being allowed to operate throughout Shropshire. They could previously only operate within districts.

15. Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting will be Wednesday 27th November

The dates agreed for future 2020 Meetings have yet to be arranged.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.30pm