

## Stottesdon & Sidbury Parish Council

### **Annual Parish Council meeting held in Chorley Village on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2021 at 7.30pm.**

All Councillors had signed their Declaration of Acceptance of Office prior to the start of the meeting, and these were witnessed by the Clerk.

#### **Present:**

Cllrs D Young, R Abbiss, S Crawford. Newly elected: Cllrs M Pearce, Z Griffin and L Grey.

S Cllr Butler.

Clerk: Mrs F Morris

Parishioners: 0

#### **AGENDA:**

##### **1) Election of Officers:**

a) Chairman: Cllr Young was proposed, seconded as Chairman. With no other nominations it was **RESOLVED that Cllr Young be Chairman for the coming year.**

b) Acceptance of Office by Chairman – this was signed by Cllr Young and was witnessed by the Clerk.

##### **2) a) Co-option of Councillors to fill vacancies (3):**

Three parishioners attended – Mark Pearce, Laura Grey and Zoe Griffin. Chairman asked all 3 to introduce themselves to Councillors and to explain their interest in joining.

It was proposed, seconded, and **RESOLVED to co-opt all three parishioners onto the Council.**

b) Signing of Acceptance of Office – All signed these and were witnessed by the Clerk. Clerk also gave the Declaration of Interests form which must be sent to SC and reminded other Cllrs to send theirs in too.

##### **3) Public participation:** no public present.

##### **4) Apologies for absence and Dispensation for absence Cllr Smith and Powell:**

Apologies received from Cllrs Rogers and Allen (unable to attend) and S. Cllr Harris (another meeting). **RESOLVED these be accepted.**

Cllrs Powell and Smith had both recently had operations and after discussions it was **RESOLVED to grant 6 months dispensation from meetings to allow for recovery.**

##### **5) Declaration of Interests**

*The Localism Act 2011, Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012.*

*Members are reminded that they are required to leave the room during the discussion and voting on matters in which they have a disclosable pecuniary interest, whether or not the interest is entered in the register of member's interests maintained by the Monitoring Officer.* Cllr Abbiss declared an interest in the planning applications for Pickthorn Farm as her son is the applicant.

##### **6) To confirm minutes of the meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> April 2021:**

These had been circulated with the agenda and proposed, seconded, and **RESOLVED that the Chairman sign these as a true record of the meeting.**

##### **7) Matters arising from minutes:**

RSVP – Botanist to visit this Saturday 10am. Chairman and Cllrs Pearce and Griffin will also attend. Mrs Mayor wants to be involved at Sidbury.

After discussions regarding this project, it was decided to wait and see what the Botanist says about the sites and Clerk to contact SC.

It is acknowledged that the sites will look a mess when coming towards the end of time but suggested an article could be put in the next newsletter.

**8) Delegation of power to Clerk for decisions between meetings:**

It was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk is granted the power to make decisions/payments between meetings, if required.

**9) Planning applications received:** *Cllr Abbiss left the room while these applications were discussed.*

a) Reference: 21/01906/FUL (validated: 14/04/2021)

Address: Pickthorn Farm, Chorley, Bridgnorth, Shropshire, WV16 6PU

Proposal: Erection of an agricultural building to cover over an existing livestock gathering area

Applicant: MP Abbiss (Mr R Abbiss, Pickthorn Farm, Chorley, Bridgnorth, WV16 6PU)

View online at:

<http://pa.shropshire.gov.uk/onlineapplications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=summary&keyVal=QRIKVVTDMB600>

b) Reference: 21/01908/FUL (validated: 14/04/2021)

Address: Pickthorn Farm, Chorley, Bridgnorth, Shropshire, WV16 6PU

Proposal: Erection of an agricultural building to cover over an existing silage pit

Applicant: MP Abbiss

View online at: [http://pa.shropshire.gov.uk/online-](http://pa.shropshire.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=summary&keyVal=QRIKWVTDMB00)

[applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=summary&keyVal=QRIKWVTDMB00](http://pa.shropshire.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=summary&keyVal=QRIKWVTDMB00)

c) Reference: 21/01909/FUL (validated: 14/04/2021)

Address: Pickthorn Farm, Chorley, Bridgnorth, Shropshire, WV16 6PU

Proposal: Erection of an agricultural building to cover over an existing livestock gathering area, and for an extension to existing cubicle housing

Applicant: MP Abbiss (Pickthorn Farm, Chorley, Bridgnorth, WV16 6PU)

View online at: [http://pa.shropshire.gov.uk/online-](http://pa.shropshire.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=summary&keyVal=QRIKX3TDMBC00)

[applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=summary&keyVal=QRIKX3TDMBC00](http://pa.shropshire.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=summary&keyVal=QRIKX3TDMBC00)

d) Reference: 21/01912/FUL (validated: 14/04/2021)

Address: Pickthorn Farm, Chorley, Bridgnorth, Shropshire, WV16 6PU

Proposal: Erection of agricultural buildings to cover over an existing livestock walkway, and a building to cover over part of an existing silage pit

Applicant: MP Abbiss

View online at: [http://pa.shropshire.gov.uk/online-](http://pa.shropshire.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=summary&keyVal=QRIKXXTDMBIO0)

[applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=summary&keyVal=QRIKXXTDMBIO0](http://pa.shropshire.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=summary&keyVal=QRIKXXTDMBIO0)

Natural England had been involved with these applications and Cllrs **RESOLVED to approve all four applications.**

*Cllr Abbiss was called back into the room.*

e) Reference: 21/01238/LBC (validated: 11/03/2021)

Address: Lower Chorley Farm, Chorley, Bridgnorth, Shropshire, WV16 6PP

Proposal: Replacement of 4no windows, 2No dormer windows, 1No exterior door, 1No porch canopy and insertion of new structural timber beams affecting a Grade II Listed Building

Decision: Grant Permission

f) Reference: 21/01322/FUL (validated: 15/03/2021)

Address: The Garden House, Sidbury, Bridgnorth, Shropshire, WV16 6PY

Proposal: Erection of a single storey extension

Decision: Grant Permission

**10) Shropshire Cllr's report** – emailed to Cllrs:

Cllr Butler reported the following:

The year 2020/21 will not be a year that will be forgotten due to the worst pandemic world-wide in the last century. How Shropshire council has worked through the pandemic and supported individuals and families in hardship, voluntary and community sector, Town and Parish councils and businesses across the county should be applauded.

Technology has played a large part in this and along with other government services such as Health the progress that has been made places us probably 10 years ahead of where we would have been if the pandemic hadn't happened. This includes remote working and the rapid change in workplace need and the benefits and issues it raises for staff and customer users. How we work in the future with our Towns and Parish Councils may well evolve over the coming months.

The council last Autumn set up working groups to understand the impact of the pandemic and how we should support the county moving forward. This includes working with partners in Health, DWP, Education, Police, and the business sector. We have monitored the impact of unemployment, furloughed staff, universal credit numbers, Police issues with Covid compliance in the communities and the changes needs of our population in the county with access to services but also isolation, mental health concerns, safeguarding for Adults and especially children who have been at risk with the schools being closed. This has seen our count of children in care rise by around 200 hundred in the past 2 years putting extra pressure on our budgets.

We have learnt a lot about our economy and how especially in the south of the county it is heavily reliant on Hospitality, Accommodation, Tourism, and self-employed SMEs with a lot of people employed in the Glgg economy. This has seen a disproportionate rise in Universal Credit applicants compared with the rest of the Region with Bridgnorth being a particular hot spot in the Region. How this emerges from the pandemic and gets back to some normality is something the Councils hosted working groups are monitoring closely as if not supported will have a huge impact on rent arrears, debt, homelessness and vulnerability of Adults and Children. We are very much in a prevention is better than cure agenda with central government grant being co-ordinated to support our High Streets and jobs.

I believe as we come out of this pandemic there is going to be a lot of people who will continue to feel anxious and we will need to help our neighbours, families, and communities to work together, be kind and help each other to get back hopefully to some normality.

With people now having the opportunity to work from home more which is better for the climate agenda we are already seeing a shift from City life to demand for country living and how this continues and the impact it may have in a positive way on the vibrance in our market towns and local employment can only be seen as positive. However, we are seeing a huge increase in demand for housing across Shropshire and prices rising rapidly which in turn creates issues for us to supply suitable and affordable housing for those employed in essential lower paid jobs in our Market towns and especially those supporting our ageing population which is disproportionately high compared to other urban areas. It is concerning that by 2030 only nine years away that our county will have more people over 65 than under, and how we prepare and plan for this is vital.

The signs for the economy are generally good in Shropshire. Up until the elections part of my cabinet portfolio was to oversee the planning process and department. Considering the months of lock down we have experienced in the past financial year it is interesting to see that we have delivered

planning income in excess of that in the financial year 19/20 without lockdown. Land searches are also up on the previous year confirming the buoyancy in the housing and building market. It was noted that in March this year we received 621 planning applications in March alone. The highest March figure ever up around 20% on normal. This mirrors the national shortage in some building goods. I would estimate builders and associated qualified trade people will be very busy for the short to medium term and how we translate that need for qualified trade people needs to be a big part of our local education strategy for our upcoming youngsters.

We all know Roads are in need of major attention and although we are seeing some major repairs and resurfacing locally there is much to be done. Historically over the past 3 years we have had to take out £5million year on year out of the Highways budget to support vulnerable people along with not recovering from the impact of the beast from the east has left our rural roads and lanes in disrepair. From a Government funding view, we are very poorly funded. our overall population is circa 450,000 people the same as Nottingham city council. However, because existing funding calculations are based on density of population to historically help regenerate the cities and slums, we get around £175million less funding than Nottingham City.

Prior to the pandemic we had persuaded Government through our involvement with the Rural Services Network to undertake a fairer funding review. That was supposed to be launched in the last financial year but delayed with Local authority budgets now only been forecasted for 12 months ahead making medium to long term planning very hard. We are now seeing the start of the Governments Levelling up agreement and are lobbying hard to ensure the funding for rural counties like Shropshire is included in this agenda and not just the old declined industrial and mining areas. This in turn if included should help our budgets which in turn can get the roads improved.

The rural roads and lanes in many cases actually need a total rebuild and major infrastructure put in place and that is why many temporary repairs are undertaken until the major repairs are done. This is partly down to the neglect of surface dressings to prevent the decline due to funding but also due to the type and size of traffic using them, especially the increase in size of agricultural machinery. There are far more large ditches on the side of roads made by large vehicles than ever before, and this will have to be addressed at some time. It is interesting to note that as we move to electric cars, they are heavier than traditional combustion engine cars and what impact that will have on our highways will need to be understood.

Moving forward how the council deals with the climate emergency will be a major part of our strategies and core thinking with intended consequences.

I hope this report gives a taster and overview of some of the things as we move forward and should you want any further information don't hesitate to contact me. [Gwilym.Butler@Shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:Gwilym.Butler@Shropshire.gov.uk) 07801099015 and on Facebook.

Cllr Butler answered questions raised from this report which he went through.

Cllr Harris's report:

I have based the framework below on the 'action points' that emerged from Kinlet's questionnaire on its Parish Plan. If you would like any other topics covered, please let me know. I trust that the information below is of interest:

Housing:

Shropshire has 139k households (2018), with a population of 323,000 (57% rural) and this is expected to grow by 28% by 2043.

Transport and Accessibility:

The North West Relief Road is basically around Shrewsbury, but there were posters in Cleobury bringing it to the attention of the Division, it remains a hot topic - and is likely to remain so for a while yet.

Highways, Traffic and Road Safety:

91% of Shropshire's 3,233 miles of highway are classified as rural. 7,000 potholes have been registered as needing attention.

Local Services and Infrastructure:

55% of household waste is recycled - compared to 42% across England.

Countryside, Recreation and Heritage:

There are 7,000 Grade 1, 2 and 3 listed buildings in Shropshire.

Community, Safety and Crime Prevention:

Lateral Flow Testing kits are available on-line - and can be delivered in 24 hours of ordering.

Grants of £500- are available for people that will suffer financial hardships if they self-isolate.

Hardship Grants are also available - telephone 03456789078

There are grants available to assist providers of summer holiday activities for children - check the Council website.

Local Economy:

There are 15,870 businesses in Shropshire >90% employ less than 10 people; only 40 employ more than 250. The unemployment rate was 3.7% in 2020.

Education and Training:

89% of Shropshire's schools have been rated 'good' by OFSTED.

Standard of Rural Living:

As of 17 May up to 6 people / 2 households will be permitted to meet indoors and 30 people outdoors - indoor hospitality can reopen.

There is a focus at the libraries on mental health, with books available to assist people struggling with loneliness and other issues.

Local Democracy and Engagement:

The political make up of Shropshire Council after the May 21 elections is: Conservative 43, Liberal Democrat 14, Labour 9, Green 4, Independent 4.

On Monday 17th the Conservatives will be choosing the new Leader.

Only 38% of those eligible voted in the Local Elections.

Miscellaneous:

Shropshire Council's total spend is £554m - of which Adult Services £180m; Children's Services £174m and infrastructure, economic growth, homes/communities and general commercial services £119m.

**11) Finance:**

- a) Insurance renewal. Came & Co - £584.72 compared to £356.53 last year. BHIB quoted £492.91. Clerk was asked to write to Came & Co to query the increase and if no reduction to move to BHIB.
- b) Other payments – Clerk's salary £xx. PWLB Loan - £2426.43. RAYE - £270.
- c) HMRC update - Clerk was still trying to get the problem resolved but HMRC have duplicated the account which has caused a higher tax code. Clerk will carry on chasing this.

**12) Parish problems:**

- Small Brook road all the way across from the Forge
- Honeysuckle Road – on hole must be 6 inches deep by -10 foot long, but potholes all the way along there.
- Hinton Road. The dangerous pothole right on the corner has been filled but there are many others between the old railway line, where the road surface lifted and to Hinton corner.
- Road from the Highlands to Overton is in a dreadful state potholes etc. There is a large one by the drive to Wall Furlong Farm
- Burnt Pit bank is in almost a bad a state as the Highlands road.
- There are potholes on the Alms house bank and on towards Duddlewick.
- Northwood lane potholes from the junction of Stanley Lane to where it meets the Stottesdon Road.
- Harcourt Road is in a bad condition, towards the Harcourt junction.
- Bottom of the Day House bank – some repairs have been attempted here but it is almost as bad as before anything was done.
- Potholes in the woods between Bardley and Labrador.

There is a 'traffic counter' across the road by Bardley Court and wondered who had requested this?

**13) Date of next meeting:** 28<sup>th</sup> June 2021

**There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.15pm.**

Payments:

BHIB Insurance - £492.91

PWLB - £2426.43 – direct debit

Clerk salary - £xx

HMRC - £270

Signed: Chairman

Date: