

Stottesdon & Sidbury Parish Council

Parish Council meeting held on Monday 16th December 2019 at 7.30pm in Chorley Village Hall.

Present: Cllrs D Young (Chairman), D Ferguson (Vice Chairman), C Smith, B Montague, B Hamilton-Russell, S Crawford, R Abbiss., S Allen
Shropshire Cllr Madge Shineton
Clerk: Mrs F Morris
Parishioners: 29
Guest Speaker: Sam Foster – Compass Care Ltd

0) Public time:

Chairman welcomed residents to the meeting and then welcomed Sam Foster to the meeting who works for Compassion Care Ltd to explain the planning application for The Old Vicarage.

Sam pointed out that these were outline plans for the Old Vicarage to turn this into a children's care home for 6 children in the main building with another 6 places for individual educational purposes, subject to planning approval. The ages of the children will be 7-17 but usually are 10-13 with an average stay of 24 months.

Stottesdon was chosen as it was more rural with less outside influence on the children. The main aim is to get the children back to the family setting or foster care.

The children will be supervised 24/7 but can earn 'free or trust time'.

It was pointed out by the present owner that 'cared for children' are already catered for at the Old Vicarage as they are taught horse riding – some of these children have suffered severe trauma and are in the village most days.

Staffing ratios/ staff qualifications/shift patterns were explained. Job opportunities would be created for the local area.

Traffic using the site was questioned as the access to the property is limited. Possibly a dozen cars on site and these would be adequately accommodated as a couple of units are to be removed. Concern expressed with amount of traffic which could cause problems at the beginning and end of school day as the village is already very congested at these times.

Having troubled teenagers in the village was also a concern to residents and Sam said that they would have to overcome this for residents.

Quality Care Standards (QCS) expectations is that children should be educated and cared for in their local environment so that children can access and participate in local amenities such as leisure, sporting and cultural activities.

It was pointed out that Stottesdon does not have any of these facilities and Sam asked what parents present did with their children - took them to Cleobury etc then picked them up later. The need of the facility in the area was questioned – Local Authority (LA) have a goal to have children placed in own LA area or within a maximum of 25 miles. At present Shropshire children are being sent as far away as Yorkshire.

The current owner confirmed that he had lived at the property for 50 years and 25 staff had been employed there for 20 years operating 42 weeks of the year with over 30 people on site.

There had been interest in the property from National Outdoor Centres which would not require a change of use, but this application is for 6 children to live there 24/7.

Supervision day/night was questioned – children would always be accompanied by an adult/supervised at all times.

OFSTED ratios were questioned with regards to children's needs. Risk assessments are carried out on each child and the registered manager of the home chooses who they take.

A resident (and PCC Secretary, representing the Church) pointed out that no doubt the same comments were made about Willowdene at Chorley 30 years ago and raised the following points:

1. The Church is over 1000 years old and comments are often made about the tranquillity and would like to see this maintained.
2. The Church neighbours the Old Vicarage, they own the drive which is in a very poor state as traffic has used this that shouldn't have and is need of urgent repair and wondered if Compass would share some of the costs.
3. However well managed/supervised the boundary between the property and the Church needs making secure.
Sam confirmed that the boundary will be sorted but not the lane.
4. Minor inaccuracy on application form – no protected species. There are bats in the Churchyard!

Impact on house insurance was queried with this type of facility in the village. It was pointed out that if theft rates in the village increase this might affect premiums.

A resident pointed out that he was shocked and uncomfortable with the application initially but after listening to Sam felt happier that it was only for 6 children living in, it will be managed carefully, children controlled and traffic less than anticipated and asked if local community was going to benefit from this. They will no doubt work with the current activity centre as not all children excel academically but do with 'hands on activities' and it is for Shropshire children.

It was queried if the local Dr's had been contacted regarding medical care. Sam said not yet but would sort a local Dr.

Numerous questions were asked which Sam answered and the Chairman brought the 'open' part of the meeting to a close at 8.40pm and thanked Sam and residents for attending and sharing their views which would be discussed later on the agenda.

The PC meeting was opened at 8.45pm.

1) Apologies for absence:

Cllr Powell – (prior engagement but wished everyone a Happy Christmas). **RESOLVED to accept these apologies.**

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.

None declared.

2) To confirm minutes of the meeting held on 25th November 2019:

These had been circulated with the agenda and it was **RESOLVD to accept these as a true record and the Chairman signed these accordingly.**

3) Matters Arising

a) Clerk's update

Flooding, Station Road:

It's back - reported again and SC did bring out FLOOD signs:

We will need to talk to our land drainage team about the CCTV camera survey arranged and it won't be a quick turnaround.

Will have to get the jetter there again and clear out the system.

Do we know the local landowner where the drains discharge? We may have to consider replacing the entire system.

With regards to Six Ashes to Bagginswood – I have seen it flood before. There are several culverts under the road which discharge into ditches running along field boundaries which work during 'normal' conditions. It may be that the ditches are restricted which in turn backs up water onto the road.

Hardwickforge bridge:

I will ask the SC Bridge Engineer to look into the matter and get back to you with any action that will be taken/ is required. Will keep you informed as soon as I have some news.

Regards

Gurnek Singh CEng MICE

Engineering Services and Bridges Manager Strategic Highways Highways, Transport and Environment Shropshire Council Shirehall, Abbey Foregate Shrewsbury Shropshire, SY2 6ND

Further response forwarded by Cllr Shineton:

I've looked into this issue and arranged for Kier to remove the debris trapped beneath the arch.

4) Planning applications/permissions/refusals

a) Reference: 19/05255/FUL (validated: 05/12/2019)

Address: Old Vicarage Centre, The Bull Ring, Stottesdon, Kidderminster, Shropshire, DY14 8UH

Proposal: Change of use from a mixed residential, commercial, training and hostel use (Use Class C2, C3 and D1) to a mixed care home and education use (Use Class C2 / D1) and associated works

Applicant: Compass Community Ltd (C/o Agent)

Chairman pointed out that all Cllrs had listened to arguments for/against this application and felt that the main concerns were:

- Increased traffic
- Noise levels
- Nuisance behaviour

Comments made by Cllrs:

- Children attending the Dr's surgery (if taken on here) would have to be supervised on a 1:1 basis (10-13 yrs old)
- Spaces limited at Lacon Childe and Stottesdon understood to be full. As 2 School Governors were in the room, they asked permission to clarify this which was agreed. Cllrs were told that top and bottom 2 years were full but spaces in the middle.
- It was felt that Compass sold a good story, if they keep to it!
- When Willowdene started up the 'Safeguarding' was not there then as it is today. There are a number of Shropshire children scattered all over the Country and the money has to be paid for this care by Shropshire and transportation costs are expensive.

- It was felt that this could be an asset to Stottesdon the same as Willowdene is to Chorley.
- With only 6 children on site it was felt that traffic would not increase dramatically.
- Boundaries up the lane and round the Churchyard need maintenance.
- It was felt that Sam put the message across well to all present.
- It was thought that the Old Vicarage, Churchyard and bowling green were classed as areas of 'little change' – Cllr Shineton will check this.
- This is proposed for Shropshire children and the Old Vicarage stands in its own grounds.
- House not been altered just a new roof on conservatory.

It was **RESOLVED to support this application pointing out that a large number of parishioners were present at the meeting and raised concerns regarding traffic including staff shift changes/noise from children/potential risk of anti-social behaviour/possible impact on local infrastructure.**

b) Any applications received after issue of agenda – none.

5) Co-option of Councillor:

Person interested advised not to stand due to his professional interest but if this changes he will get back in touch.

6) SALC report:

Cllr Abbiss reported the following:

- New Chairman – Cllr Ray Wickson and Vice Chairman Cllr Allan Wilson both from Telford and Wrekin and Cllr Abbiss, Vice Chairman for Shropshire.
- £1500 given to Severn Hospice following the 70th Celebrations/AGM.
- Loneliness to be discussed at the February meeting
- Climate Change motion sent to NALC
- Adrian Cooper new Climate Change Officer at SC.
- Area Committee meeting. 16th January – Quatt Village Hall

Chairman thanked Cllr Abbiss for the report

7) Shropshire Councillor's report:

Cllr Shineton reported on the following:

- Cabinet meeting Thursday
- Just about managed a 'balanced budget'. Money had to be raided from other 'pots' such as Highways for Adult Social Care/Services – over 420 children in care in Shropshire!
- Climate Change motion going to Cabinet Thursday. Mawley Milk at Cleobury milk/bottle/distribute with Hobsons Brewery brewing/bottling/distributing so both self-sufficient in Cleobury. Cllr Hamilton has wind turbine – first in our area! Neen Sollars has a solar farm.
- Air Source heat pumps manufactured in German causing delay in spare parts so this should be considered when installing this type of heating
- Cleobury Youth Partnership – thanks very much for donation. Will be putting in a bid to Awards for All for work on the Ump Housel they use and more equipment.
- Future Fit hospital proposals will continue.
- Shropshire Council has to fund children in care wherever they are placed.

Chairman thanked Cllr Shineton for her report, and she left the meeting.

8) Financial matters:

a) To confirm bank transfer payments from last month. Initialled by Cllrs.

b) Outstanding payments: Clerk's salary (bank transfer) - £xx

HMRC PAYE (bank transfer) - £50.49 plus £5.20 under paid in October.

Account - M Pearce (Lengthsman Account) – not received

ZEN (Internet Account) - £36.

SALC account – training/Clerk - £70.

Any other accounts received after issue of the agenda -none.

RESOLVED to pay these accounts by BACS.

c) Income since last meeting – 43p interest

d) Bank statement – initialled by Cllrs

e) Accounts – quarterly reconciliations – handed out at previous meeting. Clerk will email accounts after this meeting's payments have been made.

9) Parish matters/problems

a) Parish problems:

- State of roads/flooding – after discussions it was **RESOLVED to send a strong letter requesting repairs carried out to roads, CCTV date for flooded road to be requested to Highways and copying all relevant SC Officers, MP and Prime Minister asking for action nor just temporary repairs.**
- Pothole by Oldbury Grange – Clerk has reported this several times.
- Pothole just before Hardwick bridge and another tree/debris washed down as far as bridge.
- Fly tipping of fridge/washing machine on Harcourt Road. Clerk confirmed that she had received 3 complaints about this today and had reported it to SC.
- Road from Sidbury Rectory to Upper House Farm large potholes.
- Large pothole at bottom of Burnt Pitt bank still not filled.
- Some work carried out at Bagginswood and top of Walton Bank but tarmac soon washes out.

10) Correspondence: Emails forwarded to all Councillors.

Cleobury Country Courses:

- Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Awareness Course - Tuesday 4th February 2019
- Emergency First Aid at Work Course - Wednesday 22nd January
- Fire Marshall Course - Monday 10th February 2020

Road closure: (Outside Ebenezer Cottage, High Green, Chorley)

Start Date: 10th February 2020

End Date: 13th February 2020

Purpose: Road Closure: WPD - for new supply for 2 building plots.

Works Promoter: Western Power Distribution

Works Promoter Ref: DY734M41342165175

Enforcement pattern for Ferny Hall to Yew Tree Farm Jct, Chorley:

09:00 - 15:00

Clerk pointed out that at the recent training session it was reported that only correspondence that needed a reply (separate agenda item) needed to be included on the agenda. Clerk said this went against all she had been told previously and actually lists all correspondence received. Cllrs felt that if the Clerk was happy to carry on as before, why change. Clerk will carry on but will speak to SALC about this.

11) Date of next meeting: 27th January 2019

Payments made:

Mrs F Morris salary - £xx

HMRC - £50.49 + £5.29

Zen internet - £36

SALC - £70

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.45pm.

Signed: Chairman

Date:

DRAFT