

## **Stottesdon and Sidbury Parish Council**

**Parish Council meeting held on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2021 at 7.30pm via Zoom video-conferencing.**

**Present:** Cllrs D Young (Chairman), D Powell (Vice-Chairman), R Abbiss, S Allen, C Smith, S Crawford, J Rogers.

Shropshire Cllrs: M Shingleton and G Butler.

Clerk: Mrs F Morris

In attendance: Mr S Harris

**0) Public participation:** Mr Harris was in attendance to listen to the meeting as he will be standing in the Shropshire Council elections in May.

**1) Apologies for absence:** None.

**2) 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.

**None declared.**

**3) To confirm minutes of the meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> January 2021:** These had been circulated with the agenda and it was **RESOLVED that these are signed by the Chairman as a true record.**

**4) Matters Arising**

a) Clerk's update – reply re: Roadside wildflower verges from Rob Rowe, Botanist:

I live over in Bishops Castle quite a distance from Stottesdon.

I am not directly an employee of RSVP as we are largely a voluntary body.

My suggestion would be to try and find local botanists to be involved.

You could try looking at the Community wildlife groups and contacting the Clee hill and Abdon groups which are the ones nearer to you.

[www.shropscwgs.org.uk](http://www.shropscwgs.org.uk)

If you do find people willing to help then I will willingly share how we went about it.

Failing that I would charge £150/day + travel if you wanted to go down that route.

Perhaps not quite what you wanted to hear but hope it would be of help.

Clerk had talked to Mark Pearce regarding this and his concern was the height some of these flowers grow which could impair visibility at junctions. These would be planted 1 metre from the road edges. Suggestions of places to look at were: Loughton/Almshouse Bank triangle' verge before the entrance into The Kinsleys, Burnt Pitt triangle, top of New Road, Chorley (by white railings), wide verge on the bend at Midwinters, Sidbury – by the oak tree planted for the Millennium and between Sidbury Bank/Upper House.

It was **RESOLVED that the Chairman contacts Rob Lowe and arranges a date for him to come and have a look and take advice from him as to where to start at the costs quoted.**

b) Road closures:

Lots of comments/complaints received following the resurfacing at the Burnt Pitt junction and round the Harcourt road to just passed the 30mph sign. This was the better part of the road and the worst part is still all potholes.

Clerk pointed out that she had been in touch with 'everyone she could think of' at SC and had help from Cllr Shingleton and Butler.

Cllr Butler pointed out that he understood the angst this has caused but this was carried out to ensure that this part of the road does not end up like the rest of the road and that the other stretch of the road is in the programme. He also confirmed that Shropshire gets £96 per head less funding than Dudley/Wolverhampton and as the majority are 'c' roads this is not in the Government category for funding.

Cllr Abbiss if SC would be applying for funding from the extra £half billion.

Clerk was thanked by Cllr Shingleton for sending in the photos of the Harcourt work as this had been discussed with Officers and SALC at a Zoom meeting earlier.

My Shropshire – trying to tweak this to become more user friendly.

Wribley Bank closure: email from Tarmac:

I just wanted to keep you in the loop regarding this scheme after recent works we carried out for in Stottesdon to Harcourt and not sure if this message has been passed on. I carry out all the surfacing works on behalf of Kier as their contractor and just wanted to keep you informed.

We are due on the permit to start Monday 22nd February but due to recent weather issues we have slightly fallen behind and will start on Site Wednesday 24th Feb.

If you have any issues, please come back to me.

Clerk contacted Tarmac as Brian Shropshire's family had contacted me as his funeral is Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> February and they were concerned about using the planned diversion route. Tarmac agreed to let the funeral cortege through, and the men would be asked to have their lunch break to coincide with this time. The family were very appreciative.

Station Road:

I am writing to inform you that Shropshire Highways propose to carry out Carriageway Resurfacing Works at Station Road Start to 30mph. Please see the attached Plan for further details.

The work is programmed to commence on the 1st March 2021, and is expected to last for up to 19 days. The normal working hours will be between 09:30am to 16:00pm Monday to Friday.

Unfortunately, because of the nature of the works, it will be necessary to close the road to traffic for the duration of the works during the working hours mentioned. Every reasonable effort will be made to complete the work as soon as possible.

During the road closure, traffic will be diverted via the local roads by a fully signed diversion route.

Provisions will be in place to allow access for Emergency Services, Residents, and Businesses.

Inevitably there will be some disruption during these works, for which we apologise in advance.

For the Residents and Business Owners who are in the vicinity of the works, further notification will be provided through letter drops prior to the start date.

After discussions it was agreed to write to all concerned including Peter Nutting to express concern that the flooding may not be solved in this work as they are only working to the bottom of the bank not including the drains round the bend towards Fairacres.

c) Any others:

Brooksmeeing bridge slippage: reply from Steve Holdaway CEng MICE

Gurnek has asked me to look into your recent enquiry for him.

I can confirm both bridges at Brooksmeeing were inspected in June last year following a report from a member of the public about damage to the edge of the carriageway. A scour hole was found (Brooksmeeing No 2 Bridge) and work was arranged to undertake the necessary repairs.

Possible vehicle damage was also observed to Brooksmeeing No 1 Bridge (B4707) and this will be monitored and evaluated to determine when works will be undertaken. I can't promise, at this time, when any work will be arranged as this will depend on priority determined on the basis of risk/need

against the available maintenance budgets, which are currently extremely stretched. Suffice it to say if the condition of the bridge worsens significantly and poses a danger to the public work will be undertaken sooner rather than later. Presently the risks are considered low.

With respect to the slippage you also referred towards Sidbury, I'll contact my highways colleagues and let you know what is intended to address the defect.

2<sup>nd</sup> reply:

You'll recall I sent you a message at the end of January in response to your enquiry about the bridges at Brooksmeeing and a slippage towards Sidbury (please see my note below for ease of reference). I have made enquiries internally and established that a scheme to address the slip was considered several years ago and that a design was made with the intention of including the work in the Council's capital programme. Regrettably budget constraints lead to the withdrawal of the scheme from the programme.

I suspect the scheme ranks relatively low on the Council's list of priorities and limited funds will inevitably be targeted at the most pressing issues. However I will make some further enquiries to see if the scheme will be reconsidered.

**5) Financial matters**

- a) To confirm bank transfer payments from last month- **RESOLVED to accept.**
- b) Outstanding payments: Clerk's salary (bank transfer) - £xx, HMRC PAYE (bank transfer) - £xx, Viking - printer £290.35. **RESOLVED to pay these accounts via BACS.**
- c) Any other accounts received after issue of the agenda.
- d) Income since last meeting – 9p interest.
- e) Burial Grant payments – update. Clerk confirmed that she had worked in conjunction with other Clerks and was still waiting for a response from MP Philip Dunne. It was **RESOLVED to leave this until a reply is received.**

**6) Planning applications/permissions/refusals:**

**a)** Reference: 21/00075/TCA (validated: 07/01/2021) - Permission granted.

Address: Land SO 672 828, Stottesdon, Shropshire

Proposal: To pollard 1No. White Poplar removing 50% of the height and breadth within Stottesdon Conservation Area

Decision: No Objection

**b)** Any applications received after issue of agenda: Reference: 21/00527/FUL (validated: 17/02/2021)

Address: Stanley Farm, Chorley, Bridgnorth, Shropshire, WV16 6PS

Proposal: Erection of portal steel frame building

Applicant: Dr Matthew Home

**RESOLVED no objections raised to this application.**

Reference: 21/00697/FUL (validated: 19/02/2021)

Address: Fighting Cocks Inn, High Street, Stottesdon, DY14 8TZ

Proposal: Application under Section 73A of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 to replace windows/doors; insertion of roof lights, new porch; render and internal works to include improved catering and bar areas as well as adaptations for COVID safety

Applicant: The Fighting Cocks (Breta Hill, 1 High Street, Stottesdon, DY14 8TZ)

**RESOLVED no objections raised but it was felt that some of this application is retrospective.**

Reference: 21/00597/FUL (validated: 16/02/2021)

Address: Prescott Farm, Prescott, Cleobury Mortimer, Kidderminster, Shropshire, DY14 8RR  
Proposal: Erection of an agricultural building over the existing cattle handling area  
Applicant: Mr Richard Whitehouse (Prescott Farm, Prescott, Cleobury Mortimer, Nr Kidderminster, DY14 8RR, United Kingdom)

**RESOLVED no objections to this application.**

Ginny Hole application for agricultural worker's dwelling has been approved but confirmation is awaited.

**7) SALC report:** Cllr Abbiss reported the following:

- Survey Monkey for Covid/Voluntary Sector.
- Working Group set up to look at Libraries, River Severn Flooding etc.
- Governance after elections.
- Online training for prospective Cllrs via Zoom 12<sup>th</sup> March 6.30pm.
- CIL money being used to provide pedestrian crossings at Underhill Street and Stourbridge Road.
- Place Plans need dealing with as well as Parish Plans.
- Meeting with Peter Nutting next Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March and other Officers.
- Right to Regenerate.
- Held a lobby day with the 5 MP's.
- Country Lines – SALC wrote to MPO's for support.

Chairman thanked Cllr Abbiss for her report.

**8) Shropshire Councillor's report:** Emailed to Councillors:

Cllr Shineton said she had nothing much to add to the report from last month other than:

- Full Council meeting. Stottesdon Band D Council Tax rate - £1579.30.
- New report will be sent out for the March meeting shortly.
- Test and trace carrying on. Home testing kits available from Cleobury Pharmacy. Spot testing at Bridgnorth, Ludlow Racecourse. Brown Clee Medical Practice, Cleobury Medical Centre and Highley Medical Centre continue to carry out vaccinations.

Chairman thanked Cllr Shineton for her report.

Cllr Butler gave the following report:

February Report

1. Connexus Housing Association are taking over two new semidetached bungalows in Cleobury Mortimer on the new Rea View estate. If anyone maybe interested please ensure you are registered on Homepoint.

2. For those that use the Cleobury to Bridgnorth road the road is going to be closed near Bridgnorth from 930am to 4pm from 25<sup>th</sup> February until 19<sup>th</sup> March for road repair from Cleobury side of the Half way Inn by Moor Brook bridge to Deuxhill.

3. The A4117 south of Cleobury where it meets the Bridgnorth turning will be closed overnight from the 1<sup>st</sup> March until the 6<sup>th</sup> March to undertake repairs and resurfacing and enhance safety on the junction where we have had many accidents. After having the Vehicle activated sign installed by Shropshire Council I am now pleased that further safety measures have been designed. The extension of the speed limit further out of the town should also be coming out for consultation shortly.

4. I am putting a motion to full council on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> to instruct the Leader of The Council and Chief Executive to write to Central Government, Chancellor of Exchequer to insist that Shropshire and Rural Counties are included in the Levelling up agenda post pandemic. It is totally unfair that we on average get around £90 per head less funding from Central government than urban areas and that is just on revenue expenditure day to day things and does not include new infrastructure. If we

had funding equality we would be £40 million a year better off and what impact would that have on our roads, access to services and transport to name but a few. I represent Shropshire on RSN Sparse (Rural Services Network) which is a lobbying organisation whose membership includes most rural County and District Councils in England and outside bodies related to countryside issue. The organisation now has the support of over 85 MPs and many members of the House of Lords to influence further Government policy moving forward.

5. Elections will go ahead on May 6<sup>th</sup>, with Purdah starting on March 15<sup>th</sup>. Anyone who is considering standing as a Town or Parish Council can attend a virtual meeting hosted by SALC [Shropshire Association of Local Councils] on May 12<sup>th</sup> at 6.30pm where a panel will be taking questions and giving advice, I will be attending as Portfolio holder. For further information contact [Dianne.Dorrell@Shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:Dianne.Dorrell@Shropshire.gov.uk).

Postal or proxy vote applications can be accepted up to the 20<sup>th</sup> April and you can apply on the Shropshire Council web site just search "Postal/proxy vote application".

6. After the elections the Council will start the review of Town and Parish Council Boundaries. It will start with a timetable and terms of reference on how it will be undertaken and the consultations times etc and what is involved. SALC is working in partnership with us on the process. Community Governance will be more important than ever post pandemic and boundaries have not been reviewed since 1894. We have many councils across the county that cannot recruit, some areas without Councils, some with just Parish Meetings. The heart of the process in my opinion will be outcomes for residents and value for money. Any Councils who wish to look at changes straight away should contact [Graham.White@Shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:Graham.White@Shropshire.gov.uk). Any changes would come into effect at the Local Elections due in May 2025, 4 years away.

7. Place plan officers are still currently working on distributing Covid relief and grants to businesses across Shropshire. However plans are underway on how we review the Place Plans and evolve them for the Post Pandemic world taking into account boundary reviews, local plan, economic strategy, Library review, to name but a few. I would hope they will be back to their day job by June if not before.

8. Full Council on the 25<sup>th</sup> will be reviewing the move from Shire Hall as headquarters for the council to a site centrally located in Shrewsbury as part of the Pride Hill Riverside re development under the Big Town Plan. This is a once in a lifetime plan for Shrewsbury and should capitalise on its heritage and make it fit for the 21<sup>st</sup> century and bring a lot of investment into the county.

9. In my current portfolio I cover Air Quality. I am pleased to report that Shropshire has some of the best Air Quality in the country and we are rated 7<sup>th</sup> nationally. We currently only have two hot spots in the county one at Shrewsbury by the station and riverside towards Frankwell and one in Bridgnorth on the hill as you turn into Whitburn St. These are being monitored regularly and solutions are being considered.

Chairman thanked Cllr Butler for his report, and he left the meeting.

#### **9) Parish matters/problems:**

- Dog fouling and litter – Cllr has received complaints from Chorley and Stottesdon residents regarding the increase in dog fouling and litter in the Parish, Clerk had obtained some temporary signs from SC and had printed and laminated these to display around the parish. Litter picking kits had also been handed out!
- Following the report of fly tipping by Duddlewick bridge a duvet has now been added to this – Clerk will report again.
- Road slippage at Rays Farm – Cllr Shineton confirmed this is being monitored every week by SC and more barriers have been put up.
- Road from Stottesdon towards Cleobury North just before Duddlewick Farm lane turn – this road floods and has broken up very badly and is in urgent need of repair.
- Large pothole and several on the bank by Fairacres

- Whilst several potholes have been filled along the road to Duddlewick Farm – some have been repaired recently.
- Pickthorn Lane – large potholes – milk tanker has been damaged and if the lane isn't repaired could refuse to collect the milk.
- Loughton Road – tarmac lifted leaving deep hole. This has previously been reported.
- Burnt Pitt Bank potholes.
- Cllr Abbiss pointed out that larger vehicles are being used (lorries etc) on our roads to cut down on journeys etc but the roads are just not adequate for these vehicles.
- Area Committee meeting 22<sup>nd</sup> March – new Secretary Gillian Bayley.

#### **10) Clerk's report – Audit and Year end training:**

Clerk did the Zoom training session for this and checked that our payments system was in order – confirmed that it was.

It was suggested that PC's have an 'internal checker' to go through all invoices etc but realised that this was difficult during Covid restrictions. We should set this up for next financial year.

Audit dates will be adhered to this year.

#### **11) Correspondence:** Emails forwarded to all Councillors – noted 'as received, unless comments made'

- Alterations to the Electoral Register
- NALC – Chief Executive's Bulletin
- SALC:
- Phlebotomy Review survey – Clerk had completed this but urged others to do so.
- News in Brief - Important changes to the provision of support for Shropshire's unpaid and family carers
- Shropshire Climate Action Group – can invite to a meeting.
- REMINDER! Station Road roadworks – 1<sup>st</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> March – ROAD CLOSED
- Training programme – Clerk will forward to Councillors.

Any other received after issue of agenda.

- Willowdene – 25<sup>th</sup> March 11-12noon. Family Assessment Centre Opening – details to follow.
- Road closure notice – Severn Trent Water connection at Raggits View, Bagginswood (by Heath Farm) – 24<sup>th</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup> May.

#### **12) Date of next meeting:** 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2021

**There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.20pm.**

Payments:

Clerk's salary - £xx

HMRC - £53.54

Viking - £290.35 – printer

**Signed: Chairman**

**Date:**

**Road Closure:** Riddings Lane End Of To Hall Farm Junction, Bridgnorth

**Start Date:** 12th April 2021

**End Date:** 16th April 2021

**Purpose:** Road Closure: WPD - 4m trenching in tarmac road and grass verge and 10m road crossing in tarmac road for under grounding cables.

**Works Promoter:** Western Power Distribution **Works Promoter Ref:** HM7342268979