

## **Stottesdon and Sidbury Parish Council**

**Parish Council meeting held in Chorley Village Hall on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> September 2021 at 7.30pm.**

**Present:** Cllrs D Young (Chairman), D Powell (Vice-Chairman), R Abbiss, L Grey, S Crawford, M Pearce, S Allen, Z Griffin, J Rogers.

Shropshire Cllrs: G Butler and S Harris (arrived 8.06pm).

Parishioners: 0

Clerk: Mrs F Morris

**0) Public participation:** - none present.

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

**2) Resignation of Cllr C Smith/Co-option of new Cllr:**

As Cllr Smith had resigned the vacant had been advertised and SC confirmed no election had been requested therefore the PC could co-opt. Clerk was asked to write to Chris thanking him for his service. Cllr Griffin suggested asking Wade Muggleton, Cllrs will ask around and Clerk will email Wade.

**3) 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.*

No interests declared.

**4) To confirm minutes of the meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> July 2021:**

These had been circulated with the agenda and it was **RESOLVED to accept these as true record.**

**5) Matters arising from minutes:**

a) Clerk's report:

Audit:

I was contacted to answer 2 queries, which I did, and this came back 'all clear'.

Cllr Steve Charmley:

I have noted that Steve has resigned as Deputy Leader and Portfolio holder covering the roads due to health reasons and has been replaced by Cllr Ed Potter.

Reply from Peter Backhouse:

Clerk had received 2 replies from Peter Backhouse regarding the work on his driveway thanking the PC for offering some financial help which he declined and hoped the PC receives a positive response from SC re car park marking.

The second reply was to say that the work was commencing that day and after discussions with the neighbour decided against a brick wall and have instead gone for removable solid oak bollards with chain link between them. We think it will better retain the open aspect of the driveways, and using a natural material seems more in keeping with the conservation theme and village setting. He thanked the PC for the support and hopefully it will resolve the problems.

Replies from SC re: roads:

Bagginswood road:

This section of carriageway is inspected on a monthly basis and all safety defects are issued to Kier for repair. Kier have attended to other sections of this road on at least two occasions recently but for some reason have not completed this particular section past Heath Meats. I shall continue to ask the question why and get these repaired asap.

I would agree with the article that there are two sections of this road which need attention and resurfacing but this can also be said for many other sections of carriageway and Shropshire Council is trying hard to prioritise these and repair as many areas as possible whilst working within our budgets.

Duddlewick road: reply from Graham Downes:

There are no long term plans at the moment to repair of road between Hinton and Duddlewick Farm access at the moment I am afraid. The road is regularly inspected, next due in September and defects identified will be issued to Kier to repair. At the time of writing there is only one minor defect outstanding that we are aware of.

Happy to add this section of road to the list of potential schemes but as you know we have already started to prepare locations for 2022/23 and possibly 2024 dependent upon budgets.

Reply from Andy Wilde:

Thank you for your email, I am aware this is a concern locally and I keen to update as soon as possible. As a service we are currently transitioning towards our new operating model which will involve delivering the service within three geographical areas. As such we do have key members of the team who are between roles, the transition will also require staff changes and also bringing in additional resources at Technician level to ensure we are as well placed as possible to meet the demands on the service. Highway maintenance has been a significant focus over the last 12 months and we are making huge efforts to improve our asset condition with quality repairs and these benefits are starting to make a difference on the network. We would encourage as many concerns to be reported via the Council's website Report a highways fault or concern | Shropshire Council or by contacting the customer service line on 0345 6789006, this will ensure that your enquiries are logged and recorded in our system and allocated to the appropriate officer for investigation and action.

Duddlewick road: Andy Oliver

Just a quick note to say that a gang has been working on the defects on this section of road today so the situation should be a little better along that stretch.

b, Any others:

- Litley Bridge – this has been hit again! Clerk will report this 2<sup>nd</sup> damage. Tractors with trailers have trouble negotiating this bridge due to their length! Chairman commented that a combine only had cm to spare either side to get over Hinton bridge.
- Hedge by the bridge at Kennels bank has been cut although some more trees could do with being trimmed back on the kennels side for even better visibility.
- Walton Bank hedge – the sides have been cut but this needs topping/inside hedge cutting. It was suggested that the Clerk asks SALC for the legal power to have this hedge cut i.e. 28 days or will arrange for this to be cut and invoiced.

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

a) Reference: 21/04022/FUL (validated: 02/09/2021)

Address: Dycombe Cottage, Chorley, Bridgnorth, Shropshire, WV16 6PP

Proposal: Erection of 2 No oak framed porches

Applicant: Mr Thomas Cook (Dycombe Cottage, Chorley, Bridgnorth, WV16 6PP)

No objections raised to this application.

b) Reference: 21/02449/FUL (validated: 13/05/2021)

Address: The Batch Farm, Sidbury, Bridgnorth, Shropshire, WV16 6PX  
Proposal: Erection of a single storey rear extension  
Decision: Refuse

c) Reference: 21/02450/LBC (validated: 13/05/2021)  
Address: The Batch Farm, Sidbury, Bridgnorth, Shropshire, WV16 6PX  
Proposal: Erection of a single storey rear extension affecting a Grade II\* Listed Building  
Decision: Refuse

d) Reference: 21/00704/FUL (validated: 12/03/2021)  
Address: Proposed Development Land West Of Crown Cottages, Bagginswood, Stottesdon, Shropshire  
Proposal: Erection of a two bedroom dwelling with annexe; detached double garage and installation of a package sewage treatment plant  
Decision: Grant Permission  
A considerable amount of debate took place regarding this application as it appears that the Planning Dept did not take on board the request from the PC or Cllr Butler for this application to be determined by Committee due to objections and comments made.  
At present there is nothing for the PC to do.

e) Reference: 21/04276/FUL (validated: 02/09/2021)  
Address: Proposed Dwelling North Of Coombe Farm, Bagginswood, Stottesdon, Shropshire  
Proposal: Erection of a single storey dwelling, detached garage and installation of package treatment plant  
Applicant: Mr And Mrs M Henness (40 Lando Road, Pembrey, Burry Port, SA16 0YB, Carmarthenshire)  
This application was discussed, and Cllrs raised no objections.

f) Any others received after issue of agenda – no others received.

## **7) Finance:**

Accounts for payment:

- a. to approve Clerk's salary - £xx/HMRC payments £199.600 x 2 – August and September
- b. to approve payment to Botanist - £80
- c. Completion of Audit – account £240.00
- d. Any others received after issue of agenda – none

It was **RESOLVED that all these accounts be paid by BACS.**

## **8) SALC report:** Cllr Abbiss reported the following:

A meeting was held at the fire station, Bridgnorth 20<sup>th</sup> September 2021

The speakers joined the meeting Hybrid.

Steve Smith—Highways:

1. Re the closure of Bridgnorth's highways depot only closed temporary.
2. It has been moved to keep continuity of services as the salt barn had suffered erosion and wasn't safe to be used. It didn't meet environmental regulations and Health and safety standards.
3. It will cost £2 million to bring the depots up to standard
4. Only 15% is delivered through the Bridgnorth depot and there has been no out of hours use for the last 9 months.
5. Steve said they had 28 days to fix a pothole after it has been reported--- this was disputed!
6. When questioned about the distance to our areas and gritting for the school runs, Steve said they

could reach all areas within 45 – 50 minutes!

Watch this space as I don't think we have heard the end of the possible closure of the Bridgnorth depot.

Murray McGregor joined us on zoom for the report on the withdrawal of Bridgnorth Ambulance:

1. We were told about the extra waiting times at hospitals which is adding to the problem.
2. It is usual for them to receive 4,000, 999 calls but a few weeks ago those went up to 6,400. (please don't quote these figures as accurate)
3. in September they took 1146 patients to PRH with an average wait time of 47.44 minutes. 789 patients were taken to the RSH with a waiting time of 1hour 42 minutes. Almost 50% of their time is waiting off road.
4. Clinical validation started in July and that saved 12,000 ambulance journeys--- I guess that was over the West Midlands as it seems too many for Shropshire.
5. I guess this is over a year –the ambulances attended 27,000 call outs in the Bridgnorth area with only 4% being attended by the Bridgnorth crew
6. Closing the ambulance station will save £¼ million.
7. What could Parish and Town Councils do to help?? try to encourage everyone to attend a CPR course as well as the use of defibrillators and be prepared to use the skills. This would increase the survival rate.
8. Also discussed was the 111 service, which we were told was underfunded!

SALC EXEC

1. Councillor Picton Leader of SC spoke at the last meeting, she highlighted a number of areas. The Boundary Commission have met with SC council and have announced that they are required to do a review of the Shropshire Council Divisions. This will impact the progress of the Community Governance review.
2. All Cultural and Leisure facilities have re-opened with covid measures in place.
3. Shropshire Council are looking to adopt the LGA code of conduct. This will then be an opportunity for Stottesdon and Sidbury PC to follow suit.
4. The reporting App Fix my Street is to be introduced.
5. There is ongoing pressure on Children's Services and Adult Social Care

Councillor Shaun Davies, leader of Telford and Wrekin also gave us an update

6. The borough council have received the APSE award and Dawley also have a nomination for NALC's Star Council of the Year Award.
7. A review of the Wards is taking place. There are 54 ward councillors at present, but that could be increased due to an increase of the population around Lawley and Lightmore. Further consultation will take place once the Boundary Commission had responded.
8. Cllr. Davies anticipates further pressure from residents to do more in their localities, particularly where principal councils could support local councils to deliver services.
9. He is also concerned that the NHS reforms would not impact on the Adult Social Care budget.
10. Both councillors were asked about Public Transport. There is a government scheme Bus back Better. Both authorities are seeing low passenger numbers following Covid with increasing use of cars.

SALC AGM is probably going to be on Zoom this year unless there is a change. It is on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> November at 6.00 p.m.

There are sessions on Climate Change on 6<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> October on zoom

Review of Planning Committees also mentioned. These were reduced from 3 to 2 about 2 years ago with a view to this going back to Scrutiny to review the decision after 2 years to see if it was working. Cllr Butler felt that this should be deferred for a further 12 months as due to Covid and having to hold Zoom meetings felt that the data would not be very comparable. After 12 months look at the data again.

An email had been sent out by SALC for comments.

**Chairman thanked Cllr Abbiss for her report.**

**10) Shropshire Cllr's report brought forward:**

Report circulated to Cllrs from Cllr Butler:

1. The boundary review of Town and Parish councils has taken an unexpected turn as the Boundary Commission have contacted us to advise they wish to undertake a review of the Unitary divisions from October 2022. We had requested this last year and they had refused! Around many market towns with large property growth the populations have grown and the equality of population to elected councillor in some areas is out of average in excess of 30%. We don't at this stage know what formula they will use and whether it will result in less or more councillors or stay the same. It will be an open consultation once under way and I will keep you updated in due course.

2. We currently have a budget deficit in the current financial year of between £2-5 Million against an operating budget of circa £570million. Digital by default and other initiatives are being bought forward to help the situation whilst also being mindful of the Climate change agenda to see if we can create savings and cut carbon at the same time.

3. We all know that communication is key and the issues we have had historically however a new statistic came out this week. Council officers in July read 2.2 million emails before they undertook the day job and this doesn't include the ones they didn't get to read! It does ask the question is it necessary to copy everyone into every email and we need to understand expectations on how soon things will be replied to and look at how we can get better portals of communication. I know there is a working group of clerks set up and the new App Fix my street will help. As the world changes, I can see the ability for more working by Apps on Planning, Licensing, Education enquiries etc etc.

4. In our future budgetary requirement we try to estimate budgetary demand especially around Adults and Children's care. We take into account as many statistics and demographic changes as possible and we are looking at present of a 12% increase in demand over the next financial year and need to try and budget for that so it doesn't catch us out. The formulas used have been accurate in previous years I just hope our demand is not that high moving forward as it is increasingly unaffordable.

5. The government has recently announced proposals for Adult Social care from 2023. No money as of yet for Local authorities to help with existing pressures. The Devil will be in the detail not yet seen. If it is the case that Local Authorities have to monitor and assess every applicant by means this may create a huge level of back office work for which no budget has yet been identified. It may also create a different market in the care sector for residential and nursing care. At present Councils pay a lot less for permanent care in homes than the open market who effectively subsidise the sector, if this changes with fair prices for all two things may happen, overall prices will rise, more pressure on Local Authorities or the market will collapse as unviable. We watch with anticipation.

6. The Cleobury Mortimer and Highley Branch of the Conservatives met recently to re launch the Branch and anyone interesting in joining or more information please Facebook me or email on [Gwilbutler@aol.com](mailto:Gwilbutler@aol.com) or 07801099015. Social and informative events will be arranged in due course with the attendance of Philip Dunne MP where possible.

7. Cornovii the Councils property developer arm has now got its first site up and running with 17 properties already reserved for completion by the year end. There is a call out for land in the South of the county and if anyone knows of any local ambition to build small local need houses to need, these could be 2 bed starter homes, bungalows, 3 bed semis etc not in high volumes and can be restricted to local ownership rented or freehold and delivered at a far reduced price to the open market. The purpose of this is to create a far fairer local housing market for local people and key workers to be able to live and work locally. In South Shropshire by 2030 we will have more people over 65 than under and we need to address the problems that will bring.

Cllr Butler went through his circulated report and also commented on the following:

- Depot's closure and that Officers had been slaughtered on Social Media regarding this which is not acceptable and highlighted the gritting areas covered by Bridgnorth and Craven Arms.
- Ambulance Station Closures – Business Plan decision. No job layoffs. Impact on green footprint.
- Talks of cycle paths to every school.
- 2/3<sup>rd</sup> of highways in South of County.

Shropshire Cllr Harris commented regarding:

- Climate Change
- Fossil Fund working towards Carbon Neutrality
- £2m pension fund invested in Fossil Fund

All a very complex issue, no simple answer, but happy to discuss with anyone.

Cllr Griffin commented that the Bridgnorth Endowed School was the first school in Shropshire to have Covid vaccinations today.

Cllr Butler said the take up of vaccinations in Cleobury Mortimer between ages of 25-55 was low at only 80%

**Chairman thanked both Cllr Butler and Harris for attending, and they left the meeting.**

**9) Parish matters/problems:**

- Tree cutting, Glebe Drive – Clerk produced photos of the fir tree which had been cut down without permission at the front of Glebe Drive with just the bottom of the tree and roots being left which are very unsightly. The shrub opposite had also been trimmed up by the same resident. Clerk contacted STAR Housing after she had received complaints and they had been to talk to the resident giving him clear instructions that all branches and roots had to be removed at his cost and that it was not his property to cut down.
- Cllr Abbiss confirmed that she had been contacted by a resident regarding the rose bushes and the Hazel tree overhanging The Old Police House and dead branches in the Almond tree in Glebe Drive and dog mess around the village, outside the Vicars and in the Churchyard. As Cllr Abbiss had discussed this with the Clerk this had also been raised with STAR Housing and photos shown to Cllrs. STAR only have a small budget to carry out tree work, but Cllrs did not feel that the PC should do this work. The roses were planted by the previous owner of The Old Police House. It was **RESOLVED that the Clerk writes to Mrs Livesey at The Old Police House giving her the contact details of STAR Housing as it is their responsibility.**
- Parking outside the school is an issue with cars parked all down the side of the road causing a hazard for other road users. Cllr Abbiss asked who the Community Governor was now, thinking perhaps they might be able to monitor the parking as the teachers could not be expected to do this. Clerk pointed out that it was Debbie Walsh, but she had left the village. Clerk will query this.
- Walton Bank hedge – dealt with earlier.
- Tree planted on edge of school car park in memory of Adrian Bromley has had beautiful colours this year.
- Suggestion of planting Ash trees (no blight) on edge of school car park or at the bottom of the playing field. School car park wasn't considered a good idea, but Clerk was asked to write to Wade Muggleton for any suggestions.
- Footpath overgrown opposite The Granary, Bakehouse Lane (land think belongs to Mrs Swain) and also the BW by the side of the Chorley Chapel graveyard. Clerk will contact Matt or Nathan Home and Mrs Swain.

- Mattress/rubbish dumped off the road by Birchen Coppice just out of our Parish on the Bagginswood road.
- Litley Bridge hit again.
- Road edges along Riddings Lane not yet repaired.

**11) Queen's Platinum Jubilee (if any update)** – Cllr Griffin. Nothing to report. Clerk had forwarded email from Chorley Village Hall.

**12) Correspondence:** *All noted as received unless comments made.*

- Alterations to Electoral Roll
- SALC News in Brief
- SC – Road Closures – see separate sheet
- RBL –Preparation for Remembrance 2021
- PCC Newsletter – Have your say
- Police & Crime Commissioner – Safer West Mercia Plan
- SALC – NALC Legal Topic update
- Sustainability & Climate Change – Adaption Measures for your Council – Zoom 28/10/21 – 6pm-8.30pm.
- SALC - Project Gigabit update

Any others received after issue of agenda

Cllr Abbiss queried having the Broadband back in the hall again. After discussions it was **RESOLVED to write to the Village Hall asking them if they would contribute towards the cost. It was also suggested that Clerk asks Di at SALC how other PCs operate their broadband. Cllr Grey suggested Airband might be cheaper.**

**13) Date of next meeting:** 25<sup>th</sup> October 2021

**There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.46pm.**

Payments made:

Clerk's salary - £xx August and September  
 HMRC - £199.60 x 2 August and September  
 R Rowe – Botanist - £80.00  
 PKF Littlejohn - £240.00

**Signed: Chairman:**

**Date:**

Road Closures – September – October 2021:

Temporary road closure:

**Road Closure:** Station Road, Stottesdon

**Start Date:** 25th October 2021

**End Date:** 5th November 2021

**Purpose:** Drainage works - 200m of new 225mm pipe, 3 new chambers and catchpits, adjust all ironwork and reinstate carriageway.

**Works Promoter:** Shropshire Council

**Works Promoter Ref:** UJ214RS-893244

**Enforcement pattern for Station Road, Stottesdon:**

All the time

Temporary road closure:

**Road Closure:** Nethercott Farm Junction to Six Ashes Junction with B4363, Cleobury Mortimer

**Start Date:** 13th October 2021

**End Date:** 15th October 2021

**Purpose:** Road Closure: STW - New water connection.

**Works Promoter:** Severn Trent Water

**Works Promoter Ref:** LB9225201-000006606330

**Enforcement pattern for Nethercott Farm Junction to Six Ashes Junction with B4363, Cleobury Mortimer:**

24hrs

Temporary road closure:

**Road Closure:** The Hallows Nursery to The Miners Junction, Stottesdon

**Start Date:** 18th October 2021

**End Date:** 20th October 2021

**Purpose:** Road Closure: STW - 3 x Sluice valve renewals.

**Works Promoter:** Severn Trent Water

**Works Promoter Ref:** LB9141201-000060341794**Enforcement pattern for The Hallows Nursery to The Miners Junction, Stottesdon:**

24hrs

Temporary road closure:

**Road Closure:** Riddings Lane End of To Griggs Lane End of Middleton Scriven, Bridgnorth

**Start Date:** 11th October 2021

**End Date:** 15th October 2021

**Purpose:** Road Closure: WPD - For under grounding cables, reinforcement scheme, overhead works/reconductoring.

**Works Promoter:** Western Power Distribution

**Works Promoter Ref:** HM7342306001

**Enforcement pattern for Riddings Lane End of To Griggs Lane End of Middleton Scriven, Bridgnorth:**

24hrs

Temporary road closure:

**Road Closure:** Oreton Road, Cleobury Mortimer

**Start Date:** 8th October 2021

**End Date:** 8th October 2021

**Purpose:** Road Closure to enable ditching works.

**Works Promoter:** Shropshire Council

**Works Promoter Ref:** UJ214HW-891152

**Enforcement pattern for Oreton Road, Cleobury Mortimer:**

09.30 - 16.00 You can view the closure and diversion route by clicking

Temporary road closure:

**Road Closure:** Ferny Hall to Yew Tree Farm Junction, Bridgnorth

**Start Date:** 30th September 2021

**End Date:** 30th September 2021

**Purpose:** Road Closure: STW - Remedial works to rectify Utility defect.



**Works Promoter:** Severn Trent Water

**Works Promoter Ref:** LB9225201-000006476257

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

07:00 - 18:00

Temporary road closure:

**Road Closure:** B4363 Oldbury

**Start Date:** 29th November 2021

**End Date:** 3rd December 2021

**Purpose:** Replace damaged carrier pipe

**Works Promoter:** Shropshire Council

**Works Promoter Ref:** UJ214893757

**Enforcement pattern for B4363 Oldbury:**

All the time

DRAFT