

Stottesdon & Sidbury Parish Council

Parish Council meeting held in Chorley Village Hall on Monday 23rd September 2024 at 7.30pm.

Present: Cllrs Z Griffen (Vice Chairman, who chaired the meeting), M Pearce, S Allen, C Adams, S Crawford, R Abbiss, R Gutteridge.

Shropshire Cllr S Harris

Clerk: Mrs F Morris

Parishioners: 1 (Guest Speaker)

0) Public participation:

Steph Eddies-Davies from Country Treks attended the meeting to outline plans regarding bridleways.

Steph introduced herself to everyone and thanked Cllrs for allowing her to attend.

Steph has been in the village for 35 years and runs Country Treks and a school for children with additional needs.

The problem with overgrown bridleways and some shutting up has become a problem for horse riders. There used to be a scheme years ago where farmers were given a small amount of money to allow 'permissive' rights of way, but this stopped.

Steph is aware of the budget problems with SC and formed a small group of horse riders (36 at present) to try to work out a solution. It is well known that motorists are not keen having horses on the road, but due to restricted bridleways they have no option.

Steph has approached numerous landowners with the hope of working with them to use their field edges from April onwards but to stay off from November-March. The group will 'chip in' a subscription which can be paid to farmers in the scheme with the understanding that they will stay off the fields, if requested.

This suggestion has been met with quite a lot of support from landowners who have been approached, who are happy to see the horses 'off the road'.

Councillors felt that this was a very good idea and welcomed Steph to attend further meetings with progress reports.

Chairman thanked Steph for attending and she left the meeting.

1) Apologies for absence: Received and noted from Cllrs D Young, A Sierakowski, R Kennett and S Cllr G Butler. Police.

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 19th August 2024:

These had been circulated with the agenda and it was **RESOLVED** that these were a correct record.

4) Matters arising from minutes:

a. Clerk's report:

Honeysuckle Brook/bridge:

Hello Freda,

Our contractor has informed me of the following.

“The works at Honeysuckle bridge 11-13/09/24, were delayed on Wed as the paint had not been delivered.

We delayed the start so we could investigate the issue with the paint.

The paint was ordered 5 weeks ago, with a 2-week lead time, but has still not been received. Kier had to cancel the work as we would not be able to complete the works instructed.

I am sorry you were not notified as you should have been of the delay and then the cancellation.”

Kind Regards

Peter Gould

Bridges and Structures Engineer

Roads:

Message left on answerphone re: roads:

Bagginswood – not as hoped, will keep inspecting and repairing!

Duddlewick Road: - Standing water must be sorted, no concrete information yet, due to budget problems

Hawkwood road commenced, but no date for Rays Farm slippage again due to budget problems.

Hedge removal, Station Road and Chorley:

Clerk had emailed Cllrs reply from James Griffiths regarding the hedge removal. Reply was:

Further to our phone call, the gap in the hedge at the bottom of Station Road was created to get welfare facilities and equipment across the field, where the current access would not allow. The hedge was coppiced after first checking it for nesting birds.

As it was coppiced it will grow back nicely, coppicing is not hedge removal, but a traditional and sustainable way of rejuvenating a hedge and an ideal way to create a temporary gap for what ever reason.

All original gates and fences will be installed, and no new access created as might have been thought.

There is some tall temporary fencing in place whilst the field is grazed and the old fencing re-erected.

New Road, Chorley – opposite Village Hall: Reply from SC:

Thank you for your enquiry. The hedgerow regulations deal with hedges that border agricultural or common land and do not apply to any hedgerow within the curtilage of or marking a boundary of the curtilage of a house. If the owners of Rosemary Cottage, New Road, Chorley removed a hedge bordering their own property then they would not have needed to apply to the council beforehand. Some further details can be found on our website

at: <https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/environment/trees-woodlands-and-hedges/hedgerow-removal/>

If the issue is with who owns the boundary (which can probably be found within the deeds or with the land registry), then we would consider this a private matter and something to perhaps bring up with a solicitor.

b. External Audit:

Clerk had today received the audit certificate back, making comments of errors made. Clerk explained the problems, some of which were due to the form online. It was **RESOLVED to ask the Chairman to write to the Auditors regarding this.**

c. Any others – nothing further raised.

5) Finance:

a) Accounts for payment/approval:

Clerks Salary - £xx

HMRC - £883.61

b) Any others received after issue if agenda:

Viking – ink cartridges - £81.80

PKF Littlejohn – audit fee - £252.00

c) Income since last meeting - £21.76 interest

6) Planning applications/approvals/refusals:

a) Reference: 24/03325/DEM (validated: 04/09/2024)

Address: Mass House Farm, Stottesdon, Kidderminster, Shropshire, DY14 8NL

Proposal: Demolition of redundant farm building

Applicant: Mawley Hall LLP (Mr Jeremy Hill, The Estate Office, Kinlet Hall, Kinlet, DY12 3AY)

View online at: <http://pa.shropshire.gov.uk/online->

After discussions it was **RESOLVED to object to these plans as it is believed that the site has heritage which needs fully investigating before any decision is made.**

b) Reference: 24/03244/FUL (validated: 28/08/2024)

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

Proposal: Erection of two-storey rear extension

Applicant: Mr Thomas Cook

After discussions it was **RESOLVED to object to these plans as this property was initially approved for a 3 bed room house under the affordability scheme, but increasing this takes it out of 'affordability' range going from 3 bedroom to 5 bedroom.**

c) Any others received after issue of the agenda – none received.

7) SALC report:

Cllr Abbiss /Griffen reported:

- SALC office very busy at present.
- Advert due to go out for new Officer.
- No Executive been held since last meeting.
- Housing Enabling officer spoke at Area meeting. After discussions it was agreed to invite the officer to speak at our next meeting regarding carrying out a housing needs survey for the parish. Cllr Abbiss will pass on contact details to the Clerk.

8) Shropshire Cllr's report:

Shropshire Cllr Harris reported:

- No money will be forthcoming from the HS2 money.
- Green bins – difficulty in booking these, should the deadline be extended? It is noted from social media posts that people will leave their bins on the roadside if they are not paying for these. Bins planned to be collected next year!

- Quality of pothole patching had been raised by Farlow & Oreton and Kinlet PC's and this was debated. Clerk pointed out that she is on a Clerk's Forum and had raised this, together with work cancelled at the last minute and being asked to collect up roadworks signs. Do the repairs get checked by SC officers, are they happy with the standard? It was **RESOLVED that the Clerk puts a motion together, sends it to SALC to check wording, then Cllr Griffen will read this at the AGM if one of the other PC's will support the motion. Is quality of short-term patching cost effective until long term repairs are made?**
- Cllr Butler sent in motion to Government asking for the decision on winter fuel payment to be reversed.

Chairman thanked Cllr Harris for his report.

9) Parish matters/problems:

a) Raised by Cllrs:

- Road signs left after closing roads but work not carried out! Northwood Lane/The Hamlet Road.
 - FP queried as gate is often padlocked. Contact had been made with SC who confirmed that it was a FP. This was at the side of the entrance to Whipple Trees (lodge at the rear of Yew Tree farm). Clerk will look into this and speak to landowner.
 - Drain blocked on the road outside Willowdene and causes a flood.
- b) Any others – none.

10) Correspondence: including all emails forwarded to Cllrs: Taken as read unless comments made:

- Alterations to the Electoral Register
- SALC bulletins
- NALC Bulletins
- RAF Shawbury Helicopter Liaison Group - Newsletter 1
- SC - Garden waste collections - a reminder
- NEW Remembrance 2024 Collection from RBLI – **RESOLVED TO PURCHASE 3 Remembrance Day flags, 1 large, 2 smaller and 1 Union Jack to replace frayed on used in Stottesdon.**
- Special Educational Needs and Disability Experience Survey
- SALC - AGM 30th October 2024 in the Council Chamber, Shirehall, Shrewsbury
- Letter to Chairs of Parish Councils – Shropshire – Crane counselling donation request. **More information is required.**
- THE SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL (FOOTPATH 57 (PART), PARISH OF STOTTESDON) PUBLIC PATH DIVERSION ORDER 2024
- Stottesdon School Playing Field – ACV – **this is being dealt with by SC.**
- Reply from James Griffiths - Hedge Coppicing on Station Road – **dealt with earlier.**
- Any others received after issue of agenda – none.

11) Defibrillator checks:

Clerk asked if anyone would carry out monthly checks, or when notified by The Circuit that these defibs may have been used. Cllr Gutteridge offered to do this on all 3 defibs owned by the PC.

12) Date of next meeting: 28th October 2024

Apologies given by Cllrs Abbiss and Allen.

Payments approved:

Viking – ink cartridges - £81.80

Clerks' salary - £xxx

HMRC – PAYE - £883.61

PKF Littlejohn – audit fee - £252.00

Flags

There being no other business the meeting closed 9.27pm.

Signed: Chairman

Date:

DRAFT