

**Stottesdon & Sidbury  
Parish Council**



**Newsletter  
Summer 2023**

### **Chairman's report from Annual Parish meeting, April 2023:**

First, some relatively good news regarding council tax bills for this year. Councillors decided to reduce the parish council precept for this year by 2.3% which means that the overall annual council tax bill for properties in the parish has risen by 4.8% compared to 5.1% nationally.

Potholes remain a major road hazard in the parish, unfortunately. Some of the worst affected roads are from Almshouse bank to both Duddlewick and Hinton and from Hardwicke Forge to both the ford and to Farlow. The road from Bagginswood to Punches Corner is also in a very poor state. I'm sure there are others, too. We report potholes to Highways every month. The repairs carried out, though, are inadequate. The contractor appears to adopt a "throw and go" approach and the holes reappear a few weeks later. Freda has tried to impress on the Highways department the inadequacy of the repairs numerous times. We have invited them to spend a few hours with us so they can see how poor the roads are but we are still awaiting a reply. The poor state of our roads is putting all road users at increased risk. Central Government has promised extra money for pothole repairs. We must make sure we get our fair share. In the mean-time, please report new potholes using the FixMyStreet app as advised on the County Council website.

Another ongoing problem is roadside litter. Fortunately, we have a number of dedicated litter pickers who are "doing their bit" while out walking/walking the dog etc. Thank you to all those trying to help maintain and improve the local environment. We live in a beautiful area-let's try and keep it that way.

On the subject of roadside verges, we are now into the second season of RSVP (Restoring Shropshire's Verges Project). We've planted wildflower seeds on two verges so far-the long, sweeping verge from the doctors' surgery and the verge from the bottom of Moon House bank towards Hardwicke Farm. Hopefully we will see the fruits of our labour this spring. In June we celebrated the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. We decided to plant some trees around the parish to commemorate the event. And all school age children in the parish were presented with a commemorative coin in a presentation box.

The parish council is currently up to full strength. One of our councillors (John Rogers) resigned due to a health issue but we have since recruited two new councillors, Rob Kennett and Claire Adams.

Finally, I'd like to thank my fellow councillors and our two Shropshire Council representatives, Gwilym Butler and Simon Harris, for their continued support and valuable contributions over the last 12 months. But I'd like to say an especially big thank you to our fantastic parish clerk Freda, who keeps everything ticking along efficiently and doggedly pursues the various county council departments for answers to our requests and problems. She is well known for going the extra mile and I'm sure all the councillors would also have no hesitation in showing their gratitude for the excellent job she does,  
**David Young (chairman)**

**Parish Councillors:**

We have had a change in Parish Councillors and we were up to full capacity until the resignation of Cllr Grey last week. If you are interested in becoming a Councillor representing Sidbury, please contact the Clerk. Councillors details are on the back of this newsletter, together with other helpful contact numbers.

Please remember that Councillors are not paid and carry out this post voluntarily as they are interested in the parish they live in.

**Parish Council Clerk:**

Mrs Freda Morris, has been Clerk for over 37 years and deals with all correspondence, accounts etc on behalf of and upon instructions from the Parish Council.

Freda's contact details are on the back of this newsletter and she can be contacted at all reasonable hours. An answerphone is available, so please leave a message, or send an email.

Freda is always willing to help, but we do ask that people treat her with respect.

**Highway issues:**

If you have a problem with potholes, road signs, flooding etc can we PLEASE ask that you report this via Fix My Street (the same way the Clerk has to).

This is a request from Shropshire Council, which enables them to receive the complaint first hand, with accurate information, description, location of problem and where possible, please take a photograph, as this really does help them locate the problem.

You go onto Shropshire Council, website [www.shropshire.gov.uk](http://www.shropshire.gov.uk) and on the right hand side click on 'report' and follow the instructions from there.

If you do not have access to a computer or mobile phone to report these then please contact the Clerk who will be happy to help.

We now have a new Highways technician, who covers our area, so as much information as possible really helps him.

The Parish Council constantly reports problems to Shropshire Council, some of the problems have been resolved but many still remain outstanding!

**Parking:**

Can we please remind everyone again that parking on the lawns and grassed areas in Glebe Drive is not allowed.

The Parish Council appreciate that parking is very limited for the school but parking along the roadside opposite the school is causing a hazard for other road users, as vehicles coming from the village have to drive on the wrong side of the road.

Spaces are available in Glebe Drive but can we please ask that you do not block residents gates or dropped kerbs or park on the pavements. The Police and Shropshire Council are aware of the problems.

**Trees/hedges:**

Can we please remind landowners to check their roadside trees as we have had several trees/branches come down throughout the parish in the recent high winds and storms.

It is also getting time that the roadside hedges can be cut. Thanks to those who have already cut theirs. Please be mindful of the road signs, bollards and grit boxes as we have had a few damaged recently.

**Road closures:**

There will be some road closures again in and around the parish in the coming months - details on our website. Please be patient as the work needs to be carried out.

**Horse riders/ Car drivers:**

Both cars and horses use our small lanes, most are courteous and respectful.

Please remember that this works both ways! Please thank any driver who passes wide and slow and thank any horse rider who moves to the side to allow a vehicle to pass. Be aware if using your mobile phone! whilst riding you may not be aware of vehicles behind you.

(From a horse rider and car driver)

**Narrow roads:**

Our roads are narrow with not many passing places on some of these roads. Please note passing places when you are driving around and if you meet another vehicle are able to reverse a short distance rather than another having to reverse round a bend please do so.

This is a particular problem on the Chorley road down to Rays Farm bridge and Walton Bank in Stottesdon.

Remember not all road users are local and therefore do not know the roads. We are now in the harvesting season and the large combines, tractors etc fill our roads!

**Chorley road:**

The Parish Council is still pursuing a possible 30mph speed limit through Chorley and are at present 'on a list with other requests'.

We are aware of the amount of complaints made to the Clerk regarding this problem but the decision is made by Shropshire Council and the procedures are lengthy.

Please continue to drive with care through the village, especially when reversing out of drives onto the main road.

**Coronation coins:**

We still have some coins which have not been collected. If you have children who were under the age of 16 on Coronation day (6th May 2023) please contact the Clerk to collect these.

**Grit bins:**

If you are aware of any grit bins which have been damaged please contact Fix My Street.

**From Tina Ranson, Chair of Brown Cleve Patient Group:**

As you probably know the three Doctors have made retirement plans which include suggesting that patients try to purchase the surgery buildings, which will have the twofold benefit of an asset for the community, and also make it much easier to recruit replacement Doctors.

A Committee has been working on how this might happen, and sometime in September there will be a Roadshow at Chorley Village Hall, explaining what investigations have taken place so far, and the direction of travel which is being suggested. Obviously a large amount of money will need to be raised and it is hoped that the project might qualify for Grants various sources. In addition, there is likely to be an opportunity for patients to purchase 'shares' in the entity which is established to own the buildings. More information will be given on this at the Roadshow.

The next meeting of the Patient Group is on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> October at Ditton Priors Village Hall, but we are now told that only 100 people are able to attend. I will send notes around to everyone on the Patient Group mailing list, however, so if you are not already on the list, please send your email address to me: [tina.ranson@outlook.com](mailto:tina.ranson@outlook.com)

**Stottesdon & Cleobury Mortimer Support Group of the Severn Hospice**

The "craft ladies" of this group held a stall at Burwarton show to sell items that they have made to raise funds for this worthy cause. They will be at the Severn Valley Engine House at Highley on 28th & 29th October at the country fair there. This was a very successful day last year and well worth a visit as there are lots of stalls selling items. (Get ready for Christmas early!)

The support group are holding a Christmas fair at Broome Park Farm, Cleobury Mortimer on Saturday 25th November with lots of stalls all raising money to keep our Hospice running.

Just one week later and the last event before Christmas is the Christmas Fair at Astbury Hall, Chelmarsh, WV16 6AU. There will be lots at this event to interest you.

**Please support all you can**

**Footpaths/Bridleways:**

Many footpaths and bridleways are overgrown/impassable due to crops. Can landowners please vigilant in keeping these rights of way clear. Please do not obstruct access with vehicles either.

**Driving while using mobile phones:**

Once again we have received complaints regarding using mobile phones while driving' especially tractors drivers. Please use 'hands free' before an accident happens.

**Cleobury and Highley Safer Neighbourhood Team:**

The Safer Neighbourhood Team are based in Bridgnorth Police Station, Wenlock Road, Bridgnorth, Shropshire, WV16 5BB. However we also operate out of Highley Police Station and have an office at the Market Hall in Cleobury Mortimer. We also cover Ditton Priors, Stottesdon, Eardington, Chelmarsh, Middleton Scriven, Aston Botterill, Billingsley, Burford, Chetton, Farlow, Neen Savage, Sidbury and Middleton Baggot Parishes.

This is a huge area for our present PC and one PCSO to cover.

We now have a new Police Officer - PC Oliver Jones but please remember that he is not personally on duty 24 hours and also on rest days and leave.

Police newsletters can be seen on our website or notice boards.

Team email contact details are: [ch.snt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk](mailto:ch.snt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk)

**Sign up to Neighbourhood Matters - new community messaging service:**

Neighbourhood Matters enables residents, businesses and Community groups to keep in touch with local policing teams. You can choose exactly what type of alert you wish to receive and how you receive them; whether that be by email, text or telephone. Sign up now at:

[www.neighbourhoodmatters.co.uk](http://www.neighbourhoodmatters.co.uk)

You will receive regular emails giving useful advice on how to stop fraud, etc and also notifying you of any 'new scams' going around.

If you see anything suspicious etc please contact the Police - 999 emergencies, 101 non emergency or via the above email address. If things are not reported they cannot act.

When shift patterns, operational duties allow the Police do try to attend as many of our Parish Council meetings as possible.

**Fly tipping:**

We have had a spate of fly tipping in the last few months. If you see anyone doing this please try to get photographs and registration of the vehicles, but PLEASE do not put yourselves in any danger. This can be reported to Shropshire Council via Fix My Street and/or to the Police.

**Dog fouling:**

The Clerk is still receiving complaints regarding dog fouling in the parish, which have all been reported to Shropshire Council.

Please can we remind those who don't pick up after their dogs to do so and for everyone to dispose of this correctly. *Thanks!!*

**Parish Council accounts:**

These are available on our website. 2022/2023 accounts are still with the External Auditors, but have been approved by the Internal Auditor.

### **STOTTESDON OPEN GARDENS**

Showery weather didn't deter visitors to the village Open Gardens on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> July. Over 200 people looked around the nine gardens and took refreshments in the newly restored Parish Church. The Nursing and Hospice charities supported by the national Open Gardens scheme received the £1,000 entrance money and the refreshment crew raised £750 for church funds.

Many thanks to all our gardeners and many others who helped out on the day, and to garden visitors who made this another successful charity fundraiser!

### **PARISH CHURCH HERITAGE PROJECT**

The year-long conservation and restoration work, largely funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund, at St Mary's is now completed and the building is once again open to all – for quiet reflection and heritage visits – daily from about 9am until 5pm (dusk when earlier). Do, please, pop in and see for yourself the new roofs, new lighting and restored ceilings, new servery and much more besides.

Archaeological findings and other research undertaken during the work are to be used in a digital 'explorer trail' and other interpretation materials to 'tell the story' of this ancient building .... at the heart of the parish community for 1000 years.

More extensive community use is currently constrained by the lack of a 'loo' and plans are in hand to provide this – generous donations and a grant from Shropshire's Historic Churches Trust mean we have just half the money needed; an appeal is open for a further £12,500 to finish the job. Please get in touch with churchwarden Clare if you might be able to help with this in any way. Thank you!

### **RINGING THE CHANGES AT THE RECTORY**

After 9 years of selfless and dedicated service in our community, Mark and Alex Daborn are soon moving to pastures new on their retirement.

To mark this occasion, a service of Thanksgiving will be held at St Mary's church *and everyone will be very welcome indeed* at 10.30am on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> September.

From then, until a new Rector is appointed, the two churchwardens will be your main church contacts – Andrew Sierakowski (07934-714149) for Sidbury and Clare Tibbits (01746-718007) for Stottesdon.

*Please note:*

*Whilst every effort is made to accuracy, Stottesdon & Sidbury Parish Council cannot in any circumstances accept responsibility for errors or omissions of advice given in this publication.*

*The opinions expressed do not necessarily represent the views of Stottesdon & Sidbury Parish Council.*

*If anyone would like a copy of this in larger format please contact the Clerk*

**USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS:****CLERK TO THE PARISH COUNCIL**

The Clerk can be contacted at all reasonable hours.

Mrs F Morris  
18 Glebe Drive  
Stottesdon  
Kidderminster  
DY14 8UF

Telephone number: 718453 (answerphone available)

Email - stottesdonpc@btinternet.com

Website: www.shrop.net/stottesdonandsidburypc

**PARISH COUNCILLORS:**

Mrs R Abbiss	718451		
Mr D Young	718684	Dr R Kennett	
Mrs S Crawford	718126	Mr M Pearce	718404
Mr S Allen	718623	Mrs Z Griffin	07980314088
Dr D Powell	718863	Ms Claire Adams	07342654250

**Shropshire Councillors:**

Gwilym Butler	07801099015	Simon Harris	07833094145
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Stottesdon School	718617	
Shropshire Gateway Nursery	718769	
Stottesdon/Sidbury Church	718127	
Chorley Village Hall	718700 (bookings)	
Doctors	712672	
Philip Dunne, MP	01584 872187	
Shropshire Council	0345 678 9000 (general enquiries)	
Lacon Childe School	01299 270312	
Bridgnorth Endowed School	762103	
WI (Helena Hale)	718012	
Power Loss Helpline	0800 6783 105	
Mobile Library	01584 813600	
Crimestoppers	0900 555111	
Rural Stress Network	024 7641 2916	
NHS Direct	111	
Shropshire Rural Housing	01743 874848	
Severn Trent Water (Emergencies)	0800 7834444	
Duck Inn	718267	
Fighting Cocks	718270	
Shropshire Registration Service	0845 6789016	
Police	101 non emergency call or 999 emergencies	

**Tree Wardens:**

Wade Muggleton (Stottesdon)	718753
Nathan Home (Chorley)	07966365157