

## **Stottesdon and Sidbury Parish Council**

The **Annual Parish Meeting** will be held at **Chorley Village Hall** on **Monday April 7<sup>th</sup> 2025 at 7.30pm**.

Local Government electors for the Parish will be entitled to vote at the meeting which will be open to the public (LGA 1972, ss13(1) and 32 (1))

*This is the meeting of the Parish, and all parishioners are welcome to attend and find out what is going on where you live and put new ideas forward for consideration.*

*Tea and coffee will be served.*

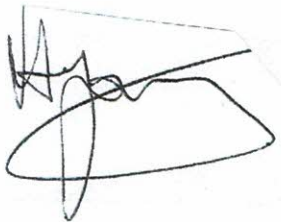
**Guest speaker will be:**

**PC 21624 Nicholas NOLAN**

**Safer Neighbourhood Officer | Cleobury & Highley SNT | West Mercia Police**

**Agenda:**

00. Chairman's welcome and introduction of guest speaker:
01. Apologies
02. Minutes of last meeting – April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2024
03. Matters arising from minutes:
04. Chairman's Annual Report
05. Shropshire Councillor's reports
06. Organisation reports:
  - a) Stottesdon School/Nursery
  - b) Chorley Village Hall/Show
  - c) WI
  - d) Stottesdon/Sidbury Church
  - e) Chorley Chapel
  - f) Lengthsman Scheme
07. Parish problems
08. Chairman's closing comments
10. Date of next meeting – 28<sup>th</sup> April 2025 (Parish Council meeting)



David Young - Chairman

## **Stottesdon & Sidbury Parish Council**

**Annual Parish meeting held on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2024 at 7.30pm in Chorley Village Hall.**

**00. Chairman's welcome:**

Chairman welcomed those present to the meeting.

**01. Apologies:**

Received from Shropshire Cllr S Harris, S Allen, Mrs K Jones, Mrs S Vincent.

**02. Minutes of last meeting – April 17th 2023:**

These were proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED to approve.**

**03. Matters arising from minutes:**

Broadband still not good in Sidbury, good in Chorley but not very good in some parts of Stottesdon.

**04. Shropshire Councillor's reports: Agreed to bring this item forward.**

Cllr Butler/Harris gave the attached report. *Attachment 1- 2 pages*

- Green waste – proposal is to charge £52 per year and SC are looking at possible closing the recycling centres one day a week.
- Domiciliary Care - The aim is to keep people in their own homes. Council tax will not be able to pay for care. 320 in care pre covid with over 700 after covid at a cost of £5-10,000 per week.
- Local Plan should be adopted in next year – 500 homes needed on perhaps windfall sites in our area. 200 houses already in Cleobury.
- Queried if Shirehall closes where will SALC etc move to? The site is full of asbestos. Split to sites that SC already own. Magistrates Court might stay.

**05. Chairman's Annual Report:**

It will not surprise you that I'm starting my report with the pothole situation in the parish. With all the heavy rain over the past few months it has become noticeable that the situation has deteriorated dramatically. As fast as pot holes are repaired they seem to disintegrate. I've observed the highway gangs putting tarmac into wet potholes only for them to break down within a few weeks ; the Highways department itself has admitted that this process is futile so one must wonder why they continue to pursue this method. For our worse affected stretches of road only a full resurfacing job will do.

The PC continues to report problems on a regular basis and I know many of you use the FixMyStreet app to report them as well. Reporting the problem via the app is easy, getting a satisfactory resolution, however, is not. We've seen reports where the "job" has been "closed" as "completed" when in fact the situation has only improved marginally. Some potholes have clearly not been addressed and those that have seem to break down far too quickly.

Station Road from Stottesdon towards the Duddlewick junction and then from the junction to the hamlet itself is bordering on dangerous for all road users. We are using all the levers we have to get this sorted as soon as possible.

Some good news though; the road from Bagginswood to the main road at Kinlet is due to be resurfaced in June. At last! We have been reporting this stretch of road for many years and any

repairs done so far have been unsatisfactory. And the road from the school to Riddings Lane will also be resurfaced later this summer.

You may not be aware but our Lengthsman, Mark Pearce, maintains the drains and drainage ditches on a regular basis. This is work Shropshire Council should be doing. Without his input I'm sure the pothole and flooding situations would be even worse.

Shropshire Council will receive an HS2 windfall payment in the next financial year. Let's hope the council spends it wisely on long term solutions to our pothole problems.

Moving on to another road-related problem, namely litter. Compared to other local parishes our litter problem is not too bad. This is mainly due to 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 so let's try and keep it that way. Dog walkers, please remember to pick up your dog poo and either dispose of it at home or use one of the dog poo litter bins provided.

On the subject of roadside verges, we are now into the third 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 with a colourful display of wild flowers. Maybe you can identify a small area of your garden, if you have one, where you could plant some wild flowers or create a pond or other wildlife habitat to help combat the nature crisis? We need to increase biodiversity in our gardens to help pollinators (bees and butterflies etc.) whose numbers have fallen dramatically recently.

In May we celebrated the King's coronation. We have planted two trees around the parish to commemorate the event; in Stottesdon at the bottom of Almshouse Bank on the grass triangle at the junction to Hinton, and at Sidbury, near the church. We are still looking for a suitable location for one in Chorley. It was very sad to hear about the King's diagnosis recently. We wish him a speedy recovery.

Two of our councillors, Dr. David Powell and Laura Grey resigned last year, and I would like to thank them both for their contribution during their time on council. We have, though, recruited Andrew Sierakowski who lives in Sidbury on to the council. He has invaluable experience and knowledge in planning issues due to his previous planning roles with different councils. We still have a vacancy on the parish council so if you are interested in joining us please contact Freda initially.

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.

## **06. Organisation reports:**

**a) Stottesdon School/Nursery:** *Attachment 2:* Report received from Mrs K Jones and read by Zoe Griffin

### **b) Chorley Village Hall/Show:**

**Chorley Village Hall Annual Report to Stottesdon and district Parish Council 22/4/24 from Chair Person Claire Bradley**

- Chorley Village Hall has had another busy and successful year.
- The regular users and classes continue to meet at the hall with the weekly long standing Wednesday morning Yoga and Friday morning (& from April 2024 Tuesday evening

Pilates classes) . Contact Jennifer Gennard for more information on the yoga classes and Nicky Long for the Pilates classes The popular monthly Film Club continues on the second Thursday of the month, contact Joe Bubb for more details. The Parish Council meets on the last Monday of the month contact Freda Morris and the local WI meets every alternate third Wednesday of the month. Contact Helena Horton

- The coffee and chat afternoons resumed in the new year, trialling a Darts afternoon and a board games afternoon.
- We've seen some wonderful new events in the past year, including a FOSPS table top swaps & sales childrens clothes event, a training course hosted by Shropshire Wellbeing Team introducing a Let's Talk Falls afternoon plus a Move It session, aimed at sharing useful tips on how to prevent falls in the home and demonstrated some tips for keeping mobile moving safely around the home. These proved very popular with local residents designed to help keep people out of hospital and keeping well.
- A village bluebell walk from the village hall in May with a picnic at Kinlet was a great success.
- A Halloween trail in October
- The popular Malt night whiskey tasting in December
- Also in December The great Christmas lights switch on starting with refreshments at the seasonally decorated hall, plus meeting Santa, followed with the trail around the village led by Santa's sleigh lighting up the way all in aid of raising monies for the Bridgnorth Food Bank.
- The Hall continues to be hired for private parties and for some business use (training events) throughout the year.
- Bridgnorth Food Bank collection from the Chapel has continued over the year which is supported by regular donations from local residents.
- Several maintenance jobs have taken place in the past year both inside and outside the hall. A new hearing loop was also installed.

Thanks to the Committee and volunteers for keeping the village hall well maintained, ensuring another successful year for the hall as a resource for the local residents.

Contacts:

Bookings for the hall: Bookings on 07726 763833

Film Club: Joe Bubb 07808 162891

Yoga: Jennifer Gennard 07968 817643

Pilates: Nicky Long 07941 851132

WI: Helena Hale 07383 981800

- Move it classes start in September 2024: Rachel Steele 07972 778241
- Chair Person: Claire Bradley 07505083597

a) **WI** - no report received.

b) **Stottesdon/Sidbury Church** - *attachment 3 and 4 respectively*

c) **Chorley Chapel:**

Hi everyone, apologies if not able to be with you but I have two meetings already booked today. My report for Chorley chapel April 2024., Sue Vincent:

Since the last report we are delighted at the chapel with our new wood burner. It makes a real difference to warmth and welcome. After the summer cream teas in the chapel gardens our 'warm hubs' have continued through the winter months. And when the

weather improves we look forward to being outside again for tea and cakes. We are so grateful for Dave Alan's work mowing the grass around the chapel, making it more like a park or garden.

The 'men's weekend retreats' continue through the year, well attended and seeing lives changed by God's grace and intervention for good. The Bible group started meeting in my home last May and continues with lively discussion of scripture and the life of Jesus. We are currently doing a Christian 'Alpha' course and had a wonderful day together last Saturday at the chapel with videos, prayer and of course food!

The chapel is used for an exercise class on Tuesday and Friday mornings. More bookings have been received for various groups even up to November which is great. We have a small team called 'open the book' which takes Bible stories into Stottesdon school each week for assembly. If you are interested in doing a bit of acting and would like to join us please get in touch- it's such a lot of fun 😊

The electrical work is due to start soon and could be very costly. However the £3000 plus was all freely given for the wood burner to be installed and so we trust in a God who promises to supply all our needs according to His riches.

What a beautiful area we live in, let's continue to look after it and the folks who live here.

d) **Lengthsman Scheme** - Mark Pearce reported that it was ongoing trying to keep the water off the roads, as soon as ditches/drains were cleared they were filling up again. Mark was thanked for all his work.

07. **Parish problems**

Potholes!

08. **Chairman's closing comments:**

Chairman thanked everyone for attending.

09. **Date of next meeting** – 29<sup>th</sup> April 2024 (Parish Council meeting)

**There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.10pm.**

**Signed: Chairman**

**Date:**

## **Annual Report Local April 2024**

### **Healthy People : Healthy Economy : Healthy Environment : Healthy Organisation**

#### **1. Roads**

During the year we have had a huge investment into our main route the A4117 with resurfacing done to the County boundary along with work on Hopton Bank. Agreement has also been given to schedule in a scheme of speed reduction over the Clee Hill common which we are awaiting a commencement date.

The unclassified lanes are a serious issue within our Division; with the thousands of miles we have across the county and no central government funding to date for their repair, reconstruction, or to resurface. We have already got some lanes in the Capital Programme for the financial year 2024/25 . These are in the Parishes of Stottesdon, Hopton Wafers and Neen savage. We constantly lobby Shropshire Council and our MPs for further funding for the unclassified lanes. This is a major challenge in the current financial climate that the Council faces .

#### **2. Neighbourhood Plan**

In late March we are pleased to report that the Neighbourhood Plan for Cleobury Mortimer has been adopted by Shropshire Council. The Plan will now form part of the Local Plan which is currently with National inspectors and will hopefully become the adopted Local Plan later this year. Once adopted all planning applications will have to concur with the Plan. The adoption of the Neighbourhood Plan will mean that Cleobury will retain more of the CIL money to use as it wishes ie without Shropshire Council needing to approve.

#### **3. Flooding**

We have experienced the wettest winter on record in living memory which has created flooding issues to homes reported in Kinlet, Cleobury Mortimer, Milson and Neen Sollars, and Hopton Wafers. Property owners who were affected were able to apply for government led grants issued by the Council. The Council has a flood officer who can be contacted regarding flooding who is [John.Bellis@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:John.Bellis@shropshire.gov.uk). Water running off agricultural land is becoming a serious threat to the erosion of our roads especially the rural lanes. We urge the landowners to ensure the drainage from their land is routed via cleared ditches and drains into an appropriate tributary or drainage system - and not onto the Highway. Help may be available from the local Councils who run a Lengthman scheme; where joint funding from local precept is matched by Shropshire Council to undertake local work - where the needs are identified for improvements on Council owned land.

#### **4. Financial Challenges**

Local Councils nationally are under pressure with finances due to the huge increase in demand for Children and Adult Social care. Shropshire is not alone and changes in the ways existing services are delivered will be looked at for alternative forms of funding or if they are still viable or needed in the community. In our area this will open the debate to the future funding for the Library at Cleobury

Country, Leisure Centre, Car parks and Street Scene to name a few. We will be working with Shropshire Council and Local Town and Parish Councils to address - and debate the future of any services that affect our area.

#### 5.Sewage Pollution

Our rivers are in poor condition as the result of partially treated sewage releases, agricultural run off and run off from the highways - and this includes the Rhea. The number of releases is monitored and we have been advised that the Rivers Trust website will soon be updated to cover the releases in 2023 [Sewage Map | The Rivers Trust](#) . A new Sewage Plant is planned for Cleobury, which will hopefully improve capacity (less releases) and install more up to date treatment (cleaner grey water entering the river) – however, the Council’s Planning Dept is unable to require STW to monitor and report the daily quality / condition of the run off.

#### 6.Litter

We would like to thank the groups and individuals that regularly collect the litter that continues to be strewn throughout our towns and villages and along our roads and lanes. Although the Council will organise a litter pick the reality is that without the voluntary sector taking the initiative the litter will just continue to increase.

#### 7.Cleobury Mortimer Medical Centre

This year the Cleobury Mortimer medical centre has re launched its Patients’ Voice. This is very good news for all of us that use the Centre – as it gives us a chance to feedback any issues, and it gives the Centre the opportunity to ask the wider Community to assist as it takes care of our health needs. The Centre is increasing the services it offers eg including a physio; mental health and dietary advice. Please contact Kim at [kim.murrells@nhs.net](mailto:kim.murrells@nhs.net) if you wish to get involved.

#### 8.Policing

The (Highley & Cleobury) area has a new (but very experienced) Safer Neighbourhood Officer and we continue to encourage him to visit the Town and Parish Councils over the coming year. Crime stats are available at [Cleobury and Highley | Police.uk \(www.police.uk\)](#) – though it is acknowledged that this info does not tell the whole story.

Cllrs Gwilym Butler and Simon Harris

Cleobury Mortimer Division



# Stottesdon C. of E. Primary School

The Shropshire Gateway Educational Trust



April 2024

## Annual Parish Meeting Report

Stottesdon CofE Primary School and Nursery continues to thrive (97 school aged pupils + 26 pupils attending Nursery - some year groups are full others have a few places). Below are some highlights of our work and priorities:

- [Outcomes for pupils in 2023](#) continued the strong pattern the school has a reputation for.
- As a school, we continue to run four classes and a Nursery (Nursery; Reception; Y1/2 (infants); Y3/4 (lower juniors); Y5/6 (upper juniors)) with an ambitious [curriculum offer](#) in all subjects. The school benefits from specialised teaching in RE, Music, French, History/Geography and many aspects of PE.
- The school offers a breadth of opportunities and experiences e.g. range of music lessons; sports participation; gardening club; choir; wide ranging enrichment and educational visits; bikeability; crucial crew (life skills and emergency services); seasonal and religious celebrations; holiday and wrap around clubs; swimming and a residential for our older pupils.
- As a CofE school, we have strong links with the church and were delighted to participate in the [re-opening in the summer of 2023](#). Children enjoyed activities to re-engage them with the history and importance of the church. Children were also fortunate enough to be funded to attend workshops to design and make tiles at Jackfield tile museum. The tiles will have created a permanent display in the church.....an updated version of the 1860 tiles by the Altar. We look forward to our [joint church and school fete on June 21<sup>st</sup> 2024](#) and welcome the community to come and join us for the evening.
- The school benefits from being part of the [Shropshire Gateway Educational Trust](#) (for which Katie Jones is now the Executive Headteacher - based 2 days a week across the Trust). Distributed leadership is a strength of the school and Caroline McKay is Assistant Headteacher. The Trust has many operational benefits for governance, finance, facilities management and finance.
- As a rural school our wrap around care and holiday club is an important asset to the community with little or no other provision locally. Charges are kept to the minimum to cover costs.
- Funding and finances are increasingly challenging in the national context. Particular challenges include: services to support families; SEND; school budgets to sustain levels of staffing to support pupil need; capital funding for buildings maintenance and repair.
- If you would like to gain further information about our school the [website](#) is a good place to start and the [weekly newsletter](#) keeps everyone informed.

Stottesdon C. of E. Primary School, Cleobury Mortimer, Nr. Kidderminster, Worcs. DY14 8UE

Tel: 01746 718617 Email: [admin@stottesdon-school.co.uk](mailto:admin@stottesdon-school.co.uk) Website: [www.stottesdon-school.co.uk](http://www.stottesdon-school.co.uk)

Head Teacher: Mrs. K. Jones Chair Of Governors: Ms R. Datlen





## St Mary's Parish Church, Stottesdon

### Churchwarden's Report for 2023 to the Annual Parish Meetings (APCM and APM)

#### 2023 was an eventful year at the church – these are the headlines:

- ❖ We joined the entire nation in celebrating the Coronation in early May and, led by Rector Mark, we raised our voices in the novel 'God save the King!' and then shared the loyal toast after Sunday's service!
- ❖ The heritage restoration project was celebrated in July, on completion of the major re-roofing project, the drainage renewals, the new west end flooring and kitchen, the repointed stonework and the better lighting. The provision of the planned toilet on the site is a continuing 'work in progress'.
- ❖ We welcomed three new faces at the PCC table – Mr & Mrs Mike Musgrove and Mrs Julia Evans joining - after Mr & Mrs Derek Overton stood down as trustees after many years of dedicated service at St Mary's.
- ❖ We bade farewell to Rev & Mrs Mark Daborn on their retirement in September – and then set about running the parish "in vacancy" with the splendid news that the Bishop intends to appoint a new Rector. With a fresh recruitment round starting soon, we're hopeful that they'll be here with us later this summer.
- ❖ An appeal was opened to fund the reinstatement of the Treble Bell – the last of the tower's 'ring of four' needing restoration. With grateful thanks to Tower Capt. Derek and Project Lead Clive, we can report that the monies and faculty permission for this work are now in place: full circle ringing will be possible again once the bell is taken down, repaired and then re-hung during 2024.
- ❖ New ways of involving the wider community, and explaining the history, the treasures, and the restoration of St Mary's are all part of the Lottery Heritage funded project. So, at Easter 2024, we launched the new self-guided church tour and public access to over 40 short videos showing St Mary's [in "Time-Team" fashion] 'behind the scenes'. The attractive 'Edwin' logo above, named for Eadwine of Mercia (copied from Medieval stained glass in church) is used throughout to draw attention to the new heritage interpretation and media.

Clare Tibbits  
Churchwarden  
April 2024

## **Parish of Holy Trinity, Sidbury**

# **Churchwarden's Report for 2023 to the Stottesdon and Sidbury Parish Council, Annual Parish Meeting**

In our usual small scale way 2023 continued to be a busy year at Holy Trinity in Sidbury with the regular monthly services continuing right through the year, including the Harvest Festival and Christmas Service.

The main event of year was of course the departure of Mark Daborn as Rector in September. Mark and Alex would be much missed, not only in Sidbury but right across the Benefice. The process of finding a replacement commenced and it is hoped that an appointment can be made in 2024.

We had also hoped to have our Quinquennial Review in 2023, but due to circumstances beyond our control this has been delayed into 2024, although hopefully this should not provide too many surprises.

We now look forward to organising a number of events at the church in 2024.

Andrew Sierakowski  
Church Warden

April 2024