

*Stottesdon and Sidbury  
Parish Council*



*Newsletter  
September 2024*

## Annual Parish Meeting April 2024

Although some of you attended the Annual Parish meeting, we thought it was important to relay this again even though some of the information may well be out of date now!

### Chairman's 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 councillor's, 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. **\* vacancy now filled.**

Finally, I'd like to thank my fellow councilors 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 councilors would also have no hesitation in showing their gratitude for the excellent job she does,

**David Young (chairman)**

**\* update : unfortunately Shropshire Council recently cancelled the resurfacing of this road. Some pot holes have been filled in but the road remains unsafe in many parts. We will continue to press for this busy road to be resurfaced ASAP.**

**Roadworks/road closures:**

Sadly we have had the long road closure in The Deserts (Brooksmeeing), due to a collapsed culvert. We appreciate that there was a delay in getting work started, but the land was so wet to start with and extensive surveys/work planning had to be adhered to. It was very sad that people chose to ignore the traffic lights, although we were aware of the lights failing at times. The lights were damaged on several occasions, and due to the road surface deteriorating the road had to be closed permanently.

This caused a lot of complaints from Chorley residents regarding vehicles speeding and the verges being churned up. Complaints regarding both issues were reported to the Police and Shropshire Council. The Police attended and monitored speed, but a 'temporary' speed limit was not approved. We are still trying to get a permanent 30mph speed limit approved, but this takes a long time and many consultations! We are doing our very best! **\*now completed!**

The Parish Council has no control over the work being carried out. Please remember councilors also live in the parish and are inconvenienced as much as residents.

**Stottesdon to Duddlewick Road:**

This stretch of road has been reported to Shropshire Council as unsafe many times. Some potholes have been filled but Shropshire Council has recently informed us that

they need to improve drainage from the road before they can carry out any permanent repairs. We will be keeping a close eye on this.

#### **Speeding/Parking:**

These are the causes for many complaints reported by parishioners and the parish council has reported them to the Police numerous times. Sadly one of our PCSOs recently passed away, which left us with just one PCSO to cover the whole Cleobury Mortimer and Highley area. However, we are now very pleased to report that we have PC Nolan as our Police Officer and PCSO Declan has joined PCSO Jacqui Fletcher in our area. They have now been trained to use the speed guns and they visited Station Road recently as that was where most of the complaints came from. They did not find any speeding drivers despite doing many speed checks. They have promised to return to carry out another speed survey.

Parking, particularly outside Stottesdon School and in The Square, is a problem and will no doubt start again when the new term begins. There are spaces in Glebe Drive, but PLEASE DO NOT PARK ON THE GRASS or in front of dropped kerbs. Residents are very tolerant but do object to access to their properties being blocked. Please remember emergency vehicles also need to access these properties.

Please be aware that the tractors everyone seems to think are speeding, are probably not, and cannot be driven at the speeds stated. Perceived speed is not actual speed. We will all be glad of tractors in the winter when we have snow which needs clearing and when hedges need cutting, as well as helping to put food on our plates. Everyone should be driving with care on our roads. We are a farming community, and you never know what might come round the next bend - lorry, tractor, combine, emergency vehicle, horse rider, cyclist or even an escaped animals! Please respect other road users and observe the speed limit.

#### **Dog mess:**

This seems to be a permanent problem. Please pick up after your dog poo and use the bins provided or take the bags home with you for disposal. Please do not throw the bags into the hedges or fields - this is dangerous and can kill animals.

#### **Lengthsman Scheme:**

Mark Pearce is contracted to carry out this work for the Parish Council, and as the Chairman said in his report at the beginning, the roads would have been a lot worse during the heavy storms without his help. We do get a small grant towards this work from Shropshire Council, but it has now been cut by 75%. Mark keeps junctions visible, clears drains and removes debris from the road etc.

#### **Horses:**

It was saddening to see that the Horse signs, put in place by the British Horse Society, with approval from Shropshire Council, were damaged/removed on the same evening they were put up in Chorley. This was deplorable behaviour - the signs were put there to make the road safer for everyone.



We are aware that not everyone likes horses on the roads but they have a right to be there, the same applies to walkers, cyclists. As mentioned above we ask everyone to treat each other with respect, there are 2 Equestrian Centres in the Parish, together with a lot of horse owners. We do ask that hi-viz clothing etc. is worn by riders to keep everyone as safe as possible.

New rules are:

- slow down to below 10mph to pass horses and riders
- give horses and riders at least two metres space when overtaking them
- don't overtake horses and riders until they can give a two-metre clearance
- give extra space when passing horses, riders, and horse-drawn vehicles at night or in bad weather
- not cut across horse riders or horse-drawn vehicles when turning into or out of a junction, or changing lane
- No beeping horns or revving vehicles.

And when riding around horses, cyclists should:

- slow down and let horses and riders know they are there, by ringing the bell or calling out politely
- give way to horse riders on bridleways
- not undertake horses and riders
- remember that horses can be startled, and prepare to slow down and stop not ride closely to horses or horse drawn vehicles, or at high speed

**Electoral Roll:**

You have all recently received your letter from Shropshire Council regarding registration on the electoral roll for the parish. Please make sure this is completed—if you are not on the electoral roll you will not be able to vote in any forthcoming elections.

**Conservation Area:**

Stottesdon Village is a Conservation Area, therefore you cannot cut trees down without permission. Building houses and extensions etc. need planning permission. If you are not sure PLEASE ask the Planning Department before you commence work.

**Planning applications:**

The Parish Council are only consultees and although Councillors do try to visit sites, it is Shropshire Council who make the final decision, NOT the Parish Council. Councilors remain vigilant though until the work has been completed.

**Parish Council meetings:**

These are held monthly in Chorley Village Hall at 7.30pm - usually the fourth Monday of the month. All agendas are on the Parish Council website and on the parish council noticeboards.

We have 'parishioner's time' at the beginning of every meeting where you are encouraged to come along and bring up any problems in the parish with the FULL Council. You don't have to sit through the whole meeting, but you are welcome to!

**Roadside trees/overhanging shrubs:**

Can we remind everyone who owns roadside trees to check these and seek any advice needed before they become a danger. Please also cut back overhanging shrubs from roadsides and footpaths as some are causing visibility issues.

**Parish Council Clerk:**

As many of you will know, Freda Morris has been Clerk for 38 years and is willing to help anyone whenever she can. Freda has had her own health issues for the last 8 years but has still carried on! It is not an easy job trying to keep everyone happy, hence the huge turnover of Clerks in other parishes. Please treat Freda with respect and report any problems by email or telephone and not use her private mobile and text messages. Please try to keep these calls/and messages within 'office hours', unless it is an emergency. Many highway problems must now be reported via Fix My Street so if possible please use this system as the problem is then reported 'first hand'. We are aware that many of you do use this already—thanks!

**New Councillor:**

We have now filled the one remaining vacancy on the Parish Council and welcomed Robin Gutteridge from Homelands, Chorley, onto the Council at our August meeting. Robin has a wealth of knowledge and her experience in many areas will be useful for the council going forwards.

**School Grounds:**

On behalf of the school, can we ask anyone wishing to use the school grounds, to use the field and the small tarmacked area just through the double gate and NOT the two playgrounds as damage has been caused to the school buildings. Please leave the areas tidy, take any litter home or use the bins provided and do not allow dogs to foul the area.

**Chorley Village Hall** - The Film Club has started again. Raffles at any events held in the Village Hall in September and October will be for MacMillan Nurses. Please keep an eye on the noticeboards.

**Apple Day - 5th October 12noon—3pm at The Fighting Cocks.** Admission is free, but a minimum of £5 donation on the day towards the cost of providing and maintaining the apple milling and pressing equipment. £10 for larger quantities. Bring your apples and pears to press and clean bottles to take your juice home.

**Stottesdon Open Gardens:** This will be on 26th April 2025 12noon-5pm. Volunteers to open gardens, help stewarding, selling tickets etc. is required. Please contact Wade on 718753 or Claire on 718007 for further details.

## **BROWN CLEE MEDICAL PRACTICE**

**PATIENT PARTICIPATION GROUP AGM AND OPEN MEETING Tuesday  
29th October 7.00 – 8.00 pm (doors open 6.30)**

**Ditton Priors Village Hall**

### **AGM AG E N D A**

- 1. Chair report**
- 2. Treasurer report**
- 3. Resignation of current interim committee**
- 4. Election of Committee for 2024/25**
- 5. Followed by OPEN MEETING - Agenda to follow separately.**

The PPG would really welcome a member from the Stottesdon/ Chorley area joining the committee in order to represent the needs and issues of patients in this area. Anyone who is interested should contact: [browncleppg@gmail.com](mailto:browncleppg@gmail.com) as soon as possible.

#### **18-30 years?**

The PPG needs your views.....

It is our duty to seek views from all groups of patient using the Practice, and at the moment we have no idea about your needs and priorities.

Please sign up to be part of the group chat with the PPG about your experience of the Medical Practice just 3 times a year. No meeting! Via email, telephone or Zoom.

[browncleppg@gmail.com](mailto:browncleppg@gmail.com) or speak to Tina Ranson 07790230038

*Practice reception staff are having to deal with an increasing number of patients being rude, nasty and accusatory towards them. This is totally unacceptable. There are genuine reasons why there are fewer appointments available at the moment, and the receptionists cannot control this and have to work with the appointments on the system, some of which are designated for specific purposes. The Practice has a zero tolerance to this behaviour and have the right to expel patients from their list (see the policies on their website). PLEASE be kind to these people, they are doing a job trying their best to help everyone!*

**Stottesdon & Sidbury Parish Council will not be held responsible for any inaccuracies in this newsletter. If this is required in a different size please contact the Clerk.**



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

The Clerk can be contacted at 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](http://www.shrop.net/stottesdonandsidburypc)

**PARISH COUNCILLORS:**

Mrs R Abbiss	718451	Miss C Adams	07342654250
Mr D Young	718684	Dr R Kennett	07972732598
Mrs S Crawford	718126	Mr M Pearce	718404
Mr S Allen	718623	Mrs Z Griffin	07980314088
Mr A Sierakowski	718187	Dr R Gutteridge	07908778190

**Shropshire Councillors:**

Gwilym Butler	07801099015	Simon Harris	0783309414
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**Other useful numbers:**

Stottesdon School	718617
Shropshire Gateway Nursery	718769
Stottesdon/Sidbury Church	718127
Chorley Village Hall	718437 (bookings)
Doctors	712672
Stuart Anderson, 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	08457 331331
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

**Tree Wardens:**

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