

## **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 Bagginwood 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 swops & 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 Malti 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:**