

Stottesdon & Sidbury Parish Council

Annual Parish Council meeting held on Monday 22nd May 2023 at 7.30pm in Chorley Village Hall.

Present: Cllrs D Young (Chairman), D Powell (Vice Chairman), M Pearce, Z Griffin, S Allen, R Abbiss, C Adams, R Kennett, S Crawford.

Shropshire Cllr: S Harris

Clerk: Mrs F Morris

Public: six

Guest Speakers: Lezley Picton, Leader Shropshire Council and Andy Wilde, Head of Highways, Shropshire Council.

1) Election of Officers:

a) Chairman: It was proposed, seconded, and **RESOLVED that Cllr Young continue as Chairman.**

b) Acceptance of Office by Chairman: This was signed by Cllr Young and witnessed by Clerk.

c) Election of Vice-Chairman: It was proposed, seconded, and **RESOLVED that Cllr Powell continue as Vice-Chairman.**

d) Acceptance of Office by Vice Chairman. This was signed by Cllr Powell and witnessed by Clerk.

e) Election of SALC reps and any others as deemed necessary:

Cllrs Abbiss and Griffin were prepared to continue as SALC representatives, and the Personnel Committee had recently been approved (Cllrs Allen, Powell, Griffin, and Crawford).

2) Guest Speakers: Lezley Picton and Andy Wilde – meeting suspended for this item:

Andy Wilde, Head of Highways, Shropshire Council thanked the PC for the invite.

Andy explained that he had been Head of Highways for 3 years and this had been a challenging time.

Main points raised were:

- In 2018 Kier were granted the contract to carry out work for SC.
- Shropshire had a huge backlog of defects to deal with then Covid struck!
- Started to implement series of different contracts, Kier furloughed staff. Tarmac and Concrete depots were closing.
- Recruited individuals to give different ideas so sent out two trucks with bags of tarmac to deal with emergencies.
- 2 years on – 24 operational staff (direct labour) and carry out 62% of pothole repairs themselves, which is working out cheaper.
- SC putting more money into highways. Inflation etc has impacted.
- With this being a rural county, roads have suffered with farm machinery getting bigger/heavier than 10 years ago; home shopping etc has all impacted on the roads.
- Dept of Transport are aware of the issues and have been lobbying Ministers. Road edges broken, ditches crushed, rural drainage issues. Not enough money has been spent on ditches/drainage.
- Keen to see Lengthsman Scheme happening.
- Fix My Street, implemented by Steve Smith has been used lots receiving comments both positive/negative. Andy thinks it should be called 'Report My Problem.' It has relieved Officers in receiving lots of emails to deal with. One a report is received it is sent to the necessary department for action.
- Laura Howells is the dedicated Officer to deal with the Community.
- Ability to plan now round harvesting as they are when roads are closed it causes huge diversions.
- Signage of closures is a huge issue with people not knowing where the closure is – road closed four miles ahead etc!
- Surface dressing being carried out, which protects the road for a few years.

- Toughest time of the year now trying to get potholes etc repaired.
- Winter maintenance – all operatives called out. DLO – grass cutters etc also help with mini gritters.
- Grit bins – 1800 mapped on the system and are filled on a schedule.

Andy finished his presentation and handed over to Lezley Picton:

- Lezley confirmed she had been in post 2 years and has been out to other PC's and can understand what the issues are.
- Lezley briefly spoke about the cost of Children, Adoption and Adult Social Care.
- Every £5 of Council Tax - £4 is spent on social care, and pointed out that it is cheaper to do things in urban areas.
- Care workers - one-third cost of residents in a home (41500- £2000 per week) but there is a shortage of workers.
- Customer Service – 38,000 calls being dealt with. Hours are being looked at.
- Shropshire Plan Review – getting it right for rural communities.

Lezley finished her presentation, and the Chairman opened the meeting for questions:

- Both Lezley and Andy were thanked for their work by a resident who expressed concern regarding 'signing off' work before it was finished – verges/drainage are historic issues in these rural areas. Andy was aware of the issues the resident was referring to and will investigate this further.
- A resident complained about the parking outside Stottesdon School and mentioned one car had been left blocking the pavement while no doubt the occupant went on the school trip. A lady coming up the road with a twin pushchair had to walk in the road to get passed. Clerk confirmed that she had seen this too.
- Parents regularly block the pavement while dropping/collecting children at school which causes problems for pedestrian and large vehicles to get passed.

Andy said he would speak to the relevant department regarding this. Clerk and Cllrs pointed out that this has been an ongoing problem for years, Officers had been out, Police had visited, the Fighting Cocks had offered the use of their car park, but parents just continue to park there. The school regularly put reminders in their newsletters asking parents to park considerately for other road users/residents.

- Lengthsman Scheme queried whether this scheme was to be expanded and more money given to the parishes. It was questioned whether there was and training available for the Lengthsman, who could fill potholes immediately and sort out drainage.
- Disappointment expressed regarding the standard of pothole filling, some filled with a few buckets of tar but back out in a few days. It was questioned if the work was inspected and did it meet required standard.
- Parish Council were told that water running off fields was the cause of problems on two adopted lanes in the parish, farmers/residents strongly disputed this! They are not only used by farm vehicles but postmen, delivery people etc.

Andy confirmed that there is 2 years left on the Kier contract, changes due later this year.

Before and after pictures are taken of work carried out now and 93% of defect repairs meet standards.

Traffic lights queried on Westwood Lane, Bridgnorth as they have been there a long time with no work. Andy confirmed there is a badger's sett there and must wait for appropriate permissions/time to deal with repairs.

RSVP mentioned as last year signs were mowed over after wildflowers were planted. PC did request that these were not mowed, will this happen again this year? If signs are in place, then they are told not to mow. It was also questioned if mowing the verges could be passed to the Lengthsman.

Shropshire Cllr S Harris reminded the PC that the Boundary Review is working its way through with comments required by 10th July.

The Chairman thanked both Lezley and Andy for attending the meeting, any feedback will come to the Clerk, and they left the meeting.

3) Public participation – meeting suspending for this item.

Residents who remained came to listen regarding the planning application 9a and had submitted comments to SC and explained their concerns to the Councillors.

Meeting opened at 8.54pm with the Chairman reminding Cllrs that they were now unable to speak but it was RESOLVED to bring item 9a forward:

23/01141/OUT (validated: 28/04/2023)

Address: Proposed Residential Development Land NW Of Springacre, Chorley, Bridgnorth, Shropshire

Proposal: Outline application for residential development (2No dwellings) with all matters reserved

Applicant: Mr Christopher Jordan (Springacre, Chorley, Bridgnorth, Shropshire, WV16 6PP)

This is for OUTLINE planning permission.

Councillors were aware of this site, discussed the application with Cllrs supporting the residents' concerns and Clerk was unstructured to send in the following objections:

1. The proposed properties appear to be behind the building line.
2. This area will be over developed with 2 large four-bedroom properties.
3. Neighbouring properties are bungalows, and it is felt that these properties will overshadow and overlook these.
4. These houses will not fulfil the 'housing for local needs'.
5. Is there enough capacity at the sewage treatment plant in Chorley to accommodate these properties?
6. Access to these properties will be using the same track as Springacre, which planning permission is questioned - will deal with separately.
7. The site notice has not been in a prominent place for the required time. It was positioned behind bins and was only there for a few days - this is not correct!
8. Councillors ask that residents comments are taken into consideration.
9. The comment made by Mrs Fleetwood is not on the planning portal - when is this to be added please?

4) Apologies for absence: Cllr Grey and S. Cllr Butler – apologies noted.

5) 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.

6) To confirm minutes of the meeting held on 24th April 2023:

These had been circulated with the agenda and were proposed, seconded, and **RESOLVED that these be signed by the Chairman as a true record.**

7) Matters arising from minutes:

- a) Clerk's report – this will be emailed to Cllrs:
Reply from Wade Muggleton re: tree planting:

Well, that is always the tricky one with this parish, the lack of public land, there's really only Glebe drive or school, but not sure school have room for what in the long term might be a large tree. Realistically you'd be looking at November now planting wise.

I was thinking of popping along to a PC meeting in the coming months as I am growing a range of trees from seed that I am happy to donate towards a Parish tree project that I have alluded to before, so if we can find a few landowners happy to host a tree I would see if the PC might fund some guards. But that's for a future date.

So, I don't really know what to suggest aside from Glebe drive, could be small tree, flowering crab, cherry or ornamental hawthorn.

New FixMyStreet updates on report: 'Items dumped at Brooksmeeing bridge' – Internal referral.

New FixMyStreet updates on report: 'Blocked drain' – Prescott - We have looked into this issue and can advise that the work required will be completed in our programme of upcoming maintenance. State changed to: Closed

New FixMyStreet updates on report: 'Dead deer' – not collected, wildlife dealt with it!

New FixMyStreet updates on report: 'Duddlewick Lane/road' - We're pleased to advise you that this work has now been completed. State changed to: Fixed.

New FixMyStreet updates on report: 'Potholes' - We're pleased to advise you that this work has now been completed. State changed to: Fixed.

New FixMyStreet updates on report: 'Fridge freezer/vacuum cleaner' - We have looked into the matter you reported, and our investigation shows that no further action is required at this time. State changed to: No further action.

Thank you for your recent report of fly tipped white goods in Billingsley.

This location and fly tip was attended and inspected by Shropshire Council in December 2022.

Following a land registry search, it was confirmed that the fly tip was on private land, not owned, maintained or under the control of Shropshire Council.

Unfortunately, Shropshire Council are unable to assist further, as it will be the landowner's responsibility to arrange removal.

Kind regards, Ian Roome, Streetscene

24th January 2023 - New FixMyStreet updates on report: 'Hawkswood road from Brooksmeeing' - Thank you for contacting us. This note is to confirm that we have received your report and we'll be in touch with an update as soon as possible.

b) Any others – none.

8) Delegation of power to Clerk for decisions between meetings.

Clerk was not sure if this needed renewing at the Annual Meeting in order that invoices could be paid, and any item requiring responses, etc prior to the next meeting.

RESOLVED that in consultation with the Chairman Clerk is granted this permission.

9) Planning applications/permissions/refusals received:

a) Reference: dealt with earlier

b) Reference: 23/01744/FUL (validated: 03/05/2023)

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

Proposal: Planning application seeking consent for a single storey porch extension to front elevation

Applicant: Mrs Valerie Craig

Councillors raised no objection to this application.

c) Reference: 23/01172/FUL (validated: 17/03/2023)

Address: 1 Bagginswood, Stottesdon, Kidderminster, Shropshire, DY14 8LU

Proposal: Erection of Single Storey rear extension, replacement windows to main house and erection of a detached garage

Decision: Grant Permission

d) Reference: 23/01173/LBC (validated: 17/03/2023)

Address: 1 Bagginswood, Stottesdon, Kidderminster, Shropshire, DY14 8LU

Proposal: Erection of Single Storey rear extension, replacement windows to main house and erection of a detached garage

Decision: Grant Permission

e) Any others received after issue of agenda:

Information Only:

Address: Wrickton House Barn, Burwarton, Bridgnorth, Shropshire, WV16 6RS

Proposal: Application for a Lawful Development Certificate to demonstrate that the following planning permission 10/03236/FUL is still in place and has no expiry date based on the fact that pre-commencement conditions were discharged and that material works were undertaken

Applicant: Mrs Victoria Jones (Wrickton House, Cleobury North, Bridgnorth, WV16 6RS, United Kingdom

10) Shropshire Cllr's report: emailed out

11) SALC report:

Cllr Abbiss reported:

- Next Area meeting is 19th June at Bridgnorth Library.
- Roddington PC had gained Foundation Level in the Local Council Awards Scheme and noted that dog mess was a big concern of theirs too.

12) Finance:

a) Accounts to be paid: Clerk's salary - £xxx, HMRC - £233.53, SALC Affiliation fees - £396.41.

Insurance renewal - £547.19. It was **RESOLVED that the Clerk makes these payments via BACS.**

Any others received after issue of agenda – none received.

13) Parish problems:

- Report of Fly Tipping Billingsley – removed today!
- Defib at Dr's Surgery, Stottesdon – this was required on 29th April, but the cupboard could not be opened immediately (wrong code), then with correct code it took three attempts to open it. The defib was not used as the Ambulances had arrived, but it then took three attempts to open the cabinet again. Clerk will report this problem but will make sure the cabinet is tried again.
- Tractors have reduced the verges on Burnt Pitt bend by 2.5' – 3'.
- Tractors coming out of the field at Northwood Lane junction had left a dangerous depth of mud on the road. Clerk had contacted Mr Johnson who promised to clear the road. This will be monitored.
- Smallbrook, Farlow – work has commenced on this property, but Cllrs thought that the plans showed that the chimney was to remain, but half of it has already been taken down.

- Church Lottery money has ended for the renovations but there appears to be a shortfall of £15,000 to build the toilets and Cllr Kennett asked if the PC were able to give a donation. Clerk did not think so but would check with SALC.
- Litley Bridge hit again – coping stones damaged on both sides.
- Vehicles speeding when passing horses and ignoring the 2m rule. This will be put into the next newsletter.
- Possibility of covert camera to cover fly tipping hotspot was queried.

14) Correspondence: *sent out to Cllrs – all noted as received unless comments made:*

- SALC Bulletins
- West Mercia PCC Funding for Safer Road Projects
- Road Closure Amendment: Chorley junc to The Miners junc, Stottesdon
- Stotty Strolls maps – agreed to give away.
- Union Jack flying - Request from a parishioner to leave the Union Jack flying throughout the year. It was **RESOLVED to leave this flying but will be taken down during the winter to prevent damage.**
- NALC - CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S BULLETIN – **Good Cllrs Guide to employment**
- DLUHC Consultation on Infrastructure Levy
- SALC Latest
- Parish Council Newsletter Request from Police & Crime Commissioner
- Shropshire Cycling and Walking Plan consultation (email to former BDC area)
- The Local Government Boundary Commission for England reviews@lgbce.org.uk
- Any others received after issue of the agenda:
- SALC - Training event added to Programme - Fundamentals for Councillors - Monday 2nd October 2023, 6.30pm - 9pm
- SC - A4117 Clee Hill to Doddington 50mph Speed Limit – online consultation

15) Date of next meeting: 26th June 2023

Apologies received from Cllrs Young, Allen, Kennett, and Grey. It was suggested altering this date, but Clerk pointed out that this would not be possible as accounts must be audited and signed off at that meeting.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 10pm.

Payments to be made:

Clerk's salary - £911.46

HMRC - £233.53

SALC Affiliation fees - £396.41

Insurance renewal - £547.19

Signed: Chairman

Date: