

Stottesdon and Sidbury Parish Council

Parish Council held via Zoom videoconferencing on Monday 22nd March 2021 at 7.30pm.

Present: Cllrs D Young (Chairman), R Abbiss, J Rogers, S Allen, S Crawford.
Unitary Cllr M Shingleton
Clerk Mrs F Morris
Parishioner: 1 (just observing)
PCSO S. Dunn-Brown

0) Public participation:

PCSO Dunn-Brown reported no further reports regarding Covid breach that they have been made aware of.

Newsletters are being sent out to the Clerk to forward to anyone else.

Clerk queried if there is a restriction of how far people can travel to go for walks. He confirmed that although legally no distance people are still being asked to just do essential journeys only.

Chairman thanked PCSO for his report and he left the meeting.

1) Apologies for absence: Cllrs D Powell (illness), C Smith (illness). **RESOLVED to accept these apologies.**

Unitary Cllr Butler had tried to log in but was unable to so sent his apologies via email.

2) 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.

Cllr Allen declared an interest as a neighbour in item 6a planning **application**.

3) To confirm minutes of the meeting held on 22nd February 2021:

These had been circulated with the agenda and Chairman requested an amendment in item 8 S. Cllr Shingleton Council Tax figure for Band D property is £1923.72 and Cllr Abbiss asked for an amendment in Cllr Butler's report item 8 to 'March' not May for meeting. With these amendments it was

RESOLVED that the minutes are approved as a true record.

4) Matters Arising

a) Clerk's update:

Roadside wildflower verges – Chairman confirmed that he had booked the Botanist to come and survey the suggested verges although 1 or 2 concerns had been expressed regarding visibility.

Chairman also suggested the long bank opposite The Batch and opposite Clapwicket towards Prescott. Mark Pearce has been notified of the plans as it is hoped he will do the work. Cllr Shingleton pointed out that the white daisies in Cleobury grew very tall and 'took over'.

b) Road closures:

Station Road works – we are now waiting for new plans to be drawn up to hopefully solve the flooding problem at the same time!

Wribley Bank – all work appears to be completed.

Steve Davenport has been out over the weekend to look at our roads, but Clerk has not received a report of his visit.

c) Any others: none.

5) Financial matters

a) To confirm bank transfer payments from last month – Salary, HMRC

b) Outstanding payments: Clerk's salary (bank transfer) - £xx, HMRC PAYE (bank transfer) - £53.74, Clerk's expenses - £278 from October-March including half yearly working from home payment.

c) Any other accounts received after issue of the agenda – waiting for Mark Pearce's accounts up to end March.

It was **RESOLVED** that **payments from last month accepted and to pay outstanding accounts and authorise payments to Mark Pearce when accounts received.**

d) Income since last meeting – 9p interest.

e) Burial Grant payments – update:

Clerk has received no further information, including advice from MP, and from checking with other Clerks as the money had already been precepted for and that due to the conflicting advice received to date payments had been made.

After discussions it was **RESOLVED to pay the burial grants this year but to make all aware that this may not be able to be paid next year. We are aware of the previous advice given regarding payments of this grant but Churches, like everyone else, have been able to fundraise during the pandemic so the payments were agreed.**

6) Planning applications/permissions/refusals:

a) Reference: 21/00704/FUL (validated: 12/03/2021)

Address: Proposed Development Land West of Crown Cottages, Bagginswood, Stottesdon, Shropshire

Proposal: Erection of a two bedroom dwelling with annexe; detached double garage and installation of a package sewage treatment plant

Applicant: Mr N Jordan (C/o Agent)

Cllr Allen declared an interest in this application as a neighbour, Unitary Cllr Shineton Councillor Shineton could see no reason why he could not comment on this application.

Discussions took place regarding this application and it was **RESOLVED to object to the application on the grounds of access, height of plot as the dwelling will look directly into and over the property opposite. The following comments were agreed:**

Access:

We understand the existing access shown on this plan is not for this piece of land but for 1,2 and 3 Crown Cottages.

We consider the proposed new access is totally unsuitable as this is on a blind bend on a fast stretch of road. We appreciate that this road is a mandatory 60mph (and vehicles do travel at speed along here) but this is adding another access within a short space of each other which we consider **highly dangerous**. The proposed access is right opposite the access to Roseacre.

Could consideration not be given to providing one access for this property/Oakview/Edgewood.

Site:

There is a significant difference in land levels on this site and where the property is proposed to be built this will look directly into and over the property opposite – Roseacre. Surely this is an invasion of privacy?

We would ask that either the height of the land is reduced, or the position of the property is looked at to prevent this privacy issue and the property is screened.

Whilst we have no problems with the proposed dwelling, we are **objecting** to this application on the access on grounds of road safety, angle of property and height of the land.

It looks as if work in providing this access could be underway as the hedge has been dramatically thinned in this area!

We would ask that Highways and Planning Officer visit the site as a matter of urgency and take our comments seriously into consideration.

b) Reference: 21/00716/FUL (validated: 02/03/2021)

Address: Briar Cottage, 2 The Midwinters, Chorley, Bridgnorth, Shropshire, WV16 6PW

Proposal: Erection of a single storey rear extension following demolition of existing conservatory

Applicant: Mr & Mrs Butler

Councillors raised no objections to this application.

c) Reference: 20/05357/FUL (validated: 11/01/2021)

Address: Oakfield, Stottesdon, Kidderminster, Shropshire, DY14 8ND

Proposal: Steel framed agricultural building to cover livestock handling area

Decision: Grant Permission

d) Any applications received after issue of agenda - no further plans received.

7) SALC report:

Cllr Abbiss reported the following:

- Area Committee meeting tonight – Speaker Alan Wilson, Climate Change.
- Area subs will not be charged this year.
- Next Executive meeting 12th April.

8) Shropshire Councillor's report: Emailed to Councillors:

Cllr Shingleton's report:

1. Roll out of Vaccinations continue with the four top categories completed and extra depots opening locally to receive both first and second injections.
2. Home testing kits are available from Cleobury Mortimer Pharmacy or ring 119.
3. If you identify a vulnerable household contact 03456189078 or check Shropshire Council web page.
4. Unpaid Carers can get help and advice ring 01743 341995.
5. Armed forces help ring 01743 255931.
6. Small Employer access to testing; Community testing.centralops@dhsc.gov.uk
7. Shrewsbury/Chester University has expanded their courses especially nursing and social care. There are also opportunities for retraining in many of the skills we currently need. Check on the Council web site.
8. Waste Collection changes in parts of the Old Bridgnorth area will be finalised and start from March 15th Calendars will be left to all the houses in the next two weeks.
9. There are still a series of grants available for businesses and Community groups click on Shropshire Council web site for further information.
10. Council tax agreed at 3.99% Band D range from £1517 to £1600 for our area.
11. There is still time to respond to the Local Transport Plan this can be done online.
12. Discussions are still taking place regarding alternative headquarters for Shropshire Council.
13. Council's commitment to Climate Change was reaffirmed at full Council on February 25th.
14. All Councils need to be alert to land slips on our local rivers and brooks.
15. Individually worth reporting any Highways problems to customerfirst@shropshire.gov.uk
16. We seem to have an infestation of Ivy growing in our trees and hedges which are causing considerable damage. If you can please sever strands at the base and they will die off during summer and easily removed next winter.

Cllr Shingleton reported that on speaking to Lacon Childe Head all was going well so far although Covid testing was difficult with volunteers and teachers carrying this out but no problems so far.

Cllr Allen understood that there had been 5 Covid cases in year 7 today – Cllr Shingleton was not aware of this.

Rays Farm land slippage – checked every week. Concern regarding this as Rays Farm will hopefully be opening again soon. Clerk pointed out that Graham Downes had said if the road surface cracks the road will have to be closed as there is not enough room for traffic lights.

Tim Preece, Old Station Business Park, Cleobury and Mark Pearce are both desperate for employees with skills if anyone knows anyone looking for work.

Chairman asked if Future Fit was still active – yes but this is now called Integrating Core Systems.

Cllr Butler's report:

1. Adult social care budget has come in within budget and this is finally showing some improvement following new ways of working and intervention. However, Children's services is under severe pressure with more than 500 children now in care in Shropshire up about 200 within the past 3 years. The pandemic I believe has had a profound effect on this with the schools being shut and new Policing policy with immediate intervention where required. I believe we will have quite a challenge post pandemic to help people effected and Shropshire Council is already working with partners to understand this and put processes in place.
2. The local plan process has been expanded and the final consultation is now going forward to be looked at by full council in July.

3. Litter picking has been undertaken across the patch by volunteers for which I am very thankful. Shropshire Council is looking at putting policy in place to provide volunteers with equipment and collect rubbish etc as soon as information is available, I will report.
4. Purdah started on the 15th March and people can put their nominations in for elections by 8th April. I would recommend doing it early in case there are any errors.
5. Postal votes can be applied for up to 5pm on Tuesday 20th April. Proxy votes can be applied for up to 27th April.
6. Highways continue to be of major concern and I would be grateful if reports can be logged at Customerfirst@Shropshire.gov.uk ,please copy me in on Gwilym.Butler@Shropshire.gov.uk the more people that report the better .I also take photos and email them on .
7. Neighbourhood fund where open market housing has been built will be coming in April for local councils to spend on local items. The council is looking to provide a catalogue style document for councils where they can see the cost and highways requirement for such things as Village Entrance White gates, VAS signs, Grit boxes, litter bins, Railings etc to make it easier for councils to procure such items.
8. A scoping project is about to start to understand how Shropshire Council can enable local councils to work post pandemic with greater technology, possibly providing hardware and broadband facilities to continue to enable virtual meetings and or hybrid meetings etc. This will all be part of improving communications with Shropshire Council and us all being fit for the next generation and embracing technology to be inclusive to all, save time and money and help the climate change agenda.
9. The Covid numbers have dropped dramatically in Shropshire currently around mid-thirties per 100,000 but we must not be complacent and Shropshire council has policies in place to help individuals and help businesses open safely as per the Governments Road Map.

9) Parish matters/problems:

- Potholes on Riddings Lane (Hamlet end) getting deeper/wider.
- Pickthorn Lane potholes.
- Problems at Oakwood and Edgewood, Bagginswood – Enforcement does not appear to have done anything at these sites which are a complete disgrace – photos provided. It is understood that the Environment Agency gave them 3 months to resolve issues, but it appears that nothing has been carried out. There are 2 mobile homes being lived in and a business operating from Edgewood all without planning permission to our knowledge. After long discussions it was **RESOLVED to send the photos to Julian Beeston, Head of Enforcement and copy Prof Mark Barrow and Claire Porter (Head of Legal) into this and to copy email to Cllrs Shineton and Butler asking for these 2 sites to be investigated as a matter of urgency.**
- Hole at top of New Road, Chorley – this was reported to SC and they have put a cone in it before further investigation.
Reply from SC:
I've been to look at this today and it appears to be an old inspection chamber which has started to open up. I have put a cone on it for the time being and I'm requesting the utility plans to identify who it belongs to as it is not part of the highway drainage (far too large).
- Duddlewick straight is in a horrendous condition.
- Flytipping by the bridge still not removed and a mattress has now been dumped further along.
- Hinton road where the surface lifted still not repaired.
- Burnt Pitt Bank road breaking up very badly and potholes.

10) Clerk's report – Audit and Year end training:

Clerk attended a Zoom session regarding Scribe accounts and must say that it sounded quite easy as all Clerk would have to do is input information and budget sheets, monthly reconciliations, Year end AGAR is all completed for you saving the clerk many hours of work. Not sure of the cost but I have asked.

11) Correspondence: Emails forwarded to all Councillors. Noted as received unless comments made.

- Alterations to the Electoral Register

- SALC and NALC – Chief Executive’s Bulletin
- Police newsletters
- Road closure – Riddings Lane – Hall Farm Junction 12th April for 3-5 days. Western Power
- Phlebotomy Review survey – Clerk urged Cllrs to complete this.
- How Town & Parish Councils can communicate and engage in Post-Lockdown World – free webinar 7th July 10.30am-12noon.
- Climate Action Declarations
- Training session – Chairmanship Skills – 23rd and 30th March over 2 sessions
- Community Assurance update re: Covid rules
- SC – Winter Maintenance review
- Preparation for VE Day
- Shropshire Climate Action Group
- Training programme

Any other received after issue of agenda:

- Chris Tibbits emailed:
- National Covid Remembrance Day, Tuesday: Just checking, would the PC like a flag flown in The Square to mark this day, and the noon one minute silence? Yes please!
- Training sessions available through SALC – please let Clerk know if you would like to attend any.
- RBLI – Preparation for VE Day
- RAF Shawbury essential night flying
- Family Assessment Centre Opening Day Thursday 25th March
- Armed Forces Outreach Support
- Came and Co – Insurance – pre-renewal message
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Road Closure: Ferny Hall to Yew Tree Farm Junction, Chorley

Start Date: 21st April 2021

End Date: 21st April 2021

Purpose: Road Closure: WPD - Tree Trimming.

Works Promoter: Western Power Distribution

Works Promoter Ref: HM7340681969

Enforcement pattern for Ferny Hall to Yew Tree Farm Junction, Chorley: All the time

You can view the closure and diversion route by clicking here: <https://one.network/?tm=120276239>

Please find enclosed details of a temporary road closure:

Road Closure: The Miners Junction to Oakfield, Stottesdon

Start Date: 24th May 2021

End Date: 26th May 2021

Purpose: Road Closure: STW - New connection.

Works Promoter: Severn Trent Water

Works Promoter Ref: LB9225201-000006582706

Enforcement pattern for The Miners Junction to Oakfield, Stottesdon: 24hrs

You can view the closure and diversion route by clicking here: <https://one.network/?tm=121623884>

Should you have any queries regarding this closure, please call Customer Services on 0345 6789006, or contact the Street Works Team on streetworks@shropshire.gov.uk.

Election papers:

If you have not taken your papers in, please do so asap. If you intend putting any flyers out the cost of this must be put on your expenses, although it is not refundable!

12) Date of next meeting: 26th April 2021

Clerk clarified with SALC re Annual Parish meetings, and this was the response.

I was saying was that we have to act within the current restrictions and so virtual up until 6 May, then face to face but the Government might review parish council meeting legislation by the end of this week. Whichever way it goes, there is nothing to stop you holding basic annual meeting within the legal timescales and then a further ‘annual’ meeting later in the year when face to face can resume.

After discussions it was agreed to start the meeting at 7pm as the Annual Parish Meeting, followed by the monthly PC meeting.

The May meeting date will have to be altered as this has to be held within 14 days of the election.

Payments to make:

Clerk's salary - £xx

HMRC - £53.74

Clerk's expenses - £278 (half year)

Mark Pearce – awaiting any outstanding invoices

Burial Grants - £500 Stottesdon, £250 Sidbury, £150 Chorley Chapel.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.15pm.

Signed: Chairman

Date:

DRAFT