

Stottesdon & Sidbury Parish Council

Parish Council meeting held on Monday 28th April, 2005 at 7.30pm in Chorley Village Hall.

Present: D Young (Chairman), Z Griffin (Vice-chairman), M Pearce, R Abbiss, R Gutteridge, A Sierakowski, C Adams.

Clerk: Mrs F Morris

Public: None

0) Public participation: None present.

1) Apologies for absence: Noted as received from Cllrs Crawford, Kennett, Allen. S Cllr Harris and G Butler, Police.

It was reported as Madge Shingleton had passed away. Madge had been a long serving member of our Parish, District and County Councils since 1976 and attended our meetings up until she retired in 2021, and she will be very greatly missed. A minute's silence was held in her memory.

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.

None declared.

2) To confirm minutes of the meeting held on 24th March 2025:

These had been circulated the agenda and were proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED to sign as a true record.**

4) Matters arising from minutes:

a. Clerk's report:

Pitt Cottage bridge:

Clerk had been told that this was only classed as a bridleway, so therefore that would be the only obligation SC would have been to provide a b/w bridge, which could be put alongside the present road bridge.

Clerk had written to SC Legal Services regarding ownership, but no reply had been received (Elections holding matters up). Suggestion was from the ROW Officer for the parties who use the b/w way for vehicular access to meet and hold discussions together to look at resolving the situation.

ROW Officer is going to contact Legal again to try to find out ownership of land. SC do not have the money to replace the bridge, and it is not their responsibility.

After further discussions, it was **RESOLVED** to wait to hear back from the ROW Officer or Legal Services and Clerk will notify Mr Edge of the situation.

Reply from ROW Officer was:

None of the pictures have come through as the email file is likely to be too large. I will pass the letter across to our legal team but after reading, it does state that although we install the sleepers all those years ago, we said that it was not our responsibility to maintain the bridge thereafter.

I think the only way forward is for Mr Edge and anyone else who has an interest in using the bridge to come together and find a solution themselves, there appears to be quite a few users so between them the cost would not be very big to just install a brand-new bridge.

b. Any others: Road damage between Litley and towards Harcourt Farm junction is very bad.

5) Planning applications/approvals/refusals:

a) Any others received after issue of the agenda – none received.

6) Finance:

a) Accounts for payment/approval:

Clerks Salary - £xx

HMRC - £450.95. Clerk was asked to query this as this appeared to be high.

b) Income since last meeting - interest £25.98 on 9/4/25, deposit account

c) OFFICIAL - PWLB lending facility Audit Statement - 31 March 2025 - STOTTESDON & SIDBURY PARISH C (WORCS)

d) Newton Newton Flags Ltd - Invoice (SI-4542) for £207.60, due on 05/05/2025

e) D Malley - £62 payroll administration – paid as this was overdue!

All payments **RESOLVED to pay.**

Any others received after issue of agenda: Precept received £39,950.00

f) Internal audit confirmation: Miss V Turner agreed

7) SALC report:

Cllr Abbiss reported that there had not been a SALC meeting, but she had taken part in a Joint Working Group meeting with Highway, who are well aware of the problems, in particular with our Clerk being frustrated with potholes not being repaired.

The Lengthsman scheme mentioned with Neen Sollers was a 'pilot scheme' in repairing potholes, but this has not taken place due to insurance implications/problems.

800 per week reports made on Fix My Street per week.

No technician has been appointed for our area as yet – restructuring

No Local Plan in force at present, leaves the risk of developers putting in plans for building.

Local Housing Needs Survey previously discussed with the intention of carrying this out after the elections. Clerk was asked to get in touch with Craig Bethel again.

Local Nature Recovery conference 3rd October.

No idea who the portfolio holder for Highways will be in the next year following elections.

Lengthsman Scheme – it was suggested Clerk asks for an up-to-date list/specification for work covered under this scheme, in order that we are clear of what we can and cannot do in continuing with this scheme for the next year.

Lengthsman needs to use the digger for ditches. Drains are blocked and need clearing with heavier equipment than what is already available.

It was **PROPOSED that to make effective use of our funds allocated in the precept, that we need permission to carry out drainage work.**

Clerk was asked to contact Farlow & Oretton and Neen Sollers PCs to see how their schemes work and who pushed the pilot scheme for pothole filling. This will be put on our next agenda.

8) Shropshire Cllr's report: no report, due to purdah

9) Parish matters/problems

a) Raised by Cllrs – road markings outside School – reply received asking Clerk to mark on the photograph in the email, where the 'H' bar was required and if the PC had paid for it or just offered. It now appears that this is not a 'highways' problem but Traffic Engineering, Clerk has already replied to try to get the matter resolved asap.

b) Bridge in Chorley Woods to Pitt Cottage and beyond – dealt with under matters arising.

The water/possible pollution issue raised by Cllr Gutteridge has now been resolved with the following email to her from the Environment Agency:

Thank you for your email and photographs. It is my interpretation that the white scum may have been created from tree pollen and other natural tree related fine debris which is common at this time of the year. The white scum is being held back by the rocks which concentrate it, and make it look worst than it is. The water below the rocks appears from the pictures (particularly the first and last photograph) to be clear and colourless. If it was poorly treated or untreated sewage effluent, the white colour would be much more colloidal and would not be held back by the rocks.

Severn Trent Water sent me a photograph of their effluent outfall and the water appeared clear and colourless as would be expected from a well treated effluent.

Clerk reported that Cllr Crawford had emailed with her thoughts as follows: The water flowing under the bridge has always been free flowing, deep enough for my dogs to swim in the one side, perhaps over the last month or so a dam has been made on the one side of the bridge with bricks (not sure if kids have done this) and therefore the water is now pooling as the normal flow has been blocked. I would say the standing water is the problem not pollution.

Litley-Harcourt very bad potholes/road edges are dangerous.

Hawkswood road – all potholes.

Sidbury Bank pothole getting bigger and unavoidable.

Sidbury – potholes by the grain store where the defib is sited.

Possible fly tipping by Hinton bridge – boxes and bags deposited there (approx. 17). There appeared to have been some kind of work carried out but as we had not received any notification, Clerk was asked to email Peter Gould (Bridges) to ask if they had been working there and report to him the mess left behind.

Road signs left on roadside verge (now overgrown) just passed the entrance to New House Farm and by Hardwickforge, which need collecting.

Pothole down Pickthorn Lane is now 5'x4'x12" deep and needs repairing asap.

Signpost at The Highlands – arm still missing as is the one in The Square, Stottesdon.

Elcott bend on the Bagginnswood/Six Ashes Road the potholes are bad as they are getting bigger and unable to be seen when filled with water. Numerous types damaged on this road.

c) To consider PC Policies - Standing Orders and Financial Regulations
Clerk had made the alterations, considered applicable to our PC as per the previous agreed document and had sent these to SALC for their opinion.

It was proposed, seconded **RESOLVED to accept the amended policy.**

Financial Regulations: SALC queried a couple of items:

After discussions it was proposed to leave these until the next meeting. Clerk will forward to the Internal Auditor for her advice and investigate matters 6 and 7 ready for the next meeting.

d) any others: none

10) Correspondence: including all emails forwarded to Cllrs *taken as read unless comments made:*

- Alterations to the Electoral Register
- Confirmation of Elected Cllrs
- Question from resident in Station Road (email 25/3) – this was discussed, and a reply will be made finalising the matter.
- Surface Dressing Road Closure - Unnamed Road, Stottesdon – 2nd-20th June 9.30 – 14.45 – Burnt Pitt to Riddings Lane - CANCELLED
- West Mercia Police 'We Don't Buy Crime' Smartwater Scheme
- Kier highways contract extended for a year
- URGENT REF: 10057 Bagginnswood to Six Ashes Road, Reply from Andy Keyland, SC:

A recent safety inspection was undertaken on the road links that you have raised concern about. A number of safety defects were identified, and jobs have been raised for our contractor to programme repairs.

Currently, the volume of known safety critical defects outweighs the number of repairs our contractors can carry out and this has led to a significant backlog, therefore we cannot give you a specific date that repairs will take place, at this time.

In addition, I will add the road links in question to the forward programme for assessment for more extensive patching works. These works will be carried out as budgets allow.

Kind regards, Andrew Keyland, Highways Maintenance Manager South

- SALC Training Programme – UPDATED
- Potholes, 'class action' suggestion for SALC – Chairman to speak to Chairman of SALC regarding this.
- Chairs' Network Meeting - Thursday 19th June 2025 via zoom
- Planned resurfacing work - C4226 - The Old Mines to Mires Cottage, Bagginswood
- Planned resurfacing work - C4226 - Oakfield to Baveneywood, Stottesdon
- Planned resurfacing work - C4226 - Baveneywood to junction, Stottesdon
- Planned resurfacing work - C4246 - Mill Farm to Norton Covert
- Local Elections 2025 - Notice of Uncontested Election
- SALC - Your Area Committee Needs You - Appointment of Councillor Representatives!
- Any others received after issue of agenda
- Declaration Of Acceptance of Office signed by Cllrs Abbiss, Adams and Sierakowski.

11) Date of next meeting: 19th May – Annual PC meeting (election of Officers)

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.55pm.

Payments authorised:

Mrs F Morris – clerks' salary £xx

HMRC - £450.95

Newton Flags Ltd - Invoice (SI-4542) for £207.60, due on 05/05/2025)

D Malley - £62 payroll administration – paid as this was overdue!

Chairman:

Date: