

## **Stottesdon & Sidbury Parish Council**

**Parish Council, meeting held in Chorley Village Hall on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> October, 2024 at 7.30pm.**

**Present:** D Young (Chairman), Z Griffen (Vice-Chairman), M Pearce, C Adams, S Crawford, R Gutteridge.

Guest Speaker: Craig Bethel, Community Resource Rural Housing Enabling Officer

Parishioners: 8

Shropshire Cllr G Butler and prospective candidate Anita Rose.

Clerk: Mrs F Morris

Guest speaker, Craig Bethel, gave a very interesting presentation on his role in working with communities to identify affordable housing needs and to work with all parties involved in planning, development and construction to ensure those needs are met.

There is a sharp increase in rural home prices (to buy or rent) versus little movement in local wage is having a huge impact in our rural communities. Limited first home and downsizing options are causing long-term residents to move away, whilst local businesses struggle to recruit. Lack of the right affordable housing has an impact on health and wellbeing.

There is a need for more community-led affordable homes in rural areas that strengthen the existing community whilst keeping what is important to residents intact.

An impartial community engagement role first and foremost, the Rural Housing Enabler will ensure local needs are heard and prioritized at every stage from needs analyses, infrastructure, identification, design and construction.

Craig answered questions.

The major problem will be in obtaining land at a right price.

Parish Council will be able to put their own stamp on the survey.

Chairman thanked Craig for his attendance and Craig left the meeting.

### **0) Public participation:**

Resident raised the problem of the dogs at The Rectory. There had been an incident in April when the Dalmatian attacked the neighbour's dog causing injuries to both resident and dog. We understand that the Police visited and the dog should not be alone in the garden.

It appears that there has been another incident when a child with the dog on a lead was struggling to control it on the school car park and that children had been taken back into school. After much discussion it was agreed to write to PC Nolan, Hereford Diocese, Public Protection at Shropshire Council and the letting agents, thought to be Nock Deighton.

Resident came along to explain his planning application 6a, which he did and answer any questions.

At this point, the Clerk suggested residents remain and listen to the Shropshire County Cllrs report, which was brought forward on the agenda:

Cllr Butler confirmed that he would be sending out his monthly report tomorrow.

Following the guest speaker this would be an ideal time to carry out a housing needs survey.

Finance:

Employees will be leaving The Shirehall on Friday to help save money and staff will be working from home before moving into The Guildhall. Canern Brook, Bridgnorth and other offices around the County will be mothballed for the time being, but in 12/18 months could come back to life.

Shirehall will no doubt be sold off eventually.

Recycling Centres have to book to go from Monday.

Believes SC on target with their budget. Shropshire Council is taking strong action to bring down the in year budget deficit.

At this point Cllr Butler introduced Anita Rose a prospective candidate to replace Cllr Simon Harris, if elected.

Anita has lived in Neen Sollers for 23 years and if elected hopes to work alongside Cllr Butler, who will be standing for election in Cleobury Mortimer.

HS2 money – still unsure regarding this.

It was mentioned to Cllr Butler that the work carried out at Brooksmeeting, did not appear to be of a very high standard and he advised Clerk to report this on Fix My Street.

**At this point the residents, Cllr Butler and Anita Rose left the meeting**

**Parish Council meeting opened at 8.52pm:**

**1) Apologies for absence:** Received and noted from Cllrs Abbiss, Allen, Kennett, Sierakowski, Police, S. Cllr Harris.

**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.

**3) To confirm minutes of the meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> September, 2024:**

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

**4) Matters arising from minutes:**

a. Clerk's report:

Hedge at Eardington:

I have received notification from FMS that the hedge on the bridge before Halfway House has been fixed. Whilst they have cut the hedge, it is the trees in the field causing the problem. I have responded to their notification. Clerk will seek support from Eardington PC.

Brooksmeeting/Hawkswood road:

Although I have not been up this road, it does look as if the work has been completed!

Pothole out again at the bottom of Burnt Pitt bank – I have reported this!

Precept:

SALC suggest that we put into our budget an amount to cover anything we might be asked to contribute to by SC or even Town Council.

As we all know SC are in a poor financial position, and we will be able to contribute if we have it in our budget – if we do not use it the precept can be reduced next year.

Parishioners will not mind paying a little bit extra monthly on their Council Tax if they can see we are helping to do things!

Message from Highways:

Hi all.

The situation currently is challenging due to budgets.

Many resurfacing schemes have been cancelled across the county as there is not the money to complete them. Patch surface repairs, minor works, and other work such as signage and lines, is being suspended for the same reason. Routine inspections, pothole repairs, blocked drainage gullies, gritting and emergency repairs are continuing. I'm afraid this is the situation for the foreseeable future. We have also had a reduction in staff.

It's not a message I wanted to send, but it's important to share the current reality with you all.

Kind regards

Chris Haslam.

Hi,

Just to let you all know, for operational reasons, I am being redeployed and will cease to be the technician for your area from this week. Unfortunately, I have no information about a replacement currently.

It's been a pleasure to help where I could do so.

Kind regards.

Chris Haslam.

Highways Technician, Shropshire County Council.

Recycling:

A new booking system for people wishing to visit any of Shropshire Council's five household recycling centres comes into effect on Monday 4 November 2024 – with people able to make a booking from tomorrow (Tuesday 29 October).

From Monday people visiting the centres will need to book a slot in advance – and bookings can be made up to six days in advance.

b. Any others – none.

**5) Finance:**

b) Accounts for payment/approval:

Clerks Salary - £xx

HMRC - £363.60

Information Commissioner's Office renewal - £40

Lengthsman account - £1650.00

Any others received after issue of agenda - none.

c) Income since last meeting - £25.85 interest

d) Quarterly Bank reconciliation. Clerk had sent these out via email and provided copies at the meeting. Clerk went all through the documents, pointing out that the Scribe budgeting statements are mainly for the precept in the next few months.

It was **RESOLVED to accept the quarterly bank reconciliation, and this was signed by Clerk and Chairman.**

**6) Planning applications/approvals/refusals:**

a) Reference: 24/03679/FUL (validated: 30/09/2024)

Address: Pickthorn Farm, Chorley, Bridgnorth, Shropshire, WV16 6PU

Proposal: Erection of cattle rearing building

Applicant: MP Abbiss  
Mr R Abbiss attended to explain the application.  
Cllrs could see no problems with this application and supported this.

b) Reference: 24/03244/FUL (validated: 28/08/2024)  
Address: Dycombe Cottage, Chorley, Bridgnorth, Shropshire, WV16 6PP  
Proposal: Erection of two-storey rear extension  
Applicant: Mr Thomas Cook  
Decision: **Granted**

c) Reference: 24/03701/VAR (validated: 26/09/2024)  
Address: Barn Adjoining Swallows Rest, Stottesdon, Kidderminster, Shropshire, DY14 8UQ  
Proposal: Removal of Condition No,1 (agricultural occupancy) pursuant to planning permission 95/0414  
Applicant: Mr & Mrs James (Swallows Rest , Stottesdon, Kidderminster , DY14 8UQ)  
Clerk had looked back through the minutes and read the comments out to Cllrs. As the whole farm has been split up and redeveloped there were no objections to this application.

c) Any others received after issue of the agenda- none.

#### **7) SALC report:**

Cllr Abbiss sent in the following report:

Please accept my apologies for this meeting.

Just one or two things to report. The SALC AGM is on Thursday next 30th October at the Shirehall. It is a celebration of parish councils this year and is proving popular. I do hope that a councillor from this parish has booked to attend. It is important that we are represented especially as I am not going to be able to attend this year.

Don't forget to send a representative to the conference at Church Stretton on 6th December. Just to let you know that we have recruited a Chief Officer for SALC. As the contract of employment has not been signed yet I am not in the position to reveal who we have offered the job to. I think and sincerely hope the correct decision has been made and I feel that clerks will accept the new employee. The new post starts 1st November. Dianne will be available for two months and then we are hoping to retain her on a few hours a week for a smooth transition.

It is coming up to precept time and I ask that you think what we can do extra that Shropshire Council now is responsible for. There are serious financial problems for SC as I am sure you are all aware of. We wonder if there will be any money for the Lengthsman scheme next year. Cllrs Griffin and Gutteridge are attending the AGM, but not available for 6<sup>th</sup> December.

**8) Shropshire Cllr's report:** dealt with earlier.

#### **9) Parish matters/problems:**

a) Raised by Cllrs:

- Holes out again at the bottom of Burnt Pitt bank – Clerk has reported these.
- Brooksmeeing – mud on road and from Northwood Lane.
- Duddlewick Road
- Tree still needs attention at Brooksmeeing bridge. Possibly Nathan Homes'.
- Hawkswood verges damaged following maize harvesting.

- Problems with recent work at Brooksmeeting with rain missing culverts/drains. Clerk will report.
- Following speaker last month this was raised with the Cleobury Mortimer Footpaths Association.
- Footpaths overgrown – these can be reported on Fix My Street.
- b) Any others:
- Following the speaker do we go ahead with a Housing Needs Survey. It was agreed that we should consider going ahead with a survey but ask Craig to produce one, then hold a public meeting to make sure that all questions are covered.
- Caravan behind Dr's Surgery – assume this is possibly for use whilst James Griffiths builds his house, but no planning application (if required) has been received. Clerk will email James.

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

- Alterations to the Electoral Register
- SALC bulletins
- NALC Bulletins
- SALC - AGM 30th October 2024 in the Council Chamber, Shirehall, Shrewsbury. Cllrs Griffin and Gutteridge attending.
- Stottesdon School Playing Field – ACV – approved. Noted.
- Road Closure - Westwood Lane, Cross Houses
- NALC Legal Bulletin Update – August 2024 Planning
- Lezley's Leader Update
- SALC - Warp It – news
- Any others received after issue of agenda:
- VAS signs/prices for speed awareness. Agreed to put this on the next agenda for discussion. Clerk asked to resend information prior to next meeting.
- Police three priorities – Speeding, all thefts, Anti social behaviour (to include dogs).

**11) Date of next meeting:** 25<sup>th</sup> November 2024

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

**Payments approved:**

Clerks' salary - £xx

HMRC – 363.60

Commissioner's Office - £40 – Data Protection renewal

M Pearce (Lengthsman) - £1650.00

**Signed: Chairman**

**Date:**