

## Stottesdon and Sidbury Parish Council

**Parish Council held remotely by Zoom video-conferencing at 7.30pm on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2021.**

**Present:** Cllrs D Young (Charman), D Powell (Vice-Chairman), R Abbiss, C Smith, S Crawford, J Rogers.  
Shropshire Cllr M Shineton  
Clerk: Mrs F Morris  
PSCO Steve Dunn-Brown

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

PSCO Dunn-Brown attended the meeting to introduce himself as he is covering our area at present following PSCO Sue Eden retiring.

He said no crimes had been reported this month except for a possible Covid breach which is being investigated.

He was asked why the Police were not recruiting more PCSO's as this is a large area to cover. He pointed out that they have to wait for enough people to be put on a course (possibly 12) or transfer from another area. Lots of new Police Officers joined recently.

The Police are still operating out of Bridgnorth Police Station and the SNT and Response from there but there is no customer point.

Barking dogs had been queried and Steve said it was SC to deal with the noise, Police if dog bites anyone. He suggested contacting SC who would probably ask for a diary to be kept as to when this was happening.

No further questions were asked, and Chairman thanked Steve for attending and said he was welcome to stay if he wanted – he said he would unless his radio went off!

**1) Apologies for absence:** Cllr Allen (family bereavement), S Cllr Butler (meeting). **RESOLVED to accept these apologies.**

### **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.

### **3) To confirm minutes of the meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> December 2021:**

These had been circulated with the agenda and it was **RESOLVED to accept these and sign as a true record.**

### **4) Matters Arising**

a) Clerk's update:

- RSVP - Roadside wildflower verges. Clerk had circulated details of this project to Cllrs. It is approximately £760 to set up. This will be dealt with under the precept and then look at the project again.
- Clerk had been told that Graham Downes had moved from Bridgnorth Highways to cover Shrewsbury area and that Andy Keyland had taken over. Andy Oliver is still there. A lot of 'local' knowledge has gone with Graham.
- Clerk has been told that any road problems should be reported through SC Customerfirst, but this is difficult when they are asking for postcodes for potholes in the middle of nowhere!

All you get back from SC is a Complaint number, but you cannot tie it up with the problem raised. S. Cllr Shineton will take the matter up.

b) Any others:

- Bagginswood problems – nothing received from SC.

## 5) Financial matters

a) To confirm bank transfer payments from last month:

M Pearce - £80 (Lengtsman), £220 (Poppies, Car park, noticeboard tidy up), £240 (Surgery car park plainings repair), SALC - £362.38 (subs), Salary/HMRC - £xx. **RESOLVED that these payments approved.**

b) Outstanding payments: Clerk's salary (bank transfer) - £xx, HMRC PAYE (bank transfer) - £xx, Zoom package - £143.86 repaid to Clerk, VAT cannot be reclaimed.

c) Mark Pearce accounts – to confirm payments – see above.

d) Any other accounts received after issue of the agenda – none.

e) Income since last meeting – interest on deposit account – 3p.

f) Precept/accounts: Clerk had circulated all paperwork to Cllrs.

Clerk pointed out that she had been told by SALC that the PC could not donate to the upkeep of the Churchyard and was sent the Legal Topic Note (attached) regarding this.

It had been made clear to the Clerk that the PC could be challenged if a payment were made so therefore the Clerk's advice was to go along with the advice received and make no payment to the Churches. It was **RESOLVED to accept this, and the Clerk notifies the Churches.**

Clerk went all through the figures and with some alterations it was **RESOLVED to precept for £25,350.00 which is an increase of £350 from last year and the accounts as presented were also accepted.**

## 6) Planning applications/permissions/refusals:

a) 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

Applicant: E W H & M Fletcher (Greenacres, Bagginswood, Cleobury Mortimer, DY14 8ND)

No objections raised to this application.

b) Reference: 21/00075/TCA (validated: 07/01/2021)

Address: Land SO 672 828, Stottesdon, Shropshire

Proposal: To pollard 1No. White Poplar removing 50% of the height and breadth within Stottesdon Conservation Area

Applicant: Mr Steve Watkins (82 North Road, Wellington, Telford, Shropshire, TF1 3ET)

Clerk confirmed that she had asked our Tree Warden to look at these for the PC. Reply: I would have no issue with either of these, sensible approach to trees getting too large in the wrong places.

Cllrs **RESOLVED to support this application.**

c) Reference: 21/00172/TCA (validated: 13/01/2021)

Address: The Cottage, The Bull Ring, Stottesdon, Kidderminster, Shropshire, DY14 8UD

Proposal: Reduce by 20% 2No. Sycamore trees and crown raise by 4m 1No. Sycamore Tree within Stottesdon Conservation Area

Applicant:

Clerk confirmed that she had asked our Tree Warden to look at these for the PC. Reply: I would have no issue with either of these, sensible approach to trees getting too large in the wrong places. Cllrs

**RESOLVED to support this application.**

d) Any applications received after issue of agenda:

No further plans received but Clerk picked up on our website:

Information Only:

Agricultural building to be located over existing cattle handling area:

Prescott Farm. Mr R Whitehouse. App.no: 21/00064/AGR

e) Planning application for Workers Dwelling, Ginny Hole. App. No: 20/04714/FUL:

As agreed via email the following comments were sent to SC, Planning in support of this application:

We would like to re-iterate our support for the above application. We have previously supported it as we felt that having accommodation on site would improve the security of buildings and equipment and also enable better welfare of the livestock.

*We would like to enlarge on these comments with the following:*

Site security:

- *When the activities were run from The Old Vicarage most of the equipment was stored at The Old Vicarage and transported to Ginny Hole when required.*
- *The Old Vicarage was the 'base' for booking in for events etc and was also where groups were housed in dormitories. This has now changed and all the business now operates from Ginny Hole.*
- *Groups such as the Greenfell Firemen, Search and Rescue, Police and Ambulance have all been trained at The Old Vicarage then moved on to the Ginny Hole for practical training.*
- *Over the years there have been numerous incidents on the site where Police have been involved i.e. criminal damage etc and last year the new advertising signs were stolen.*
- *The site is more vulnerable with no one living on site.*

Economy:

- *This is a rural outdoor business which supports the local economy. People attending Ginny Hole often dine/drink at The Fighting Cocks – another local family run business which provides local employment and needs community support.*
- *Local businesses are struggling in the current economic climate and need all the support they can get to bounce back when Covid restrictions are lifted.*

Animal welfare:

- *With 'on-site' staff 24/7 any problems with the livestock can be dealt with immediately.*

Rural crime:

- *At present there is an increase in animals being stolen locally i.e. dogs, horses, ponies.*
- *Police response times to our rural area is not good – quite often by the time an offence is reported/logged the offenders have long gone before the Police arrive. With the Police stretched to the limits they just cannot get to our rural communities quickly enough and this is a concern.*

*We feel that in order for this rural business to remain viable and safe a rural workers dwelling is essential and would ask that you take in to account the above points when making your decision on this planning application.*

*We would also add that the Eddies-Davies family have lived in Stottesdon for over 50 years.*

**RESOLVED that these had been approved.**

**7) SALC report:**

Cllr Abbiss reported the following:

- Staff very busy at the office.
- Lobby Day 2<sup>nd</sup> February with MP's.
- Survey Monkey coming soon: Pandemic.
- Governance Review
- Executive meeting 8<sup>th</sup> February.

**8) Shropshire Councillor's report:** Both Cllrs emailed their reports out:

PARISH COUNCIL REPORT FOR JANUARY 2021 – Cllr Shineton:

1. UK now left the European Union. The Government has put some grant money and advice delivered through Shropshire Council Economic Dept. Click onto Web site for more information.
2. The whole of UK now in complete lockdown except for key workers, more information on Government-or Shropshire Council web site.
3. The mutant strain has not yet been identified in Shropshire but close checks are continuous. Infections are across the County, test and trace continue.
4. The Pfizer vaccine rota has been altered with an extension to the time between first and second dose extended.
5. The Oxford/ Zenica vaccine which does not need the same low temperature storage has started to be distributed and plans for wider roll out geographically are in process
6. Unfortunately Schools and Collages have had to close except for vulnerable and children of Key Workers at Primary/ Secondary level.
7. Government has again put forward financial help across the business/ self employed sector, again information is on the web site.
8. Future Plans for Shropshire's Hospitals and at Primary care level are still under wide discussion.
9. Recent weather has not helped the pothole and road surface disintegration. Please continue to use 'My Shropshire' to report defects, it is important each report is logged to build up a picture and enable project planning to take place.
10. I wish everyone the best 2021 we can get and urge us all to use our local businesses and services as much as possible.

**Update given at meeting:**

- Hospitals are choc-a-bloc and are now quite close to cancelling outpatient appointments.
- Bridgnorth main centre for vaccinations for our area (Ditton Priors, Highley, Cleobury Mortimer, Much Wenlock) but using Cleobury Medical Practice to administer vaccines had been put forward as it has a large car park.
- Future of Shirehall will be discussed at full council meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> February. Suggestion is to sell off and use 1 level of offices over the shopping centre in the town.
- Report potholes through My Shropshire.
- Urged PC when updating Parish Plan to highlight Health as not much thought has gone into provision of Health and Social Care, Domiciliary care etc.

Cllr Shineton was asked if she knew the take up figures of the Covid vaccinations. She did not think there had been many refusals but possible 20% will not take it!

Clerk made a comment she had received when a Highley resident's father had died and they were going to put Covid on his death certificate, which he had not got, but died of cancer so therefore the actual death rates may not be correct!

Chairman thanked Cllr Shineton for her report and attending the meeting.

Report from S. Cllr G Butler – emailed to Cllrs:

JANUARY 2021 BRIEFING REPORT – Cllr Butler:

1. The Council has recently passed the new Housing Strategy which takes into account local need and demand for type and tenure of housing requirements driven by locality. Part of this is the call for people to register if they are interested in Self builds whether affordable or open market. Very often the access to land is limited and therefore by having a register of interest planners will understand demand and then may have the opportunity when negotiating with developers and applications the opportunity to bring sites to market. If you wish to register please do so via Shropshire Council web site searching Self build register via the search engine on the site.

2. Many councils have asked me about the availability of hardware such as kissing gates for footpaths in their wards. There still is availability at the depot at Nils Pontesbury and they can be contacted on 01743 791984 or email [Richard.Knight@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:Richard.Knight@shropshire.gov.uk) who manages the team .
3. The Governments draft proposals issued in the summer regarding to planning and housing numbers has been over turned. Currently the formula requires Shropshire to deliver 1177 houses on average per year under the new proposals the requirement would have been 2129 houses per annum. The government has now decided that they will shift the demand back to the largest 20 cities where services and infrastructure are more likely in place.
4. The budget is out for proposal with a SC increase of 1.99% and an extra 2% for Adult Social Care in total 3.99% This will be debated at full council on the 25<sup>th</sup> February.
5. We are experiencing a rapid increase of children coming into care with figures in excess of 400 currently being cared for by the county. We are introducing a new scheme called Stepping Stones where we can intervene in these families early to try and avoid the children coming into care. We are also developing our own range of accommodation with 24 hr live in carers to drive down the cost and these may well be across county dependent on where the need is required. I would urge anybody who would consider fostering a child and giving them a home please investigate it on the council website or by phoning 08007838798.
6. At the time of writing this report there is no news on the local elections moving and I can advise that Purdah starts on the 15<sup>th</sup> March.
7. Vaccinations are taking place and we are in a very strong PCN network centred around Bridgnorth. To date we are leading Shropshire in the number of vaccinations delivered and are not included in the press releases regarding poor vaccinations in South Shropshire which is the West of the county where the health authority is having problems identifying premises for mass vaccinations and it will probably be rolled out via GPS but is changing daily. Please even when you have been vaccinated continue to heed all national guidance regarding Hands Space and Face as you can still be a carrier and infectious to those not vaccinated.
8. Any businesses forced to close under the lockdown please ensure you have applied for help and grant funding provided by Central Government and administered by SC. Details on the councils web site.

**9) Parish matters/problems:**

- Pothole Deuxhill Bank out again where Ambulance tyres were damaged.
- Pothole bottom of Burnt Pitt bank out again.
- Brooksmeeing – slippage which was fenced off on Hawkswood road has not been dealt with. Clerk had asked them to look at this when they were doing the bridge repairs. Cllr Shineton asked Clerk to email Gurnek Singh and copy her and Gwilym into it.
- Pickthorn Lane – large pothole which has caused damage to milk tanker. Small holes were filled but not the large one.
- Roadworks at Harcourt and Station Road eagerly awaited!
- Despairing of potholes as some of the potholes reported never get fixed properly.
- Water running down Walton Bank like a river – missing the drains despite all the money spent there.
- Tree over bridleway up Bakehouse Lane, Chorley. Clerk will ring Hazel Barratt.
- Road sinking by Chorley Village Hall – possibly caused by Utility Companies.
- Debris on bridge at Litley – needs clearing.
- Litter – out to have phone numbers of purchaser to trace where all this is coming from.
- Large pothole by Hardwickforge.
- Rea Brook problems with land being washed away. If anyone sees any problems when out walking please let Cllr Shineton or Clerk know asap.

- Slippage by Rays Farm – Cllr Shingleton looked at this and barriers have been installed but it is quite a steep drop.
- Obstructions along Jack Mytton Way from Rays Farm end – details will be emailed to Cllr Shingleton.

**10) Correspondence:** Emails forwarded to all Councillors

- Alterations to the Electoral Register
- SALC:
- News in Brief
- Local Plan Review
- Shropshire Climate Action Group – Alan Wilson would like to attend a Zoom meeting to give a short presentation.
- Station Road roadworks – 1<sup>st</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> March – ROAD CLOSED: Clerk had sent out proposed diversion routes to Cllrs for their comments. Whilst all suggested routes are not good Cllrs **RESOLVED to ask for the longer route (Option C) for HGV's and Option A for cars – locals will find the nearest route! Clerk was also asked to query the replacement drains between the corner and Fairacres.**
- Training session – Make the change – Councils elections Engagement training – Zoom 29<sup>th</sup> January 10.30am-2.30pm FREE
- Parish On-line training 29<sup>th</sup> January 10-2.30pm FREE
- Preparing for Audit and end of year accounts – 9<sup>th</sup> February 10.30-1.00pm

Any other received after issue of agenda.

**11) Date of next meeting:** 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2021

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.17pm.

**Payments authorised:**

Mrs F Morris – salary - £xx

HMRC PAYE - £53.74

Mrs F Morris – Zoom package - £143.88

M Pearce - £80.00 – Legthsman scheme

M Pearce - £220 – poppies, car park, noticeboard tidy up

M Pearce - £240 – repair to Surgery car park (plainings)

SALC - £362.38 (subs

**Signed: Chairman**

**Date:**