

## **Stottesdon & Sidbury Parish Council**

**Parish Council meeting held on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> October 2025 at 7.30pm in Chorley Village Hall.**

**Present:** Cllrs R Abbiss (Vice Chair who chaired the meeting), R Gutteridge, A Sierakowski, C Adams, S Crawford.

Shropshire Cllr D Davies

Parishioners: 6

Clerk: Mrs F Morris

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

Residents attended to raise their concerns regarding the amount of trees/hedging removed from the trees surrounding Bakehouse Lane (B/Way) and numerous gates being installed.

It was queried if planning permission should have been sought for the gate onto the public highway opposite Yew Tree Farm and if permission was required to remove all the hedges/trees. The Parish Council had not received any applications.

As Bakehouse Lane is known for flooding the main concern is that with the removal of the hedging there is no natural barrier to prevent any water running down the lane and any debris blocking the drains and causing properties to flood.

Photographs were provided.

Cllrs agreed to discuss this item, which is on the agenda later and the residents left the meeting.

Other residents attended regarding to Fighting Cocks. A meeting had been held (called by residents) and around 60 people attended. This was a technical discussion, not speculation, as this is a very delicate subject at present.

The parishioner attended the last PC meeting and asked the PC for their help and support in registering this as an ACV (Asset of Community of Value). Chairman pointed out that this had been discussed for many years but unfortunately was never done.

Clerk pointed out that this is how the PC were able to purchase the old Fox and Hounds car park and that the school playing field is registered as an ACV.

Clerk confirmed that she had written to the 2 family members regarding their intentions, but no reply has yet been received. Cllrs are fully aware that this is a very sensitive issue and have no intention of upsetting the family.

A further resident pointed out that the family are still in discussions with the hope as retaining this as a pub.

**1) Co-option of Councillors/signing of declaration of acceptance of office:** No interest shown.

**2) Apologies for absence:** Received and noted from Cllr Young, Griffin, Allen and Pearce.

### **3) 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.*

No declarations received.

**4) To confirm minutes of the meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2025:** These had been

circulated with the agenda, and it was proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED to accept these as a true record.**

**5) Matters arising from minutes:**

a) Clerk's report:

- Transfer of money from current to deposit account – I have not done this as we are now halfway through the year – do you still want me to transfer some? Will deal with this under finance.
- Fix My Street reports rolling in! Many saying fixed (when they are not), Action Scheduled, etc. Several Cllrs had also received emails for reports they had made.

b) ACV Fighting Cocks, Stottesdon. Clerk had already completed this form, and it was Proposed by Cllr Gutteridge and seconded by Cllr Adams and all **RESOLVED to send this form into SC.**

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

a) Reference: 25/03599/FUL (validated: 25/09/2025)

Address: Highenough, Stottesdon, Kidderminster, Shropshire, DY14 8UQ

Proposal: New Canopy Porch, New Front Bi Fold Doors and Rooflights.

Applicant: Mr. D. Richards & Ms. E. Dooley (Highenough Upper Harcourt Junction to Burnpit Farm, Stottesdon, Shropshire, DY14 8UQ).

Cllr Gutteridge had visited the site and had sent her comments to Cllrs to read.

After discussions it was **RESOLVED that this application was supported.**

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

*At this point the Shropshire Cllr's report was brought forward.*

S. Cllr Davies pointed out that he had nothing to report really other than the potholes at Elcott should have been repaired.

Barriers on the Billingsley Road had been fixed.

Clerk pointed out that there was still a pothole at Elcott and asked if Cllr Davies could help with getting the railings fixed at the Honeysuckle Brook junction at Prescott end – this was considered dangerous, especially with the dark nights now upon us.

The depth marker at the ford is only visible from one direction and although this has been reported several times nothing has been done about it!

Although not our parish can the damaged drain cover at Spring Cottages bank (between Uplands Cottages and Woodlands Hall turn be dealt with. This is VERY dangerous and has been reported numerous times, a cone was put in this, but this was flattened and now disappeared.

This is a serious accident waiting to happen. Clerk will also report this and notify the Police.

Traffic lights on the Cleobury/Bewdley road are often failing. Cllr Davies understands that surveys must be undertaken and the timescale for repairs is after next June!

Cars parked outside Belle Vue garage causes real traffic dangers. Clerk confirmed there were 22 vehicles parked on the roadside and on the parking area opposite. This is dangerous as this road is being used due to Bewdley bridge being closed again and safety concerns are paramount.

Police have already looked at this, but nothing has improved!

Chairman pointed out that in their report PCs would be interested to know what is happening at SC rather than other PC's problems. Point noted!

SC - Signature requested on "Memorandum of Understanding [FOR SIGNATURE]" – this was regarding the Framework for Collaborative Working with SC. Clerk had sent in comments to the original request, but no reply had been received.

A DocuSign had been received but Cllrs pointed out that this should not be signed until a response to our previous comment was received. Clerk will notify SC.

*Cllr Davies left the meeting.*

## **7) Finance:**

### **a) Accounts:**

- I. Bank mandate – Cllr Abbiss had now completed all the forms.
- II. Transfer of funds to deposit account – Clerk had explained that she had not done this as we were already halfway through the year. Cllrs pointed out that at the last meeting the Chairman had suggested keeping £5,000 in the current account and the rest transferred to the deposit account. This will cause more work for the Clerk when it comes to audit but will investigate doing this.
- III. Approval of quarterly accounts – the accounts had been audited for the first half year by the Internal Auditor, to make things easier at year end. Clerk read out the bank figures in each account.

### **b) Accounts for payment/approval:**

Clerks Salary - £xx

HMRC- £467.94

SALC – invoice Cllr Abbiss Shropshire Together Conference - £21.00

Booking confirmation. Ref: KGNVA – Cllr Gutteridge Finance training - £35 (SALC will issue invoice)

Data Protection fee - Reminder to renew ICO:00011805139 - £52

It was proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED that these payments are made.**

IMPORTANT: Scribe - Price Increase for Stottesdon & Sidbury Parish Council - £444 next year's renewal!

### **c) Any others received after issue of agenda – none received.**

## **8) Civility and Respect Pledge for adoption:**

Clerk had emailed out all the paperwork and read through all the questions that had to be acknowledged. It was **RESOLVED to sign up to this pledge and will be put on the next agenda for Cllrs not present tonight to sign.**

## **9) SALC report:**

Cllr Abbiss reported that the

- AGM was this Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> October which will be attended by herself and the Clerk. Dianne Dorrell, County Secretary has now retired but will attend the AGM.
- Next Bridgnorth Area Committee meeting 15<sup>th</sup> December via Zoom.
- Digital Switch Over - BT Awareness Campaign – details in today's bulletin. Clerk will send out tomorrow.
- IT policy required.

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

## **11) Parish matters/problems**

### **a) Concerns raised by Cllrs:**

Warm Hub information ought to be sent to Sue Vincent at Chorley Chapel – Clerk will do this. Willodene is also aware of this.

### **b) Concerns raised by parishioners:**

Tree/hedge removal/gate installation. Bakehouse Lane, Chorley (Bridleway. This problem had been highlighted by residents. Clerk had spoke with Hazel Barrett who confirmed that this was following her accident they decided to clear all their field up and this has all been carried out by their arboriculture contractors. Trees were cut down to alleviate any more chances of them being blown down, causing further problems and more gates have been installed to make it easier to access land. Everything was inspected by her contactors, and she will ask them to drop me an email regarding this work, but I might not receive it for a couple of weeks!

After discussions it was **RESOLVED** to write to Mrs Barrett with the following:

1. *The new gate onto the road, opposite Yew Tree Farm, is thought to require planning permission. Was advice taken from the Planning Department before this was installed?*
2. *The amount of trees and hedges removed from the Bridleway from Bakehouse Lane appear to be excessive. Could you please confirm the reasons behind this?*
3. *Residents are extremely concerned with the removal of the amount of hedging that not only a visible barrier, but a water barrier has been removed and therefore further risks of flooding onto the lane has been created. The drainage is likely to be overwhelmed, and properties flooded.*
4. *Do you have any plans for replanting the hedging?*
5. *Why the extra gates?*

- National Grid & Chorley Village Hall – Clerk had received an email from Claire, Chair of Chorley Village Hall saying that she had met someone carrying out a survey of trees overhanging power lines in the area and gave them my details to contact, if necessary, regarding land ownership, nothing received yet.

c) any others – none.

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

- Alterations to the Electoral Register
- A New Way of Working Together – email sent 29/8/25
- SALC - Local Council Award Scheme – email dated 25/9/25 We cannot proceed as we did not have 90% at elections. Clerk felt this ought to be lowered due to the difficulty in getting people to stand for election.
- Parish Online - Free GOV.UK email for clerks - INSIGHTS session recording now available.
- SC - Garden waste collections - subscribe now for 2025/2026
- STAR Housing - Tenancy Agreement Consultation – Councillor Briefing. Clerk pointed out that this was mainly altering rent payments to 52 weeks instead of 48 weeks.
- Briefing note to T&PC Mailing list – email 7/10/25
- Scribefest 2025 - The Free Online Conference for Town, Parish and Community Councils Confirmation – Clerk joined this session, which she found quite funny but useful.
- SC - Signature requested on "Memorandum of Understanding [FOR SIGNATURE]" – dealt with earlier.
- BBC News: Shropshire parish council wants to take on road maintenance – BBC News
- Cleobury Country Trade Card 2026 - are you in it? do you want to be in it?
- Parkinson Partnership Upcoming & New Courses - From September 2025
- Breakthrough Communications - training events

- SALC AGM - Wednesday 29th October 2025, 4pm - 7pm at Shrewsbury Football Stadium (Sovereign Suite). Cllr Abbiss & Clerk attending.
- SALC Area Committee - Feedback from consultation session 1.9.25 SALC and Local Nature Recovery in Town and Parish Councils across Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin conference 3rd October ELLESMERE – any feedback? Cllr Sierakowski reported on this event and was surprised how many Parish Councils have lots of things going on in their parish with small to larger projects. After discussions it was agreed that perhaps we could get the School, Church, Country Treks involved with starting small projects in the parish and suggested perhaps hosting a meeting to bring people together to discuss it.
- B4363 at the Kennels bridge – this has been cut back, which is an improvement!
- Fix My Street reports – Clerk had mentioned these earlier. Very annoying that different remarks are being fed back from FMS.
- Lord-Lieutenant's Carol Service – Clerk has sent names in.

Any others received after issue of agenda

SALC Bulletin

BT changeover details – Clerk will send these both out tomorrow.

Cllr Gutteridge asked who maintained the website as her name was not on there. Clerk does this but thought she had added her on. Will check.

Clerk was thanked for all the work put into maintaining the website which contains a lot of information and is really appreciated.

**13) Date of next meeting:** 24<sup>th</sup> November 2025

**Payments made:**

Clerk's salary - £xx

PAYE - £467.94

SALC training - £21 Cllr Abbiss

Parkinson Partnership training – Cllr Gutteridge (Finance for Cllrs) - £35

ICO – Data Protection renewal - £52

**There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.20pm.**

**Signed: Chairman**

**Date:**