

Stottesdon Parish Council

Parish Council, meeting held on Monday 28th July, 2025 at 7.30pm in Chorley Village Hall.

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

Parishioners: None

Clerk: Mrs F Morris

0) Public participation: None.

1) Co-option of Councillors/signing of declaration of acceptance of office: Interested person did not attend.

2) Apologies for absence: Shropshire Cllr Davies. Police.

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.

None declared.

4) To confirm minutes of the meeting held on 23rd June 2025:

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

5) Matters arising from minutes:

Clerk had forgot to bring the printed copy, but would email it to Cllrs but raised the following:

a) Clerk's report:

Burwarton Estates "River Rea flooding" 1/7/25

I will pass this on to our forestry team and ask them to have a day removing debris from the river between the two bridges. Cllr Pearce will look at the weekend to check if this has been done.

Lengthsman Query:

Cllr Pearce should declare interest and leave the room when this is being discussed.

Bank mandate changes:

New forms received from Bank for completion.

b) Any others: None

Verbal report from Personnel meeting held prior to this meeting:

Cllr Allen reported that the minutes of the previous meeting had been signed.

It was agreed to adopt the NALC model contract of employment.

Job description – delete that Clerk operates PAYE as this is now carried out by Diane Malley Payroll Services.

The new pay rates had just been received, and it was agreed to leave Clerk on same SCP23 rates, with the new rate being implemented and backdated to April and leave the extra 10.5

hours holiday pay, as Clerk still has work to complete after any holiday. This will be reviewed again next March next year.

It was proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED that this is implemented immediately, and Clerk will notify Diane Malley.**

6) Planning applications/approvals/refusals:

a) Any others received after issue of the agenda:

None received.

7) Finance:

a) Approval of accounts:

- I. Sign off quarterly accounts as presented by Clerk: These had been circulated by the Clerk to all Cllrs and it was proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED that these were accurate.**
- II. Bank mandate; Clerk pointed out that although completing the new mandate online and receiving the necessary form, she had now been sent further forms for completion! Clerk must ask David Ferguson or David Powell to sign to be removed from the account and Cllr Young to sign to be added.
- III. Transfer of funds to deposit account; It was suggested that more money should be transferred to the deposit account to earn interest. Clerk suggested the remaining precept from last year to be transferred, therefore only this year's precept left in the current account. Clerk will check if this is allowed.

b) Accounts for payment/approval:

Clerks Salary - £xx

HMRC- £451.15

D Malley account - £79.20

Information Solutions renewal website - £258.55

RESOLVED to pay these accounts.

Income since last meeting - £750.00 EMG, £18.23 interest.

c) Any others received after issue of agenda:

Lengthsman account - £250 0 Cllr Pearce declared an interest in this and took no part in the decision. **RESOLVED to pay this account.**

8) SALC report:

Cllr Abbiss reported on the meeting 'Shropshire Together' she attended on Friday but felt that all Cllrs ought to have attended this.

There were over 50 local councils present.

Precepts for Shropshire local councils total just over £12 Million.

Chris Mellings SALC Chief Officer said it was about empowering local leadership,

Strengthening inter parish relationships and building trust cooperation and formal partnership.

The value in Parish and Town Councils: They are the heart and eyes and ears with local knowledge, and relationships and with respect.

2009 Shropshire became a Unitary authority. There are now less staff and of late a breakdown of trust. "Local Councils have felt continually ignored by Shropshire Council".

This is a bottom-up opportunity to transform. From Frustration to Empowerment.

There should be a triangle of trust SALC, S. Council and Parish and Town Councils,

SALC--- a support program for all to feed into, empower local councils, mentoring and templates for guidance, funding opportunities, Support for staff and resource sharing.

We all need to look at capacity and resources and consider the role of AI. Engage in co-creating future governance. We need to call for information if we wish to become a pilot scheme!!

Clare Turner Dep Clerk to Shrewsbury Town Council.
 There is a funding crisis in Local Government.
 Need for: Better quality face to face training, Clerk network meetings and SLCC to hold more branch meetings. A willingness to work together.
 Alex Wagner – Dep leader of Shropshire Council.
 Finances: £822 M need to spend but £757 M income. Budget gap of £0
 Estimate SC have a gap of £63 M Government have reduced the £9 M for rurality.
 Delegation – Street Scene etc.
 Could transfer parks and public land!
 Conversations/ Pilot schemes / Transformation
 January 2027 there will be significant changes / opportunity to negotiate through 2026.
 They are looking at CIL, how it's charged and how it's spent.
 Clerks could get training to take on services.
 Justin Griggs NALC
 Partnership working – first tier is going to be doing more.
 Pushing the General Power of Confidence and Civility and Respect Pledge.
 David Mears Chief Executive of Bridgewalton Somerset
 A budget of £1.6 M 63 employers much larger than any of our towns except, perhaps Shrewsbury.
 All Unitaries Councils are suffering financial problems because of Statuary Services!
 We must build a dialogue between ourselves.
 Dan Thomas Mayor of Much Wenlock
 “If there is something that we can deliver better then negotiate and get it devolved down.”
 Helen Ball Clerk to Shrewsbury Town
 Clerks are the operational lead for Parish and Town Councils.
 There is a need to retain and improve local services.
 Community engagement and ownership.
 Challenges: Manage expectations
 Need for a structured partnership with Shropshire Council
 This is a chance to redefine Local Government in Shropshire.
 Heather Kidd Leader of Shropshire Council summed up at the end and I felt that she had taken everything that had been discussed on board and even though there is a severe funding crisis there is a willingness to make changes for the better.
 Let's hope the communication frustration of the last few years will change.
 A very interesting conference!

9) Shropshire Cllr's report:

Apologies received from Cllr Davies

Potholes/ questions from Parish Council Meeting – forwarded to Cllrs.

10) Parish matters/problems

Concerns raised by Cllrs:

- Riddings Lane – potholes from Patrick Willims's bungalow through to Overton.
- Hawkswood Lane – terrible state.
- Potholes outside Hall Farm, Sidbury
- Potholes from Hinton old railway line to Hinton Farm
- Triangle at the bottom of Almshouse Bank marked DITCH – why?
- Drain not been cleaned out at the bottom of Station Road where the hedge was marked (markings now worn away!)

- Potholes on corner by Chairman's house (Fairacres)
- Brooksmeeing – road sinking.
- Potholes between Smallbrook and Well Farm, Farlow.
- Bagginswood/Six Ashes – loads of marking appeared.
- Litley Bridge – top coping stone hit again – red paint on this.
- Harcourt road in bad state and very deep hole between crossroads towards Bagginswood on the bend.
- Potholes between Rays Farm and The Firs.
- Railings at Rays Farm – when will this be repaired?
- Duddlewick Road bad.
- Signpost he Square still not repaired (arm missing) causing problems for strangers to the village.
- The Highlands triangle – STOTTESDON arm still not replaced on this fingerpost.
- Footpath at Yew Tree Farm, Chorley still not accessible as gate padlocked. New gate appears to be put in so not sure if this is for this? Wait and see!
- Kennels bridge at Glazeley is dangerous as the hedge/trees all overgrown and need cutting back before an accident happens. Clerk pointed out that the PC did suggest that the priority on this bridge was altered some years ago, but this was refused but will suggest this again.
- Pickthorn Lane – potholes.

b) Concerns raised by parishioners:

- ✓ Resident in Station Road is persistently complaining regarding speeding.
Clerk pointed out the comments made on the Stottesdon Facebook page:

Police – speed check - Carried out 15/7/25.

All drivers were within recorded within the 30mph limit. The average speed was 28.6 mph.

Numerous comments made on Facebook regarding this:

- ✓ Times/school holidays/speeding later afternoons/evenings.
- ✓ Police visible motorists will automatically slow down – they have to be visible!
- ✓ Need static speed camera – costs!!
- ✓ Request made for bigger 30mph signs – these are standard signs.
- ✓ Messages are being sent to Clerk's private mobile phone. Cllrs agreed that these should be emailed to the PC in future.
- ✓ Police are aware of the comments made, but they carry out speed checks when possible and will come again.

Notice has been brought to attention of the PC that the caravan behind Glebe Farm, Stottesdon is possibly being lived in despite assurances that it would not be and also a caravan has appeared at Turnpike Cottage, Chorley. Clerk was asked to refer these to Planning Enforcement.

Defib pads at Sidbury and Chorley will need replacing in 3 months.

c) To adopt Planning policy -Clerk had sent this out and it **was RESOLVED to adopt this simple policy.**

d) any others – Clerk suggested a memorial to Madge Shingleton in the village, and this was discussed and will be looked into further.

11) Correspondence: including all emails forwarded to Cllrs: Taken as read unless comments made.

- Alterations to the Electoral Register
- PCC newsletter - June 2025
- Youth Offer Questionnaire – *Cllr Griffin asked to complete this.*
- Shropshire Together Conference - 25th July. 9-3.30, Shrewsbury Town FC – *Cllr Abbiss reported on this earlier.*
- Unnamed Road between Chorley & B4363 – Telephone pole renewals
- Shropshire's Great Outdoors Annual Public Survey 2025
- H bar and white lining completed!
- New Bagginswood road, letter of thanks from resident
- Reply from Burwarton Estates "River Rea flooding"
- Road Closure: B4376, Bridgnorth Road junction to B4375 junction 28/10-4/11/25 9.30-14.45
- Have your say on the future of pharmacy services in Shropshire
- Road Closure: B4363, Billingsley to B4555 junction – 22/9-24/9 – 9.30-16.00 to repair vehicle crash barrier
- Draft Minutes Bridgnorth and Shifnal Area Committee June 2025 next meeting 1/9/25
- Data logged – AGAR part 3 (Audit)
- Change in payroll portal and VAT status – Diane Mayley
- Call for sites as work set to begin on new Local Plan
- RSPAWIR delivers ground-breaking rural mobile connectivity report to MPs
- Important AGAR Updates - 2025 Practitioners' Guide & Email Requirements – There appears to be some confusion regarding the provision of .gov.uk email addresses and Clerk was asked to investigate.
- Parish Online Newsletter #60 - Free GOV.UK Email Special Edition – Clerk will look into this.
- Online Declarations of Interest and Updates to Council Membership – members urged to complete these!
- Skip – Glebe Drive – provided by STAR Housing was quite well used considering late notice. Clerk will ask if this will happen again.
- Any others received after issue of agenda.
Clerk was asked to include the Nature Recovery on next agenda.

12) Date of next meeting: 18th August 2025

Payments:

Clerks Salary - £xx

HMRC- £451.15

D Malley account - £79.20

Information Solutions renewal website - £258.55

M Pearce - £350.00

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.35pm

Signed: Chairman

Date: