

**MINUTES OF
ALL STRETTON, SMETHCOTT AND WOOLSTASTON PARISH COUNCIL
MEETING
held at Picklescott Village Hall
Wednesday 20th May 2026**

Present

C'llr Phillips (Chairman), C'llr Morris, C'llr Hibbot-Morris,
Shropshire C'llr R Houghton
Clerk :Mrs J Griffiths
members of the public attended the meeting.

Apologies

Apologies had been received from C'llr Starns, C'llr Naylor and C'llr Forbes

Chairman's Introduction

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Declaration of Interests

No declarations of interest were received.

1. Vacancy for a Parish Councillor

A member of the public had contacted the Clerk prior to the meeting and expressed an interest to serve as a Parish Councillor for All Stretton Parish Council.

However, the following day he sent a message to say he was unable to attend this meeting and did not think he had the time to dedicate to being a Parish Councillor.

2. Election of Chairman

It was proposed by C'llr Morris, seconded by C'llr Hibbot-Morris, and unanimously agreed that C'llr Phillips would be re-elected as Chairman to serve until the Annual General Meeting in May 2027.

3. Election of Vice-Chairman

It was proposed by C'llr Phillips, seconded by C'llr Hibbot-Morris, and unanimously agreed that C'llr Naylor would be re-elected as Vice-Chairman to serve until the Annual General Meeting in May 2027.

4. Election of Parish Council Representative to the Charity

It was proposed by C'llr Hibbot-Morris, seconded by C'llr Phillips, and unanimously agreed that C'llr Morris and C'llr Phillips would be re-elected to serve as the Parish Council representative on the Charity until the Annual General Meeting in May 2027.

5. Election of Footpath Warden

It was proposed by C'llr Phillips, seconded by C'llr Morris, and unanimously agreed that C'llr Hibbot-Morris would be re-elected to serve as the Footpath Warden until the Annual General Meeting in May 2027.

6. Election of Tree Warden

It was proposed by C'llr Phillips, seconded by C'llr Morris, and unanimously agreed that C'llr Naylor would be re-elected to serve as the Tree Warden until the Annual General Meeting in May 2027..

7. Election of 2 representatives to serve on the Area Committee

It was proposed by C'llr Morris, seconded by C'llr Hibbot-Morris, and unanimously agreed that C'llr Phillips and C'llr Naylor would act as the Parish Council representatives on the Area Committee until the Annual General Meeting in May 2027.

8. Public Comments

The member of the public attending the meeting produced press cuttings showing a Parish Council in Shropshire were trialling volunteers carrying out work on the highway. C'llr Houghton agreed to obtain more information on this scheme.

The member of the public complained about pot holes in many locations within the parish. He also produced a press cutting which reported volunteers filling potholes in Devon County Council area. The member of the public offered to fill potholes in the parish if he was supplied with the materials. It was agreed that this was something the Parish Council would consider for the future if Shropshire Council were in agreement.

9. Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 25th March 2026

It was proposed by C'llr Hibbot-Morris, seconded by C'llr Morris and unanimously agreed that the Minutes of the meeting held on 25th March provided a true and accurate record of the meeting. The Chairman then signed a copy of the Minutes.

10. Matters Arising (not included on the Agenda)

The Clerk told the meeting that she had written to Jeremy Dale to express the Parish Council's gratitude for all the environmental maintenance work he carries out over and above that invoiced.

11. Correspondence

The Clerk circulated the following correspondence between meetings:-

- SALC Weekly Briefing
- RSN Weekly Newsletters
- C'llr Houghton Community Updates
- E mail from Shropshire Council Committee Services reminding all Councillors to complete their online declaration of interest forms as some are still outstanding. These should be completed within 28 days on which the person becomes a member or cop-opted member. This e mail was forwarded to all Councillors on 26.4.26 The Clerk had checked on the Shropshire Council web site and only C'llr Forbes had not completed the Declaration of Interest Form online. The Clerk would contact C'llr Forbes and ask her to do so.
- Chairs Network Meeting 27th May at 6pm via Zoom
- Link to Teams Local Nature Recovery Meeting 18th June at 6pm
- Emergency Briefing on 5th May at the United Reform Church, Church Stretton at 7pm.
- Police monthly bulletins

12, Finance

(a) Agree 2025/26 Accounts

The Clerk circulated copies of the 2025/26 Accounts which showed a balance of £1,816.98 at the year end. It was proposed by C'Ilr Hibbot-Morris,, seconded by C'Ilr Morris and unanimously agreed that the accounts were a true and accurate record of the financial transactions for the year 2025/26. The Chairman then signed a copy of the accounts.

(b) Agree Exemption from Full Audit

The 2025/26 Accounts had been checked by the Internal Auditor. The Clerk read out the Internal Auditor report. It was proposed by C'Ilr Phillips , seconded by C'Ilr Moris and unanimously agreed that the Parish Council would apply for exemption from a full audit. The Exemption certificate forming part of the AGAR was then signed by the Clerk and he Chairman.

(c) Agree AGAR

The clerk read out all the items on the AGAR page 5 relating to internal control and it was unanimously agreed that he Parish Council could answer yes to all points.

The Clerk confirmed with the Chairman that all figures reported on the 25/26 AGAR were as previously reported for the 2025/26 Accounts. The AGAR and the year end accounts had been checked by the Internal Auditor.

It was proposed by C'Ilr Morris, seconded by C'Ilr Hibbot-Morris, and unanimously agreed that the Clerk and Chairman would sign the AGAR.. The Notice of Public Rights would be displayed on Village Notice Boards and on the web site. The period when documents would be available for inspection given as Wednesday 3rd June – Tuesday 14th July.

(d) Accounts due for payment

The following cheques were due for payment:-

Vision ICT Website constructions £1.026 had been paid on 8.4.26 following agreement by Councillors via e mail. Cheque No. 000574

Clerks Salary April/May plus expenses amounted to £538.50. Cheque No. 000575

HMRC Tax due on Clerk's salary £133.80 Cheque No 000576

L Pardie Internal Auditor £100. Cheque No 000577

SALC Affiliation Fee £282.38. Cheque No 000578

Cheque No 000579 Spoilt

Zurich Municipal Insurance premium due 1.6.26 £241 Chq No 000580

The Clerk told the meeting that the annual insurance premium may increase as the 2026/27 Precept exceeds £7,000. The clerk has notified the Insurers. It was proposed by C'Ilr Phillips, seconded by C'Ilr Morris and unanimously agreed that the above accounts be paid.

(e) Bank Reconciliation

The Clerk circulated the Bank reconciliation showing a balance held at bank, after payment of the above accounts, amounting to £8,060.28 It was proposed by C'Ilr Hibbot-Morris, seconded by C'Ilr Morris and unanimously agreed that this provided a true and accurate financial record. The Bank reconciliation and bank statement were then signed by the Chairman.

13. Planning

(a) Clerk to report on applications previously discussed

The Clerk told the meeting that she had supplied the letter confirming the local connection as requested at the March meeting

(b) Clerk to report on application received between meetings

No applications were received between meetings

(c) Applications discussed at the meeting

26/01375/FUL Hall Farm, Picklescott

Change of use of agricultural land to equine use (for private use only) erection of stable building and widening of existing gateway. This application was received and forwarded to all Councillors on 21.4.26. The Parish Council did not comment on this application. This application is shown as “pending consideration”.

26/01438/FUL Woolstaston Hall, Woolstaston

Erection of a greenhouse. This application was received and forwarded to all Councillors on 26.4.26. The Parish Council did not comment on this application. This application is shown as “pending consideration”.

A confidential e mail received from Shropshire Council Planning referring to a Planning Enforcement case was received and forwarded to all Councillors on 13.4.26.

A confidential e mail received from Shropshire Council Planning referring to a Planning Enforcement case was received and forwarded to all Councillors on 26.4.26.

14. Highways

(a) Clerk to report on highway matters previously reported

Road closure at Lower Wood, due to storm damage to the culvert, had been in place since 25th October 2024. C’lir Houghton told the meeting that she had been chasing Shropshire Council for an update when the repairs would be carried out. C’lir Houghton told the meeting that she had attended a drive around the Parish with Shropshire Council Highway Technician during which this site was visited, and it was noted that there is further deterioration as the road collapses into the stream below. A local resident had made complaints that the refuse collection vehicle was unable to access his property. C’lir Houghton continues to press Shropshire Council for a date when repairs will be carried out. The latest feedback suggests a 22 week wait for consultation with the Environment Agency.

The problems with the drain opposite ~Top House were discussed with the Technician and he was arranging for this to be jetted. The Chairman told the meeting that Jeremy Dale had jetted this drain and reported that in hi opinion the pipework had collapsed and needed a more permanent repair.

C’lir Houghton told he meeting that potholes around the Parish were identified with the Technician and she confirmed that she would continue to make annual visits to problem areas with the Highway Technician

(b) Any further highway issues to be reported

No further information had ben received regarding the road closures planned for the Hill Fort Rally.

The Clerk reported the following road closures: -

- Temporary Road closure – Cardingmill Valley 1.2.26 – 30.6.26 - implemented on an ad hoc basis when car parks are full.
- Castle Hill bridge, Walkmills – road closure due to essential bridge work currently scheduled for July. Exact date and timing will be forwarded when known.
- From A49 Junction Newhouse Farm to Smethcott Common crossroads closure from 8am – 5pm on 13th July and full 24 hour closure on 20th July
- Darm Lane, All Stretton closure 27th July

(c) Highways Maintenance Grant

At the March meeting highways maintenance was discussed.

The Parish Council have built £2,000 into the precept for 2026/27.

The Clerk told the meeting that Shropshire Council have now confirmed that Parish Councils can apply for the Highways Maintenance Grant in the sum of £1,000 for the period 2026/27.

The Clerk confirmed that she had submitted the application form for a £1,000 grant and today had been informed that the application had now reached the final stage for approval.

It was agreed that the Clerk would contact Jeremy Dale to inform him that, if the grant application was approved, the Parish Council would have a total of £3,000 available for the financial year 2026/27.

C'lr Houghton informed the meeting that when she was driving around the parish with the Highway Technician he was very complimentary about the work Jeremy carried out. The Clerk agreed to pass these comments on to Jeremy.

15. Shropshire Council report

C'lr Houghton reported the following:-

- Minor changes in the Cabinet and a new Cabinet Member had been appointed for the Environment.
- Financial pressure continues to force the Council to make unpopular decisions.

16. Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting was planned to be held on Wednesday 22nd July. However, as the Clerk has an all-day meeting in Birmingham on that date it was agreed that the meeting would be held on 29th July

The remaining 2026 meetings are as follows:-

23rd September

25th November

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.40pm