

**MINUTES OF
ALL STRETTON, SMETHCOTT AND WOOLSTASTON PARISH COUNCIL
MEETING
held at Picklescott Village Hall
Wednesday 29th July 2026**

Present

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

Apologies

There were no apologies all Councillors were present at the meeting.

1. Chairman's Introduction

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Declaration of Interests

No declarations of interest were received.

3. Public Comments

The member of the public attending the May meeting had complained about potholes 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. At the July meeting the Clerk told the meeting that she had contacted Shropshire Council, and it was unanimously agreed that the Clerk would complete the Declaration of Interest Form to explore the feasibility of volunteers filling potholes in the Parish.

At the July meeting a member of the public expressed concern that the Wildlife Trust had used good farmland above Sallins which they had cleared and displaced wildlife and that land has nothing but dead grass and a danger of wildfires in the extreme heat. It was agreed that this was a concern and a member of the Wildlife Trust would be invited to attend the September meeting.

Another member of the public attending the meeting expressed concern that the trees planted in the newly created Coronation Wood had not survived the heat and drought and would need re-planting.

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

It was proposed by C'llr Forbes, seconded by C'llr Hibbot-Morris and unanimously agreed that the Minutes of the meeting held on 20th May provided a true and accurate record of the meeting. The Chairman then signed a copy of the Minutes.

5. Matters Arising (not included on the Agenda)

At the May meeting the Clerk reported an 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 co-opted member. This e mail was forwarded to all Councillors on 26.4.26. Prior to the May meeting the Clerk had checked on the Shropshire Council web site and only C'llr Forbes had not completed the Declaration of Interest Form online. Following the May meeting the Clerk contacted C'llr Forbes and forwarded her the link to make the declaration. At the July meeting C'llr Forbes asked for the link to be forwarded to her again and she would complete the declaration.

6. Correspondence

The Clerk circulated the following correspondence between meetings:-

- SALC Weekly Briefing
- RSN Weekly Newsletters
- C'llr Houghton Community Updates
- Chairs Network Meeting 29th July forwarded 21.7.26.
- Local Nature Recovery Strategy Briefing forwarded 22.6.26
- Legal Bulletin from NALC forwarded 29.5.26
- SALC Area Committee revised date 24th June. Forwarded 13.6.26
- Police monthly bulletins, Peter Starns told the meeting that the bulletin covered Bishops castle and did not cover our area. However, the policing team covering our Parish do not supply the monthly bulletins.
- Local Bus Service Retendering forwarded 22.6.26.
- Marches Meadow Open Day 4th July. Forwarded 24.6.26
- Community Grants forwarded by C'llr Ruth Houghton 3.7.26

7. Vacancy for a Parish Councillor

A member of the public attending the meeting expressed an interest in being co-opted to serve as a Councillor for All Stretton Parish. It was proposed by C'llr Starns, seconded by C'llr Forbes and unanimously agreed that Mr. David Davis would be co-opted to serve as a Councillor for All Stretton Parish. The Clerk did not have the declaration of office form at the meeting. It was agreed that the Clerk would e mail Mr. Davis with all the relevant paperwork and he would join the September Meeting as a Co-opted Parish Councillor.

8. Planning

(a) Clerk to report on applications previously discussed

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. The Clerk told the July meeting that this application had been granted on 26th June and the notification had been forwarded to all Councillors.

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. The Clerk told the July meeting that this application had been

granted on 12th June and the notification had been forwarded to all Councillors.

(b) Clerk to report on application received between meetings

No applications were received between meetings

(c) Applications discussed at the meeting

No further applications have been received.

9. 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'llr Houghton told the May meeting that she had been chasing Shropshire Council for an update when the repairs would be carried out. C'llr 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'llr 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 Clerk has now received an e mail from Shropshire Council stating that the road will be closed from 29th October 2024 to 23rd July 2026. The Clerk had received no further updates. C'llr Houghton told the July Meeting that she continues to ask Shropshire Council officers when this work will commence but to date she has not been given any further information.

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 May meeting that Jeremy Dale had jetted this drain and reported that in his opinion the pipework had collapsed and needed a more permanent repair.

At the May meeting a 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. The Clerk told the July meeting that she had contacted Shropshire Council and had received a reply. The Parish Council can complete the Expression of Interest Form and arrange a further meeting to discuss taking on this service. It was proposed by C'llr Phillips, seconded by C'llr Naylor and unanimously agreed that the Clerk would complete the Expression of Interest form to start a dialogue and obtain more information from Shropshire Council.

(b) Any further highway issues to be reported

An e mail had been received on 9th July and forwarded to all Councillors advising the Parish Council that the organisers of the Hill Ford Stages Rally have now been granted permission by Shropshire Council and the event will be taking place on Sunday 20th September. Official from the Rally had visited all properties on the route and residents were fully aware that this would take place.

The Clerk had received an email from a resident complaining that the dog waste bin in Batch Valley by the Bunkhouse and Reservoir had not been emptied. The Clerk had contacted Shropshire Council and The National Trust and this has now been emptied.

The Clerk told the meeting that residents of Woolstaston have asked permission to plant a tree on Woolstaston Village Green in memory of Jo Burton, who was a former Parish Councillor. They do not intend to plant a fast-growing tree which would require removing in a few years. The idea was to plant a Rowan or Cherry in her memory. It was proposed by C'llr Starns, seconded by C'llr Hibbot-Morris and unanimously agreed that the request would be approved.

The Clerk reported the following road closures: -

- Access to the Longmynd due to hot weather and the potential for wildfires. Closures at the following locations:-

The Burway within Church Stretton

Asterton Village

Ratlinghope at the Belmore junction

Concern had been expressed by C'llr Houghton and it is understood that the Gilding Station still have access.

(c) Highways Maintenance Grant

At the May meeting the Clerk confirmed that she had submitted the application form for a £1,000 grant. This has now been approved and the £1,000 grant received on 27th May. .

It was agreed at the May meeting 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.

The Clerk confirmed that when the grant was received she had notified Jeremy Dale.

The Clerk had spoken to Jeremy Dale and he confirmed that he continues to jet the drain by Top House to no effect as the drain has collapsed.

He has carried out the following work to date:-

Road from Smethcott to Walkmills to try to alleviate the flooding on this section of road

Carried out work to all gullies and grips in Pease Lane.

10, Finance

(a) Accounts due for payment

The following cheques were due for payment:-

Clerks Salary June/July plus expenses amounted to £555.57. Cheque No. 000583

Heywoods Accountants operating payroll 2025/26 £90 (including £15 VAT) Cheque No. 000584

HMRC Tax due on Clerk's salary £136.80 Cheque No 000585

It was proposed by C'llr Hibbot-Morris, seconded by C'llr Morris and unanimously agreed that the above accounts be paid.

A member of the public attending the meeting handed the Clerk a receipt for a tub of Instamatic permanent pothole repair. He had filled a pot hole in the village. As the Parish Council had not authorised this work and the member of the public had not received any training it was unanimously agreed that the Parish Council could not refund the £24.61. The Clerk was asked to write to the member of the public explaining that the Parish Council were intending to

complete the Expression of Interest form and speak to Shropshire Council about volunteers taking responsibility for filling potholes in the Parish and if and when this was agreed the Parish Council may be in a position to reimburse this expenditure.

(b) Balance held at Bank/Bank Reconciliation

The Clerk told the meeting that the £1,000 EMG had been received from Shropshire Council and £478.18 VAT received for the period April 2025 – March 2026 had been paid by HMRC.

The Clerk then circulated the Bank reconciliation showing a balance held at bank, after payment of the above accounts, amounting to £8,733.09 It was proposed by C'Ilr Starns, seconded by C'Ilr Hibbit-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.

(c) Agree Exemption Certificate

The Annual Governance and Accountability Return was agreed and signed and signed at the May meeting, a copy of which is displayed on the web site. It was agreed at the May meeting that the Parish Council would apply for exemption from a full audit. The Clerk told the July meeting that the external auditor had now agreed and forwarded the Exemption Certificate.

The Clerk told the July meeting that she had received an e mail from the External Auditor to introduce a new digital AGAR portal for the 2027 submission. Although using the portal is voluntary for 2027 it will be compulsory for the following years.

11. Shropshire Council report

C'Ilr Houghton reported the following:-

- The cost of living resilience fund is now open for applications.
- There has been a change in Childrens' Services and Shropshire Council have £600,000 to implement support to families with children in early years.
- The meningitis vaccine is open to all who will be going to University.
- Monthly meetings have been set up by Shropshire Council to report on best value.
- Shropshire Council have been in administration since the election and have received a government loan and have £5,000,000 in reserves.
- Approval has been given for the disposal of the Shirehall and this will soon be going to market.. This will save £500,000 now required to maintain the empty property. The playing fields and NALGO Club will be retained and not form part of the sale.
- Meole Brace Park and Ride will close in September, leaving Oxon and Harlescott Park and Ride operating.
- Shropshire Councillors have been asked to identify what they wish Shropshire Council to provide. C'Ilr Houghton had asked for an assurance that grit bins would be filled before and during the winter. She was also asked if she could ask for a reassurance that local contractors approved by Shropshire Council for snow clearing would be given higher priority to go out as our Parish is on much higher ground and subject to much lower temperatures than many parts of Shropshire.

16. Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting is Wednesday 23rd September commencing at 7.30pm

The remaining 2026 meeting is as follows:-
25th November

Before the meeting closed C'llr Forbes asked about training for new Councillors. The Clerk agreed to enquire when the next Fundamentals for Councillors training session would take place.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.40pm