

**MINUTES OF
ALL STRETTON, SMETHCOTT AND WOOLSTASTON PARISH COUNCIL
MEETING
held at Picklescott Village Hall
Wednesday 23rd September 2026**

Present

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

Apologies

Apologies were received from C'llr Morris and C'llr Hibbot-Morris,

1. Chairman's Introduction

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. He also welcomed C'llr Davis to the meeting as he had been co-opted to serve as a Parish Councillor for All Stretton Parish.

2. Declaration of Interests

No declarations of interest were received.

3. Public Comments

The three members of the public present at the meeting again expressed concern that the new woodland planted by Forestry England was very dry with all the trees planted now dead. They stressed this was a fire hazard and all would need replanting.

This had been discussed at the previous Parish Council Meeting.(See item 3 Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 29th July).

The Parish Council noted their concerns.

This was further discussed under Item 5 on the Agenda.

A member of the public told the meeting that he had spoken to a Shropshire Council representative on site and the large pot hole near Netley Lodge has now been repaired.

A member of the public told the meeting that some potholes on the road from Picklescott to All Stretton had been repaired and some had been left un-repaired. C'llr Naylor told the meeting that he would check but he was under the impression that all were reported on FixMyStreet.

4. Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 29th July 2026

It was proposed by C'llr Starns, seconded by C'llr Forbes and unanimously agreed that the Minutes of the meeting held on 29th July 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)

The Clerk told the meeting that she had checked on Shropshire council web site and C'llr Forbes had now completed the on line Declaration of Interest Form.

The cCerk told the meeting that she had informed the elections office that C'llr Davis had been co-opted to serve as a Parish Councillor for All Stretton. Shropshire Council have now added his details on the web site and the Clerk confirmed that she had also added his details to the Parish Council web site. C'llr Davis agreed to complete the online Declaration of Interest Form.

6. Correspondence

The Clerk confirmed that she had completed the Expression of Interest Form but had heard nothing further from Shropshire Council. It was agreed that the clerk would contact Shropshire Council and ask for at least an acknowledgement that they had received the Expression of Interest and hopefully Shropshire council would provide further information.

The Clerk confirmed that she had sent the letter to the member of the public who attended the July meeting and had filled a pot hole in the village. At the July meeting he handed the Clerk a receipt for a tub of Instarmac permanent pothole repair. As agreed in Item 10 of the July minutes the Clerk had advised the member of the public that they could not authorise this payment at this time.

At the July meeting a member of the public expressed concern that the trees planted by Forestry England for the New Coronation Wood in Picklescott had died and left nothing but blackthorn and dead grass and presented a danger of wildfires in the extreme heat. This had been reiterated again by the three members of the public attending the September Meeting. It was agreed that the Clerk would contact Forestry England expressing the concerns of some of the residents and invite them to attend a public meeting.

Following the July meeting the Clerk had forwarded details of the Fundamentals for Councillors training which will take place via Zoom on 30th September. C'llr Forbes and C'llr Davis had expressed an interest and places have been booked. SALC will send the link a few days before the training which will take place via zoom from 6.30pm – 9pm. At the September meeting, C'llr Forbes asked the Clerk if she could contact SALC to enquire if a further training session was planned as she would find it difficult to attend on 30th September.

The Clerk circulated the following correspondence between meetings:-

- SALC Weekly Briefing
- RSN Weekly Newsletters
- C'llr Houghton Community Updates
- All correspondence relating to the Hill Fort Stages Rally held on 20th September.
- Details of Community grants forward by C'llr Houghton – forwarded to all Councillors on 16.9.26
- AGM Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital on 24th September. - forwarded to all Councillors on 3.9.26

- Invite to Shropshire Local Transport Plan – Pre Consultation Briefing on 10th September - forwarded to all Councillors on 1.9.26
- Fly Tipping Briefing Note - forwarded to all Councillors on 28.8.26
- Escape to the County TV Filming in the area - forwarded to all Councillors on 7.8.26
- Chairs Network meeting 30th September. Forwarded to the Chairman 22.9.26
- Nature Recovery Conference – 2 sessions will be held the first on 20th November at Norbury Village Hall and the second on 27th November at High Ercall Village Hall. Councillors do not have to attend both sessions.

7. Planning

(a) Clerk to report on applications previously discussed

All previous applications discussed had been reported at the July meeting.

(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.

8. 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 May 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. A while ago the latest feedback suggested a 22 week wait for consultation with the Environment Agency. The Clerk has now received an email 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’lir 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 Clerk told the September meeting that she had contacted Shropshire Council for a further update but had not received a reply. Shropshire C’lir Houghton told the meeting that she had the same experience and would now chase Shropshire Council again as this road had now been closed for two years.

The problems with the drain opposite Top House had been reported at the July meeting. C’lir Davis told the September meeting that Jeremy Dale had jetted this drain on numerous occasions and reported that in his opinion the pipework had collapsed and needed a more permanent repair. This is reported on FixMyStreet and the Clerk also agreed to report to Shropshire Council.

(b) Any further highway issues to be reported

The clerk had forwarded details of the following road closures

- Pulverbatch to Longden Common road closure for carriageway repairs 5th October – 9th October.. This had been forwarded to all Councillors.
- Bridges Junction Horseshoe Inn, Ratlinghope closure 7th December – 18th December to repair damaged parapet. Forwarded to all Councillors on 23.9.26.

The Clerk had also received notification of a temporary closure of Footpath 7 where it leaves the bridleway 6 in the Parish of Smethcott at grid reference SO 4416 9866 travelling in a generally south easterly direction crossing Batchcott Brook and the Parish boundary to meet the road in Woolstaston. The closure will come into force on 23rd September and be in place for a 21 day period due to the bridge on the route being in disrepair. Details were forwarded to all Councillors on 23.9.26

Councillors reported that signs on the highway for the Hill Fort Stages Rally had not been removed. The Clerk agreed to contact the organisers.

(c) Highways Maintenance Grant

The Clerk had spoken to Jeremy Dale and he confirmed that since the July meeting he had carried out the following work:-

- Cleaned out the cattle grids at Jinlye and Hill Farm
- Cleaned all gullies in the three parishes
- Cleaned out 6 roadside ditches including the ditch at High Park crossroads.

He has advised the Clerk that he is planning to attend the November meeting as the budget does not cover all the work required in the three parishes. Shropshire C'Ilr Houghton agreed to ask Shropshire council for information regarding the size of the Parishes in Shropshire, who all receive the same maintenance grant, which is £1,000 for the financial year 2026/27, despite many probably covering a much smaller area than our group of three parishes.

9., Finance

(a) Accounts due for payment

The following cheques were due for payment:-

HMRC Tax due on Clerk's salary £136.60 Cheque No 000586

Clerks Salary August/September plus expenses amounted to £563.19

Cheque No. 000587

It was proposed by C'Ilr Starns, seconded by C'Ilr Davis and unanimously agreed that the above accounts be paid.

It was agreed that the Clerk would contact the Bank and ask if then can set up online payments. This would then require a signatory accessing the bank online to authorise payments agreed at a meeting and placed online by the Clerk.

The Chairman agreed to be provided with this on line access.

(b) Balance held at Bank/Bank Reconciliation

The Clerk then circulated the Bank reconciliation showing a balance held at bank, after payment of the above accounts, amounting to £8,033.30

It was proposed by C'Ilr Starns, seconded by C'Ilr Phillips and unanimously agreed that this provided a true and accurate financial record. The Bank reconciliation and bank statement were then signed by the Chairman.

11. Shropshire Council report

C'llr Houghton reported the following:-

- Shropshire Council scrutiny Committee are carrying out a public review of the Hill Fort Rally and members of the public are being invited to make comments.
- Shropshire Council had received a £120m loan for this financial year and the forecast is predicting that £97m will be required
- A CIPFA report will be produced which will scrutinise how Shropshire Council came to be in the current financial position.
- Cabinet meet on 24th September and the closure of the Meole Brace Park and Ride will be discussed.

C'llr Forbes expressed concern that the timetable for the 435 Bus from Ludlow to Shrewsbury had been reduced despite this service being well used by residents on route. C'llr Houghton agreed to enquire why this decision had been made. However, she explained that all bus routes are supported by a Bus Grant from Central Government and, with the latest tenders from bus companies being reviewed, and all fares being cut from £3 to £2 in January this would have resulted in a shortfall if all services and timetables had remained unchanged. However, she agreed to investigate and report back concerning the 435 service..

16. Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting is Wednesday 25th November

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.35pm