



SHIPSTON-ON-STOUR TOWN COUNCIL Minutes

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<p><u>February 11th 2013 Minutes</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Minutes of the General Meeting of Shipston on Stour Town Council held in Clark House, Shipston on Stour at 7.00pm on Monday 11th February, 2013</u></p> <p><u>Those Present:-</u> Town Councillors: Cllr F Ivens, Cllr I Cooper, Cllr B Healey, Cllr A Ivens, Cllr R Munden, Cllr V Murphy, Cllr P Rathkey, Cllr M Trapp, Cllr J Warner, Cllr M Wildish, Cllr P Vial</p> <p>SDC: Cllr Cheney, Cllr Kenner WCC: Cllr Saint Press: 1 Public: 4</p> <p><u>Introduction</u> The Town Mayor, Cllr. Mrs Fay Ivens, welcomed Town Council members, the press, and the public to the February meeting of Shipston on Stour Town Council.</p> <p>1 <u>Apologies for absence</u> – apologies received from Cllr Noyce and Cllr Jelf</p> <p>2 Cllr Murphy proposed that these apologies be accepted, seconded Cllr A Ivens – unanimously agreed</p> <p>3 <u>Declarations of Interest</u> None</p> <p>4 <u>Previous minutes</u> Cllr A Ivens proposed that the minutes of the January 14th meeting, with 2 minor changes, be accepted as a true and accurate record, seconded Cllr Murphy – unanimously agreed</p> <p>5 <u>Clerks Report</u> In response to an item on the Clerk's report Cllr Cooper questioned if it was necessary to remove the Leylandii trees on the Darlingscote Road as in his opinion they are an essential screening for the industrial estate. The Mayor agreed with Cllr Cooper and as the work is not to be carried out until later in the year, due to the nesting season, it was put forward that the matter would return to General Purposes to be reconsidered in June. On another matter Cllr Warner noted that the large pothole in Station Road had not been marked for repairing. Cllr Saint reported that potholes of a certain size are repaired within a time frame and he would contact Paul Cowley to confirm this. Cllr Cooper commented that this matter and the water that collects on the Stratford Road is a hazard and danger to the people of the town and that the council should write to WCC putting Highways under notice to carry out these and other repairs. Cllr Vial agreed that it would be useful to send a letter.</p>	

Town Councillors

Cllr. Murphy – reported attending the Community Forum agenda meeting, the next Community Forum is at 7pm on 5th March at Ilmington Village Hall. Cllr Murphy also attended the meeting at the High School discussing their future plans for development.

Cllr. Rathkey – reported on

- presenting the town council's objections on the ASL planning application at the committee appeal meeting held at the High School. SDC unanimously voted to reject the application. Cllr Rathkey questioned Cllr Kenner on his attempt to dictate to STC who should represent the council at such meetings.
- attended the appeal for the Cala application at the Norgren site, considered that it is vital that those making decisions concerning Shipston should visit the site and wider area. The appeal will run for a further 4 days in June.
- noted that he is 100% in favour of the proposed developments at the High School.

Cllr. A Ivens – attended the GPWG meeting.

Cllr. Cooper – shares Cllr Rathkey's views on the unusual situation regarding the Cala application; there will not be a site visit until the next round of appeals in June, adding this is a very long process.

Cllr. Wildish – attended the Comms meeting, noted his concern that SDC have increased their budget for opposing appeals from £30,000 to £100,000 and wonders if this increase is at the cost of other services being cut? Cllr Wildish considers STC need to engage with the developers, Cala, rather than just oppose the application as we could end up with development in the town that we don't want. Cllr Cooper added that this is why a neighbourhood plan is needed.

Cllr. Warner – reported:

- concerns on the flooding at the Darlingscote Road junction on the Fosse Way and the adoption of Railway Crescent – Cllr Saint would answer these questions in his report later
- receiving thanks for refuse now being cleared regularly at Berry Close
- disappointed that future plans for the High School do not include the provision for 6th form.

Cllr. Munden – reported his disappointment with the conduct of SDC at the ASL committee appeal meeting adding that the people of Shipston should decide on the town's future.

Cllr. Healey – attended GPWG, the ASL committee appeal and High School development meetings. He visited the Shoulderway Lane allotment site after receiving a complaint that there was a leak from one of the water troughs. The deputy clerk confirmed that, after investigation, the leak may be due to a water barrel overflowing, when the ground becomes firmer the matter will be re-visited.

Cllr. Trapp – reported on:

- attending the ASL appeal and visiting the CCTV control room at Stratford which she found very interesting
- fully supports the High School development plans
- helped Transition Shipston plant trees at the new play area along with Cllr & Mrs Vial.

Cllr. Vial – reported:

- attended the ASL appeal, chaired planning meeting and visited the CCTV control room
- currently involved with two community projects; chicken keeping, eggs as a reward and baking bread to raise money for Red Nose Day (Bread Nose Day) to be sold on 16th March
- there have been two complaints via twitter; dog fouling in Tileman's Lane and the issue of turning off selected street lights during the night.

Cllr. Fay Ivens – reported: attended GPWG, CWG; PWG and ASL Meeting

The February litter pick was well attended; it was a pleasure to welcome more young people to the group. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the many snow wardens who did such a wonderful job clearing paths for our older residents in and around the areas where they live--- however we still need more volunteers. We have also had requests for more grit bins in various locations around Shipston. I would like to thank Lawns2Mow for working so hard to keep the town centre clear throughout the week long period of snow and ice.

The Mayor requested that STC send Pete Betteridge [on his retirement] a letter of appreciation for all that he has done for Shipston during the past 28 years as Chairman of Shipston Sports Club.

County Council

CC – Cllr. Saint – reported:

- unfortunately, Cllr Saint was unable to report any progress on the adoption of Railway Crescent. He realises this is frustrating for the residents but this process cannot be rushed
- on the decision to turn off selected street lights explaining that the aim is to reduce both the cost of council services and the carbon footprint. The Mayor expressed her deep concerns for the safety of residents should this go ahead, after discussion it was agreed to initiate a petition to be presented to WCC objecting to the decision. Cllr Trapp and the Mayor will organise the petition which will be available at New Clark House
- in response to Cllr Wildish's concerns on SDC's proposed budget increase to defend appeals, Cllr Saint noted this came from a misleading tweet as the budget has not yet been finalised but the money, if needs be, will come from government not the public purse. Cllr Saint added that the draft core strategy is actively being worked on and normally there is no need for budget appeals, however there are certain issues at this time which will require research, where money needs to be spent on outside expertise.
- some councillors questioned WCC's bid to reduce the carbon footprint when SDC councillors are travelling all over the county attending meetings. Cllr Saint noted that although unfortunate this cannot be helped as the county covers such a wide area

following a petition by parents WCC have overturned the decision to remove the school bus chaperone service, Cllr Warner passed on her thanks to WCC.

District Council

SDC – Cllr. Kenner – reported:

- has complained about the procedures at the ASL planning application appeal and noted that ASL are considering appealing, which Cllr Kenner will fully support
- after the announcement that Turbine Blading are unfortunately shutting down their division in Shipston, he has been active in organising a meeting with local representatives to offer support to families concerned
- disappointed that the Hornsby Close planning appeal was upheld
- submitted his support for the Mencap application
- New Homes Bonus; Cllr. Kenner would prefer an equal share of the pot for general schemes
- happy with the decision to reinstate bus chaperones
- Cllr Rathkey requested Cllr Kenner's opinion on the Cala planning application for the Norgren site; Cllr Kenner commented that he has not had time to look at all the evidence; however there is still a need for more affordable housing and no evidence of potential employment use for the site. Cllr Cooper added that Cllr Kenner's role was to represent the town and STC in their aim to bring employment back to the town.

SDC – Cllr. Cheney – reported:

- commented that although not ideal the four planning committees have been reduced to two which results in wide spread travel throughout the county
- the decision to remove the trees at Darlingscote Road is down to STC
- complained to Highways re pot holes in Station Road and drainage problems on the Stratford Road
- has considered the Cala Homes application and objects to the number of potential homes to be built
- has heard that the DCS maybe in place by August and supports the STCs work to produce a neighbourhood plan
- once again the recycling bins at the Hub are full of household rubbish and fears this will result in the service being removed
- fully supports the High School development plans
- there will be County Council elections in May; the polling station will be at the Hub but the New Scout Hut may be a possibility for the future
- supports the Mencap application, reviews needed for overlooking neighbouring properties
- There is no final decision yet on the proposal to allocate 20% of New Homes Bonus to towns where development has taken place. Cllr Cheney favours funds being available to areas such as Shipston where development has taken place rather than any community group that applies. Final decision will be in April.
- CAB & VASA funding will continue, after discussion Cllr Saint added that there is room at Elizabeth House for the organisation but the restoration of their funding is not determined by moving.

Shipston Forum

Forum Editor reported:

- The front page of the March issue is likely to include the road safety campaign and possibly the street light issue. Stephen Miles will have a guest column for the next few months to promote the Neighbourhood Plan.

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Open Forum for Parishioners

- Maria Harvey, resident – considers it ludicrous to turn off selected street lights, concerned this will lead to increased crime in the town, has recently been a victim of crime herself. Cllr Saint commented on the spate of CATs being stolen in the area stating that the Police are onto this and that in fact the level of crime in Warwickshire is dropping.
- Irena Strach, resident – commented that many crimes go unreported as residents have no faith that any action will be taken. Cllr Vial suggested that perhaps the Forum editor could write asking residents to report crimes.
- Pete Smith, resident – asked Cllr Saint why the drains in Telegraph Street and Stratford Road had not been jetted and again raised the question of the High Street becoming one way. He also requested that abbreviations in agenda be explained. In reply Cllr Saint noted that there are three jetters working to try and solve the problem of blocked drains and the one way system had unfortunately previously been opposed by the people of the town at a meeting held in the Townsend Hall.

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Neighbourhood Plan

Mr Stephen Miles, lead for the NP updated the council on the following:

- The formal advertisement by SDC of the NP is in progress, concludes 22/2/13. All responses are positive, these will be assessed and reported, so on course for SDC approval in March
- Have received substantial and valuable support from Locality, the DCLG funded advisor. Public meetings are scheduled for 27th February 5-9pm and 9th March 10-2pm at the Townsend Hall.
- Analysis of the community feedback indicates shared issues: local jobs; more housing development; improved infrastructure & services; a viable future for the town centre; heritage and green space conservation.

The council thanked Stephen Miles for all his hard work and effort.

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Planning Matters

- **NEW PLANNING APPLICATIONS** - discussed at Planning Working Group meeting
13/00138/TEL56 – West Street – Install 1 broadband cabinet (PCP006)
Cllr Vial proposed to make no representations with comments to request the cabinet be moved to a more suitable location, seconded Cllr Warner – **unanimously agreed**
- **13/00082/FUL** – 27–29 Stratford Rd – Demolition of existing buildings, erection of 10 self contained apartments for people with learning disabilities, with shared garden, parking
Cllr Vial proposed to full support with comments, seconded Cllr Trapp – **unanimously agreed**
- **PLANNING DECISIONS BY DISTRICT OR COUNTY COUNCIL**
12/02750/FUL – 4A Greenway Rd – single storey extension – Permission with conditions
12/01976/FUL – 24 Hay Meadow – 1st floor & single storey ext. to garage –Perm. with conditions.
- **PLANNING COMMITTEE**
12/00403/OUT – Land north of Campden Road – Dev. of supermarket, extra care and housing - Refusal
- **PLANNING INSPECTORATE**
12/00793/OUT – Land west of Hornsby Close – Appeal allowed, planning permission granted
- **PLANNING APPEAL – LOCAL INQUIRY**
11/02380/OUT - Norgren site, Cala Homes – 5th Feb – 10am – 3 days - update
- To discuss request by owner of 44 Telegraph St for STC opinion on change of use to residential
Following discussion Cllr Vial proposed not to oppose change of use in principle subject to viewing detailed plans (concerns with parking), seconded Cllr Wildish – **unanimously agreed**
- Notification of Planning application by Shipston Football Club for erection of 8 floodlights surrounding the football pitch at Sports Club
Cllr Cooper commented a) could we ask the football club to look at LED lighting for the floodlights and b) could the lights be low scale on the pitches to reduce light pollution to neighbouring residents.
Cllr Trapp asked if the floodlights will affect residents in Barcheston. It was agreed the clerk would write to Barcheston Parish Council.

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General Purposes Working Group

Cllr F Ivens introduced the GPWG report:

1. Road Safety in Shipston – following a presentation from Poonam Thompson, WCC Road Safety Officer it was agreed that in the first instance, for a period of 6 months WCC will install
 - a) kill your speed 30mph posters on Stratford Road and
 - b) watch your speed posters in Mayo Road. Cllr Trapp requested posters be installed in Tileman's Lane. The GPWG recommended that STC write to Cllr Saint asking for a feasibility study to be carried out on Stratford Road with a view to installing a portable flashing 30mph sign and a view to reducing the speed limit to 20mph in Mayo Road, proposed Cllr F Ivens, seconded Cllr Vial – **unanimously agreed**
2. Dog Fouling – complaints had been received from residents about the increase in dog fouling on the Hanson Track. The clerk is attending an assembly at the High School during February to discuss the issue as this was raised as a Police priority at the last Community Forum. Residents need to be encouraged to report any owners failing to clear up after their dog as without evidence no-one can be prosecuted.
3. Flooding, Shoulderway Lane allotments – further to a report from Cllr Healey the GPWG recommend that the council accept a quote from Lawns2Mow to install drainage at the allotment site to reduce the water flooding into the adjacent property, proposed Cllr Healey, seconded Cllr Trapp – **10 for, 1 abstention, motion carried**
4. Cllr Vial proposed that the clerk obtain quotes for a metal storage building to be installed at the rear of New Clark House (to store sand bags and road signs this side of the river for emergency situations), seconded Cllr Rathkey – **unanimously agreed**

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Youth Shelter

At the last Community Forum one of the Police priorities was to install a youth shelter in the town. PCSO Andy Steventon researched the matter and received a quote for a fabricated playground shelter. After discussion it was considered that the shelter quoted for was not adequate and councillors agreed to increase the budget so a more suitable shelter could be purchased. PCSO Steventon has arranged funding from other organisations for the installation of the shelter. Cllr Trapp proposed that PCSO Steventon could, in principle, purchase a youth shelter up to the value of £5,000, seconded Cllr Cooper – **10 for, 1 abstention, motion carried**

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Financial Matters

Cllr A Ivens proposed that all invoices be paid, seconded Cllr Vial – **unanimously agreed**

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Correspondence

No matters raised, but Cllr F Ivens suggested that the council write to Mr Ray Luker thanking him for his help in clearing the snow.

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CCTV

Councillors discussed whether STC should fund the 24 hour coverage of CCTV provision in the town at a cost of £6,000 per annum. Following visits to the CCTV control room and a presentation by Technical Services, councillors could find no substantial evidence to support this cost. Cllr Vial proposed that Shipston Town Council will not fund this provision for the next twelve months (01Apr2013 to 30Mar2014), should new evidence come forward this matter may be revisited, seconded Cllr F Ivens – **vote – 10 for, 1 abstention, motion carried**

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Communications Working Group

WCC have launched its 'Operation Footfall' initiative, aimed at bringing more shoppers and visitors into Warwickshire's town centres. There is a maximum of £30,000 for any individual project which could be awarded to Shipston. Various ideas were put forward; a recharging unit for electric vehicles; monthly markets. Following discussion Cllr Vial proposed that Cllr Cooper put together a bid for the grant to fund the employment of a town centre manager to promote and advertise the town. The fund should be able to employ a manager for two years, seconded Cllr Trapp – **unanimously agreed**

Cllr F Ivens proposed that the meeting be closed to the public and press due to the confidential nature of the business to be discussed, seconded Cllr Murphy – **unanimously agreed**

Town Council Website

Tenders submitted by two providers were discussed. Cllr Murphy proposed that the contract was awarded to Alex Lilley of Redwax for the year commencing 1st April 2013, seconded Cllr Vial – **unanimously agreed**

Cllr. Warner declared an interest in the following item which was to be discussed and left the meeting.

Staffing Group

Cllr Rathkey, Chair of Staffing Group gave a verbal report to update councillors on a staffing issue that cannot be reported here due to its confidential nature.

Finale

The Town Mayor noted that the next meeting will be held on Monday 11th March, 2013 in New Clark House commencing at 7.00 pm.

The Town Mayor thanked fellow councillors, press and public for their attendance and closed the meeting at 10.10 pm.

Signed.....

Date.....

Councillor Mrs F Ivens
Town Mayor
Shipston on Stour Town Council