



# SHIPSTON-ON-STOUR TOWN COUNCIL Minutes

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|  | <b><u>January 14<sup>th</sup> 2013 Minutes</u></b>   | <b>Action</b> |
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|  | <p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Minutes of the General Meeting of Shipston on Stour Town Council<br/>held in Clark House, Shipston on Stour<br/>at 7.00pm on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> January, 2013</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Those Present:-</u></b><br/>Town Councillors: Cllr F Ivens, Cllr I Cooper, Cllr B Healey, Cllr A Ivens, Cllr A Jelf, Cllr R Munden, Cllr V Murphy, Cllr A Noyce, 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<br/>Press: 1    Public: 24</p> <p><b><u>Introduction</u></b><br/>The Town Mayor, Cllr. Mrs Fay Ivens, welcomed Town Council members, the press, and the public to the January meeting of Shipston on Stour Town Council.</p> <p>1    <b><u>Apologies for absence</u></b> – none received</p> <p>2</p> <p>3    <b><u>Declarations of Interest</u></b><br/>Item 10 – ASL Planning application – Cllr F Ivens<br/>Item 16 – Staffing – Cllr Warner</p> <p>5    <b><u>Empty Homes Project</u></b><br/>Paul Chapman from SDC gave an explanation of the Empty Homes Project – there were 900 empty homes in the Stratford District before the project commenced, there are now 550. He noted that there are hot spots of empty homes, Shipston being one of these. Mr Chapman gave detailed information about the problems that empty homes can bring to an area, including: 18% depreciation in the value of adjacent properties; they can become eyesores, they can encourage anti-social behaviour; landowners are often unaware of their maintenance responsibilities and it can be detrimental to the community. Re-introducing these properties offsets needs for more development. The project actively encourages: re-occupation; renovation and sale or rent. There are grants available for renovation and a tax incentive of a 5% reduction in VAT. 15 properties in Shipston are currently being monitored.</p> <p>4    <b><u>Previous minutes</u></b><br/>Cllr Murphy proposed that the minutes of the December 10<sup>th</sup> meeting, with 2 minor changes, be accepted as a true and accurate record, seconded Cllr. Noyce – <b>unanimously agreed</b></p> |               |

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| 6 | <p><b><u>Clerk's Report</u></b><br/>         In addition to her report, the Clerk noted;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• That a response to the SDC consultation on recycling centres would be submitted, opposing the proposed cuts to this service.</li> </ul>   |  |
| 8 | <p><b><u>Town Councillors</u></b><br/> <b>Cllr. Murphy</b> – reported that she enjoyed the Stour Singers Christmas concert and the Mayor's Charity Gala. Attended Orbit's Community Engagement Event to view proposals for the development of land adjacent to Angela's Meadow visited Stratford's CCTV control room with the Mayor and Clerk.<br/> <b>Cllr. A. Ivens</b> – attended GPWG and accompanied the Mayor on her Christmas morning visits.<br/> <b>Cllr. Rathkey</b> – represented the council at the planning appeal for the Hornsby Close application. He thanked Cllrs. Cheney &amp; Kenner and residents for their input, he considered that the application received a fair hearing and awaits the report mid January. Cllr. Rathkey raised concerns with the proposed Orbit planning application; specifically the poor visibility at the access road which is to be opposite the Cemetery entrance.<br/> <b>Cllr. Trapp</b> – reported on a most enjoyable evening at the Mayor's Gala Dinner.<br/> <b>Cllr. Munden</b> – reported that a resident, who was drenched by a passing vehicle driving through one of the large puddles caused by the blocked drains on the Stratford Road, asked who he should complain to at WCC. It was suggested that he write to the Chief Executive.<br/> <b>Cllr. Warner</b> – reported;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• That the white lines on the entrance of Badgers Crescent on the Stratford Rd have worn away.</li> <li>• A number of pot holes have appeared in the town; Station Road, the Gyratory, Worcester Place and Darlingscote Road. The clerk had already reported these to Highways who have added them to their list of repairs.</li> </ul> <p><b>Cllr. Wildish</b> – informed the council that he and his family had moved to Stratford, he will continue as a Shipston councillor. He enquired if anyone knew of a suitable, inexpensive space that the Brownies and Rainbows could hire whilst the Scout Hut is being rebuilt. Suggestions included; High School, Catholic Church Hall, St. Edmund's, the Hub and Youth Club.<br/> <b>Cllr. Healey</b> – attended GPWG and enjoyed the Mayor's Gala Evening.<br/> <b>Cll. Vial</b> – attended the Gala Evening and the Orbit Community Event.<br/> <b>Cllr. Fay Ivens</b> – reported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• That she and Cllr. A Ivens were delighted to visit the residents and staff at the Ellen Badger and Low Furlong on Christmas Day.</li> <li>• The first litter pick of 2013 was successful with a good turnout.</li> <li>• Is enjoying her 'Meet the Mayor' sessions at the Primary School, the pupils are presenting some well thought out ideas and questions.</li> <li>• Delighted to hear that Mr Sid Peachey has received a letter from Buckingham Palace in recognition of his involvement with the building of all four beacons in Shipston during the reign of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth.</li> </ul> <p><b>County Council</b><br/> <b>CC – Cllr. Saint</b> – reported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Highlighted a potential problem of re-introducing rabies with the increase of puppies being imported from Eastern European countries. The puppies cost less to buy and Cllr. Saint urged residents to please think carefully before purchasing.</li> <li>• The new policy for the Fire and Rescue Services is to be signed off after being out for a 3 month consultation with only two parish councillors responding. Issues include; a proposal to re-locate the Fire Station and HQ to the outskirts of Leamington to try and avoid the continual delays with traffic jams at their current site and to join Warwickshire and Northamptonshire to reduce costs.</li> <li>• Apologised to the Mayor as there is still no progress on the footprints to the Primary School.</li> <li>• The Stratford Road issues are being dealt with by Highways but unfortunately moving slowly.</li> <li>• Awaits feedback on the updated front page of WCC website, which hopes to make it more user friendly.</li> <li>• Cllr. Warner asked why WCC were cutting chaperone services on bus routes for the 4 – 11 year olds? Cllr. Saint replied that this was unfortunately another budget saving which he considers a retrograde step for a small saving. After discussion cllrs requested that the Town Clerk write to WCC, they considered this cut could put unnecessary pressure on the drivers.</li> <li>• Cllr. Warner asked Cllr. Saint to urge WCC Highways to re-paint white lines at Badgers Crescent.</li> </ul> |  |

## **District Council**

### **SDC – Cllr. Cheney – reported:**

- Considers it a ridiculous idea to cut the chaperone service for the 4-11 year olds and signed the petition on Saturday.
- Had spotted one of the cycle racks on the corner of High Street is broken. The Town Clerk has already reported this to Highways.
- Opposes the removal of the re-cycling bins at The Hub as this is a useful facility. Cllr. Cheney considers the mis-use of the bins has been used as an excuse for this action.
- That the Youth Club is continuing to thrive with a good number attending each week and thanked the council for their grant of £5,000 for next year.
- His concerns that there is no timetable for completion of the core strategy and is not happy with the proposed application from Orbit for housing adjacent to Angela's Meadow. This is an area of restraint and in his view will bring too many houses in the wrong place.
- Hopes that the new homes bonus will be included in the SDC budget which would include Shipston.
- That the 2/3 street lights not working in Bridge Street car park are being dealt with.
- Highways have plans to re-surface the gyratory this summer and re-paint road markings around Shipston in the near future.
- Cllr. Vial made a request for a measure on the side of the road by The Mill warning drivers of the depth of the flooding enabling them to judge if it would be safe to cross the bridge. Cllr. Saint will put this idea forward.
- Cllr. Munden questioned the turning off of selected street lights during the night when there are some lights that remain on 24 hours a day.

### **SDC – Cllr. Kenner – reported:**

- Supported a petition against the removal of the chaperone service; also available online.
- Hornsby Close appeal; considers a strong case opposing the application was put forward and awaits the report.
- Written objections to the removal of re-cycling facility at The Hub. A valuable service as the recycling centre hours have been reduced also has concerns that this action could lead to unnecessary fly-tipping in the future.
- Met with the Head of Shipston High, supports the future development plans for the school.
- A meeting tomorrow when street lights changes are to be considered. He suggested that alternatives such as LED lights could be cost effective.
- Cllr. Wildish asked when WCC are planning to switch off of the lights. Cllr. Saint replied that the proposed date is April however the plan is only to turn off selected lights so there is not a total blackout. He will check the latest map and report back.
- His comments on the ASL planning application have been circulated.

## **Shipston Forum**

### **Forum Editor reported:**

- The front page of the February issue is yet to be decided, but depending on discussion this evening, it is likely to include the STC stance on the ASL application and possibly the issue raised about the removal of chaperones from school buses for 4 to 11 year olds.

8

## **Open Forum for Parishioners**

Mr Ferrier thanked Cllr Rathkey for his comments at the appeal for Hornsby Close .....

Richard Waller – noted that he had recently moved to Shipston and that he was unable to enrol his son at the primary school due to lack of spaces, he was concerned that the town does not have the infrastructure for an influx of more families. He further noted that he had another son who needed extra care and that because of lack of such provision in Warwickshire he is being cared for in Northamptonshire.

Tina Cook – Chairman of SUBs – who represent 90 local businesses, urged STC to consider the sustainability of the Norgren Site and that it should be retained for employment use.

Jack Crimp – raised concerns about the impact of major new developments on flooding in the town, he was also concerned about the town's infrastructure and considered that the supermarket plan would be profoundly detrimental to retail businesses in Shipston.

Kate King – retailer (Ivy Heart) – was concerned about the Doidge report and the negative impact on retail businesses in the town that an out of town supermarket would have, that it would decimate trade and traders would be lost. She also noted that there would be extra pressure on the already over-subscribed schools.

Mrs Crimp – considered that the recent election result showed that overall 62% of those who voted had opted for the candidates who were against the supermarket plan, as opposed to 38% who had

voted for winning candidate who supported the supermarket plan.

Irena Strach – was concerned by a remark made at the January meeting by Cllr Noyce, who stated that perhaps residents who did not want the gypsy camp at Darlingscote Crossroads, might prefer that to them living next door to them.

Mr Gunn – who had recently moved to Shipston from a small county town, which was virtually wiped out by an out of town store.

Maria Harvey – stated that she supported the supermarket

Guy Legge – having read the recent Portas review of the British High Street, noted that it stated that it was in trouble regardless of the growth of out of edge of town supermarkets, adding that supermarkets are a reality that you have to accept. Modern high streets have to change to continue to exist.

Mathew O'Connell – noted that there is already an out of town supermarket – but it is 9 miles away.

## 9 Neighbourhood Plan

Mr Stephen Miles, lead for the NP noted that:

- Funding support from Locality was now in place to assist with the NP – the steering group would be meeting with Locality on 29<sup>th</sup> January
- 30 to 35 helpers have offered to support the preparation of the plan
- Notices from SDC about the application asking for representations on whether the designated area is appropriate have been put up in the town; replies must be made to SDC by 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2013.

## 10 Planning Matters

### • **NEW PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

NEW PLANNING APPLICATIONS – discussed at Planning Working Group meeting

12/02927/LBC – Lloyds TSB, 25 High St – upgrade external signage

12/02928/ADV – Lloyds TSB, 25 High St – 2 internally illuminated projecting signs & other signs

Cllr Vial proposed to make no representations, seconded Cllr Jelf – **unanimously agreed**

### • **PLANNING DECISIONS BY DISTRICT OR COUNTY COUNCIL**

12/02386/FUL – Clark House, West Street – change of use B1 to B1/A1 – Permission with conditions

12/02506/FUL – 16 Stratford Rd – single storey rear flat roof extension – Permission with conditions

### • **PLANNING APPEAL – LOCAL INQUIRY**

11/02380/OUT - Norgren site, Cala Homes – 5Feb2013 – 10.00 am – Elizabeth House – for 3 days

### • **APPEAL TO PLANNING INSPECTORATE**

11/01595/FUL – Swallow House, 1 Mill Street – Appeal allowed

Cllr Vial noted that the owner of 44 Telegraph Street had asked if STC would support an application for change of use from office to residential use for the ground floor of the property – the Clerk was asked to write to the owner for additional information.

**Planning Appeal 2184727** - IMI Norgren - Mixed use dev. - 125 houses and 929 sq m (1,000 sq ft) employment (B1).

- To discuss proposal to support the Rule 6 statement which outlines the local issues against this development, specifically the need to retain Employment Land in Shipston and for local people to have a say in the type of development needed for the town.

Cllr Cooper gave an explanation of the Rule 6 statement, he considered that the site should be retained for commercial use, adding that the NP should determine the future of Shipston, he requested that STC support the statement.

Following discussion Cllr Cooper proposed that STC support the Rule 6 statement as per copies issued to all STC cllrs, seconded Cllr Vial – **vote – 7 for, 5 against, 1 abstention – motion carried**

### **ASL Site – Land north of Campden Road**

- To consider planning application – 12/00403/OUT – Land North of, Campden Road

*This matter was re-considered as six months had passed since the last resolution on this matter – as the Town Mayor had disclosed an interest she left the council chamber and as Deputy Mayor, Cllr Murphy chaired this section of the meeting.*

Following detailed discussion Cllr Wildish proposed that STC support the ASL application, seconded Cllr Jelf – **vote – 6 for, 6 against – Cllr Murphy used her casting vote against the proposal to retain current council policy – motion failed**

11

**General Purposes Working Group**

Cllr Noyce introduced the GPWG report:

1. Bus shelter on Stratford Road – this has fallen victim to vandalism on numerous occasions, the current favoured course of action was to focus on maintenance and ensure that it is regularly swept
2. The clerk has arranged for WCC Road Safety officer to attend the February GPWG meeting to discuss ways of dealing with speeding in Mayo Road and other areas of the town.
3. Request for “No Entry” sign at junction of Sheep Street at High Street next to Martin’s – following discussion Cllr Noyce proposed that a letter to WCC Highways requesting that this become a “No Entry” from High Street to Sheep Street, seconded Cllr Trapp – **unanimously agreed**
4. A complaint received from a resident of Keetley Close, concerned about water running off the open space opposite the close was discussed. Cllr Ivens noted that three visits had been made to the site and no water was seen flowing off the land, however he will continue to monitor this area.
5. Cllr Noyce noted that the snow wardens and lawns to mow will be clearing the town centre and other areas to ensure that residents can access essential goods and services.
6. Shoulderway Lane gate to the cemetery – a dip has formed adjacent to the gate – Lawns to mow will be asked to fill the dip with appropriate material.

Cllr Trapp noted that some of the reflectors on the gateway signs to the town were missing.

12

**Financial Matters**

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

13

**Correspondence**

No matters raised

Cllr F Ivens proposed that the meeting closed to press and public for items 14, 15 and 16 due to there confidential nature, seconded Cllr. Rathkey – **unanimously agreed**

15

**CCTV**

PCSO Andy Steventon gave an explanation of how the SNT utilise the CCTV facility, following discussion 5 councillors indicated a wish to visit the CCTV control room at Stratford

14

**Communications Working Group**

Referring to the December CWG minutes Cllr Murphy proposed that Editorship of the Forum be awarded for a further year contract to the current editor, Catherine Martin, seconded Cllr Trap – **unanimously agreed**

STC Website – the comms group had no recommendation at the moment for the management of the website, but expected to make a recommendation for the February meeting. It was noted that “Hidden Britain” had agreed to hold a tourism workshop on 20<sup>th</sup> February, invitations had gone out stakeholders in the town.

16

**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 11<sup>th</sup> February, 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 9.55 pm.

Signed.....

Date.....

Councillor Mrs F Ivens  
Town Mayor  
Shipston on Stour Town Council