



SHIPSTON-ON-STOUR TOWN COUNCIL

New Clark House,
West Street,
Shipston-on-Stour
Warwickshire
CV36 4HD

Telephone:
01608 662180

Web Site:
www.shipstononline.org

Town Mayor:
Cllr F Ivens

Deputy Mayor:
Cllr V Murphy

Councillors:
Mr. I. Cooper
Mr. B. Healey
Mr. F. Ivens
Mr. A Jelf
Mr. R Munden
Mr. A. Noyce
Mr. P. Rathkey
Miss M. Trapp
Mrs. P. Vial
Mrs. J. Warner
Mr. M. Wildish

Town Clerk:
Georgina Beaumont
E-mail:
clerk@shipstononline.org



QUALITY
TOWN
COUNCIL

Number: QC 05 04 00050
Over 100 years service
to the local community

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING 26th APRIL 2012

MINUTES

Present

Councillors: Cllrs. P. Rathkey (Town Mayor), I. Cooper, A. Ivens, F. Ivens, V. Murphy, A. Noyce, P. Vial, J. Warner, S. Welch

District Cllr.: Cllr. R. Cheney

County Cllr.: Cllr. C. Saint

Public: 37 Members of the public

Press: 1 members of the press

Apologies: Cllrs. M. Isaacs

Introduction

The Town Crier called the meeting to order and introduced Cllr. Paul Rathkey the Town Mayor who welcomed all present to the 2012 annual town meeting.

Minutes of the last Town Meeting

The minutes of the last town meeting were distributed at the commencement of the meeting.

Matters arising from the minutes

There were no matters arising from the April 2011 minutes

Reports:

Town Mayor

The Mayor gave his report for the past year, including the Staffing Working Group:

Cllr Rathkey gave an explanation of the purchase of the new Town Council Building, the former police station in West Street; it had taken approximately 10 months to purchase the building and considered that he would like to be remembered as the Mayor who "bought the Police Station". Cllr Rathkey went on to give a detailed explanation of what he considered to be an orchestrated campaign to malign Shipston Town Council, he addressed each of the accusations made by those people who were against the purchase, which had culminated in a poll to vote for a public meeting, when residents could be given information about the purchase. Cllr. Rathkey assured those present that information concerning the possible purchase had been in the public domain throughout the period of discussion with Warwickshire Police Authority (WPA).

Mr Steve Cawley asked: why the police station had been purchased

The Mayor gave the following information:

- To retain a base for the police in Shipston
- A rental agreement had been confirmed for 9 years with the WPA
- The town had already lost the District Council offices in Telegraph Street, the purchase was an opportunity to encourage the return of SDC services in the town.
- Clark House had limited space, the purchase was an opportunity to invest in the future of the town and to bring a wide range of services and groups to a central building in the town, fit for purpose.

Mr. Mike Ashley asked why the meeting of 28th November 2011 was closed to the press

The Mayor noted that at this time negotiations concerning the sale price of the building were still ongoing and it was commercially impractical to make these negotiations public. The final sale price was £180,000, with a 9 year lease to WPA for a first floor office and parking for the SNT at £5,000 per annum.

Mr. Ashley thanked the Town Mayor for responding to his questions, but considered that the conduct of the Town Mayor was inappropriate.

The Mayor stated that he was defending the Town Council, that members were volunteers who worked with integrity and the best interests of the town.

Mr. Jack Crimp gave his support to the Town Mayor adding that he had enabled a valuable public asset.

Mr. Trevethick considered that the Town Council had made a sound purchase for the town.

Mrs. Heron asked how she could get hold of a policeman when needed.

The Town Mayor continued with the rest of his annual report:

Housing development – he stated that he was not against development, but had a preference for modest sized developments.

Supermarket – he had concerns that half of the shops in the town centre would be lost, that the site for the proposed supermarket was green field and the application went against the SDC core strategy.

Education – Shipston Town Council will continue to work with the schools in the town and congratulated both head teachers on their recent achievements.

Staffing – The Mayor explained that value for money was an important issue, when spending public money, when we lost a member of the gardening team the previous year, savings had been made by contracting out the grounds maintenance of the cemetery, along with considerable improvements to the quality and appearance of the site. The Town Council had been left with a gardening staff team of two, one has recently resigned, this meant a difficult decision of either recruiting a new gardener or further contracting out. The contracting out option had, with council approval, been taken and the process for this would begin soon. These changes will mean significant cost savings and an expectation of huge improvements in delivery and performance.

Question – How much will be saved?

Town Mayor – we expect to make savings of up to £40,000 per annum, some of which can be directed to voluntary organisations in the town.

There will be total of three contracts: Grounds maintenance for the cemetery; grounds maintenance for the town and cleansing, carried out on behalf of the District Council. We have agreed a temporary contract with the company who holds the contract to maintain the cemetery.

Question – Can Old Road be made a one-way street as it is an extremely dangerous road?

The Town Mayor responded noting that this has been previously discussed, but would pass it to WCC Highways for further consideration.

Question – Mr Steve Cawley – had noted that the minutes were not always available on the website

The Town Mayor apologised, promising to look into the matter.

WORKING GROUPS

Financial Report – Cllr. Ian Cooper

Over the past year the finance working group has been responsible for reviewing some of the financial policies and procedures used by the council and monitoring financial performance in line with recommendations put forward by the internal auditor.

During 2011/12, the council has approved a number of recommendations put forward by the finance working group, including

- The proper investment of some of the Council's reserves in NatWest high yield short notice deposit accounts
- Change of bankers to Lloyds TSB for an improved service
- Switched insurers to secure better value for money and direct savings
- Applied (unsuccessfully) for WCC "big society" funding to improve local community transport
- Assessment of all 2012/13 grant requests applications
- Achieved a second year of "good internal control" rating from the Internal Auditor

The finance working group also produces the draft 2012/13 budget for the council's approval, and is pleased to report that the council has agreed to recommend no increase in its 2012/13 annual precept request (the element of your council tax that is attributable to the town council).

A summary of the 2012/13 precept is provided below:

Shipston-on-Stour Town Council - Annual Precept 2012/13		
Annual Precept 2012/13	2012/13	2011/12
Income		
Allotment Rent	900.00	900.00
Agency Work	6,550.00	8,450.00
Burial Fees	6,000.00	6,000.00
Rents	1,783.00	2,233.00
Bank Interest	500.00	2,000.00
Grants & Donations	0.00	0.00
Precept	206,000.00	206,000.00
Total Income	<u>221,733.00</u>	<u>225,583.00</u>
Expenditure		
Administration	5,020.00	4,270.00
Bank/Professional (inc insurance)	11,865.50	11,920.50
Community	22,730.00	34,300.00
Maintenance	8,400.00	7,850.00
Mayor & Public Relations	3,000.00	3,000.00
Publicity	22,600.00	20,800.00
Rates/Rents	4,300.00	4,300.00
Utilities	2,260.00	2,010.00
Vehicles	3,350.00	4,650.00
Wages/Contracts	115,687.60	132,000.00
Total Expenditure	<u>199,213.09</u>	<u>225,100.50</u>
balance to/(from) reserves	<u>22,519.91</u>	<u>482.50</u>
Reserves:		
Specific Reserves	238,280.96	274,505.54
General Reserves	167,241.45	108,878.10
General Reserves as % of Expenditure	84%	48%

A resident congratulated the council on its effective management of the budget

A resident asked if the Town Council will retain any vehicles, the Town Mayor responded they it would not.

Communication Working Group Report – Cllr. V. Murphy

Members: Cllrs. Murphy (Chair), Cooper, F Ivens, Rathkey and Vial

A number of meetings have taken place throughout the year. The new editor of the Forum has been kept busy with a variety of topics to present to our residents. Some months there have been so many items that content has been limited and care has been taken to change the back page on a fair basis. The group is keen that topical items are sent to the editor by 14th of each month to meet the print deadline. There is a need for a wide viewpoint and submission of different ideas.

Councillors met with the website manager, Ollie Kemp to keep STC informed with latest developments in this vast media. As the March Forum led on its front page, the free mobile app is available – Shipston leads the area with the App store and its website: www.shipstononline.org

To conform with the code of practice, advertisements are not allowed in local council monthly publications and it was felt inappropriate to change to a quarterly publication to reduce costs. However, we shall be able to continue for the next financial year but will have to carefully examine any increase in costs for 2012/2013.

Questions:

Mr Trevethick asked if advertising could be included in the Forum or if STC could receive sponsorship. Cllr Vial responded that this could not be done as it would be competing with local newspapers.

General Purposes Working Group Report – Cllr. S Welch

Members: Cllrs. Welch (Chair); Noyce; A Ivens

The General Purposes Working Party (GPWP) meets every month, 10 days before the Full Council meeting. The agenda comprises matters requiring discussion that have either been received from the Town Clerk (from a variety of sources – public, SDC, WCC etc), or have been initiated by the GPWP itself, or by the Full Council.

Urgent and non-contentious matters may be resolved directly by the GPWP. More substantive matters, particularly those likely to involve expenditure are initially researched and discussed by the GPWP, and a recommendation forwarded to the Full Council for decision.

Listed below is a selection of the items/topics discussed at the GPWP meetings during the last 12 months.

- Play Area signage
- Repair and relocation of seats at the cemetery & Darlingscote Road
- Possible revision of the Cemetery Rules
- Repair and restoration of the Cemetery Chapel (£30K)
- Removal of dead and dying chestnut trees at Signal Road play area
- Cemetery maintenance – subcontracting work
- Damaged wet pour surfaces at Town play areas (5)
- Event advertising boards – produce regulations and application forms
- Leylandii trees in Darlingscote Road
- Mapping of area in town where we should receive remuneration for grass cutting from SDC**
- Repair and repainting of cemetery gates and railings
- Request from agents for Village Estate – Town Council to quote for maintenance?
- Ownership and fate of land at the corner of Beecham Road/Tilemans Lane
- Snow clearance problems
- Overgrown shrubs at rear of Junior School
- Contract for the annual safety survey of playground equipment
- Replacement of damaged Lime tree – London Road
- Re-marking and allocation of allotments – discussion on allotment fees. Allotment inspections
- Survey of the town – defective street lamps (carried out by all councillors)
- Relocation of bus stop in the High Street
- Installation of additional water supplies at the allotments

- Visual inspection of road drains in Shipston (Cllrs Welch & Ivens.A) – 102 drains discovered requiring attention/clearing. WCC alerted.

Questions:

Steven Heron asked about the WCC Highways response to the blocked drains at Darlingscote Road

Roy Munden complained about floods at Stratford Road adjacent to the bus stop.

Planning Working Group Report

Members: Cllrs Philip Vial (Interim Chair); Ronnie Murphy; Alan Noyce; Jackie Warner
Former Member: Dot Courtney (Chair)

Led until recently by Councillor Dot Courtney. The Planning Working Group has reviewed 52 planning applications submitted to Stratford District Council in the past year.

Stratford District Council is formally required to consult with Town & Parish councils about all applications falling within their areas, but ultimately it is the Planning Committees and Planning Officers at the District Council who decide. Shipston Town Council's powers are limited, our responses do not have much greater weight than individual responses, but one of our most important powers is that if we disagree with a Planning Officer's decision then the application will go to the Planning Committee, where elected Councillors will make the final decision. This has happened on a few occasions in the past year, and Town Councillors, often Councillor Courtney or Councillor Murphy, have represented our views to the Planning Committee – often winning!

The Planning Working Group meets monthly. And meetings are open to the public as are most other Town Council meetings. Over the next year we plan to improve public participation in our process.

Draft Core Strategy

The Council's response to the Draft Core Strategy was not written by the Planning Working Group, but I feel it is worth mentioning in this report. The Draft Core Strategy, which the District Council uses to determine its planning strategy, including housing numbers, came to us again this year. The District Council began this process before the General Election, but were forced to start again after the change in Government. Shipston Town Council feels that the revised document is an improvement, both in terms of housing numbers and other factors. The Mayor, Councillor Paul Rathkey, kindly led our response to the consultation.

Town Design Statement

Many local Parish & Town Councils have a Design Statement. A Village or Town Design Statement is a practical tool to help influence decisions on design and development. Prepared correctly, a Design Statement will provide a clear statement of the character of a particular village or town against which planning applications may be assessed. It is not about whether development should take place (this is one of the purposes of the District's Local Plan), but about how development should be undertaken so as to respect the local identity.

An effective Town Design Statement:

- is developed, researched, written, and edited by local people;
- is representative of the views of the town as a whole and has involved a wide section of the town community in its production;
- describes the visual character of the town and demonstrates how local character and distinctiveness can be protected and enhanced in new development;
- is compatible with the statutory planning system and is suitable for approval by the District Council as supporting its Local Plan;
- is applicable to all forms and scale of development; and
- is about managing change in the town, not preventing it.

Shipston TC has reached the point where the work we have done so far is going out to further public consultation. From May 8th a display board and questionnaires will be available at the library (for two weeks) and also from the Town Council directly. We hope to have it available from other outlets, including online.

This work has been led by local resident Paul Richardson.

Neighbourhood Plan

The Council are at a very early stage of designing a Neighbourhood Plan for the Town. Neighbourhood plans form one of the new mechanisms put in place by the localism act. These are voluntary local planning policy documents, which are written and developed by the community; these are usually led by town and parish councils. Neighbourhood plans have to be developed in line with national and district planning policy, and can only deal with planning issues (for example the types and styles of development in the town). This will, we hope, encourage community-led rather than developer-led planning. The work is being led by Councillor Ian Cooper.

Housing Needs Survey

As part of its plans to help lead appropriate development in the town the Town Council is sponsoring a new Housing Needs Survey. We sponsored one in 2005 and it has long been felt that this is due for updating. The survey will give us an idea of the housing needs, both affordable and for standard purchase, of people in the town. For example there have been many recent pleas for more affordable 4 bedroom housing for local people with families – and we need to understand what the real need is. This work was sponsored by Councillor Philip Vial.

Large Scale Development

Unfortunately controversy has dogged many of the recent planning applications, with strong arguments by local people both for and against the ‘supermarket,’ use of land for employment, and also the large scale housing that all the currently proposed developments would also bring in their wake. These controversies will not go away, but the Planning Group thanks all local residents who’ve attended meetings both of it and the full Town Council – and urges more people to do so! It is only with greater public involvement that we can get a sense of what it is the local community wants.

Councillor Dot Courtney

My personal thanks go to Dot Courtney for all the hard work she’s put in for the past few years, and I wish her well in her council ‘retirement.’

Questions: Mr Trevethick – how long with the consultation period for the Town Design Statement
Cllr Vial: About two weeks

“Proud of my town” campaign – Cllr. F. Ivens

The Proud of my Town campaign has now been in existence for just over a year. Research has shown that by keeping the environment clean and tidy it has a negative effect on anti-social behaviour---so please join in our campaign and let’s make a real community effort to keep our lovely town a place to be proud of

KEEP THE LITTER OUT OF SHIPSTON

We now have a regular group of 15 adults and children who meet at Clark House on the first Saturday of the month at 10am before going around the town picking up litter. You may have seen them in their fluorescent jackets with ‘Proud of My Town’ on the back. If you would like to join contact me on the number below.

MAKE DOG OWNERS MORE RESPONSIBLE

Dog fouling is still a problem in Shipston. We must encourage dog owners to clean up after their pets and use the many dog bins around the town. If you have evidence of owners acting in an irresponsible way please report it to the Dog Warden at Stratford District Council 01789 267575

SNOW WARDENS

The snow wardens were only needed once during the past year. A group of 20 volunteers cleared the paths around the Medical Centre, Stour Court, Old Road and the front paths of the elderly in various parts of the town.

EMERGENCY PLAN GROUP

This is a group of residents who form the Emergency Plan Group, they all have a roll to play in the event of an emergency occurring i.e. Flooding etc. --- If you would like to volunteer to be part of this group please contact me on the number below.

Cllr Fay Ivens - 01608 662133

Town Crier Report – Mrs. Marion Ladd

Mrs. Marion Ladd has been our Town Crier for the last three years, over the previous twelve months she represented the town at the following events:

- French Markets in April and October
- Competed in the Warwick town Crier's Competition in May
- Opened Tredington Village Fete in July
- Welcomed guest at the Civic Garden party in July
- Preceded the Town Mayor at the opening of the Outdoor Gym at London Road
- Competed in the Banbury Town Crier's competition in September, finishing in the top ten out of 25
- Preceded the Mayor at the Sports Club Bonfire Night and helped to light the fire
- Attended the Civic Service at St. Edmund's in November
- Cried for the Royal British Legion's 90th Anniversary Concert in February 2012
- Competed in the Heart of England town Crier's competition in Alcester on Easter Saturday and came 3rd, won a cup and subsequently was on the front page of Stratford Herald, raising the profile of Shipston.
- Cried for SHN's Music Concert, Scout's Table Top Sale and Jubilee Crew Bingo in April.
- Finally, cried last week to inform the townsfolk about the Annual Town Meeting.

The Town Mayor thanked Marion for all that she had done to promote Shipston during the last twelve months.

District Council Report – District Councillor Richard Cheney

There have been many items that I have dealt with over the last year; I will highlight just a few of them.

- 1) The one that gives me greatest pleasure is being treasurer of Shipston youth Club Management Committee. It has been a great pleasure to see funds readily coming to enable us to continue to run the club now that the County Council have ceased funding. Although we will not have the resources of the County Council behind us, nevertheless the club will be operating on 2 or 3 nights per week.
- 2) Another success eventually was the order by the Court to the developers to pay over to Shipston Scouts the £173,924.02 they were due from the developers of 'The Village'. The District Council have also agreed to waive the fees that will be needed for the new planning application that is required.
- 3) Telegraph Street car park has been resurfaced and white lined over the worst affected parts, following lobbying by myself.
- 4) We have been assured that Shipston's' public toilets are now safe following a change of mind by the controlling group at Stratford.
- 5) Inconsiderate parking is always an issue and I passed on the request from the Shipston Link drivers to try and prevent drivers parking in the bus stop in the High Street. The County Council have also agreed to repaint the yellow lines at the bus stop to try and make the situation more clear. When will this be done?
- 6) Orbit Housing completed their development of affordable housing for local people. There were at least 26 local people applying for each one.
- 7) Planning has been an increasingly important issue. The Draft Core Strategy has been out for consultation, this is now being considered by the planning officers at Stratford DC. The final draft will be published in autumn of this year, following which the whole thing will be signed off in May 2013.

I will quickly run through the major planning applications that are before us.

A recently made decision was to grant the owners of Pettiphers Garage planning permission to rebuild the site with a retail unit and 8 flats.

- 1) There is the application by Cala Homes to build 130 houses on the Norgren factory site; I am opposing this on the grounds that the site should be retained for employment use.

- 2) There is an application by Linfoot Homes to build 22 houses behind Basket Hall/Hornsby Place, along the Stratford road. I am very concerned about this application as I think to build immediately adjacent to a very successful rugby club could lead to problems, there are also highway issues with the extra vehicles that will be going out onto Stratford road.
- 3) Orbit Homes are still proposing to put an application in to build houses along the London road. At the Town Council meeting they were suggesting 80 houses.
- 4) The big one! ASL proposal to build the supermarket, 130 Extra Care Houses and 50 market houses, petrol station and community hall on the green field site along the Campden Road. As you know I am opposing this on the grounds that I believe it could have an adverse effect on the town centre.
- 5) ALSO, and this applies to all these applications, I do believe these developers should wait until Shipston has a Neighbourhood Plan that has been developed by the residents of Shipston and agreed upon in a referendum.
- 6) I am very pleased that Shipston Town Council have now allocated £2,000 to start this process off.

The new Youth Club committee is well under way, with funding to last some 18 months. The school will be taking over the running of the youth club building and there is great co operation between the school and new youth club trustees.

- 1) I have been keeping an eye on the recycling bins at the Sheldon Bosley Hub. There are people who are insisting on placing rubbish in plastic bags into some of the bins despite the Council officers coming out at my request and placing large notices on the bins advising that these are for recycling waste only. Because these bins are for recycling only, any other rubbish is not normally collected. Any ideas on how to resolve the problem will be gratefully received!
- 2) The campaigns for and against the supermarket are well under way. You are no doubt aware that I am supporting those against the out of town store.

The Town Mayor thanked Cllr Cheney for all his efforts on behalf of the community.

Questions:

A resident asked about the bus stop outside the Old Red Lion being blocked with cars

Cllr Cheney explained that it was an advisory bus stop only and therefore not illegal to park

Cllr Noyce noted that it would be difficult to park at bus at this bus stop

Pete Smith asked when the returning officer would bring the vote back to the town centre, noting his displeasure at having to vote at the Hub.

Cllr Cheney noted that this issue had been raised main times

County Council Report – County Cllr. Chris Saint

Bus services

Shipston retains its 50 and 50A services. Initially the 23 service was reduced to an Ilmington to Stratford Service, via Quinton. Following representation for your local County Councillors, two new return services per day will enable people from Ilmington and Halford to get to the local doctors and the shops in Shipston.

Eventually services to Moreton-in-Marsh were added

Road adoptions

The overdue adoption of roads off Tileman's Lane has drawn a stage closer with the legal agreements endorsed by all parties. This has been a difficult period with much of the blame going to developers and management companies. For too long I was in the firing line.

Community Forum

County Area Committees have gone but the Stour Community Forum has been retained. Here all our local communities can meet the police and their local councillors as well as take part in a varied programme of topical discussion. All are welcome and the meetings are lively and well attended.

Shipston-on-Stour library & Warwickshire Direct

The County Council has completely revamped its website under the banner 'Warwickshire Direct'. This is the branding for our contacts with the public.

Shipston Library is listed as one of 15 countywide 'One-Stop Shops' where local people can deal direct with the Council the Police without travelling further afield.

New library opening hours are now operating at Church Street, Shipston-on-Stour

Mornings: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday from 9.30 a.m. to 12.30
Afternoons: Tuesday and Thursday from 1.30 p.m. to 5.30

Inquiries for Warwickshire Police are at the library during these times.

Shipston household waste recycling centre

With a reorganisation at Shire Hall and direct management, you will notice some changes at the Brailles road tip. Recycling is its strong arm and the centre can accept 20 different classes of material for recycling, but still does not accept old tyres.

Sadly, the opening hours have reduced to 9.30 until 3.30 p.m. Mondays to Fridays and 8.30 till 12.30 at weekends. Please note that the entry gate will close 15 minutes before the site closes.

London Road

The County Council is proposing an extension to the 30 mph speed limit in London Road. A 50 mph limit is proposed along the dangerous stretch beyond the town boundary.

I have also secured funding to introduce a 40 m.p.h. limit on the B4035 between the river and the Barcheston turn.

Medical Centre proposals

Last year, we learned from Dr Whitely and his able team about ambitious plans for our future medical services that have been widely welcomed. The County Council will provide social care services within any new arrangement, as part of a partnership scheme with the NHS.

I have been working hard to ensure that our revised local core planning strategy includes the need to accommodate the modern buildings that this will provide.

This is a project we must all support.

Public Health Agenda

Medical Health issues will remain with the NHS, but many Public Health issues transfer to local authorities in April next year. Warwickshire County Council has already appointed a new Director of Public Health to act jointly with the NHS. The new arrangements as services will now become more directly accountable to the public. Your local councillors can ensure that services become accountable in a way that has not been seen for a long time.

Broadband

Armed with a government grant from their agency BDUK, steps are being taken to improve the broadband speeds across rural Warwickshire into homes and business premises. It is important to complete the free on-line questionnaire at <http://www.cswbroadband.org.uk> to ensure that this money is spent wisely.

This dedicated website is being used to assess demand for improving the system. The questionnaire allows the public to identify current network weaknesses.

Waste Core Strategy

While greater attention has been given to housing numbers, the county council have published its own planning strategy for waste. Why is this significant?

Planning applications for Waste disposal, recycling and treatment plants are submitted to the County Council for determination. WCC sets the related policy criteria. The latest document will be the last opportunity for the public to have a say before it goes before a planning inspector who will assess the soundness of the plan.

The document is available at Shire Hall, Warwick, or Elizabeth House, Stratford-upon-Avon. It is also on-line and in Shipston library. Any representations should be made by 4.00 p.m. on Friday 25th May 2012.

Chris Saint
County Councillor – Shipston-on-Stour Division

Question: Mr F Simmonds asked about the speed limit at London Road

Cllr Saint: Explained that with current restrictions on funding, it is difficult to fund this, but it is now being done

Question: Mrs Heron – asked about the flooding in Darlingscote Road

Cllr Saint: Hopes to work on this before next year, will ask surveyors to look at this

Cllr Vial: Asked if STC could have a progress report on this at the STC May meeting

Question: Can anything be done about the speeding on Stratford Road

Cllr Saint: Explained that there were two possible solutions: 1) funding for interactive sign when the new development is built and 2) a survey as part of the community safety scheme

Question: Can Old Road be included in the scheme, it is used as a rat run – could we have signage stating “ACCESS ONLY”

Question: Are the Orbit signs on Old Road enforceable

Cllr Saint: These signs are not legal, parking is controlled by WCC

Pete Smith: Could a pedestrian crossing be installed by the Sports Club on London Road to slow traffic down?

Cllr Saint: The costs is often prohibitive, there would be a need to collect road safety statistics and the answer is usually no.

Pete Smith: Asked about the footpath on the Bridge, is the white line legal?

Cllr Saint: The white line is advisory – agreed there is a need to keep working on this

Cllr Noyce: Could S106 money in future be spent on a footbridge across the river

Marion Ladd: Who owns land on corner of Tileman’s Lane and Beecham Road?

The Mayor: Crown estates

Cllr Welch: Solicitors will do nothing with the land, STC offered to buy the land, but have received no response

Cllr Vial: Transition Shipston have looked at this piece of land as a project

Items of general interest from local residents:

Question: What hours will the police station be open

Answer: Monday to Friday 9.30 am until 1.00 pm and at other times by appointment

Police available by calling 999 for emergencies and 101 for non emergencies

Individual SNT members’ mobile phone numbers are printed in the Forum

Question: How will the High Street be cleared?

Mrs Crump: Thanked the Town Mayor and Councillors for the wonderful reports, felt well informed as a result of the meeting – Thank you for all the hard work of all concerned.

There being no further questions or issues raised the Town Mayor closed the Annual Town Meeting at 9.30 pm.

Signed: _____ Town Mayor

Date: _____