



SHIPSTON ON STOUR TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES

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General Meeting of Shipston on Stour Town Council, Monday 8th September 2025 at 7pm.

Present: Cllrs T Booth (Mayor), G Kelly, R Walters, H Kelly, J Williams, V Benjamin-Smith, P Tesh and C Howarth

Public: 1 Press:1 SDC: 2 WCC: 0 Clerk: D Hardiman

1	TO RECEIVE AND NOTE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Cllrs I Cooper, M Kelly, J Dinnie, S Crockett Cllr J Barker not present – no apologies received
2	DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTEREST (Councillors are reminded that, unless they have been granted a dispensation, if they have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in any matter as defined by Regulations made by the Secretary of State where the interest is theirs, their spouse or civil partner's, or is an interest of somebody with whom they are living as a husband or wife or as if they were civil partners, they may not participate in any discussion of or vote on the matter and must also leave the room for the duration of the matter. They must also disclose the interest if it has not yet been entered on the Authority's register unless it is a sensitive interest) None
3	TO NOTE REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION RECEIVED BY THE CLERK None
4	MINUTES OF THE LAST COUNCIL MEETING To confirm the minutes of the meeting that took place on Monday 11 th August 2025 <u>Proposed by Cllr P Tesh, seconded by Cllr G Kelly, 2 abstentions due to absence, 6 for, motion carried</u>
5	CLERK'S REPORT Report as circulated – noted and discussed.
6	REPORTS
6.1	Town Councillor (STC – Shipston Town Council) Cllr H Kelly reported multiple complaints regarding the recent vandalism on the pedestrian crossing and other white lines in the town. D Hardiman assured that this has been reported to WCC highways and have responded that works will be done within 5 working days. Cllr H Kelly also reported that she has received complaints regarding parking on Callaways road, multiple contractor vans/vehicles along the road making it

	difficult for residents to enter/exit their driveways. Also reported that she attended the Holiday at Home group, the talk was on “dogs for good” which was very interesting. Has completed Playground Inspection Training and has carried out an inspection on the London Road play area. Cllr J Williams updated the Council on the fight to gain a Banking Hub – the Independent Assessor of Link has now received the final rebuttal from him. A response should be received by the 12th September. He reported that there are other avenues to explore if this doesn't go in our favour. He has written to the chairman of Lloyds Bank to ask the possibility of having the counting machines located to New Clark House after the banks closure, to aid our local community groups that will need this service. Cllr V Benjamin-Smith reported that a new forum has been set up for all new build residents. They will be holding regular meetings, discussing issues and helping each other to resolve them. Suggested that we have an Agenda item to report back to regarding this, to keep the communication open between Council and residents. D Hardiman reported that there are already Agenda items on the Planning Committee Agenda which could be used for this purpose. Cllr C Howarth reported that the Planning Application for the MUGA pitch at The Hub looks like it will be refused due to environmental health – lighting and noise. He will be trying to appeal, but nothing official has been issued yet. Also reported that the Planning Application for the Youth Club building has hit lots of questions – environment and bio-diversity – is seeking for advice. The deposit has now been paid for the building – can't do anything until groundworks have been sorted, ongoing, but progressing. The Youth Club are using the Ellen Badger Hospital for the time being. Reported that he has been working on the Police lease alongside E Booth – new heads of terms have been sent off to Callum Walmsley. Rent and Service Charge have been increased. This is due to start from 1st April 2026. Cllr T Booth reported that he has attended a few Mayoral events this month. 3 of which were for VJ day – Whitnash, Stratford and Shipston. Has attended a Chairs Training Course. Has attended this month's WI Meeting, where Colin Millet, his teacher from 45years ago, was giving a talk on Worcester Porcelain, who also donated £150 towards the Mayors Charity – The Youth Club. Also attended a coffee morning in Alcester in aid of dementia and their carers – lovely cake. Reminded Councillors of the budget meeting taking place in October – would like to see a more structured approach to budgets for each working group, what expenditure and projects will be planned for the next financial year. Reported that a new TV has been ordered for Chambers, this will hopefully be up and running for the next Full Council Meeting in October. Mayors Civic Dinner has been booked and plans are progressing – 7th November at The Townsend Hall – D Day Darlings have been booked. Also reported the Agenda has been revamped for next month's meeting and will be used going forward. Also introduce and welcomed the new admin officer, kim, to the Councillors.
6.2	District Council issues (SDC – Stratford District Council) Report as circulated SDC Cllr O Hatch reported that the Borden Hill test case has now reached decision and has been allowed. Meaning that this could now open the floodgates for developers gaining permission for their Planning Applications in the district. SDC Cllrs are received an update on Thursday this week and are hoping for some guidance from planning and policy officers. Also reported that discussions with WCC officers has taken place regarding the £15,000 cycle feasibility study for the route from the High School to the Campden Road, this is hopefully going in the right direction. Cycle paths are from Central Government Funding.
6.3	County Council issues (WCC – Warwickshire County Council) No Report

6.4	Blue Light update – Reports circulated - Noted
6.5	Shipston Forum Lots of articles and adverts coming in Food Festival and Bookfest are both upcoming. Asked for Mayor's business highlight. Cllr T Booth added that the Stratford Herald are going to be reporting on the new First Responder vehicle and the hand over of the older vehicle to Alcester, invited the forum along as well. E Booth requested a space to be saved in the next edition to report on New Street Allotments receiving 3rd prize at Moreton Show
6.6	Ellen Badger Hospital SDC Cllr O Hatch reported that the call-in has been accepted by the secretary of state, now just waiting for the response.
6.7	Stour Health and Wellbeing Partnership Nothing to report
6.8	Shipston High School Nothing to report
7	OPEN FORUM (15 MINUTE DURATION) - Resident Jacey Jackson reported to Council that after a number of years, the Community Speed Watch group has now disbanded for multiple reasons. Reported that since 2018 the group have reported 1352 vehicles to the police for speeding. The Council expressed thanks to Jacey for her years of service to the Speed Watch Group.
8	ENVIRONMENT AND FLOOD ACTION WORKING GROUP Minutes as circulated - Noted SAFAG Mr Brian Cooper reported that whilst completing the emergency flood advice booklet, it was mentioned that the designated emergency rest centre was The Hub. Asked if this was still the case. Discussion took place over this, it was changed to the Townsend Hall but was never finalised, there were problems over how the plan would be initiated. This needs to be looked into further. <u>Recommendation-that STC approve the purchase of 60 x 1 metre lengths of rebar at an online cost of £181.20 from B&Q (free delivery).</u> <u>This expenditure will be costed against the SAFAG designated bank account (Maintenance Fund).</u> <u>Proposed by Cllr H Kelly, seconded by Cllr R Walters, motion carried unanimously</u>

	<u>Recommendation-that STC approve the quote of £920 plus VAT provided by Joe Dee for the repair work on the dams at Kettles Barn in Draycott (Blockley Brook).</u> <u>This expenditure will be costed against the SAFAG designated bank account (Maintenance Fund).</u> <u>Proposed by Cllr C Howarth, seconded by Cllr H Kelly, motion carried unanimously</u> <u>Recommendation-that STC approve the purchase of 125kgs of flood bund mix seeding from Cotswold Seeds at a quoted cost of £695 (no VAT). This will be costed against the SAFAG designated bank account (Maintenance Fund).</u> <u>Proposed by Cllr H Kelly, seconded by Cllr G Kelly, motion carried unanimously</u> EWG Cllr H Kelly reported that two bird walks have been carried out at Cornmill Meadows – 19 different species of birds were identified. A Bat Walk has also been carried out at the Twin Chapel in the Cemetery – lots of bats were spotted – 3 different species were identified.
9	PLANNING COMMITTEE Minutes as circulated – Noted. All planning applications can be views at https://apps.stratford.gov.uk/eplanning/ Cllr P Tesh reported that the results of 2 significant applications have come through recently: - Sainsburys appeal has been allowed, there is a long list of conditions, but bottom line is that they haven't taken note of any of STC's comments. Businesses have been given notice, but it is unknown when construction will begin. - Borden Hill- housing development in Stratford that is outside the Built-up Area Boundary – originally rejected by SDC. Developer sent to appeal – Planning inspectorate has now allowed the application. The main argument was housing supply – prior to the application - Stratford planners indicated that they had about 20 years supply. This was challenged, so SDC reworked numbers based on different assessments and criteria and it came down to 5 years. The Developer claimed we only have 2.25 years, the Planning Inspector decided that there is only 2.6. Developers are not building at the rate indicate, which the inspector has used as a reason to downgrade the housing supply in the district. Housebuilders are not building houses because firstly they don't have the workforce and secondly demand for these houses are low. When you look at the projected housing numbers – the 1st year of the current government – they have only achieved 50% of their target. Reasonings being lack of labour and lack of demand. The implication of this decision will open the flood gates to all these developers putting in applications for housing developments within Shipston. We currently have 2 active applications for Tilemans Lane, one for the reserve site, and very likely to have future applications for Hanson Avenue, Fell Mill Lane and Shoulderway Lane.

10	HERITAGE, AMENITIES AND LEISURE PROJECTS WORKING GROUP (HALP) Nothing to report.
11	GENERAL PURPOSES/COMMUNICATIONS WORKING GROUP Tracker/Action Log as circulated – Noted. Cllr T Booth asked how the Church Yard Wall repairs are going. Cllr H Kelly reported that they are still waiting for the Church Diocese. Cllr T Booth also reported we have had one response from his article in the Forum regarding the use of the Twin Chapels E Booth reported that the new bench for Worcester Place has been ordered.
12	FINANCE WORKING GROUP Minutes as circulated – Noted.
13	FINANCIAL MATTERS Invoices for approval as circulated. Noted. <u>Proposed by Cllr C Howarth, seconded by Cllr R Walter, motion carried unanimously</u> <u>Approval of the LGA Code of Conduct, proposed by Cllr R Walters, seconded by Cllr H Kelly, motion carried unanimously</u>
14	STAFFING WORKING GROUP Minutes as circulated – Noted. Cllr G Kelly reported that Cllr J Dinnie has handed in his resignation and will be leaving the Council on the 18 th September – requested that Cllr R Walters be put onto the banking approvals list and remove Cllr Dinnie on this date.
15	LOCAL NATURE ACTION PLAN Cllr H Kelly reported that volunteers have found a plan used by other authorities, will adapt this for Shipston. Hedge Surveying ongoing.
16	DATE OF NEXT MEETING Monday 13th October 2025

The meeting closed at 2015hrs.

Signed..... Date.....

Cllr T Booth (Mayor) Shipston on Stour Town Council