



**SHIPSTON ON STOUR TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES**

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

Telephone: 01608 662180

E-mail: clerk@shipstontowncouncil.org

Website: www.shipstontowncouncil.org

General Meeting of Shipston on Stour Town Council, Monday 11th August at 7pm.

Present: Cllrs T Booth (Mayor), G Kelly, P Tesh, C Howarth, V Benjamin-Smith, J Dinnie, S Crockett, M Kelly, I Cooper, J Barker and J Williams

Public: 2 Press: 1 SDC: 1 WCC: 1 Clerk: E. Booth

1	TO RECEIVE AND NOTE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Cllrs H Kelly and R Walters
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 14 th July 2025. <u>Proposed by Cllr C Howarth, seconded by Cllr J Dinnie, 3 x abstentions due to absence, 8 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 G Kelly – Nothing to report Cllr C Howarth – Attended the Townsend Hall AGM, there were only Officers there. Went along to the Taylor Wimpey consultation which he has discussed with Cllr P Tesh. Attending a digital towns call about Abergavenny which he has discussed with Cllr J Williams and Cllr I Cooper. Very interesting to hear they have installed a local area network. A gateway has been put on the roof of the building which the whole town can

use. It is being used for a number of things such as water monitoring the river, air monitoring of traffic and they also have sensors in their town planters which sets off an alarm when they need watering which has saved them thousands in water costs. Encourage the Town Council to have a look into this in more depth in the future. Also attended meetings regarding the Hub and the Youth Club Building.

Cllr V Benjamin-Smith – Carried on attending working group meetings and also completed Playground Training.

Cllr J Dinnie – Attended the Sainsburys appeal hearing. Approached by a lady who was running the event who was very interested to gain local knowledge from him and D Passingham. Met Julia from WCC along with Cllr J Williams to discuss better promotion of our town. Lots of knowledge has been passed over such as networking with new people.

Cllr S Crockett – Nothing to report

Cllr J Williams – The town is being refused a banking hub for 2 reasons: travel time to Moreton in Marsh, and the towns number of retailers is below 70. Link have got 2 access to cash assessments on the web as they put another up on 25th June which had 8 amendments. In those amendments they changed the definition of a small retail centre from 39 to 49 retail outlets. Challenging this as the neighbourhood plan and data from SDC show a definitive 84 retailers in the town centre, whereas CACI data used by link, is only showing that Shipston has 47 retailers. This means they are not looking outside the immediate area of the High Street. On another note, the bus timetables to and from Moreton in Marsh are unrealistic as the bus is 3 hours at minimum (same issue with Stratford). Since the attempted burglary and the outage for 9 weeks, retailers were hugely affected, Link are also ignoring this. We also live in a town where the majority of residents are older, compared to the national average of 31%. The Lloyds survey that was carried out earlier this year also shows that 71% of their customers were over the age of 60. Also not evident a site visit was carried out in regard of the Post Office as it is not accessible. The post Office does not include a ramp or an accessible automatic door. Cllr J Williams will be sending out his 25 page document tomorrow. Unsure how long the process will take but advised the deadline would be November, when the bank closes. Has told Council he will involve Manuela Perteghella and send her the documentation. He has also written to the owners of the Lloyds Bank building, which is owned by a Jewish Charity, but has not had a response yet.

Cllr J Barker – Been approached from residents concerned about Angela Rayner and the articles/ news about Allotment sites and that Councils are able to sell off the land. The Council need to make residents aware that this is not going to happen under any circumstances on our watch. Attended Brailes Show which was great.

Cllr P Tesh – Attended the Taylor Wimpey exhibition, under the impression they are going to submit an application in September this year ahead of the official consultation. Seems all developers are trying to pre-empt the South Warwickshire Local Plan.

Cllr I Cooper – Nothing to report

Cllr M Kelly – Completed Playground Training and also conducted an inspection of the play park at Hawthorn Way. Used the Playground Inspection Report to compare and is in agreement to the information outlined in the report after her visit. Also trialling an inspection form she has been working on which will be rolled out to the other Councillors who have also completed the training, ready for inspections. The Finance meeting for Shipston Proms is tomorrow, it is looking promising at the moment. Currently have 6 or 7 people interested in joining the committee, but still on the lookout for a Chair. The Proms AGM will be on 24th September and the programme for Bookfest has gone to print which is very exciting.

Cllr T Booth – Attended many Mayoral events in the surrounding areas such as Coleshill, Volunteer Awards in Leamington Spa, Battle of Evesham Festival, Warwickshire Changemakers (where 2 of our Community First responders were awarded) and also Whitnash's VJ Day event. The VJ Day event in Shipston will be on Friday 15th August which is being held at the Gyratory and it starts at 11.45am.

6.2	<p>District Council issues (SDC – Stratford District Council)</p> <p>Cllr O Hatch - The consultation about Devolution link is now out – EB to circulate to Cllrs – various blurb to go along with that but it does not really mention the Strategic Authority issue and if we go for the North-South option then we have more of an argument for Warwickshire to be a strategic authority. There are not many more options at present. Please spread the word and circulate the link and fill it in. Also a meeting is booked with Matthew Coins who is the case officer for the Darlingscote Road development both her and Dave Passingham have asked various people in the planning department that STC would like to have an open dialog with them regarding the effect of the community and to let her know if there is anything specific you would like her to discuss in the meeting. Will report back.</p>
6.3	<p>County Council issues (WCC – Warwickshire County Council)</p> <p>Cllr J Barker – The Local Government ‘Have your say’ survey is now out and you can give feedback until the 25th August. This survey is a consultation about the Deloitte report for the whole county, the link is available on X and Facebook. Attended Warwickshire Changemakers which was excellent. WCC has given work experience to 120 young people as schools are now expecting even more work experience to be completed even though it is harder to get. Rural England prosperity fund now available for rural businesses in the district area which you can apply to which could be helpful relating to the Lloyds bank issue. Lots of people moaning about footpaths as some contractors have fitted them badly which leads to issues with Highways. Will arrange a meeting with Highways and chase this up. Reports about broken bridges, send it to county to enforce as it is usually down to land owner. Drop kerb will be coming shortly at saddlers avenue. Fix my street is now no longer used, it is now a link on front page of WCC website.</p>
6.4	<p>Blue Light update – Reports circulated - Noted</p>
6.5	<p>Shipston Forum</p> <p>Quite busy in town with food festival and Bookfest, ads coming in. Photos of Brailes show were great and have VJ Day coming up. Deadline for additions this week.</p>
6.6	<p>Ellen Badger Hospital</p> <p>Cllr J Dinnie advised that Manuela has put a call in to secretary of state to review the consultation and the decision so we can have a look at the way the decision was made and the decision itself. Had some correspondence come through, the maternity clinics that take place there only offers blood pressure and weight checks, if you need a blood test or scan, it is carried out at Stratford upon Avon Hospital. Cllr J Dinnie was ensured that it was not down to a training or staffing issue. As announced by the labour government, a Neighbourhood health centre could be possible, Cllr J Dinnie wrote to them and was declined. It will be organised on a place based arrangement which includes the whole of Coventry and Warwickshire. Also reported due to the protest, many appointments were cancelled or relocated to Stratford upon Avon Hospital.</p>
6.7	<p>Stour Health and Wellbeing Partnership</p> <p>Meeting coming up on 21st august – Now have a new chief executive, Mandy Holder, so the committee is very excited for the future.</p>
6.8	<p>Shipston High School</p>

	<p>Current PAN (pupil admission number) is 180 expected, starting from September. The expected number this year is 85 admissions. Primary school level the numbers are very low, is said to be due to covid. The take rate for Campden is up, so is Kineton. Shipston highs perception is down so we need to do something to change perception which could include social media advertisement and more consistent and detailed articles in the forum and to also work alongside the Council more. Improved existing sports facilities which will be ready for the open day in September which will hopefully be a success. Staff turnover is also improving.</p>
7	<p>OPEN FORUM (15 MINUTE DURATION)</p> <p>Resident 1 – questioned the sale of allotments and they are an allotment holder. Spoken to Cllr J Barker already. Cllr T Booth expressed we as a Council share her views on the sale of allotments and disagree with Angela Rayner. Will discuss this at the next annual allotment meeting, but has said there have no intention of selling the allotment land. EB to issue a notice to outline this.</p> <p>Resident 2 – Reported there is a reoccurring issue at Berry Avenue, residents use as a cut through which some drivers exceed speed limit. Asked if there is any way the Council could issue some traffic calming measures. The aggression of some of the drivers is shocking. Cllr Booth and J Barker discussed this and advised to get in touch with Warwickshire Highways as they are responsible for all public footpaths and roads.</p> <p>Action - J Barker to contact them.</p>
8	<p>ENVIRONMENT AND FLOOD ACTION WORKING GROUP Minutes as circulated - Noted</p> <p><u>Recommendation-that the Mayor, (on behalf of STC and local residents), sends a letter of appreciation to Mike McCarthy, acknowledging the considerable efforts made by him over the years to help mitigate local flooding. Proposed by Cllr J Dinnie, Seconded by Cllr C Howarth – unanimous</u></p> <p>Cllr J Dinnie – happy to report that Cllr V Benjamin-Smith has now expressed an interest in joining SAFAG which is great news. Also attended a meeting with Imogen Rutter who is part of the Seven River Trust on CMM looking at site of the scrape that is going to be put in. It will be a modest flood prevention with good environmental benefit. Fishing under the agreement we have currently with the transfer of land, is solely judged by Shipston Angling Club. If anyone would like to access, they have to go through Shipston Angling Club.</p>
9	<p>PLANNING COMMITTEE Minutes as circulated – Noted.</p> <p>All planning applications can be views at https://apps.stratford.gov.uk/eplanning/</p> <p>Cllr P Tesh – submitted the objection for the north of Darlingscote Road development. No planning applications to go through today. On the 12th July the Government withdrew all funding for future Neighbourhood Plans. We are faced with trying to fund our own Neighbourhood Plan. The ball-park figure is around £20-30,000 to complete the plan. These costs are made up of consultations and employing a professional planner as we cannot do it ourselves. Unable to do a refresh of the plan even though some of the points from the last plan are still valid. In terms of protection for the town, the Neighbourhood Plan still has an element of legal force. Would be a good idea to look at some potential funding options, there is also a build-up in reserves to help towards the</p>

	cost. Would be beneficial to liaise with SDC planning department as we are heading towards unity, could be helpful. There was a local group of people who offered their help and support the last time the Neighbourhood Plan was done, would encourage the council to start the initial process this year. It was also noted that it would be more beneficial to have more council involvement this time.
10	HERITAGE, AMENITIES AND LEISURE PROJECTS WORKING GROUP (HALP) Nothing to report.
11	<p>GENERAL PURPOSES/COMMUNICATIONS WORKING GROUP Tracker/Action Log as circulated – Noted.</p> <p><u>Recommendation to remove bench on Darlingscote Road and replace at the cost of £400 plus VAT from Reformed Plastics. Proposed by Cllr T Booth, Seconded by Cllr I Cooper, 10 for, 1 against – motion carried.</u></p> <p>Cllr T Booth reported that the annual inspection for the play parks has been completed, potential issue with the Skate Park, however EB is appealing this and they are to come out and conduct a second inspection in due course. Planning application has now been submitted for the Youth Club building. Mayo road trust car park project is still ongoing cannot reach a conclusion until funds are available. Also need to clarify which grass area they are proposing for the car park.</p>
12	<p>FINANCE WORKING GROUP Minutes as circulated – Noted.</p> <p>Cllr I Cooper reported that Tony Joint has made great progress with obtaining a building for the Youth Club that is within budget. Olivia Hatch to try and push along the planning application with SDC if possible. Concerns about the building not being ready to go by September, could be a potential hurdle as it would be difficult to build the attendance numbers back up if it takes longer than expected. Arranged for an experienced builder to view the potential building, looking very positive.</p> <p><u>Recommendation that the Town Council adopt the updated pay scales and apply these to staff, back dated to April 2025. Proposed by Cllr I Cooper, Seconded by Cllr C Howarth – unanimous.</u></p> <p><u>Recommendation that the Town Council position on the call in for Ellen Badger Hospital be: that STC is aware of the Call In Request that will be submitted to the Secretary of State by our local MP, and the council believes that this reflects a significant proportion of the local sentiment towards the EBH service provision. Proposed by Cllr J Dinnie, Seconded by Cllr C Howarth, 2 for, 7 against, 3 abstentions ,motion not carried</u></p> <p>Or as amended by JD:</p> <p><u>Recommendation that the Town Council position on the call in for Ellen Badger Hospital be: that STC supports the Call In Request that will be submitted to the Secretary of State by our local MP, because the council believes that this reflects a significant proportion of the local sentiment</u></p>

	<u>towards the EBH service provision. Proposed by Cllr J Dinnie, No seconder, recommendation withdrawn.</u>
13	FINANCIAL MATTERS Invoices for approval as circulated. Noted. <u>Proposed by Cllr I Cooper, Seconded by Cllr M Kelly – unanimous.</u>
14	STAFFING WORKING GROUP Minutes as circulated – Noted. Cllr G Kelly – Office now working well. Now have a new Admin Officer, would encourage Councillors to visit the office to meet them.
15	LOCAL NATURE ACTION PLAN Nothing to report.
16	DATE OF NEXT MEETING Monday 8th September 2025

The meeting closed at 20:45 hrs.

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

Cllr T Booth (Mayor) Shipston on Stour Town Council

E. Booth

Emily Booth – Deputy Clerk/RFO