



**SHIPSTON ON STOUR TOWN COUNCIL**

**MINUTES**

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**General Meeting of Shipston on Stour Town Council, Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2025 at 7pm.**

**Present:** Cllrs J Dinnie (Mayor), C Howarth, G Kelly, I Cooper, J Williams, H Kelly, M Kelly, J Corless, R Walters and J Barker.

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

<b>1</b>	<p><b>TO RECEIVE AND NOTE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b>            Cllrs T Booth, P Tesh and SDC Cllr O Hatch            Cllr M Barnes – no apologies received</p>
<b>2</b>	<p><b>DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTEREST</b>            (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)</p> <p>None</p>
<b>3</b>	<p><b>TO NOTE REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION RECEIVED BY THE CLERK</b></p> <p>None</p>
<b>4</b>	<p><b>MINUTES OF THE LAST COUNCIL MEETING</b>            To confirm the minutes of the meeting that took place on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2025</p> <p><b><u>Minutes proposed by Cllr J Dinnie, seconded by Cllr J Corless, 1 abstention due to absence, 9 for – motion carried.</u></b></p>
<b>5</b>	<p><b>CLERK'S REPORT</b>            Report as circulated – noted and discussed.</p>
<b>6</b>	<p><b>REPORTS</b></p>
<b>6.1</b>	<p><b>Town Councillor (STC – Shipston Town Council)</b>  <b>Cllr C Howarth</b> – reported that he had attended the Pantomime and sent his congratulations. Attended the ICB consultation at The Townsend Hall and on the online portal. Reported that he has been gaining quotes for lighting at the Sports Club for the drive. Has been up at the Hub to sort out the electricity board and roof issues. Has been negotiating on quotes for the Twin Chapel roof repairs – repairs are due to start this week. Has attended the South Warwickshire Local Plan exhibition at the Leisure Centre and on the online portal – has reported back to Stratford District Council about the appalling display at the Leisure Centre.</p>

**Cllr J Corless** – reported he has been doing work on EV charging possibilities within the town – sent a report to all Councillors – noted and discussed. Further action is required, need to clarify with company any consequences of withdrawing from the site due to poor performance. It has also come to light that the Ellen Badger Hospital will have some charging ports, need to see if this will make a difference with supplier. This shouldn't cost the Council anything but needs to clarify with supplier. Cllr Howarth also added that there is a pot of money with Warwickshire County Council that is allocated for charging ports not on the roadside – will investigate this. Has attended Martin Russel's history of Shipston Pubs talk – found it fascinating. Attended the South Warwickshire Local Plan Exhibition at the Leisure Centre – was not impressed.

**Cllr J Williams** – reported that he has been talking to local businesses about the impact of the closure of Lloyd's bank. The town had a dry run of the impact of Lloyds closing when the bank was subject to a burglary. Lloyds bank was closed for a few weeks, the ATM was out of action for 9 weeks+. Most businesses said that they lost sales, and the town was noticeably quieter. When the bank closes businesses are worried that sales will go down and its closure will have a major impact. Some businesses are on the edge already. Having a bank in the town means people are travelling to use its facilities then staying to shop locally. This drives sales through the town. He has spoken with many businesses who are happy to make the petition available in their shops. Post office staff are concerned how they would cope, especially in the light of their cumulative weekly working hours being reduced by around 20 hours. Discussion took place between councillors about who to contact with regards to setting up a banking hub in the town centre. J Dinnie has spoken with the manager of the Co-op who in turn manages the post office. He will be putting it forward to head office for the benefit of the town.

Time in Hand have asked why events don't come further down the street, to include the businesses that end of the street.

**Cllr R Walters** – echoed other Councillors – attended Panto – very good. Attended Exhibition for South Warwickshire Local Plan – very bad.

**Cllr H Kelly** – attended the People, Planet, Pint meetup at The Horseshoe – very well attended and lots of interest. Attended the Stour Health and Wellbeing Partnerships SCAN meeting – very good presentation.

Two new hedgerows have been planted at Cornmill Meadows at no cost to The Council – volunteers helped to plant. Is working on an article for the March Forum on Wild Gardening – following a meeting at the Scout Hut. Pantomime was great.

Reported that grass verges are being churned up by vehicles in Queens Avenue, Berry Avenue and Callaways Road. Councillors discussed – this to be reported to Warwickshire County Council Highways, who have responsibility here.

**Cllr I Cooper** - queried building work taking place on the London Road – South Lynne House. Construction Vehicles blocking off the road – is this in the agreed construction plan on the Planning Application? Do we need to inform Planning Enforcement if not? Councillors discussed that the entranceway has now been completed, so should not be an issue going forward. Councillors added that trees have been cut down for this construction - was this part of the plan – it was.

Reported that Party Crazy have had an InPost locker installed on their car park – for parcel collection and drop off – queried if this should have had a planning application – we have not seen one – will need looking into. This has been passed on to the Planning Chair Cllr P Tesh to investigate.

**Cllr M Kelly** – expressed thanks to D Hardiman for taking the minutes tonight. Taken part in the Pantomime alongside D Hardiman – went well. Attended the gathering at the bridge as part of “say no to 1600 new houses” it became apparent that lots of residents did not know anything about what was proposed in the South Warwickshire Local Plan. Cllr Dinnie added that this is not an active Planning Application - it is a future plan – a call for sites. There are so many sites, it is very unlikely all will be developed.

**Cllr J Dinnie** – attended WALC chair update – discussed South Warwickshire Local Plan and Unitary. Attended Warwickshire Rural Community Council – really interesting to hear about their activities – one of which, they are seeking to develop a meals on wheels service – worth having a look at where that might be necessary within our community. Attended the Parish Forum – discussed South Warwickshire Local Plan and Unitary. Also enjoyed the Pantomime.

6.2	<p><b>District Council issues (SDC – Stratford District Council)</b>  Reports as circulated.  <b>Cllr D Passingham</b> – sends apologies from Cllr O Hatch. District Council is discussing devolution at an extraordinary meeting (yesterday afternoon)– passed a resolution to start talks with neighbouring district Councils to try and form a smaller unitary rather than the whole of Warwickshire. Representative from WALC who said most Parishes and Town Councils are concerned what will happen.  Overview and Scrutiny Committee was on Friday (ICB came along) - passed a resolution supporting beds in the Ellen Badger. Got endorsed at the District Council cabinet meeting yesterday – full support for Beds at Badger.</p> <p><b>Cllr J Dinnie</b> – Question was raised at the last meeting about Unitary – are we getting across what the impacts will be? Has received assurance from Izzy Seccombe – they will come along and explain what they think the impact will be – if Council are interested? Answer was yes. We need to understand this. A fear that if extra load comes upon Town and Parish Councils, they will end up with less volunteer Councillors. Is there any opportunity to negotiate?</p>
6.3	<p><b>County Council issues (WCC – Warwickshire County Council)</b>  <b>Cllr J Barker</b> reported on Unitary – despite being named in the White Paper – they were not in the first tranche – WCC already has a devolution deal. General consensus is that Unitary will not be negotiable. Should make financial sense to go Unitary.  WCC always have a spare Full Council Day – this year it will be used for a debate on Local Government Reform with all parties. Offered for Councillors to tune in if interested.  Reported that there will be a 4.99% increase in Council Tax this year for WCC.  Has attended the Adult Health and Social Care meeting – went very well – ICB were well informed by WCC as to what they wanted to see.  Cllr Howarth requested that Cllr Barker contact WCC highways about the Darlingscote Crossroads – as more damage has occurred to vehicles and has not been repaired. Poor drainage and water leaks have caused damage to the roads. Cllr Barker will chase this up again.</p>
6.4	<p><b>Blue Light update –</b>  Nothing to Report</p>
6.5	<p><b>Shipston Forum</b>  Articles coming in for March – expecting a report from the Pantomime.  South Warwickshire Local Plan will go into the next edition.  Columns requested by the end of this week.  Cllr Barker expressed thanks for making WCC column larger.</p>
6.6	<p><b>Ellen Badger Hospital</b></p> <p>Cllr Dinnie circulated the draft response to the ICB for the South Warwickshire Community Hospital Rehabilitation Beds Consultation.  General Consensus was that a few things needed to be amended on the draft to ensure that the statement is presenting the general views of the town and not the view of The Town Council.  It needs to be made clear where these views are from. It was agreed that some wording needs to be changed.</p> <p><b><u>Recommendation that Council approves the draft proposed document to be submitted as the Town Council’s response to the ICB consultation re South Warwickshire Community Rehabilitation beds.</u></b>  <b><u>Proposed by Cllr J Dinnie, seconded by Cllr J Williams, motion carried unanimously – subject to amendments being made as discussed.</u></b></p>
6.7	<p><b>Stour Health and Wellbeing Partnership</b>  Meeting took place today, Cllr J Dinnie and J Barker both attended.</p>

	<p>Cllr Dinnie reported that they SHWP have been given a £180,000 grant from the National Lottery – over 3 years. They are getting plans ready to occupy the ground floor building of the Ellen Badger for their Well Being Hub. This will be a community asset.</p> <p>A discussion then ensued: should the Council adopt the land surrounding the Ellen Badger as an asset of community value. No agreement was reached.</p>
<b>6.8</b>	<p><b>Shipston High School</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Governors have noted that there has been a lack of a community report in The Forum from The High School – they have missed the last two. The Forum is hopeful to have something to go into the next edition.</li> <li>• Builders that are currently on site, working on the Sports Hall, are due to leave site soon, recommencing works in the Summer – awaiting planning permission to come through.</li> </ul>
<b>6.9</b>	<p><b>Shipston Business Group</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Another empty shop - Shipston Spokes closing.</li> <li>• Bardia's have also been closed.</li> <li>• The shop that was Dice is due to become a vinyl records shop.</li> </ul> <p>A discussion took place about the loss of shops – as mentioned in our Neighbourhood Plan – a one-way system or moving the crossing, might help encourage more footfall in these areas.</p>
<b>7</b>	<p><b>OPEN FORUM (15 MINUTE DURATION)</b></p> <p>None</p>
<b>8</b>	<p><b>ENVIRONMENT AND FLOOD ACTION WORKING GROUP</b></p> <p>Minutes noted and discussed.</p> <p>SAFAG</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• maintaining current interventions</li> <li>• 4 x 3m+ events this winter</li> <li>• Running low on members – looking for future members</li> </ul>
<b>9</b>	<p><b>PLANNING COMMITTEE</b></p> <p>Minutes as circulated.</p> <p>All planning applications can be views at <a href="https://apps.stratford.gov.uk/eplanning/">https://apps.stratford.gov.uk/eplanning/</a></p> <p>South Warwickshire Local Plan – Planning Committee are putting together a response for the Preferred Options Consultation – Phil Sykes is collating and will present to Planning Committee at the next meeting. In the Planning Committee's Terms of Reference, it is stated that matters such as this will need to be presented to Full Council before submission.</p> <p>The question was asked if Council want to call an Extraordinary Meeting to discuss before submission – Councillors were happy for these to be circulated via email and amended if needed – need to add a time limit on responses and these sent only to the Chair of Planning – Cllr P Tesh – to reduce email traffic.</p> <p>Cllr Barker added that herself and Cllr P Tesh attended a meeting with neighbouring Parish Councils to talk about this Call for Sites and are working together.</p> <p><b>24/00607/VARY – Ellen Badger Hospital, Stratford Road, Shipston on Stour, CV36 4AX-</b></p> <p>Variation of conditions 2 (approved plans) and 3 (phasing details to include phase 2A), Conditions 10 (landscaping), 11(bus timetable), 12 (SUDS maintenance), condition 18 (bollards), condition 20(Cycle parking), condition 21 (external materials) and condition 26 (lighting) or approved application 21/00004/FUL dated 17.03.2022 to allow revised phasing details, internal changes and minor changes to building footprint. Original description of development: Erection of a Replacement Hospital (including Well-Being centre), Medical Centre, Cafe and Associated</p>

	<p>Infrastructure (including car parking and community garden) following demolition of the existing hospital and dwelling.</p> <p>Cllr Dinnie gave a brief description to Councillors of these variations.</p> <p><b><u>No Rep, proposed by Cllr J Dinnie, seconded by Cllr C Howarth, motion carried unanimously.</u></b></p> <p><b>25/00177/TREE – Shalom, 3 Horseshoe Close, Church Street, Shipston on Stour, CV36 4QT – T1 conifer – removal, damage to driveway and wall</b></p> <p>A discussion about the Council’s 2 for 1 tree replacement policy took place – it was decided to give no representation but suggest replacement with 2 trees.</p> <p><b><u>No Rep, proposed by Cllr J Dinnie, seconded by Cllr I Cooper, motion carried unanimously.</u></b></p> <p><b>25/00132/FUL - 72 Hanson Avenue, Shipston on Stour, CV36 4HS – Proposed conversion of garage to snug, porch extension, rear single storey extension, relocation of garden fence (within existing land ownership) and erection of garden store.</b></p> <p><b><u>No Rep, proposed by Cllr C Howarth, seconded by Cllr R Walters, motion carried unanimously.</u></b></p> <p><b>25/00178/TREE - 8 Church Street, Shipston on Stour, CV36 4AP – T1 Holly – canopy reduction by 2 meters</b></p> <p><b><u>No Rep, proposed by Cllr J Dinnie, seconded by Cllr J Corless, motion carried unanimously.</u></b></p>
10	<p><b>HERITAGE, AMENITIES AND LEISURE PROJECTS WORKING GROUP (HALP)</b> Cllr Howarth provided an update with Trail Tale – It’s all gone in – there should be an adjudication within the next 3 weeks.</p>
11	<p><b>GENERAL PURPOSES/COMMUNICATIONS WORKING GROUP</b> Tracker/Action Log as circulated.</p> <p><b><u>Recommendation that Council approve the appointment to proceed with two separate suppliers with effect from 1st April 2025 – Workflo Solutions providing IT support at a cost of £2,283.48 per year – Stratford District Council providing Website design and support with a year 1 set up cost of £750, then an annual cost of £236.16 thereafter.</u></b> <b><u>Proposed by Cllr C Howarth, seconded by Cllr J Barker, motion carried unanimously.</u></b></p> <p>It was noted that the Chapel Roof repairs were approved at the last meeting – repairs are due to start next week. Further negotiations reduced the quote.</p>
12	<p><b>FINANCE WORKING GROUP</b> Minutes as circulated.</p> <p><b><u>Recommendation that STC agrees to the lease for the MUGA pitch land on the basis outlined in the FWG minutes (20th January 2025).</u></b> <b><u>Proposed by Cllr I Cooper, seconded by Cllr R Walters, motion carried unanimously.</u></b></p>

	<p><b><u>Recommendation that STC agrees to the installation of solar streetlights for the sports club drive at a cost of £1,500 + VAT.</u></b>  <b><u>Proposed by Cllr I Cooper, seconded by Cllr M Kelly, motion carried unanimously.</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Recommendation that STC works with the Youth Club committee to source and site modular building at a cost of up to £30k from Youth reserve - see FWG minutes (20th January 2025).</u></b>  <b><u>Proposed by Cllr I Cooper, seconded by Cllr J Barker, motion carried unanimously.</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Recommendation that Cllr Williams requests a review of the Cash Access Assessment on behalf of STC - see FWG minutes (20th January 2025).</u></b>  <b><u>Proposed by Cllr I Cooper, seconded by Cllr C Howarth, motion carried unanimously.</u></b></p>
13	<p><b>FINANCIAL MATTERS</b>  Invoices for approval as circulated.</p> <p><b><u>Proposed by Cllr C Howarth, seconded by Cllr J Corless, motion carried unanimously.</u></b></p>
14	<p><b>STAFFING WORKING GROUP</b>  Nothing to report</p>
15	<p><b>LOCAL NATURE ACTION PLAN</b>  Summary circulated and discussed.  Cllr H Kelly reported that the Town Council need to update our assets with open spaces/greenspaces etc.  SDC Cllr D Passingham reported that at the last Environmental working group meeting they were looking into various mapping systems regarding this – keeping track of trees and hedges etc – Heidi Ellis has volunteered to go around the town photographing and making notes on what can be done for the future to improve open space/green space etc. Some research needs to be done to find the best mapping system for this.</p>
16	<p><b>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</b>  Monday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2025</p>

The meeting closed at 2045hrs.

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

Cllr J Dinnie (Mayor) Shipston on Stour Town Council