



**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](mailto:clerk@shipstontowncouncil.org)

Website: [www.shipstontowncouncil.org](http://www.shipstontowncouncil.org)

**General Meeting of Shipston on Stour Town Council, Monday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2026 at 7pm**

**Present:** Cllrs T Booth (Mayor), R Walters (Deputy Mayor), G Kelly, H Kelly, J Barker, C Howarth, M Kelly, V Benjamin-Smith, P Tesh, J Williams, S Crockett

**Public:** 2      **Press:** 1      **SDC:** 2      **WCC:** 1      **SAFAG:** 1

**Clerk:** E Booth & D Hardiman

<b>1</b>	<b>TO RECEIVE AND NOTE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b> Cllr I Cooper
<b>2</b>	<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)  None
<b>3</b>	<b>TO NOTE REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION RECEIVED BY THE CLERK</b>  None
<b>4</b>	<b>MINUTES OF THE LAST COUNCIL MEETING</b>  To confirm the minutes of the meeting that took place on Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> December 2025  <b><u>Proposed by Cllr T Booth, seconded by Cllr M Kelly, 3 abstentions, 1 due to absence 2 for late arrival, 8 for, motion carried</u></b>
<b>5</b>	<b>OPEN FORUM (15 minutes duration)</b> Parishioners of Shipston are invited to address the Council on any relevant matter for a maximum of 3 minutes.  N/A
<b>6</b>	<b>SHIPSTON AREA FLOOD ACTION WORKING GROUP</b> Minutes as circulated/verbal update  <b><u>Recommendation-that STC approves the purchase of a further 25 posts (1.8m) from Batsford Timber at a cost of £149.25 plus VAT. For collection, so no delivery</u></b>

	<p><b><u>charge. This will be costed against the SAFAG designated bank account (Maintenance Fund).</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Proposed by Cllr H Kelly, seconded by Cllr J Barker, motion carried unanimously</u></b></p>
7	<p><b>ENVIRONMENT WORKING GROUP</b> Verbal update</p> <p><b><u>Recommendation that STC agree to adopt the Local Nature Action Plan</u></b> It was agreed to defer this recommendation to the Local Nature Action Plan at number 13 on the Agenda</p>
8	<p><b>PLANNING COMMITTEE</b> Minutes as circulated. All planning applications can be viewed at <a href="https://apps.stratford.gov.uk/eplanning/">https://apps.stratford.gov.uk/eplanning/</a></p> <p>25/02994/ADV – The Lazy Pug, Church Street, Shipston on Stour, CV36 4AS – Proposed new public house signage to include; new pictorial sign with new bracket illuminated via trough light/2 sets of new house name individual letters illuminated by existing trough lights/ new non-illuminated amenity board/ 2 sets of signwriting/ 2 new snap frames non-illuminated</p> <p><b><u>Object on the grounds that the images do not reflect what is actually there.</u></b> <b><u>Proposed by Cllr P Tesh, seconded by Cllr H Kelly, 5 for, 6 against motion not carried.</u></b> <b><u>Submit a No Representation</u></b></p> <p>Cllr P Tesh gave a brief update on the multiple housing development applications. Hanson Avenue – developers have submitted an application, but it hasn't been validated yet. Shoulderway Lane – WCC Highways have requested more information – SDC have revised the target date for determination to the 27<sup>th</sup> January All dates on the other applications remain the same. Comments have been submitted on the Fell Mill Lane environmental impact assessment scoping request. SDC have issued comments to the developers on the 17<sup>th</sup> December, it is now up to the developer to address those comments.</p> <p><b>Action:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Clerks to submit Council's decision to the online planning portal before the deadline</li> </ul>
9	<p><b>GENERAL PURPOSES/COMMUNICATIONS WORKING GROUP</b> Tracker as circulated/verbal update</p> <p>Nothing to Report</p>
10	<p><b>FINANCE WORKING GROUP</b> Minutes as circulated/verbal update</p> <p><b><u>Recommendation that STC approve the appointment of a new internal auditor for the financial year 2026/2027 at a cost of £450</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Proposed by Cllr C Howarth, seconded by Cllr R Walters, motion carried unanimously</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Recommendation that STC increase the Stour Valley Lions Community Grant Award from £750 to £1000, for 2026/2027</u></b></p>

	<p><b><u>Proposed by Cllr C Howarth, seconded by Cllr R Walters, motion carried unanimously</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Recommendation that STC approve the appointment of Kendall &amp; Davies Solicitors for Lease Purposes at a cost of £1600 plus VAT for New Clark House and up to £2000 plus VAT for The Hub</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Proposed by Cllr C Howarth, seconded by Cllr J Barker, motion carried unanimously</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Recommendation that STC approve the increase of between 5% and 10% for the 2026-2027 precept demand</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Precept approved at a 10% increase, total value £423,500, Proposed by Cllr C Howarth, seconded by Cllr P Tesh, motion carried unanimously</u></b></p> <p><b>Action:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Clerks to action these decisions</li> </ul>
11	<p><b>FINANCE MATTERS</b> Approvals list as circulated</p> <p><b><u>Council to pay bills as shown on approvals list. Proposed by Cllr C Howarth, seconded by Cllr J Barker, motion carried unanimously</u></b></p> <p><b>Action:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Clerks to pay all outstanding invoices as shown on approvals list</li> </ul>
12	<p><b>STAFFING WORKING GROUP</b> Minutes as circulated/verbal update Nothing to report</p>
13	<p><b>LOCAL NATURE ACTION PLAN</b> Verbal update</p> <p><b><u>Recommendation that STC agree to adopt the Local Nature Action Plan Proposed by Cllr H Kelly, seconded by Cllr V Benjamin-Smith, 2 abstentions, 9 for, motion carried</u></b></p>
14	<p><b>REPORTS</b></p>
14.1	<p><b>CLERK'S REPORT</b> For noting and discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To discuss the item from Appendix D of the WCC Cabinet Papers from the 11<sup>th</sup> December</li> </ul> <p>Councillors summarised the section needing to be discussed – proposal for car parking charges to be introduced on street within Shipston. Decision to sign a joint letter of objection with other Parish and Town Councils that are to be affected by this.</p> <p><b>Action:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Clerks to contact Alcester TC to let them know Council's decision</li> </ul>

14.2	<p><b>Town Councillor Reports (STC – Shipston Town Council)</b></p> <p><b>Cllr H Kelly</b> reported that she has received two complaints regarding the green area at Hawthorn Way and also the layby as you leave Shipston on the Campden Road – both areas have been affected by dropping of litter and are also being used as a toilet. SDC Cllrs and also Clerks are aware of this and will be looking into what can be done. Also reported that the Ellen Badger Hospital will be hosting a repair café evening for volunteers, on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> January, from 5:30 to 7:30 for anyone who might have skills they want to share.</p> <p><b>Cllr S Crockett</b> reported that he is currently putting in a bid for the phone contracts for New Clark House – concerns were raised as to whether this would be a conflict of interests. It was decided the Clerks would consult WALC to get some clarity</p> <p><b>Cllr C Howarth</b> reported that he will be attending a business meeting on Thursday with representatives from around the county. Also going to re-iterate to the business community that they can have a voice during the Council meetings, as they had an item on the Agenda before, but rarely submitted anything. Been in touch with Vicky Griffith from the Rural Economic Hub and she is very pleased that she is able to use the council facilities for communications with the businesses of the town, she will also be attending the meeting on Thursday. Been along to the Chapels to check on the guttering work, works now complete and looks good, drains are now accessible. Also been involved with the Youth Club building, attended the youth club committee meeting before Christmas and with a view to finding out how far things have gotten so far, but this hasn't moved. Youth Club has also now lost its temporary home at The Ellen Badger Hospital. Groundworks have started up at The Hub for the new building, but has met some challenges from the current lease holders. This will now be handled by Solicitors after approval earlier on in the meeting.</p> <p><b>Cllr M Kelly</b> reported that she has been in contact with a company regarding H-Stop barriers for road closures. Shocked by the price – they cost £5050 per unit, we would need around 15 of these, so we are looking at around £75,000+. However, the same company do offer a rental option of around £200 per unit per day, which is more affordable for events, but still looking for other options. Also reported that Shipston Proms are hosting their Have your Say on what the Proms should look like this year at the Ellen Badger Hospital on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 to 7:30</p> <p><b>Cllr T Booth</b> reported that he has lots of events to attend over the next few months.</p>
14.3	<p><b>District Council Reports (SDC – Stratford District Council)</b></p> <p>Report as circulated – noted</p> <p><b>SDC Cllr D Passingham</b> reported that he has been talking to the Tree Preservation Order Department at SDC over the last few months and has gotten a list of all trees with a TPO on them throughout Shipston - currently 18 – but there could be more that could be given a TPO to protect them from being removed, especially with all the potential housing developments. Asking that if anyone notices any older trees whilst out and about, to report them to him and he can look into getting them protected.</p> <p>The Nature Recovery Plan is putting together a map, a link is provided in the Local Nature Action Plan, which shows all the Town Council land, District Council land and County Council land, he is looking to put the TPOs on there</p>
14.4	<p><b>County Council Reports (WCC – Warwickshire County Council)</b></p> <p><b>WCC Cllr J Barker</b> reported that she is fuming regarding the possibility of on street parking charges, this will be coming up within the budget meeting in early February, she will have a briefing on the WCC budget, but figures that have come out so far seems to show that they are trying to do some saving.</p> <p>Reported that the Cold Weather Payments have now happened.</p> <p>Wanted to remind parents with Children that are due to start reception this year only have until Thursday to apply for their school place.</p> <p>Reported that local transport for schools – this isn't working well in rural areas.</p>

	Recruitment – we need more Childminders and reablement assistants Voice of Warwickshire Panel are looking for more voices to join the panel.
<b>14.5</b>	<b>Blue Light update –</b> No reports received Cllr T Booth reported that the Shipston Fire Station has now closed and has become a surge station. Cllr J Barker reported that she believes response times have improved for an appliance to get here from Stratford and Wellesbourne.
<b>14.6</b>	<b>Shipston Forum</b> Shipston Forum Editor reported that we managed to get the New Year edition put out in time, getting proof reading done earlier and printing after Christmas. Mentioned that there are some new QR codes embedded in the Forum now, which makes things easier and also means we can keep track of statistics. .
<b>14.7</b>	<b>Ellen Badger Hospital</b> <b>Cllr J Barker</b> reported that the Health and Wellbeing Board, County, Coventry and Warwickshire wide are meeting on Wednesday – Beds for Badger were trying to get something put onto the Agenda for this, but haven't managed to.  <b>Clerks</b> reported that Citizens Advice have now relocated from New Clark House to the Ellen Badger Hospital
<b>14.8</b>	<b>Stour Health and Wellbeing Partnership</b> Nothing to Report .
<b>14.9</b>	<b>Shipston High School</b> No update provided. <b>Cllr J Barker</b> reported that Gavin Saunders is no longer the head of Shipston High School, it is now being run by the deputy heads, with the help of a former head of Chipping Campden School, until a new Head teacher is recruited.
<b>15</b>	<b>EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC</b> In view of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, it is advisable in the public interest, as if members of the public and press were present during the consideration of such business, there would be disclosure to them of exempt information under paras 1 & 11 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, that the public be temporarily excluded and they are instructed to withdraw.
<b>15</b>	<b>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</b> <b>Monday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2026</b>

The meeting closed at 2040hrs.

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

Cllr T Booth (Mayor) Shipston on Stour Town Council