



**SHIPSTON ON STOUR TOWN COUNCIL**

**MINUTES**

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**General Meeting of Shipston on Stour Town Council, Monday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2026 at 7pm**

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

**Public: 8 Press: 1 SDC: 2 WCC: 0 SAFAG: 1**

**Clerk: D Hardiman & E Booth**

1	<p><b>TO RECEIVE AND NOTE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b> Cllrs M Kelly and J Barker</p>
2	<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>
3	<p><b>TO NOTE REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION RECEIVED BY THE CLERK</b></p> <p>None</p>
4	<p><b>MINUTES OF THE LAST COUNCIL MEETING</b></p> <p>To confirm the minutes of the meeting that took place on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2026 <b><u>Proposed by Cllr R Walters, Seconded by Cllr C Howarth, 1 abstention due to absence, 9 for motion carried</u></b></p> <p>To confirm the minutes of the closed session that took place on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2026 <b><u>Proposed by Cllr P Tesh, Seconded by Cllr H Kelly, 1 abstention due to absence, 9 for motion carried</u></b></p>
5	<p><b>CO-OPTION OF NEW COUNCILLOR</b> To consider the co-option of a new Councillor</p> <p>Introductions from Dr. Vivien Walden and discussion ensued between Councillors and Dr. Walden.</p> <p><b><u>Recommendation that Council approve the co-option of Dr. Vivien Walden to Shipston Town Council</u></b></p>

	<p><b><u>Proposed by Cllr J Williams, seconded by Cllr V Benjamin-Smith, motion carried unanimously</u></b></p> <p>Acceptance of Office was signed before the Council and Clerks and was read out. Cllr V Walden then joined the Council members around the table.</p>
6	<p><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.</p> <p>A number of residents addressed the Council to discuss concerns regarding the layby on the Campden Road. Delivery drivers have been using this area as a break stop – leaving vast amounts of litter and human waste. A resident mentioned that her dog has become very unwell on two separate occasions, once after eating human waste and once after cutting their foot on a piece of sharp waste left in the area. Residents requested that something be done in this area to prevent this happening again. It was discussed between Councillors and residents that before cutting the layby off altogether, other deterrents should be attempted first. This will be taken to the General Purposes Working Group to be actioned.</p> <p><b>Action:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Cllr T Booth to add the concerned layby to the GPWG tracker for discussion</b></li> </ul>
7	<p><b>SHIPSTON AREA FLOOD ACTION WORKING GROUP</b> Minutes as circulated/verbal update</p> <p>A Discussion took place between Cllrs and Mr J Dinnie regarding the attenuation ponds on the Campden Road estates – it seems these are not working as they should be and have never filled with water.</p>
8	<p><b>ENVIRONMENT WORKING GROUP</b> Minutes as circulated/verbal update</p> <p>The recommendation was moved to the Local Nature Action Plan item on the Agenda.</p> <p>Cllr H Kelly reported that a group of volunteers have helped to prune the Community Orchard at Cornmill Meadows – trees are now looking very healthy and will hopefully fruit this year. Also reported that a group from EWG have met with Lyndon Campbell, a tree officer from WCC who seems in favour of planting more environmentally friendly trees on the grass verges outside the Ellen Badger Hospital and on the corner of Badgers Crescent. Attended the Community Land Trust meeting in Hook Norton.</p> <p>To discuss concerns raised by a resident regarding Cornmill Meadows:</p> <p>This was discussed: no parking signs have already been ordered and will be delivered shortly. The need for a gate was also discussed. Cllr T Booth reported that he has met with the concerned resident and has decided that all concerns raised would be taken to the General Purposes Working Group for action.</p> <p><b>Action:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Cllr T Booth to add all concerns with Cornmill Meadows to the GPWG tracker for discussions</b></li> </ul>

<p>9</p>	<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><b><u>Recommendation that Council express their concern in writing to the Stratford District Planning Officers over the cumulative impact on the town's existing infrastructure from the proposed housing developments (7number), in particular the impact on drainage (foul and surface water), sewer treatment works, health provision, schools' provision and highway capacity/operation.</u></b>  <b><u>Proposed by Cllr P Tesh, seconded by Cllr R Walters, motion carried unanimously</u></b></p> <p>25/03144/OUT – Land Off Hanson Avenue, Shipston on Stour  Outline planning application for a residential development up to 110 dwellings, open space, community garden/orchard, landscaping, drainage features and associated infrastructure. Detailed approval is sought for principal means of access from Hanson Avenue, with all other matters reserved.</p> <p>Cllr P Tesh updated Councillors on this application: this is next to the reserved housing site but the whole development is outside the built-up area boundary. It is for 110 dwellings with a single point of access off Hanson Avenue, with a large area of open space. Has been through the planning documents, there are some significant errors, they haven't highlighted any ecological or archaeological issues, nor any geotechnical issues, drainage discharges into the existing drainage on Hanson Avenue and suspects there will be further issues with this. No mention of employment and mentions good public transport – which is incorrect. They have only modelled two junctions, but they haven't looked at the impact on the Town Centre.</p> <p><b><u>Object to the application, proposed by Cllr P Tesh, seconded by Cllr I Cooper, motion carried unanimously</u></b></p> <p><b>Action:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Cllr P Tesh to draft letter to SDC Planners regarding cumulative impact on Town's infrastructure</li> <li>- Cllr P Tesh to draft letter of objection regarding the planning application – 25/03144/OUT. D Hardiman to submit to the portal before the deadline.</li> </ul>
<p>10</p>	<p><b>GENERAL PURPOSES/COMMUNICATIONS WORKING GROUP</b>  Tracker as circulated/verbal update</p> <p>Cllr T Booth requested that Councillors come up with some ideas for the use of the Twin Chapels at the Cemetery and also ideas needed for Queens Avenue Play Area.</p>
<p>11</p>	<p><b>FINANCE WORKING GROUP</b>  Minutes as circulated/verbal update</p> <p><b><u>Recommendation that Council agrees for the Memorandum of Understanding contract regarding the Cycle Feasibility Scheme to be signed by RFO</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Proposed by Cllr I Cooper, seconded by Cllr P Tesh, motion carried unanimously</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Recommendation that Council approves the payment of £500 to Shipston Community First Responders for replacement defibrillator cabinet and related electric supply works</u></b></p>

	<p><b><u>Proposed by Cllr I Cooper, seconded by Cllr H Kelly, motion carried unanimously</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Recommendation that Council approves the Skaboona quote for telephony services at a cost of £78.35 per month with a one-off cost of £935 for the equipment and installation</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Proposed by Cllr I Cooper, seconded by Cllr C Howarth, motion carried unanimously</u></b></p> <p><b>Action:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- E Booth to sign the memorandum of understanding</li> <li>- Office to issue payment of £500 to CFR</li> <li>- Office to organise appointment of Skaboona</li> </ul>
12	<p><b>FINANCE MATTERS</b> Approvals list as circulated</p> <p><b><u>Recommendation that Council covers all expenditure as outlined in the circulated approvals list</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Proposed by Cllr R Walters, seconded by Cllr I Cooper, motion carried unanimously</u></b></p> <p><b>Action:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- E Booth to set up payments</li> </ul>
13	<p><b>STAFFING WORKING GROUP</b> Nothing to Report</p>
14	<p><b>LOCAL NATURE ACTION PLAN</b> Verbal update</p> <p>Recommendation from EWG was deferred to this item: <b><u>Recommendation that 1 person from each subgroup be on the Local Nature Action Plan subgroup.</u></b> <b><u>Proposed by Cllr H Kelly, no seconder, recommendation withdrawn</u></b></p> <p>This subject was discussed at length, next steps to be arranged through the Environmental Working Group.</p> <p><b>Action:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Cllr H Kelly to discuss next steps through EWG</li> </ul>
15	<p><b>REPORTS</b></p>
15.1	<p><b>CLERK'S REPORT</b> For noting and discussion</p> <p>Cllr C Howarth reported that the business group will be sending more updates through to the office for the Love Shipston Website to be updated.</p>

	<p>Also reported that the news page on the new Shipston Town Council Website had not been updated – Clerks reported this issue has now been sorted and is being updated regularly.</p> <p>Then went on to talk about the need for a card machine at New Clark House, especially with allotment renewals coming up and no bank in the town to deposit cash. This will need to go through the Finance Working Group for discussion.</p>
<b>15.2</b>	<p><b>Town Councillor Reports (STC – Shipston Town Council)</b></p> <p><b>Cllr V Benjamin-Smith</b> reported that she and members of SAFAG attended a meeting in Long Compton, with their flood group. Lots of info was shared and gathering of ideas for the future. Met with a local farmer who is catching water on his land to slow the flow. Also attended the Community Land Trust Meeting in Hook Norton, looking at building affordable housing in the area, led by residents – reported that this is incredibly hard to do but is food for thought for STC in the future.</p> <p><b>Cllr J Williams</b> reported that he has received complaints regarding parking outside Tesco, especially on Telegraph Street. Also reported that he attended Shipston Amdram’s performance of Aladdin, which was terrific and great fun.</p> <p><b>Cllr C Howarth</b> reported that he attended the Towns Network Meeting passed on lots of info regarding this. Also attended the business group meeting in the town – fantastic food from The Bower House, nice meeting and got to meet a few people, businesses seem to be getting together again, so we will likely hear from them in the future. Attended the Proms meeting, which had a lot of people in attendance. Tried to attend the WCC meeting regarding the Lawns2Mow depot but missed it due to it being late. Attended the Community Land Trust Meeting in Hook Norton – very interesting – they have set up electric/heating/lighting/battery banks, even used Solar Farm – housing cost for the year for heating and lighting was £160 – absolutely incredible. Has been involved in Planning Applications for the Youth Club and the fence surrounding the building – just waiting for decisions. Attended an asset management course - interesting. Helping the office with Solicitors. Attended Youth Club meetings.</p> <p><b>Cllr S Crockett</b> reported that he has been in contact with Seccombes regarding land next to the Cemetery/Shoulderway Lane Allotments with a view to possibly obtaining land for Cemetery/Allotment extension.</p> <p><b>Cllr T Booth</b> reported that he has attended various events this month – a Burns Night, with bagpipes and haggis in Alcester. Attended a Civic Dinner in Solihull and a Silent Disco in Stratford – which was brilliant. Also reported that the date for the Mayor’s Civic Service has been moved to the 22<sup>nd</sup> March at 3pm. Arrangements are now being made.</p>
<b>15.3</b>	<p><b>District Council Reports (SDC – Stratford District Council)</b></p> <p>Report circulated and noted</p>
<b>15.4</b>	<p><b>County Council Reports (WCC – Warwickshire County Council)</b></p> <p>No report</p>
<b>15.5</b>	<p><b>Blue Light update –</b></p> <p>Reports circulated</p> <p>PC Sid Hammond reported that there has been a rise in domestic burglaries in more secluded properties, targeting jewellery -this seems to be from organised crime groups. There have been a couple of more local smaller dwellings that have also been targeted. Shoplifting in Shipston - person has been arrested and charged and is due in court in the next few days. Reported that he is on foot everyday within Shipston, which has been well received. A lot of reports of fly tipping and abandoned vehicles. The Layby on the</p>

	<p>Campden Road has also been reported, similar cases on Old Road have been dealt with. Also commented on Warwickshire Connected, where people can log on to see what's happening in their area – would be useful to put something in the Forum for people to access this.</p> <p>Cllr T Booth reported that The Community First Responders have had 44 call outs last month, 2 activations of Defibs and 1 bleed kit. Now in the process of recruiting following a Campaign over January</p>
<b>15.6</b>	<p><b>Shipston Forum</b>  Editor Laura reported that we now have new designer.  QR codes went into the latest edition, these will soon be able to give us some stats, i.e. what's being looked at etc and will be able to report back with these very soon.  Contributions coming in for the March edition. Will remove the Councillor Vacancy Notice and add the New Councillor on.</p>
<b>15.7</b>	<p><b>Ellen Badger Hospital</b>  Nothing to Report</p>
<b>15.8</b>	<p><b>Stour Health and Wellbeing Partnership</b>  Nothing to Report</p>
<b>15.9</b>	<p><b>Shipston High School</b>  Report was circulated.</p> <p>Cllr T Booth summarised an update from the Chair of Governors that Headteacher Mr Saunders has resigned. The school is currently being led by the deputy Heads Mr Larkin and Ms Allsworth, providing a seamless transition as both have been on the leadership team for a number of years. There has been strong interest in the permanent role and they anticipate an appointment very soon.</p>
<b>16</b>	<p><b>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</b>  <b>Monday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2026</b></p>

The meeting closed at 2035 hrs.

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

Cllr T Booth (Mayor) Shipston on Stour Town Council