



**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 13<sup>th</sup> April 2026 at 7pm**

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

**Public:** 1 **Press:** 1 **SDC:** 0 **WCC:** 1 **SAFAG:** 1 **Clerk:** D Hardiman & E Booth

1	<p><b>TO RECEIVE AND NOTE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b> Cllrs P Tesh and V Walden SDC Cllr O Hatch</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 general meeting that took place on Monday 9th March 2026 <b><u>Proposed by Cllr C Howarth, seconded by Cllr M Kelly, 3 abstentions due to absence, 8 for, motion carried</u></b></p> <p>To confirm the minutes of the Closed Session that took place on Monday 9th March 2026 <b><u>Proposed by Cllr H Kelly, seconded by Cllr M Kelly, 3 abstentions due to absence, 8 for, motion carried</u></b></p> <p><b>Action:</b> - <b>Clerks to upload approved minutes to the STC website</b></p>
5	<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 representative from The Shipston Charity addressed Council. Explained that the Shipston Charity is an amalgamation of around 20 different Shipston Charities and is currently looking for trustees. He explained that historically the Town Council put forward someone either from the Council or someone nominated by Council to act as a trustee.</p>

	<p>Went on to explain that there are only around 2 meetings a year and occasional visits to applicants. Cllr T Booth suggested that we put something in the Forum to encourage new trustees.</p>
6	<p><b>SHIPSTON AREA FLOOD ACTION WORKING GROUP</b> Minutes as circulated/verbal update</p> <p>SAFAG member Mr B Cooper expressed thanks to the Mayor for his kind words regarding SAFAG in his Mayor's Column in the Forum – he also added that a report won't be sent for the May meeting, as this will be the annual mayor making, but there may be a recommendation on the Agenda</p> <p><b><u>Recommendation-that STC approves the expenses claim for £209.33 from Mike McCarthy-mileage reimbursement (October 2025 to March 2026) plus the cost of 2 spare keys.</u></b> <b><u>This expenditure will be allocated to the SAFAG designated bank account (General Fund).</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Proposed by Cllr V Benjamin-Smith, seconded by Cllr H Kelly, motion carried unanimously</u></b></p>
7	<p><b>ENVIRONMENT WORKING GROUP</b> Minutes as circulated</p> <p>Cllr H Kelly reported that during the last monthly litter pick 12 volunteers turned up – which is very good and the most we have had in a very long time. Also reported that she has met with Ian Jelley, the Director of Landscape Recovery from Warwickshire Wildlife Trust, at Cornmill Meadows. He hasn't attended Cornmill Meadows since the opening and was pleased with the progress that has been made. He has also given ideas on what we can do for the next few years. Also reported on a possible project that has come through the Environment Working Group - a group of residents are looking into the possibility of purchasing Orchard House on the London Road to create public open space – as the Council do not currently have the General Power of Competence, this isn't something that the Council can do, so would need to remain as a separate project. They are currently looking into funding possibilities.</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>26/00592/FUL – 1 West Street, Shipston on Stour, CV36 4AL – Proposed new doorway in lieu of existing window opening, replacement of existing doors and windows, re-painting of existing external brick walls and new sign board <b><u>No Objection – Proposed by Cllr R Walters, seconded by Cllr G Kelly, motion carried unanimously</u></b></p> <p>26/00244/LBC - Unit 2, Granville House, High Street, Shipston on Stour, CV36 4AJ – Replacement entrance doors to Units 1 and 2A <b><u>No Objection – Proposed by Cllr R Walters, seconded by Cllr M Kelly, motion carried unanimously</u></b></p> <p>25/02642/S106 – Chapel View Housing Development London Road, Shipston on Stour – Approval of Open Space Specification in accordance with Schedule 2 of section 106</p>

	<p>Agreement dated 11 September 2015 relating to 13/02360/OUT and 21/02170/S106  <u><b>No Objection – Proposed by Cllr I Cooper, seconded by Cllr H Kelly, motion carried unanimously</b></u></p> <p><b>Amended Application:</b>  24/00303/OUT – Land at Hansen Farm Webb Road, Shipston on Stour - Outline planning application for the erection of up to 34no. dwellings (including up to 12no affordable dwellings) Matters relating to appearance, landscaping, layout and scale are reserved. Access is submitted – further observations you wish to make on the amendment to be given by the 23rd of April 2026  <u><b>Maintain original Objection, comments to be added regarding access and missing ecological surveys that need to be carried out. Proposed by Cllr G Kelly, seconded by Cllr M Kelly, motion carried unanimously</b></u></p> <p><b>Action:</b>  - Clerks to add decisions to the Planning Portal</p>
9	<p><b>GENERAL PURPOSES/COMMUNICATIONS WORKING GROUP</b>  Tracker as circulated/verbal update</p> <p>Cllr T Booth added that during the last GPWG meeting Cllr R Walters suggested using the Twin Chapels for a mindfulness and reflective space. All agreed this is worth looking into.  Also reported that the contract held with Lawns2Mow will be coming up for review shortly</p>
10	<p><b>FINANCE WORKING GROUP</b>  Minutes as circulated/verbal update</p> <p>PRECEPT 2026/27  <u><b>Recommendation that council approves the budget for 2026/27.</b></u></p> <p><u><b>Proposed by Cllr I Cooper, seconded by Cllr R Walters, motion carried unanimously</b></u></p> <p>GOVERNANCE, POLICIES AND PROCEDURES  <u><b>Recommendation that council adopts the CCTV policy.</b></u></p> <p><u><b>Proposed by Cllr I Cooper, seconded by Cllr M Kelly, motion carried unanimously</b></u></p> <p>AOB  <u><b>Recommendation that council approves quote of £1,600 (inc VAT) for workstation at NCH.</b></u></p> <p><u><b>Proposed by Cllr R Walters, seconded by Cllr J Barker, motion carried unanimously</b></u></p> <p><b>Action:</b>  - Clerks to publish the CCTV policy on to the STC website  - RFO to set up budgets for the 2026/2027 financial year as approved  - Clerks to organise workstation works to be carried out</p>
11	<p><b>FINANCE MATTERS</b>  Approvals list as circulated</p> <p><u><b>Recommendation that Council covers all expenditure as outlined in the circulated approvals list</b></u></p>

	<p><b><u>Proposed by Cllr R Walters, seconded by Cllr M Kelly, motion carried unanimously</u></b></p> <p><b>Action:</b>  - Clerks to set up payments from the approvals list</p>
12	<p><b>STAFFING WORKING GROUP</b>  Minutes as circulated/verbal update</p>
13	<p><b>LOCAL NATURE ACTION PLAN</b></p> <p>Cllr H Kelly requested this item be removed from the Agenda</p> <p><b>Action:</b>  - Clerks to remove from the Agenda</p>
14	<p><b>REPORTS</b></p>
14.1	<p><b>CLERK'S REPORT</b>  For noting and discussion</p>
14.2	<p><b>Town Councillor Reports (STC – Shipston Town Council)</b></p> <p><b>Cllr H Kelly</b> attended the River Blessing at the Bridge, it was well attended. Also attended the Mayor's Civic service, which was very good and liked the new Mayor's Awards. Attended the SOS photoshoot at Shoulderway Lane – good turnout. Reported that the Repair Café has now opened and was very well attended, lots of different repairs, including a moses basket stand, a bicycle and lots of electrical items, very pleased with the turnout and nice cakes</p> <p><b>Cllr C Howarth</b> helped to organise the Rural Enterprise Hub meeting at New Clark House – this was very well attended and will be using New Clark House as a base for future meetings. Attended the SOS Shoulderway Lane photo shoot. Also attended a seminar on 21<sup>st</sup> Century Town and Parish Councillors. Found it very interesting and lots of new concepts. Found it interesting that lots of Councils have issues with breakout groups forming and causing disruption to their Councils. Also attended the poster auction at The George – they raised around £6000, which has been split between various community groups in Shipston. It was very well attended and really good fun.</p> <p><b>Cllr V Benjamin-Smith</b> accompanied SDC Cllr D Passingham on a walk around the Orbit Housing estate with the new neighbourhood manager – looking at the Green Space area and things that haven't been completed by Orbit. Also accompanied Mike McCarthy from SAFAG on an inspection of the dams along at Ditchford, to establish how effective the dams were that were installed around 7 years ago – all seem to b holding up very well against the flow of water which is apparently very vast in that area. Really interesting and amazing to see what has been done. Some repairs and rebuild needed, but all in all things are looking very positive. Also attended the River Blessing, reported that the people who were testing the water reported that the health of the water is really good. Reported that a very rare Brooke Lamprey was spotted. Also attended the Mayor's Civic Service which was very pleasant.</p> <p><b>Cllr J Williams</b> reported that Sue Taylor who had a charity table on the Driftway and has raised lots of money for charity over the years has now had to stop due to trust and insurance issues – which is very sad</p> <p><b>Cllr S Crockett</b> attended the Shoulderway Lane photoshoot with the SOS group.</p> <p><b>Cllr I Cooper</b> expressed his apologies for missing the Civic Service.</p> <p><b>Cllr M Kelly</b> expressed apologies for missing the Civic Service. Attended the SOS group photoshoot at Shoulderway Lane</p>

	<p><b>Cllr R Walters</b> attended the Mayor's Civic service</p> <p><b>Cllr T Booth</b> attended a Murder Mystery evening in Stratford. Also opened the New Pizza restaurant in Shipston – Pizza Di Napoli. Reported on his Civic Service – very proud of the Mayor's Awards that were introduced this year, is hopeful this will continue in the following years. Attended an Oompah night in Coleshill. Attended the Rotary Easter Event at the Scout Hut, judging the Easter Bonnet competition. Lots of Civic Services upcoming this month.</p>
<b>14.3</b>	<p><b>District Council Reports (SDC – Stratford District Council)</b> Report as circulated</p>
<b>14.4</b>	<p><b>County Council Reports (WCC – Warwickshire County Council)</b></p> <p><b>WCC Cllr J Barker</b> reported that she has been on TV this month, on Politics Midlands, talking about "Town of Culture" managed to mention Shipston as much as possible. Reported it is worth entering Shipston into this in the future.</p> <p>Reported that the Cabinet meeting at County is coming up tomorrow. Also reported that Great Alne Primary School is looking likely to be closed – they haven't managed to join up with another group of schools to help them out, like we have done with the smaller schools around Shipston – they have all joined together in a trust.</p> <p>Crisis resilience fund and rural fund are both coming in.</p> <p>Got a lot of health things coming up – talking to hospices next week, regarding concerns that hospices locally are struggling with regards to funding. Also reported that there is likely to be changes to the ICB</p> <p>Also reported that WCC are pushing to use the bungalow at the recycling centre as a "Men's Shed"</p>
<b>14.5</b>	<p><b>Blue Light update –</b></p> <p><b>PC Sid Hammond</b> reported that a sign has now been placed on the Campden Road Layby regarding CCTV in a hope to stop littering and defecating in this area. Burglaries on a whole have gone down – none reported so far this month. Biggest concern at the moment is people leaving cars unlocked or windows down.</p> <p>Also reported that Shipston will be getting another Full Time PCSO, due to start this week. There is also a new Chief Constable in appointment.</p> <p>Vandal that damaged trees on the Campden Road has been processed – compensation will be paid to the company that replanted the tree and an apology will be issued/</p> <p>The bus company that allowed passengers to get off the bus and urinate in St Edmunds Church Yard will be given a section 59 notice on their vehicles and if there is any further evidence of anti-social behaviour then the vehicles will be seized.</p> <p><b>Cllr T Booth</b> reported that there were 43 call outs this month for Shipston Community First Responders.</p>
<b>14.6</b>	<p><b>Shipston Forum</b></p> <p><b>Editor L Parker</b> commented that lots of things are coming in for the May edition – lots of adverts and events – another packed edition</p>
<b>14.7</b>	<p><b>Ellen Badger Hospital</b></p> <p><b>Cllr J Barker</b> reported that walk in blood tests at the hospital have been causing a little bit of confusion – people actually need a slip from the doctor first.</p> <p>Also, the doctors have moved in.</p>
<b>14.8</b>	<p><b>Stour Health and Wellbeing Partnership</b> Nothing to report</p>

<b>14.9</b>	<b>Shipston High School</b> Nothing to report
<b>15</b>	<p><b>EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC</b></p> <p>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 &amp; 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</p> <p>Council discussed some confidential matters during the closed session and reached and decision regarding Staffing</p>
<b>16</b>	<p><b>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</b></p> <p>Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2026 – Annual Mayor Making</p> <p>Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2026</p>

The meeting closed at 2010 hrs.

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

Cllr R Walters (Mayor) Shipston on Stour Town Council