



**SHIPSTON ON STOUR TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES**

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

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General Meeting of Shipston on Stour Town Council, Monday 8th June 2026 at 7pm

Present: Cllrs R Walters (Mayor), T Booth, C Howarth, H Kelly, J Barker, G Kelly, V Walden, P Tesh, S Crockett and J Williams

Cllr M Kelly attended via teams – no contribution to Quorum/Voting

Cllr V Benjamin-Smith arrived at 7:05pm – after approval of minutes

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

1	TO RECEIVE AND NOTE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Cllr I Cooper
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 13th April 2026 <u>Proposed by Cllr J Barker, seconded by Cllr T Booth, 2 abstentions due to absence, 8 for, motion carried</u> - Monday 13th April 2026 – Closed Session <u>Proposed by Cllr H Kelly, seconded by Cllr G Kelly, 2 abstentions due to absence, 8 for, motion carried</u> - Monday 11th May 2026 – Annual General Meeting and Mayor Making <u>Proposed by Cllr P Tesh, seconded by Cllr T Booth, 1 abstention due to absence, 9 for, motion carried</u> Action: - DH to add approved minutes to the STC website

5	OPEN FORUM (15 minutes duration) Parishioners of Shipston are invited to address the Council on any relevant matter for a maximum of 3 minutes. None
6	SHIPSTON AREA FLOOD ACTION WORKING GROUP Minutes as circulated/verbal update <u>Recommendation that STC approves the payment of the invoice from Joe Dee for £1,830 plus VAT (total of £2,196) for the works carried out on Brexit Brook. This expenditure will be costed against the SAFAG designated bank account (Maintenance Fund).</u> <u>Proposed by Cllr V Benjamin-Smith, seconded by Cllr H Kelly, motion carried unanimously</u> <u>Recommendation that STC approves the verbal cost estimate from Joe Dee, for the works required on the Paddle Brook dams-£3,090 plus VAT. This will be costed against the SAFAG designated bank account (Maintenance Fund).</u> <u>Proposed by Cllr V Benjamin-Smith, seconded by Cllr J Barker, motion carried unanimously</u>
7	ENVIRONMENT WORKING GROUP <u>Recommendation that Council approve the pathway, and grass grid works at Cornmill Meadows, at a cost of £5,800 + VAT, to be carried out by Simon Healey Paddocks and Grounds, to be taken from the Cornmill Meadows budget line.</u> <u>Proposed by Cllr H Kelly, seconded by Cllr V Walden, motion carried unanimously</u>
8	PLANNING COMMITTEE Minutes as circulated. All planning applications can be viewed at https://apps.stratford.gov.uk/eplanning/ 26/01246/REM – Springfield Farm Rise, Bosley Close, Shipston on Stour, CV36 4QA – Reserved Matters application pursuant to Outline Planning Permission 25/01153/OUT for matters relating to appearance, landscape, layout and scale Council discussed this application at length – the original outline application, to which Council submitted an objection, described a bungalow – this is not what appears on the plans of this reserved matters application. <u>Object – Proposed by Cllr P Tesh, seconded by Cllr J Barker, motion carried unanimously</u> 26/01392/TREE - 48 Sheep Street, Shipston on Stour, CV36 4AE – T2 yew - Reduce height by 2 metres (reducing height from 10 metres to 8 metres), to balance with T1 yew. Reduce canopy by 2 metres on the West side, that overtops Parkers Yard, to reduce damage to roof and enable maintenance of adjoining property. Blend into canopy on North and South side. Reduce canopy on South side sympathetically by less than 1 metre. Current canopy spread: North 3 metres, South 4.5 metres, East 5 metres, West 3 metres)

	<u>No Objection – Proposed by Cllr P Tesh, seconded by Cllr V Walden, motion carried unanimously</u> Action: - Cllr P Tesh to draft an Objection for Springfield Farm Rise - DH to add decisions to the Planning portal before the deadlines.
9	GENERAL PURPOSES/COMMUNICATIONS WORKING GROUP Nothing to report
10	FINANCE WORKING GROUP Minutes as circulated/verbal update <u>Recommendation that Council approves the AGAR and supporting documents:</u> - <u>Point 1 – Annual governance statement (section 1)</u> <u>Proposed by Cllr C Howarth, seconded by Cllr J Barker, motion carried unanimously</u> - <u>Point 2 – Accounting statements (section 2)</u> <u>Proposed by Cllr C Howarth, seconded by Cllr T Booth, motion carried unanimously</u> <u>Recommendation that Council approve the Annual Internal Auditor Report and note it has been received</u> <u>Proposed by Cllr C Howarth, seconded by Cllr V Benjamin-Smith, motion carried unanimously</u> <u>Recommendation that Council authorise the RFO to submit relevant documents to the External Auditors</u> <u>Proposed by Cllr C Howarth, seconded by Cllr P Tesh, motion carried unanimously</u> <u>Recommendation that Council approve the dates for the “notice of public rights” to be displayed from Wednesday 10th June to Tuesday 21st July.</u> <u>Proposed by Cllr C Howarth, seconded by Cllr P Tesh, motion carried unanimously</u> <u>Recommendation that Council approve the transfer of the Lions food festival grant for use to raise Youth Club funds.</u> <u>Proposed by Cllr C Howarth, seconded by Cllr V Benjamin-Smith, 1 abstention, 10 for, motion carried</u> <u>Recommendation that Council agrees to pay for the Structural Engineer costs up to £1,080 + VAT for the Youth Club Building.</u> <u>Proposed by Cllr C Howarth, seconded by Cllr J Williams, 1 abstention, 10 for, motion carried</u> <u>Recommendation that Council agree to the extension of the Lawns 2 Mow contract for a further 6 months.</u>

	<u>Proposed by Cllr C Howarth, seconded by Cllr J Barker, motion carried unanimously</u> Action: - EB to submit AGAR and supporting documents to the External Auditor - Clerks to display Notice of Public Rights on website and noticeboard - DH to contact Lions RE Community Grant - Contact to be made to relevant parties to organise structural engineer - Contact L2M RE extension of contract
11	FINANCE MATTERS Approvals list as circulated + 1 late invoice added to the list for approval <u>Recommendation that Council covers all expenditure as outlined in the circulated approvals list</u> <u>Proposed by Cllr P Tesh, seconded by Cllr C Howarth, motion carried unanimously</u> Action - Clerks to set up payments
12	STAFFING WORKING GROUP No meeting since April – June meeting due to take place on Wednesday this week
13	REPORTS
13.1	CLERK'S REPORT For noting and discussion
13.2	Town Councillor Reports (STC – Shipston Town Council) Cllr Reports as circulated/verbal updates Cllr H Kelly reported that the sensory garden had been vandalised over the weekend – has been reported to the local police. Has asked if any residents nearby would be willing to keep an eye on the garden. Reported that volunteers rallied around to clear up the mess. Cllr R Walters expressed thanks to the volunteers. Cllr H Kelly continues that people from the County Records Office have been over to Cornmill Meadows to have a look at the variety of plants and have identified some plants in the verges that are unusual for Warwickshire. Will be asking Lawns2Mow to reduce grass cutting here to enable these plants to grow. Cllr G Kelly reported that he has been approached by the Museum about a sign. Would the Town Council fund this. Cllr V Benjamin-Smith reported that she has attended 2 courses through WALC this month, one on Agendas and Minutes and one on the Code of Conduct. Was booked in for Chairs training, but this was cancelled due to lack of intake. Cllr J Williams reported that he has been talking to shop keepers within the town, to see how business is going since the closure of the bank. Reported there have been loss of sales and reports of not breaking even. Still has a few more shops to visit but we need to find something to get people back into the centre of town. Cllr V Walden reported that local cafés have also reported that there are not as many people coming in since the closure of the bank. Also reminded Council that is Great Big Green Week this week – running until Sunday – encouraged all to come along to the different activities

	Cllr S Crockett reported that residents from the Chapel View estate have complained to Stratford District Council regarding the exercise equipment planned on the combined open space with Angelas Meadow.
13.3	District Council Reports (SDC – Stratford District Council) Report as circulated SDC Cllr O Hatch gave a brief update on the South Warwickshire Local Plan – the meeting that was due to take place today (8th June) was cancelled. Stratford District Council are now in Purdah – a district Councillor resigned last week, and election has been called for July. The actual debate of the SWLP has been delayed until the 13th July. John Careford has given SDC Cllrs 2 days to submit any suggestions. Is currently putting together a “Wishlist” for this. Went on to list the points she wants to make: - The first point is to review the site allocations and remove the worst sites from the plan - Retain the land at Tilemans Lane as employment land, as stated in the Shipston Neighbourhood Plan - Include findings of the “Shaping Travel in Shipston” report – a lot of those are in the existing neighbourhood plan - Provision for 6th Form and further education - Cycle Feasibility Study is taken into account to make improvements within the town Asked Cllrs if there are any further points they would like to make Cllr P Tesh reported that the latest revision of the SWLP, Shipston has been downgraded to a “Local Growth Centre”. It identifies Shoulderway Lane, East of Springhill, Furze Hill, Hanson Avenue, Oldbutt Road as potential sites, the inspector has come back and added in 3 more sites, which takes the houses up to 800+ Taking away our employment land – requested that this point be the first point to make Also commented that an important point to make would be that we have lost our Fire Station, and with more houses being planned this is important. Cllr R Walters asked if she feels these points would be incorporated into the plan and if the plan will be found unsound. SDC Cllr O Hatch reported that there is nothing from what she can see on infrastructure for these local growth centres, so this is an important point to make and this is something we can put across during the next stage – regulation 19, along with comments on whether the plan is legal and viable.
13.4	County Council Reports (WCC – Warwickshire County Council) WCC Cllr J Barker reported that she is unable to put her comments in on the SWLP. Has concerns over what is coming in terms of infrastructure. Reported on HAF – Holiday activities and food programme, which is funded by the department of education, for children in full time education up to year 11 to get benefits related free school meals during the school holidays. This will be going live from Wednesday, can forward all the details. Also reported that as chair of Adult Social Care and Health Committee – tomorrow, they will be talking about Mental Health Beds, has also been contacted by a Metal Health Group who are concerned about talking therapies and how they have done in Warwickshire. Will also be talking about trans issues. Will also be questioning the “Healthy Weight Strategy” beings as there was no real consultation on this.
13.5	Blue Light update – Cllr T Booth reported that Shipston Community First Responders have just taken on 3 new recruits, they have passed all their courses and are now up and running.

	Last month there were 57 emergency call outs – category 1 and 2 emergencies and 5 defibrillator activations. Also reported that when the group was first set up they were only visiting 2 or 3 calls a month, now attending nearly 60. The second car has definitely made a difference.
13.6	Shipston Forum Editor L Parker reported that there is a healthy edition coming up in July. Cllr V Benjamin-Smith added that last month was an amazing edition, really jam packed.
13.7	Ellen Badger Hospital Cllr H Kelly reported that the Repair Café is running this Saturday – 10am – 2pm, last items accepted for repair at 1pm. Dying Matters sessions now running Toy Library is going well Cllr T Booth reported that he attended the hospital and commented how amazing it was
13.8	Stour Health and Wellbeing Partnership As reported on in the Ellen Badger Hospital item
13.9	Shipston High School Cllr C Howarth reported that works on the Sports Hall are going well. Also reported that the School have now formed an alliance with Foxes Academy – Leicester City Football. They are looking to provide a 3G/4G pitch and run training academies during school and after school. Went on to report that Councillors have been invited by Colin Atkins to see the new development and talk about the link with Leicester City. It was decided that this will happen on Tuesday 30th June. Cllr J Barker reported that she has had a meeting with the current deputy heads at the High School, which was very positive and a meeting with the new Head, equally as positive. As County Councillor this has been really pleasing to have this link restored. Cllr H Kelly reported that she has been invited up to the School by the deputy head. They would like to run a community day on 14th July, years 7 to 10, they would like people to offer placements to students for the day – has suggested they visit the sensory garden, cornmill meadows and possibly visit New Clark House to talk to Councillors about the Town Council
14	EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC 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. <u>Recommendation that Council resolves to exclude the public and press in order to discuss matters of a confidential nature</u> <u>Proposed by Cllr T Booth, seconded by Cllr J Barker, motion carried unanimously</u>
15	DATE OF NEXT MEETING Monday 13th July 2026

The meeting closed at 2056hrs.

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

Cllr R Walters (Mayor) Shipston on Stour Town Council