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 12th October 2026 at 7pm

Present: Cllrs R.Walters, T.Booth, I. Cooper, V. Benjamin-Smith, M.Kelly, P. Tesh, H. Kelly, G. Kelly, J.Barker, C.Howarth, J.Williams attended at 7:15pm
Public: 8 Press: 1 SDC: 2 WCC: 1 Town Clerk: E Booth Deputy Town Clerk: F.Burns

1	**TO RECEIVE AND NOTE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** Cllr V.Walden
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 14th September 2026 ***Proposed by Cllr I.Cooper, Seconded by Cllr G.Kelly 5 for, 4 abstentions*** **Action –** **Deputy Clerk to publish Minutes on the Town Council 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. A resident spoke about their disappointment regarding the footpath in Cornmill Meadows and the blocking of the open views. They also queried about the point of the

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	Neighbourhood Plan if it is going to be ignored. They voiced that they felt Cornmill Meadows had been destroyed. Another Shipston resident commented on the hedges that had been planted in Cornmill Meadows and brought to Council's attention 3 legal cases that had been brought against Councils with regards to hedges. They stated that there had to be a balance between planning and amenity needs. There were numerous points regarding Cornmill Meadows discussed by another resident. They feel the planting of hawthorn hedges is dangerous due to the thorns on the plant but also that it makes walking down to Cornill Meadows unsafe as it makes it very enclosed. The resident was concerned that the orchard created a fire risk as the trees are planted too close together and the long grass couldn't be cut over the summer. They stated that they felt the pond/scrape is dangerous and an eyesore and that part of the meadow has been fenced off and padlocked which is not what was meant for the Meadows. The resident also commented that the bug hotel is an eyesore and anti-social behaviour is encouraged around the picnic benches. Council were informed by a resident of Shipston that there is a meeting at Cornmill Meadows on Thursday 15th of October involving the Environment Agency, Stratford District Council planning department and the Severn Rivers Trust. A member of the Shipston Education Charity informed Council that 28 grants were given to students amounting to £2275
6	**SHIPSTON AREA FLOOD ACTION WORKING GROUP** Minutes as circulated ***Recommendation-that Shipston Town Council create and put in place a comprehensive flood and emergency resilience plan.*** ***Proposed by Cllr V. Benjamin-Smith, seconded by Cllr H.Kelly, unanimous, motion carried*** ***Recommendation-that Shipston Town Council approves the payment of £150.14 to Ben Goren to cover the essential upgrades and changes to SAFAG's website. This will be costed against the SAFAG designated bank account-General Fund*** ***Proposed by Cllr V.Benjamin-Smith, seconded by Cllr I.Cooper, unanimous, motion carried*** **Action:- - Cllr V.Benjamin-Smith to commence work on the plan** **- Clerk to make payment to Ben Goran**
7	**ENVIRONMENT WORKING GROUP** ***Recommendation that Shipston Town Council approves that the hedge at Cornmill Meadows remains because of the wildlife benefits and it was already in place before the land was transferred to Shipston Town Council***

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	Proposed to withdraw the recommendation proposed by Cllr H.Kelly, seconded by Cllr Chris Howarth, 1 against, 8 for, motion carried
8	**PLANNING COMMITTEE** Minutes as circulated. ***26/01625/FUL – 24 Stratford Road – Shipston on Stour – CV36 4AU Rear two storey extension*** ***No objection proposed by Cllr P.Tesh, seconded by Cllr R.Walters, 1 abstained, 8 for, motion carried*** ***26/01916/FUL - 59 Norgren Crescent, Shipston-on-Stour, CV36 4BF Garage conversion to create ancillary accommodation*** ***Objection to be withdrawn proposed by Cllr P.Tesh, seconded by Cllr J.Barker, 1 against, 8 for, motion carried*** **Cllr P.Tesh** reported that the three planning applications on Darlingscote Road are going before the Committee in November All planning applications can be viewed at https://apps.stratford.gov.uk/eplanning/ ***Action – Deputy Clerk to submit council response to relevant applications on the Planning Portal***
9	**GENERAL PURPOSES/COMMUNICATIONS WORKING GROUP** Tracker as circulated/verbal update ***Recommendation that, in the absence of an alternative recommendation from the Environment Working Group, Full Council authorises the reinstatement of the area of the scrape and associated excavated material at Cornmill Meadows, so far as reasonably practicable, to its condition immediately prior to the works undertaken in or around August 2025; that three quotations be obtained for those works; and that authority be given to accept the lowest suitable quotation up to a maximum expenditure of £2,500 excluding VAT, subject to any permissions, professional advice or regulatory requirements necessary for the reinstatement works*** ***Withdrawal of the recommendation proposed by Cllr R.Walters, seconded by Cllr C.Howarth, 1 against, 8 for motion carried*** ***Recommendation that Shipston Town Council approve the disposal or relocation of the bug hotel at Cornmill Meadows in line with Stratford District Planning and the covenants of the land registry document***

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	Withdrawal of the recommendation proposed by Cllr G.Kelly, seconded by Cllr I.Cooper, 1 against, 8 for, motion carried ***Recommendation that Full Council authorises the Clerk to obtain appropriate independent legal advice on the status of existing works, planting and installations at Cornmill Meadows, including but not limited to the hawthorn hedging and orchard, with particular reference to the covenants and other legal restrictions affecting the land; whether any previous works or installations require consent or other remedial action; and the implications of those restrictions for the Council's future management and improvement of the site.*** ***Proposed by Cllr R.Walters, seconded by Cllr C.Howarth, unanimous, motion carried*** **Action: Clerk to obtain advice from lawyers**
10	**FINANCE WORKING GROUP** Minutes as circulated/verbal update ***Recommendation that Shipston Town Council approve the quote of £288.00 from Cotswold First Aid for the Remembrance event*** ***Proposed by Cllr I,Cooper, seconded by Cllr C.Howarth, motion carried unanimously*** ***Recommendation that Shipston Town Council approve the quote of £120.00 to the Mapping Company for services in regard to the Police Lease.*** ***Proposed by Cllr T.Booth, seconded by Cllr I.Cooper, motion carried unanimously*** ***Recommendation for Shipston Town Council to re-adopt the LGA Code of Conduct*** ***Proposed by Cllr I.Cooper, seconded by Cllr J.Barker, motion carried unanimously*** ***Recommendation that Shipston Town Council note the external audit report has been received and published on the website*** ***Proposed by Cllr I.Cooper, seconded by Cllr T.Booth, motion carried unanimously*** **Action: Clerk to make payments approved by Council** **Deputy Clerk to publish audit report on website**
11	**FINANCE MATTERS** Approvals list as circulated ***Proposed by Cllr P.Tesh, seconded by Cllr H.Kelly, motion carried unanimously***

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	Action – Clerk to make payments
12	**STAFFING WORKING GROUP** Minutes as circulated/verbal update **Cllr G Kelly** will be discussing in a Closed Session after the Full Council meeting
13	**REPORTS**
13.1	**CLERK'S REPORT** For noting and discussion
13.2	**Town Councillor Reports (STC – Shipston Town Council)** **Cllr T.Booth** wished to extend his congratulations to Bookfest which was a very well organised and attended event. Cllr Booth also attended the High Sheriff legal service which was also an excellent event No further councillor reports were provided.
13.3	**District Council Reports (SDC – Stratford District Council)** **Cllr O Hatch** reported on the National Scheme of Delegation which she said was a big change. Any comments that anyone has on a planning application needs to lobby their District Councillor and their Parish Council who will then lobby the chair of the planning committee and the relevant officer. It brings a new layer of democratic deficit. Cllr Hatch reported that there is a parish forum which everybody on the Council is invited to on the 22nd of October **Cllr D Passingham** reported that he had a meeting with the Housing Land Supply Recovery Officer who has been appointed to try to get as many houses built as possible, so that the district council gets its housing land supply back which protects Shipston from developers. Cllr Passingham reported that he was trying to obtain more S106 money to mitigate problems at the road junction.
13.4	**County Council Reports (WCC – Warwickshire County Council)** **Cllr J.Barker** reported that the Darlingscote Road cycling and road management plan went to cabinet committee. Cllr Barker has asked for a crossing at the end of Darlingscote Road. It was also reported that WCC is way below the national average of Education and Healthcare plans with 46-47% carried out nationally but only 9% in Warwickshire. This has been due to a lack of admin staff
13.5	**Blue Light update** – Reports circulated – Noted Cllr Tony Booth reported that the First Responders had their busiest month in September with 73 calls

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13.6	**Shipston Forum** Update was given on the November issue being a mixture of the Remembrance Parade on the 8th of November and Christmas events
13.7	**Ellen Badger Hospital** Update was given from H.Kelly that the medical unit has been open for 12 months
13.8	**Stour Health and Wellbeing Partnership** The next meeting is taking place on Tuesday the 13th of October
13.9	**Shipston High School** Report as circulated
13.10	**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. ***Recommendation that Council resolves to exclude the public and press in order to discuss matters of a confidential nature*** ***Proposed by Cllr C.Howarth, seconded by Cllr H.Kelly, motion carried unanimously***
14	**DATE OF NEXT MEETING** **Monday 9th November 2026**

The meeting closed at 20:00 hrs.

Signed……. Date……..

Cllr R Walters (Mayor) Shipston on Stour Town Council

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