SHIPSTON ON STOUR TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES
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General Meeting of Shipston on Stour Town Council, 12th August 2024

Present: Cllrs J Dinnie (Mayor), I Cooper, G Kelly, P Tesh, J Barker, C Howarth, M Kelly, R Walters, J Williams and E Liddell.

Public: 2 **Press:** 1 **SDC:** 1 **WCC:** 1 **Clerk:** H Morgan

1	**TO RECEIVE AND NOTE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** Cllrs T Booth (deputy mayor), H Kelly and SDC Cllr D Passingham.
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 8th July 2024. ***July minutes proposed by Cllr Dinnie, seconded by Cllr Cooper – 6 in favour, 4 abstentions due to absence, motion carried.***
5	**CO-OPTION OF NEW COUNCILLOR – RECOMMENDATION FROM STAFFING WORKING GROUP.** ***Recommendation that Council approves the co-option of Mr J Corless to Shipston Town Council.*** ***Proposed by Cllr G Kelly, seconded by Cllr Barker – motion carried unanimously.***
6	**CLERK'S REPORT** Noted and discussed.
7	**REPORTS**

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7.1	**Town Council (STC – Shipston Town Council)** **Cllr Tesh** advised that a suggestion had been made by a resident for the Council to purchase the land by the gyratory on New Street as a car park. **Cllr Howarth** advised that he had attended part 2 of a Data Projection course, a meeting regarding renovations at The Hub and a Towns Network meeting. Cllr Howarth also reported on the Love Shipston Website and potential funding/support. **Cllr Williams** commented on the Shipston in Bloom tubs and they felt that they don't compare to those in Banbury. **Cllr Barker** advised that the Shipston in Bloom treasurer is intending to stay on. **Cllr Corless** advised that Herdwick Gate and Herdwick Fold residents are forming a residents association and provided a copy of their constitution for info. Other policies being developed. **Cllr Cooper** commented on the recent chaos caused by the road works, road closure and diversions, temporary lights and appalling signage which had caused much disruption to residents and motorists. Reports and complaints were duly made to WCC Highways. **Cllr M Kelly** had attended the Proms wash-up meeting – she reported that takings were down from last year but next year is financially viable. AGM to take place in October.
7.2	**District Council (SDC – Stratford District Council)** Report as circulated. Cllr Hatch reported that 1,080 new houses per year have been allocated to Stratford District under the new government's housing plans – previous provision was for 700. The new national policy planning framework is out for consultation until the 30th September. SDC will present its views – the impact of flooding needs to be fed back.
7.3	**County Council (WCC – Warwickshire County Council)** Cllr Barker reported that she had attended a Highways/Cadent meeting today regarding the recent road work and diversion issues. Shipston roads and pavements are all in need of proper reinstatement following these recent/current works and the previous works carried out for broadband. Contractors and permits need to be monitored closely. Local businesses have been advised to look at their taking figures in comparison to the same time last year as they could be able to claim compensation due to a drop in footfall as it was wrongly assumed that there was no access to the town centre. Cllr Barker also advised that she had sought clarification regarding the Fire Station – contrary to what has been said, it will not be mothballed and will operate under the new model. Shipston and surrounding villages will be covered by Shipston and crews from elsewhere.
7.4	**Blue Light update** – **Safer Neighbourhood Team, Fire Station, First Responders.** Reports as circulated.
7.5	**Shipston Forum** The editor advised that she has been in post for a year and thanked the Council for their support. Articles, adverts and photos still welcome for the September edition.
7.6	**Ellen Badger Hospital** Councillors have been invited to attend a site visit in September to understand more fully the intended use of the building. The Integrated Care Board have conducted studies and surveys on the site which Council will ask to be published. The Beds for the Badger campaign is looking for support on their steering committee – Councillors may offer their support but on an individual/personal basis – not as a representative from the Council.
7.7	**Stour Health and Wellbeing Partnership** July minutes and action plan as circulated.
7.8	**Shipston High School**

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	Nothing to report.
7.9	**Shipston Business Group** A representative from the group highlighted the following areas of concern/interest and asked for the Council's support: • Recent road works, road closures, diversions and incorrect signage. Plans are needed ahead of time. Impact report and issues log required and liaison with all key stakeholders required to mitigate / limit impact and damage / repair requirement • Sainsbury's planning application – effect on local businesses if it should go ahead. They would like to maintain communication with the Planning Committee. Cllr Howarth to contact Towns Network to ask if they have conducted an impact survey in other towns following new supermarkets opening. • Anti-social behaviour, begging and street safety – this has been raised with the Safer Neighbourhood Team by Council. • Towns Network are developing some calling cards with relevant and helpful numbers to escalate issues. • The Love Shipston website is being administered by the Council office team. A plea was made for markets/fetes to be held on Sundays. • It is believed that there is some S106 funding available from SDC. The group believes there was a provision of £75 per household and that this money could be allocated to further promote the local town facilities with the aim of attracting new residents to 'shop local and love local facilities' Refer to DC Passingham • A request was made for the one way sign by Mrs Brown's Tearoom to be reinstated/repainted. • WCC have not yet released their street plan – it is hoped that Shaping Travel for Shipston will provide some funding.
8	**OPEN FORUM (15 MINUTE DURATION)** Nothing to report.
9	**ENVIRONMNENT AND FLOOD ACTION WORKING GROUP** Minutes and reports as circulated. SAFAG: Mr Smith highlighted the saliant points in his report – volunteers to repair dams at Pig Brook, ponding near Sutton-under-Brailes could be a solution to prevent silting and help flood prevention, work ongoing to develop relationships with Severn Rivers Trust, the Environmental Agency and WCC and to clarify financial responsibilities. Expenditure for enhancements and repairs noted and agreed – SAFAG budgeted funds. Councillors are welcome to make site visits and/or volunteer. ***Recommendation that Council approves the reimbursement of £47 to Mr McCarthy for SAFAG website security.*** ***Proposed by Cllr Dinnie, seconded ny Cllr Cooper, motion carried unanimously.*** Environmental Working Group: ***Recommendation that Council approves the delivery and laying of planings at Cornmill Meadows at no cost.*** The recommendation was proposed by Cllr Dinnie but not seconded. Councillors had some reservations re the use of planings i.e. environmental concerns. It was agreed that more information was required from the Environmental Agency, Mr Hudson and Wildlife Trust.

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	Recommendation that Council approves hedge laying training at Cornmill Meadows by Wychwood Forest Trust at the cost of £350. The recommendation was proposed by Cllr Dinnie but not seconded. There is no budget currently for the training of volunteers. Would volunteers be prepared to pay for their own training as an acquired skill. A volunteers policy has been drafted by Cllr Howarth – Staffing Working Group to sign it off. We are also still in birdnesting season. ***Recommendation that Council approves the purchase of drought-resistant shrubs and plants for the Shipston in Bloom tubs and beds.*** ***Proposed by Cllr Dinnie, seconded by Cllr Barker – motion carried unanimously.*** ***Recommendation that Council approves the offer from Ron Edmonds to cut dead elm, reduce height of goat willow and remove debris at the Sensory Garden at no cost.*** ***Proposed by C;;r Dinnie, seconded by Cllr Howarth, 8 for, 2 abstentions, motion carried.***
10	**PLANNING COMMITTEE** Minutes as circulated. Cllr Tesh advised of the determination dates for the following large planning applications: • High School – 23rd August 2024 • Sainsbury's – 23rd August 2024 • The Old Power House – this week • Tileman's Lane – no date as yet • Reserve Site – 24th September 2024 (62 objections, no support)
11	**HERITAGE, AMENITIES AND LEISURE PROJECTS WORKING GROUP (HALP)** Minutes as circulated. Cllr Howarth reported on the following: • Alleyway plaques project now complete – positive comments received and Shakespear's England will be running an article. • Trailtale project has not received funding – engagement to be made with the museum and other local history bodies, funding to be reapplied for. • Cecil Standford's plaque to be unveiled (outside Harry's barber shop) at noon on Saturday 21st September. The family will be bringing some memorabilia along. Motorcycle organisations are aware, EFX (who made the plaque will be attending, Sheldon Bosley are also interested. Forum and Herald articles to be organised.
12	**GENERAL PURPOSES/COMMUNICATIONS WORKING GROUP** Tracker/Action Log as circulated. Nothing more to report in Cllr Booth's absence.
13	**FINANCE WORKING GROUP** Minutes as circulated. • A meeting was held with the lease holders of The Hub to agree and assign responsibilities following the dilapidation survey. Report to be forwarded to all. We are awaiting qutoes re an asbestos survey and spalling. • Asset Management to be taken back to the Finance Working Group. How do we manage this effectively? It was debated as to whether assets should be a source of income or to be preserved as assets to the community. What do we want to achieve from a facilities management function? Cost is also a factor.

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14	**FINANCIAL MATTERS** Invoices for approval as circulated. ***Proposed by Cllr Dinnie, seconded by Cllr Cooper, motion carried unanimously.***
15	**STAFFING WORKING GROUP** Minutes as circulated. Cllr G Kelly welcomed Cllr Corless to the Council and was pleased to announce that for the first time in many years we do not carry any Cllr vacancies.
17	**DATE OF NEXT MEETING** Monday 9th September 2024.

The meeting closed at 2120 hrs.

Signed…… Date……..

Cllr J Dinnie (Mayor) Shipston on Stour Town Council

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