SHIPSTON ON STOUR TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES
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General Meeting of Shipston on Stour Town Council, 9th September 2024

Present: Cllrs J Dinnie (Mayor), T Booth (Deputy Mayor), I Cooper, G Kelly, J Barker, C Howarth, R Walters, J Williams and J Corless.

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

1	**TO RECEIVE AND NOTE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** Cllrs M Kelly, P Tesh, E Liddell 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 12th August 2024. ***Minutes proposed by Cllr Walters, seconded by Cllr Cooper – 8 in favour, 2 abstentions due to absence, motion carried.***
5	**CLERK'S REPORT** Noted and discussed. Discussion about the Cemetery Lodge re emergency repairs and other repairs needing doing. ***Proposal to make all necessary repairs once all listed with costs and approved by the Finance Working Group.*** ***Proposed by Cllr Dinnie, seconded by Cllr Barker, motion carried unanimously.***
6	**REPORTS**
6.1	**Town Council (STC – Shipston Town Council)**

	Cllr Booth reported that the food festival had been a fabulous event and extended thanks and congratulations to the Lions. **Cllr Howarth** also commented on the success of the food festival and noted that STC had sponsored the event. He had attended (chaired) the HALP meeting, meetings regarding The Hub re alterations and quotes and had been busy organising the upcoming unveiling of Cecil Sanford's memorial plaque, **Cllr Barker** reported on discussions/meeting regarding the Mayo Road Recreation Trust (parking, nursery, play area, rugby club plans). She also reported on the success of the food festival at which she had run the Foodbank stall. Clerk to write a letter of thanks to the Lions on behalf of the Council. **Cllr H Kelly** had attended a Climate Change Assembly which she described as 'brilliant' – lots of tips for Councils including the suggestion of Cool Hubs for the summer months. She reported on trees at Hawthorn Way, the food festival which she thought was great, High School/Cornmill Meadows collaboration, Shipston in Bloom volunteers (meeting to be held on 2nd October) and that Cornmill Meadows were finalists in the Herald awards. **Cllr Cooper** also reported on the success of the food festival and concerns regarding road closures – he called for a meeting with WCC Highways to discuss as the situation is getting worse and causing much disruption to the town. **Cllr Walters** expressed thanks to the Lions re the food festival and thanks and endorsed a letter of thanks from STC. Advised that he is currently working on STC's asset register. **Cllr Dinnie** endorsed everyone's comments regarding the food festival. He also reported on the Climate Change Assembly, a Bio-diversity plan seminar, Youth Club Concerns re The Hub and the Mayor's Chain repairs. The latter two items will be discussed at the Finance Working Group. Recommendation re the Mayor's Chain not proposed.
6.2	**District Council (SDC – Stratford District Council)** Report as circulated. Cllr Hatch reported on the Climate Change Assembly and was glad that those who had attended had enjoyed it. There were 25 stalls and various workshops. On Friday there is to be a meeting regarding the local nature partnership plan. Will be attending the local nature partnerships training to help town councils do make a local nature plan. Asked about the Fire Service – District Council have said it will be "mothballed", County Council have disagreed.
6.3	**County Council (WCC – Warwickshire County Council)** Cllr Barker advised that the fire engine will be staying at Shipston and manned as required. It was asked as to whether new recruit training had been withdrawn and was Tuesday night training was still going ahead – she will find out. Cllr Barker acknowledged the disruption to the town due to all of the road works, closures and diversions and the cumulative impact. These things have to be done but she felt that permits were being issued too close together and then there may be emergency works requiring digging. There are also other issues to consider – Health and Safety, working hours, locality and the various service providers involved. A discussion ensued regarding the planning of permits and backed up jobs. Cllr Barker to speak with the Strategy Team.
6.4	**Blue Light update – Safer Neighbourhood Team, Fire Station, First Responders.** Report from First Responders read out by the Clerk. Beat Report from PC Sid Hammond circulated and discussed. Cllr Booth advised that de-fibs have been located at Low Furlong and the Fire Station. A request was made for some storage space at New Clark House – Clerk advised that the shed would be suitable once sorted out and cleared.
6.5	**Shipston Forum**

	The editor advised that she has received lots of articles for Autumn events that are coming up. The policy of no advertisement for businesses came up on the back of the Food Festival poster – this was an oversight and noted for future reference by the editor and proof readers.
6.6	**Ellen Badger Hospital** Site visit to take place by Cllrs on 23rd September.
6.7	**Stour Health and Wellbeing Partnership** Minutes and Action Plan as circulated. Next meeting on Tuesday 10th – County meeting on Wednesday 11th.
6.8	**Shipston High School** Cllr H Kelly to meet with the head of geography at Cornmill Meadows with regards to Duke of Edinburgh Award. Access to facilities with the new sports hall an issue, it is a planning condition. Cllr Barker to put some pressure on with regards to the sports hall.
6.9	**Shipston Business Group** No representative present – apologies received – report forwarded to Cllrs.
7	**OPEN FORUM (15 MINUTE DURATION)** Nothing to report.
9	**ENVIRONMENT AND FLOOD ACTION WORKING GROUP** Minutes and reports as circulated. • Cornmill meadows – it is too late now for planings to be installed, The project is very dependent on timings and funds. Other options to be looked at and any environmental impact. Plans and budgets needed along with up to date figures/quotes for the Finance Working Group to look at alongside earmarked reserves. Cllr Tesh's input needed. Recommendation re the planings not proposed. • A discussion ensued about light pollution and dark skies policies – lights being turned off at a certain time of night • Discussion about use of herbicides – do we have a policy? Not as such, but we use the professional judgement of the contractors carrying out the town maintenance and are in regular contact with them. • It was suggested that funds could be put aside from our reserves or the precept to provide green open spaces and be included in any management plan.
10	**PLANNING COMMITTEE** Minutes as circulated. • Sports Club pitches had been discussed at Planning Committee – land to be identified and Agents contacted re selling or leasing. What do we wish to pay? Overall strategy needed. To be taken to the Finance Working Group. Various options already being discussed at Joint Sports Working Group. Recommendation not proposed.
11	**HERITAGE, AMENITIES AND LEISURE PROJECTS WORKING GROUP (HALP)** Minutes as circulated. • Cllr Howarth very much looking forward to the unveiling of Cecil Sandford's plaque – family will be in attendance to do the honours, Clerk to provide Council flag/cloth. The Herald and motorbike enthusiasts and Sheldon Bosley Knight are all interested.

	• Trailtale representative – 150 questions gone through and answered, bid for funding, tour of the town, museum and plaques. • A list for additional town plaques has been drawn up – quotes and a recommendation to come.
12	**GENERAL PURPOSES/COMMUNICATIONS WORKING GROUP** Tracker/Action Log as circulated. • Cemetery Chapels – roof and guttering needs to be addressed ASAP. Further interior works to be carried out later as highlighted in the survey. James Macintosh (architect) has come back with a quote for around £14,000. Need to have a further conversation with James about costs, then will take to Finance for discussion when ready. We need to look at funding options that might be available to apply for. We also need to discuss what the Chapels will be used for when works are complete, especially if we are applying for grants, as this will be part of the application. • Communications – still looking at the Redwax/Workflo contract, meeting taking place next week with Emily and Cllr Howarth with Workflo Solutions.
13	**FINANCE WORKING GROUP** Minutes as circulated. Asset management being looked at by Cllr Walters. ***Recommendation that Council agree to the draft Timetable for Precept 2025-26.*** ***Proposed by Cllr Cooper, seconded by Cllr Howarth, motion carried unanimously.***
14	**FINANCIAL MATTERS** Invoices for approval as circulated. ***Proposed by Cllr Dinnie, seconded by Cllr Cooper, motion carried unanimously.*** Utility costs to be looked at for New Clark House
15	**STAFFING WORKING GROUP** Minutes as circulated. Date for Emily's appraisal to be arranged as soon as possible.
16	**DATE OF NEXT MEETING** Monday 14th October 2024.

The meeting closed at 2115 hrs.

Signed…… Date……..

Cllr J Dinnie (Mayor) Shipston on Stour Town Council