

Cherington and Stourton Joint Parish Council Meeting

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 17th February 2025 7.30pm

Parish Clerk: Dawn Fisher. School Cottage, Burmington, Shipston-on-Stour.
Tel: 01608 663171 Email: candspcc@gmail.com

Present: Cllrs P. Townsend (Chair), D Maaz, I Cameron, B Babbage,
S Whalley-Hoggins (Stratford District Council), J Barker (Warwickshire County Council)
D Fisher (Clerk)
17 members of the public

1. Apologies: Cllr A Parmenter

2. Declaration of interest: None

3. Minutes: The Minutes of the meeting held 16th December were agreed and signed.
The amended Minutes of the meeting held 21st October were agreed and signed.

4. Open Forum:

A parishioner reported the following areas of concern:

4.1) The Church Lane potholes are still evident.

The road going to Cherington Bridge, the sides of the carriageway are eroding.

Continuing up the hill there is water pouring down the road due to a blocked culvert which needs clearing, and the ditch alongside needs digging out.

Two blocked drains outside Cherington Lodge are causing water to run down the hill.

There is concern regarding the South Warwickshire Local Plan and the number of new houses allegedly proposed in Cherington and Shipston.

Cllr Barker confirmed Warwickshire County Council (WCC) are aware of these problems as they have all been reported and she will prompt them again.

4.2) A request for the PCC to provide more detail when receiving and discussing planning applications.

Cllr Whalley-Hoggins reported Stratford District Council (SDC) display all planning applications online which anyone can access and comment upon and are working to make the website more user friendly. The PC could be more efficient, meaning better communication and transparency.

5. Matters Arising

5.1 Cllr Barker's report

The potential housing site at Camperdown is number 539 on the South Warwickshire Local Plan. Residents are encouraged to comment with reasons why they object. There has been a call for sites and many have already been sifted out as not suitable.

February 18th there is to be a debate on 'Unitary Local Government in Warwickshire' at WCC.

Warwickshire was originally one of the first counties to be put forward but have not been chosen at this point. It will happen eventually.

WCC have agreed their budget for the year with a 4.99% Council Tax increase.

Cllr Whalley-Hoggins' report

Discussions on devolution are continuing within the District Council. There are many options in how the areas will be divided. No decisions have yet been made.

The District Council have announced their budget which is very focused toward Stratford town.

Proposals are being made that small grants be available to other areas within the district, support for smaller and more rural areas.

5.2 Flooding

There is to be a meeting in The Hall on Friday 14th March 1pm – 2.30pm with MP Manuela Perteghella. It is expected that Severn Trent, the Environment Agency and Highways will be in attendance, as will both Cllr Whalley-Hoggins and Cllr Barker. Some parishioners have received invitation letters.

Cllr Babbage reported there are two new extra storage tanks in the sewage works but are not yet connected. It is felt these are only short term measures.

Cllr Barker suggested a resilience plan, as in other villages, simple measures where residents are quickly communicating when water levels are rising. Cherington is deemed high risk as the emergency services cannot access the village when it rains.

5.3 Cherington bus shelter

Cllr Barker suggested it is likely the property of WCC and will confirm.

It may only need a few relatively minor repairs, marine ply to line the roof and new window sills. Potentially Cllr Barker could help with funding from her budget.

5.4 Scots pine

A parishioner reported the branches have splayed at the top during a recent storm and there may be potential danger.

It is planted on the Pinfold so belongs to the village.

The County Council and District Council have briefly assessed it and all agree it is a valuable and important landmark worth maintaining.

The PC are to source a tree surgeon to carry out essential assessment and maintenance.

5.5 Noticeboard

The damage to the noticeboard has been repaired. Thank you to the repairer.

It will need an extra catch to stop the door(s) being blown open.

5.6 South Warwickshire Local Plan (SWLP)

The immediate concerns to Cherington and Stourton are Camperdown Farm, Fell Mill Lane and Highways Sub Depot (the tip) in Shipston.

Cllr Whalley-Hoggins suggested it is unlikely that 800 new houses will be built in Cherington. Consultations to be commented on before 7th March.

5.7 South Warwickshire Community Rehabilitation Bed Public Consultation

Coventry and Warwickshire Integrated Care Board met with the Adult Health and Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee to discuss beds for Ellen Badger hospital. The public consultation closed 14th February 2025.

Cllr Barker reported the bed configuration decision will be released on 19th March 2025.

The hospital is due to open in May 2025.

5.8 Berrills Hill Lane

Cllr Babbage has been approached by a parishioner about activities along the lane. Cllr Townsend reported the owners are rebuilding a stone barn.

Cllr Babbage to consult Stratford District Council planning enforcement.

6. Planning

24/02360/FUL The Mill House, Stourton – various external works. Permission granted 31/01/2025
24/02361/LBC - Listed Building Consent is granted for the same

24/02984/FUL Coverdale, Stourton – Extension to rear of property. Front extension to garage with new pitched roof. New entrance porch and alterations. Permission granted 14/02/2025

24/01909/FUL Cherington Butts, Cherington - Change of use and extension of stables and conversion of pigsty both to ancillary domestic use (part of each building to be dedicated bat spaces) and change of use of intervening land to domestic, with all associated works. Permission granted 17/01/2025

North Farm, Cherington: The Secretary of State gave notice of an Order made under Section 247 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 entitled “The Stopping up of Highway (West Midlands) (No.2) Order 2025” authorising the stopping up of Bridleway SS57 & Highway D6665 at Cherington.

24/01713/FUL Marsh Farm, Stourton – Cotswold Decorative Ironworks – Refurbishment and reconstruction of an existing factory. Application date 04/09/24

Cllr Babbage to consult Stratford District Council planning enforcement.

7. Finance

The Clerk confirmed the precept application form had been submitted to Stratford District Council for 2025-26.

Cllr Townsend and Cllr Maaz arranged to sign the HSBC bank mandate at the end of the meeting so the Clerk can become a signatory on the bank account. Also, the change of address form.

Cheques produced for signature:

AS Harvey – mowing £220

Information Commissioner’s Office (Data Protection fee) £40

Clerk’s wages and expenses £456.45

Balance at bank 25th January 2025 £12,485.

8. Correspondence

Temporary road closure 24th February at Little Butts,

Correspondence received from Stourton Mill residents was read out. For information.

The residents have had three major floods since October last year. The Environment Agency confirmed it is the landowner’s legal responsibility to remove river blockages from ‘ordinary’ rivers unless it is a ‘main’ river where permission is needed. They noted three blockages and sought to have them cleared in the hope the improved river flow will reduce the constant flooding of the area.

Correspondence from Stuart Eastbury of Shipston Community First Responders. They would like to offer the community CPR/Defibrillator sessions which last approximately 90 minutes to 2 hours for 15-20 people each session.

PC to put the message out on the village website.

9. Any other business

Cllr Cameron reported National Grid contractors were working on electric cables underground, at Berrills Hill Lane junction, and have failed to backfill the verge properly. Consequently the area has sunk and caused flooding to the verge and footpath.

Cllr Cameron has reported to National Grid, their contractors Doocey and also to WCC Highways with no response.

Cllr Barker to follow up.

Cllr Townsend requested further information on the poor and dangerous state of the bridge over the river. The closure order finished in October 2024 and it is a public footpath. Richard Barnard, the WCC Rights of Way contact has not responded.

Cllr Barker to follow up.

10. Date of next meeting Tuesday 22nd April 2025

The Chair thanked everyone for attending.

Meeting closed 9.20pm