

Cherington and Stourton Joint Parish Council Meeting

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 19th May 2025 at 7.30pm

A meeting for the residents of Cherington & Stourton to put forward any parish matter for information or consideration for future discussion.

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

Present: Cllrs P Townsend (Chair), B Babbage, D Maaz, I Cameron, A Parmenter
D Fisher (Clerk & RFO)
3 members of the public

1. Welcome and introduction: Cllr Townsend welcomed all to the Annual Parish Meeting.

2. Apologies: Cllr J Barker (Warwickshire County Council)

3. County Councillor's report: Read by the Clerk in Cllr Barker's absence.

Cllr Barker thanked all who voted in the recent county elections. Warwickshire County Council is now in no overall control with Reform being the biggest party.

The issue of unitary authorities is still live.

There will be another flooding/sewage meeting locally with our MP.

Cllr Barker's foremost aim is to represent you strongly and she will be holding roving surgeries within this parish, to be advertised on the Cherington & Stourton Facebook page in due course.

4. District Councillor's report: No report.

5. Chairman's report: Cllr Townsend thanked all Parish Councillors for their hard work during the year and to Mrs Sara Cole for her role as Clerk until she stepped down. Thanks also to the Clerk for Whichford & Ascott, Nicky Aldenton, for providing cover and taking minutes at the October meeting. At our December meeting we welcomed Miss Dawn Fisher as our new Clerk to the Parish Council (PC), thank you.

On the planning front, the PC have not commented on all applications. The majority were house extensions and tree works.

Permission was granted to Marsh Farm, Stourton, for refurbishment and reconstruction of an existing factory.

Consideration is pending for permission at North Farm, Cherington, for a wildlife pond requiring diversion of the public road. Members of the PC visited the site in October. Warwickshire County Council Highways responded about the diversion of the bridleway and public footpath stating it was temporary for safety reasons whilst the building works were continuing. The Secretary of State subsequently gave notice of an Order authorising the stopping up of the bridleway and highway. At an Extraordinary Meeting in March we held an open meeting to discuss the planning application for 8 local need dwellings on land adjacent to St Johns Road, Cherington, as the ownership of the land had changed. Stratford District Council are pending consideration.

Warwickshire County Council have put forward 40.62ha of land at Camperdown Farm on the South Warwickshire Local Plan (SWLP) for the development of up to 812 new dwellings.

Regarding road maintenance, there has been some pothole repair in places and a new culvert in the road by Marsh Farm, Stourton.

The Severn Trent sewage concern is still ongoing with foul water flooding when it rains. A meeting was arranged in February 2024 with representatives from Severn Trent to discuss the current situation. Unfortunately, our MP was unable to attend. There was to be a follow up meeting in 6 months

(August 2024). This follow up meeting took place in March 2025 with our new MP. Discussions ongoing.

Financially, the PC bank account balance at 15/04/2025 stood at £11,797.76.

The PC, at the request of the Playing Field Committee, have taken on the cost of mowing the playing field previously and are still continuing with this request.

The 2023/24 audit was successfully signed off and thanks go to Mrs Nicky Aldenton for carrying out the internal audit.

We have not had much success yet in getting the bank to transfer to the new Clerk but hopefully this will accrue soon.

6. Financial Report: 1st April 2024 - 31st March 2025

The Clerk reported the trouble in trying to access the bank account, in particular the statements. The application forms had been submitted several months previously and HSBC bank had implemented some changes but not others.

A draft Income and Expenditure account was produced and distributed amongst Councillors and members of the public showing £10,700 income from precept and after expenses a net surplus of £6,114 for the year. These figures are to be confirmed upon receipt of bank statements.

The PCC applied for precept £10,300 for 2025/26. Stratford District Council has given notice £5,150 has been deposited into the PC's bank account.

7. Parish Matters:

Items put forward for discussion:

1. Thank you to the volunteer who has refurbished and tidied around the bench in Church Lane. There is a second bench in the village which faces a wall. It is suggested it may be a good idea to turn the bench around to face the road.
The subject to be raised at the next PC meeting.
2. It seems notices are occasionally being removed from the notice boards by persons unknown. There is little action to be taken on this matter.
3. With regard to the Highways Community Action Fund, minuted in the April PC meeting, funding for roads maintenance and environmental enhancements, etc. the PC agreed that residents should be consulted as to where they think the money could be spent.
The Clerk to arrange to display the poster on the village website and invite suggestions.
4. The village website was discussed. The general feeling is that it is good to have all community sections in one place and it is working well. It was unanimously agreed that the Clerk thank Michael Cronsaw for providing the previous PC website and inform him it is no longer required.

The Chair thanked everyone for attending.

Meeting closed 8.00pm