

## **Cherington and Stourton Joint Parish Council Meeting**

### **Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> August 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), B Babbage, D Maaz, I Cameron, J. Barker (Warwickshire County Council).

D Fisher (Clerk)

11 members of the public

**1. Apologies:** Cllrs A Parmenter, S Whalley-Hoggins (Stratford District Council)

**2. Declaration of interest:** None

**3. Minutes:** The Minutes of the meeting held 23<sup>rd</sup> June were agreed and signed.

**4. Open Forum:** None

#### **5. Matters Arising**

##### **5.1 Cllr Barker's report**

The survey about local government reorganisation is live on the Warwickshire County Council (WCC) website until 25<sup>th</sup> August. Another consultation is being run on the Stratford District Council (SDC) website for the same subject. SDC is proposing a north/south divide of the county where the south will consist of Warwick, Leamington & Stratford.

The alternative is to support the whole county being a single unitary to protect children's services and adult social care.

Warwickshire Resilience Forum encourage preparation in responding to large scale emergencies such as flooding or wild fires. They present help and support on their website [www.warwickshireresilienceforum.org](http://www.warwickshireresilienceforum.org)

##### **Cllr Whalley-Hoggins' report**

No report

##### **5.2 Flooding**

Cllr Babbage has draft minutes of the Stakeholder meeting on flooding which took place on 11<sup>th</sup> July. There was a poor turnout. A senior Severn Trent Water (STW) representative was in attendance.

The tank at the bottom of Church Road is to be redesigned so the pumps are more effective.

Works have been ongoing at the sewerage site for almost a year, increasing the size of the holding tank and extending the reed beds, but little detail is available.

Liners are to be put into the pipes as the gel did not work and digging out ditches will be ongoing until the end of January.

It was felt again the information from the meeting was inadequate. The next meeting is due in February 2026.

This subject is to be kept at the top of the list by reporting every incident.

The Clerk reported the response from Shipston Area Flood Action Group (SAFAG) regarding the subject of donations to help their cause. Mike McCarthy attended the recent Stakeholder meeting. SAFAG have:

- presented flood resilience talks at The Hall on several occasions.
- offered and continue to provide advice and support to residents.
- installed hundreds of natural flood management interventions upstream of Cherington & Stourton to slow the flow.

Currently the volunteers concentrate on assessing and maintaining dams, ponds and bunds, sometimes needing contractors to carry out larger repairs. Hence the call for contributions from parish councils. The ongoing maintenance account is controlled by Shipston Town Council. Website: safag.org

Cllr Barker suggested a donation of £500 would be realistic in comparison with other local parishes. It was decided to postpone the decision until councillors are happy that the PC finances and reserves are in order.

### **5.3 Cherington bus shelter**

Orpheus Developments Ltd carried out the repair works as requested. Cllr Townsend considered the job unsatisfactory for the price quoted. Cllr Cameron confirmed the tasks had all been completed and the labour was donated free of charge but could not make a decision as to whether it is to a standard that will last. The Clerk read out the tasks carried out in addition to the quote.

All agreed it is now in a better state than it was.

Payment to be withheld and the Clerk to request invoices and receipts for materials.

### **5.4 Scots pine**

Charlie Mawle to carry out maintenance work.

### **5.5 South Warwickshire Local Plan (SWLP)**

Cllr Barker reported Stratford area has a 5.2 year land supply, therefore we need to control and be aware of planning applications as they will be harder to resist. More consultations will follow in the autumn.

### **5.6 Berrills Hill Lane junction**

Cllr Cameron reported WCC have looked at the verge and have suggested a storm drain under the verge was damaged by National Grid contractors, causing the flooding when it rains.

### **5.7 Damaged footpath bridge**

WCC no longer maintain the footbridge over the river along the public footpath due to its increased size and are not moving on their decision. It is no longer considered to be a “footbridge”. Cllr Townsend stated WCC had signed the paperwork to say they would maintain it as a farm footbridge. The footpath was shut for twelve months and reopened in April 2025 although the bridge is currently unsafe. Members of the public can write to Richard Barnard at WCC.

### **5.8 Bench on the Green (Stourton)**

Cotswold Decorative Ironworks will organise and finance the maintenance and resiting of the bench.

### **5.9 Highways Community Action Fund (HCAF)**

Cllr Barker suggested boards to repair the footbridge (refer item 5.7).

The Clerk recapped the application rules and Cllr Barker advised if we were to apply for traffic calming measures we will need to speak with WCC Highways.

Cllr Maaz suggested illuminated speed signs would be a good use of finances, particularly before the village boundary. The Clerk to ask Brailes parish clerk for prices and details.

### **5.10 Civility and Respect Pledge**

The Clerk recapped the general rules of the pledge. Councils are being encouraged to sign up to the pledge, to be listed on a national map. It is not compulsory.

Cllrs voted 3 – 1 to reject signing the pledge.

As a result of this outcome, Cllr Babbage stated she will, in future, record every parish council meeting and will state this at the beginning of each meeting under ‘The Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014’.

## **6. Planning**

25/00995/LBC Plumtree Barn, Stourton 17/04/2025

Eight existing windows to be removed and two doorsets. To be replaced with handmade timber Sapele hardwood windows and doors constructed using traditional methods. Sprayed finished to ensure longevity. Slimlite Glazing. **Pending**

23/00597/FUL Land Adjacent To St Johns Road Cherington 27/02/2023

Erection of 8 no. Local Need Dwellings and associated works. **Pending**

25/01402/FUL The Old Village School, Cherington 12/06/2025

Single storey rear extension.

Amendment 31/07/2025 – removal of rooflight. **Permission 01/08/2025**

25/01698/TREE Webbs Farm, Stourton 10/07/2025

T1 poplar - mature tree with basal decay, framework pollard at 5 metres. -T2 poplar - Framework pollard as T2, to balance. -T3 contorted willow - Crown clean and selective lateral reduction to relieve end-weight. **Pending**

25/01707/FUL Feldon View, Stourton 15/07/2025

Proposed alterations together with single storey side and rear extensions. **Pending**

Appeal A - APP/J3720/C/24/3342424 Marsh Farm, Stourton

The breach of planning control: Without planning permission, the erection of a building for commercial business purposes. The requirements of the notice are to demolish the building.

Since an appeal has been brought, an application for planning permission is deemed to have been made under section 177(5) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

Appeal A is allowed, the enforcement notice is quashed and planning permission is granted.

Appeal B - APP/J3720/W/3342426 Marsh Farm, Stourton

The application Ref is 23/00676/FUL.

The development proposed is described on the application form the erection of a new building for storage in connection with the applicant's existing business (Re submission following withdrawal of application ref 19/00927/FUL).

Appeal B is allowed and planning permission is granted for the erection of a building for commercial business purposes at Marsh Farm, Stourton.

## **7. Finance**

Payments to be made:

A S Harvey - Mowing playing field	£220.00
Clerk's wages/expenses	£456.45

Current financial report:

Cherington & Stourton Joint Parish Council					
Bank: Current a/c					
From 23/06/25 to 18/08/25					
Date	Reference	Details	Receipts	Payments	Balance
23/06/25		Balance brought forward			16,009.51
24/06/25	PAY 100252	A S Harvey mowing playing fields		220.00	
24/06/25	PAY 100253	D L Fisher - Clerk's wages & expenses		456.45	15,333.06
16/07/25	PAY 100254	Charges to 24/06/2025		5.00	15,328.06
15/08/25	PAY 100255	Charges to 24/07/2025		5.00	15,323.06
<b>Balance at 18th August 2025</b>					<b>15,323.06</b>

The Clerk is to add Cllr Cameron as an approver onto the PC's HSBC bank account.

Councillors discussed the annual donation to Cherington Parochial Church Council.

£450 proposed by Cllr Maaz and seconded by Cllr Cameron. All agreed.

To be paid immediately.

#### 8. Correspondence

- **Shipston Probus Club** are inviting any male residents who would be interested in joining the club.
- **Local Government Pay Scales 25/26**  
To be taken forward to the next meeting.

#### 9. Any other business

##### Road works and road closures

The Clerk read out a question from Cllr Parmenter, for Cllr Barker, regarding all the recent local road closures. What exactly is the procedure regarding road works and closing the roads?

Cllr Barker agreed there seem to be a lot of road works being put through as emergencies. She has spoken to WCC Highways about the number of "road closed" signs, the distance they are placed from the works and the sometimes inconsistent diversions. They seem to be getting around the rules by treating all works as emergencies.

Cllr Barker to make the point again to WCC.

#### 10. Date of next meeting    **Monday 20<sup>th</sup> October 2025**

The Chair thanked everyone for attending.

Meeting closed 8.56pm