

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

### **Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> December 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 (Vice Chair), I Cameron, S Whalley-Hoggins (Stratford District Council)  
D Fisher (Clerk)  
4 members of the public

**1. Apologies:** Cllr J. Barker (Warwickshire County Council)

**2. Declaration of interest:** None

Cllr Babbage announced she would be recording the meeting and switch off if necessary when members of the public request not to be recorded.

**3. Minutes:** The Minutes of the extraordinary meeting held 13<sup>th</sup> November were agreed and signed. Cllr Cameron requested to know who has been provided with a recorded copy of the last meeting? No copies were distributed as no-one had requested, to which Cllr Cameron expressed disappointment and stated it was unacceptable. Cllr Babbage confirmed she recorded it for herself too and had already received two requests for tonight's meeting by parishioners who were unable to attend.

**4. Open Forum:** A parishioner reminded that the pot holes in Church Lane are not getting any better. Cllr Barker to be requested to follow up.

A house burglary occurred recently in Cherington. The police were required to travel from north of Stratford to the burglary in progress so there was a delay in attending. The lack of police presence in South Warwickshire is concerning, even more so with the single unitary process leading policing to spread over a greater area. Cllr Whalley-Hoggins to write a letter to Philip Seccombe, the Police Commissioner. Effort to make all aware of spate of burglaries and practise security measures, leaving lights on, ensuring the house looks occupied from the outside.

## **5. Matters Arising**

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

No report

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

Today the Overview & Scrutiny Committee held an Extraordinary meeting to discuss the South Warwickshire Local Plan (SWLP).

One main point is the loss of the 5 year housing plan and secondly Warwick and Stratford are sharing the planning decisions under the SWLP. Cllr Whalley-Hoggins is concerned about the lack of communication towards the public throughout the Stratford district with regard to preferred sites put forward for planning.

For new major developments there has to be a gypsy/traveller site earmarked by law.

If properties are built in designated green belt land, 50% of those properties are required to be affordable housing (to buy and/or rent).

The next round of public consultation is Easter time.

No budget news for next year has been issued at this point.

## **5.2 Flooding**

Cllr Babbage reported there had been two incidents of water/sewerage coming up through the drain covers in the road at the bottom of Church Lane. The first was caused by one of the pumps breaking down in the sewerage works. Severn Trent sent out tanks and an engineer and undertook repairs straight away. The second was the setting of an alarm to alert when holding tanks are filling up. This was attended to and corrected promptly. Further work is continuing until February 2026.

## **5.3 Scots pine**

Charlie Mawle to carry out maintenance work in due course.

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

Discussed earlier under Cllr Whalley-Hoggins' report, who is attending all ongoing local planning meetings.

## **5.5 Berrills Hill Lane junction**

Cllr Cameron reported it has rained since the last meeting and water has been pouring out constantly. The area is sinking again. Cllr Cameron to report, with photographic evidence, to Warwickshire County Highways.

## **5.6 Damaged footpath bridge**

Richard Barnard emailed Cllr Townsend to say WCC would be prepared to put in a footpath bridge for £16k approx. or a more substantial bridleway bridge for livestock would be approx. £38k. The landowner is expected to contribute and maintain a bridleway bridge.

Question whether there is a solution in applying for a community grant or donations as it is a popular public footpath.

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

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

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

A brief discussion. Undecided as to where to focus the need.

Speeding is of great concern although there are already 33 speed signs in the parish. Councillors are aware of too much street furniture creating urbanisation. Maybe a footbridge [refer item 5.6] would be a more relevant.

## **5.9 Village Working Party**

Cllr Babbage offered to organise litter picking and sign cleaning around the parish with volunteers.

## **6. Planning**

23/00597/FUL Land Adjacent To St Johns Road Cherington 27/02/2023  
Erection of 8 no. Local Need Dwellings and associated works. **Pending.**

25/02174/LBC Jarretts Cottage Cherington 08/09/2025

Replace four existing single glazing windows for slim line double glazed windows to south and west elevations. **Permission granted 21/11/25.**

25/02133/LBC Corner House, Stourton 01/10/2025

Replacement of four windows and one patio door, together with repairs to the existing windows. **Permission granted 12/12/25**

25/02476/TREE Jarretts Cottage, Cherington 01/10/2025

- T1 yew - Crown reduction by 2m all round, crown thin by 10%.
- T2 holly - Reduce by 2.5m in height and taper top growth to balance. **Consent 13/11/25**

25/02517/ELEC Cherington Butts, Cherington 13/10/25

- to upgrade the existing high voltage overhead lines from single phase (2 wire) to three phase (3 wire) **Pending**

25/02246/VARY Cherington Butts, Cherington 15/09/2025

Variation of condition 2 of planning permission 24/00263/FUL dated 26/03/2024 to update approved drawings to show the existing Monkey Puzzle Tree removed in accordance with the following amended plans: 23-037-100C, 101F and 103D. **Permission granted 13/11/25**

25/02496/TREE The Cherington. 13/10/25

- T1 willow - Pollard back to previous knuckles, approximately 4metres. **Consent 18/11/25**

25/01994/FUL & 25/01996/LBC Nightingale Cottage, Cherington 04/09/25

Raise garage roof to provide office at first floor level. Formation of new external steps and entrance door. (Part retrospective) **Pending**

25/02778/FUL Land at Berrills Lane, Cherington 13/11/25

Restoration of existing barn including new roof and one external wall incorporating doors and windows. **Comments until 23/12/25**

## 7. Finance

Payments to be made:

A S Harvey - Mowing playing field	£220.00
Clerk's wages/expenses (21 Oct - 15 Dec)	£567.60
Parish Council Insurance - Zurich (new policy)	£300.00

Current financial report:

Cherington & Stourton Joint Parish Council					
Bank: Current a/c					
From 21/10/25 to 15/12/25					
Date	Reference	Details	Receipts	Payments	Balance
21/10/25		Balance brought forward			18,554.61
22/10/25	PAY 100262	A S Harvey mowing playing fields		220.00	18,334.61
20/11/25	PAY 100263	Information Commissioner's Office (Data Protection Fee)		52.00	
20/11/25	PAY 100264	D Fisher – clerk's wages/expenses & backdated to 01/04/25		832.48	17,450.13
<b>Balance at 15th December 2025</b>					<b>17,450.13</b>

Discussions followed regarding the 2026-27 precept application which must be made in January. The Clerk produced a list of annual overheads totalling £5,832 which does not include repairs and maintenance.

Possible expenditure to consider may include a maintenance program, donation to playground, flooding, footbridge and the effects of devolution of the county.

Cllr Cameron proposed a precept application of £12,000.  
Cllr Babbage seconded. Clerk to make application.

**8. Correspondence**

The Chair read out the resignation letters from former Cllrs Maaz and Parmenter.

**9. Any other business**

Council vacancies to be discussed in a private meeting following this meeting.

**10. Date of next meeting    Monday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2026**

Meeting closed 9.25pm