

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

### **Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> February 2026 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), J Barker (Warwickshire County Council).

D Marriott, C Gall.

D Fisher (Clerk)

6 members of the public

**1. Apologies:** None

**2. Co-option:** D Marriott and C Gall signed the 'Declaration of Acceptance of Office' to confirm their positions as parish councillors. The clerk witnessed the signatures and will retain the declarations.

**3. Declaration of interest:** None

**4. Minutes:** The Minutes of the meeting held 15<sup>th</sup> December were agreed and signed as a true and correct record.

**5. Open Forum:** A member of the public requested the parish council seriously consider asking Warwickshire County Council (WCC) to replace the public footbridge and as a separate issue follow up with WCC legally with regard to a larger bridleway bridge. WCC seem to be dishonouring their original agreement as no progress is currently being made. Further discussion later in the meeting.

Scots Pine – there is a 4m long dead branch above the children's seesaw.

## **6. Matters Arising**

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

Philip Seccombe (Police & Crime Commissioner) has agreed to attend a parish council meeting to speak to this parish about crime in the area.

The Community Safety Team at Stratford District Council (SDC) have a box containing safety devices which they are prepared to distribute to the parish.

There is currently a zero crime solving rate in this area.

Cllr Whalley-Hoggins will be attending a meeting with Severn Trent, Manuela Perteghella MP and Cllr Barker, initially regarding a brook in Sutton-under-Brailes and will liaise with Cllr Babbage on the outcome and the effects on this parish.

Stratford District Council (SDC) planning committee recently dismissed an application within a local village, against the officer's recommendation, the significance being the village has a Neighbourhood Development Plan which carried some weight.

SDC has a fund to help smaller villages create a Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP).

NDPs are a way of retaining some control against unwanted development.

Cllr Whalley-Hoggins to supply details of funding available to the clerk.

The portion of Council Tax for the District Council is being increased by the maximum allowed 2.9%. A full District Council meeting to follow next week where the budget will be discussed. Business rates will rise significantly and can now be checked on the gov.uk website. There is to be a debate on Council Tax on second homes next week.

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

Flooding is currently a big issue and Shipston Area Flood Action group and Long Compton group are actively working. There are problems at Brailes. Keeping ditches clear has helped and monitoring the river levels. Work is ongoing.

Potholes are worse than usual and four teams from WCC are doing basic, emergency repairs around South Warwickshire. All members of the public are encouraged to report potholes online.

Regarding the damaged bridge on the footpath, the options are to have the footbridge repaired so it is safe or the landowner contribute the difference to turn it into a bridleway bridge. To be discussed later in this meeting.

WCC to meet tomorrow to discuss and agree the budget.

Central government have recently replenished 90% of the WCC budget overspend.

### **6.2 Flooding**

Cllr Babbage reported the river has been manageable. Sewerage has been bubbling from the manhole in the middle of the road. Cllr Babbage regularly reports the issues and tankers are sent out. This seems to be an expensive exercise. The tank in the road is inadequate. There are major improvements needed by Severn Trent.

Cllr Barker is to contact the new chief executive of Severn Trent.

Cllr Whalley-Hoggins, Cllr Barker and Cllr Babbage agreed to meet before the Severn Trent online meeting to try and push forward this subject on our agenda.

### **6.3 Scots pine**

The Chair to ask Charlie Mawle to carry out maintenance work urgently given the update mentioned in 5 Open Forum [above].

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

Cllr Whalley-Hoggins and Cllr Barker reported there are ongoing meetings but until the 5 year housing land supply is sorted out then SWLP cannot go forward. There is a November deadline and all political parties are failing to agree.

If the government make the decision in July that we have a single unitary devolved council in Warwickshire then the SWLP may be irrelevant.

Members of the public can respond individually to the government consultation online.

### **6.5 Berrills Hill Lane junction**

Cllr Cameron reported the flooded footway and verge area to WCC Highways with photographic evidence and a contractor has attended to survey the scene. No further news.

Cllr Barker to follow up.

### **6.6 Damaged footpath bridge**

Following discussion [refer 5 Open Forum & 6.1 Cllr Barker's report above] the clerk is to write to Richard Barnard at Warwickshire County Council with a view to reinstating the footpath bridge and the Chair (landowner) to pursue a separate private matter with regards to reinstating a bridge enabling animals and farm vehicles to cross the river.

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

Cotswold Decorative Ironworks have requested to resite the bench along the green for a better view. All agreed.

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

Cllr Cameron referred to the previous summary of ideas suggested by members of the public and put forward the idea of village gateways at entry points. This was agreed.  
The clerk to source the details and apply for the fund.

### **6.9 Village Working Party**

Cllr Babbage is organising litter picking and sign cleaning around the parish with volunteers, to start the weekend before Easter. The intention is to do two big cleans a year with ongoing regular maintenance.

### **6.10 Potholes in Church Lane**

Already discussed [see 6.1 Cllr Barker's report].

## **7. 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**

25/02517/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)

**Comments sent 21/11/25**

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) **Permission granted 15/1/26**

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. **Pending**

25/03154/FUL Brookland, Stourton 23/12/2025

Proposed First Floor Extension to provide en-suite. **Pending**

26/00380/TREE Bank House, Stourton 12/02/2026

Proposed: T1 – pine – Fell **Comments due 5<sup>th</sup> March**

## **8. Finance**

Current financial report:

<u>Cherington &amp; Stourton Joint Parish Council</u>					
<u>Bank: Current a/c</u>					
<u>From 16/12/25 to 16/02/26</u>					
Date	Reference	Details	Receipts	Payments	Balance
15/12/25		Balance brought forward			17,450.13
17/12/25	PAY 100265	A S Harvey mowing playing fields		220.00	

17/12/25	PAY 100266	D Fisher clerk's wages/expenses		567.60	
18/12/25	PAY 100267	Zurich Parish Council Insurance		300.00	16,362.53
<b>Balance at 16th February 2026</b>					<b>16,362.53</b>

Payments to be made:

A S Harvey - Mowing playing field	£220.00
Clerk's wages/expenses (16 Dec - 16 Feb)	£567.60

After these payments have been made the bank balance will be £15,574.93

The clerk confirmed the 26/27 precept has been applied for - £12,000 - and the first half will be received in April 2026.

HSBC bank account – the PC need to revise signatories and online banking authorisers. Currently Cllr Townsend and the clerk are both signatories and Cllr Cameron is an online authoriser. All agreed Cllrs Marriott and Gall to be online authorisers and Cllr Babbage to be a signatory. The clerk's payment limit to be set at £500 per transaction before authorisation.

Cllr Marriott has offered to assist the clerk with updating the PC's financial regulations.

The clerk issued an outdated copy of the PC's Register of Assets, to be perused and discussed at a later date.

#### **9. Correspondence**

None

#### **10. Any other business**

Cllr Barker reported the Chief Constable of Warwickshire Police has stepped down from his position today, after 18 months in the job.

#### **11. Date of next meeting    Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2026**

Meeting closed 9.15pm