

Stottesdon and Sidbury Parish Council

The **Annual Parish Meeting** will be held at **Chorley Village Hall** on **Monday April 20th, 2026, at 7.30pm.**

Local Government electors for the Parish will be entitled to vote at the meeting which will be open to the public (LGA 1972, ss13(1) and 32 (1))

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Tea and coffee will be served.

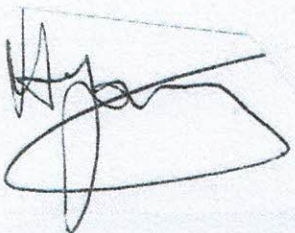
Guest speaker will be:

Alex Wagner, Deputy Leader of Shropshire Council and Mayor of Shrewsbury Town Council.

Alex will speak about the Devolution of Services to Parish Councils. Please come along and listen to what Alex has to say. This is **YOUR** annual meeting of the parish, and your ideas/suggestions will be welcome to enable the Parish Council to carry out services you would like us to take on and listen to what the local organisations have to report.

Agenda:

00. Chairman's welcome and introduction of guest speaker: Alex Wagner
01. Apologies
02. Minutes of last meeting – April 7th, 2025
03. Matters arising from minutes:
04. Chairman's Annual Report
05. Shropshire Councillor's reports
06. Organisation reports:
 - a) Police
 - b) Stottesdon School/Nursery
 - c) Chorley Village Hall
 - d) WI
 - e) Stottesdon/Sidbury Churches
 - f) Chorley Chapel
 - g) Lengthsman Scheme
07. Parish problems
08. Chairman's closing comments
10. Date of next meeting – 27th April 2026 (Parish Council meeting)



David Young - Chairman

Stottesdon & Sidbury Parish Council

Annual Parish meeting held on Monday 7th April, 2025 at 7.30pm in Chorley Village Hall.

Guest speaker:

PC 21624 Nicholas NOLAN

Safer Neighbourhood Officer | Cleobury & Highley SNT | West Mercia Police

00. Chairman's welcome and introduction of guest speaker:

Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced PC Nolan.

PC Nolan pointed out that he has 18 parishes in his area to cover between himself and 2 PCSO's covering as far down to Burford. They work alternative shifts.

Most of the work is carried out in Cleobury Mortimer and Highley.

He was responsible for the car being seized at Kinet in connection with the hare coursing and 38 dogs and 5 horses from a puppy farm near Bridgnorth. All animals are now in the care of the RSPCA.

Drugs are a problem in Highley, which they are dealing with.

PC Nolan encouraged residents to sign up to the Neighbourhood Matters and Bridgnorth Police can also be followed on Facebook.

He asked Clerk to share his contact details with all present and encouraged people to report anything day or night to him or 999 and they will respond. Small 'titbits' of information could be sent in by several people which often leads to a 'bigger picture' of what is going on.

He asked if anyone wanted to ask any questions:

Farm thefts often occur at night – he encouraged anyone with any information of suspicious vehicles, etc to ring 999.

Clerk asked if the Police could put any pressure on SC to get potholes/roads repaired, especially on the main B roads. He did say that he ported a pothole on a road on Fix My Street as he had to carry out a 15 mile diversion to an emergency call and the pothole was filled next day. He wasn't sure if that was repaired from his report or just coincidence!

Question about Safeguarding support for vulnerable people and victims of domestic abuse. There is a designated Safeguarding team covering Shropshire. Police participate in the monthly Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC). The MARAC team includes all relevant agencies, shares intelligence and maintains a strategic overview for the support of vulnerable individuals and families.

He provided some Horse leaflets and pointed out that often problems are caused by local people, He had put information regarding safe driving round horses on the websites, for which he was thanked.

Chairman thanked PC Nolan for attending the meeting and he left the meeting.

01. Apologies:

Received from Sally Crawford, Katie Jones (School), Rob Kennett, Claire Tibbitts, Andrew Sierakowski, Gwilym Butler, Sue Vincent (Chorley Chapel).

02. Minutes of last meeting – April 22nd, 2024:

These had been circulated with the agenda and were proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED to sign as a true record.**

03. Matters arising from minutes:

Clerk reported that pothole reporting is ongoing. Fix My Street should be used as often as possible.

04. Chairman's Annual Report – attached.

05. Shropshire Councillor's reports: No report due to being in purdah

06. Organisation reports:

a) Stottesdon School/Nursery -report attached, read out by Zoe Griffin.

b) Chorley Village Hall/Show: Claire Woulfe, Chairman of Village Hall read out the attached report.

c) WI – no report received again.

d) Stottesdon/Sidbury Church: Report attached read out by Chairman David Young. The installation of toilet at the Church was queried.

e) Chorley Chapel – report attached read out by Chairman.

f) Lengthsman Scheme: Mark Pearce reported that his work was ongoing.

07. Parish problems:

- Horse sign by Ginny Hole come off post, now missing.
- Arm missing from signpost in The Square
- Walton Bank – pothole on the approach to the bend at the top and one also just a few yards down from the bend
- Water still comes out of blocked/damaged drain
- Drain below the Fighting Cocks along Green Lane still blocked
- Drain blocked outside Willowdene at Chorley
- Brooksmeeing road sinking
- Hinton bridge and farm corner potholes not yet repaired
- Potholes bottom of Station Road at junction towards Burwarton
- Harcourt road before the entrance to Harcourt Farm the road appears to have washed away.
- Sign at The Highlands – STOTTESDON needs painting again.
- Potholes – Sidbury Bank
- Potholes outside Hall Farm by where the defibrillator is.
- Pickthorn Lane – potholes getting bigger.
- Effluent at Chorley brook being investigated by Severn Trent and Environment Agency.

- Blood kits installed with defibs and checked monthly. Suggest asking for training to use these kits.

Clerk confirmed that these problems have been reported numerous times, but she cannot report these again if they have been reported by a parishioner, so she sends in an email.

The Bagginswood road is in an awful state again as the pothole repairs only lasted 2/3 weeks maximum, but this is due to be repaired all through from Old Miners Arms junction to Kinlet road. In next couple months, but fears potholes will need repairing before then.

Chorley Village Hall will be having VE Day celebrations at the Village Hall, with films for children in the afternoon and adults in the evening.

Leaflets handed out from Clare Tibbits covering events in Stottesdon.

08. Chairman's closing comment:

Thanked everyone once again for attending.

**09. Date of next meeting – 28th April 2025 (Parish Council meeting)
There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.55pm.**

Signed: Chairman

Date:

Chairman's report for Stottesdon and Sibbury Parish Council (PC).

It will not surprise you that once again I'm starting my report with the pothole situation in the parish. Disappointingly, I have to report that the situation has deteriorated over the past 12 months.

Highways has informed us that the problem is similar nationwide- in fact Shropshire's roads are marginally better than the national average with 14.5% of roads in Shropshire deemed to be in urgent need of repair vs 18% for England. We have also become aware that government funding has been frozen this year and for the next 2 years as well. Shropshire Council modelling has shown that any extra funding for next year is only sufficient to provide a small improvement in condition; and this is being further challenged by spiralling inflation in highways maintenance. So the outlook is fairly depressing I'm afraid. Just to make matters worse we have become aware that we no longer have a local highways technician to liaise with regarding road repairs etc!! I believe there needs to be serious questions asked of Highways about the cost effectiveness of multiple visits to repair a stretch of road versus visiting once and resurfacing the road properly.

However, there is some good news; one of our worst stretches of road has been included in the Capital Programme for the next financial year, that being from the Old Miners in Baginswood to the main road at Kinlet. This was patched up a few months ago but many of the repairs had disintegrated within a few weeks. Cars weaving around potholes and driving on the wrong side of the road have been reported many times. Let's hope the resurfacing does take place and provides us with a long term solution and a safer road.

I also have to report, with much frustration, that the Burwarton road from Stottesdon down Almshouse Bank to Duddlewick and into the Duddlewick hamlet itself is in a dreadful state of repair. Dangerous would not be oversteating the situation! Despite our monthly reporting of the situation to Highways (and even the Chief Executive of the council) we have been informed that this stretch of road will not be included in the Capital Programme for next year. There have been some potholes "made safe" recently as a short-term solution but a complete resurfacing would appear to be the only long term solution.

The PC continues to report problems on a regular basis and I know many of you use the FixMyStreet app to report them as well. Reporting the problem via the app is easy, getting a satisfactory resolution, however, is not. We've seen reports where the "job" has been "closed" as "completed" when in fact the situation has only improved marginally. Some nearby potholes have clearly not been addressed and those that have seem to break down far too quickly.

Council Tax and Stottesdon PC precept charge increase: on the advice of our local Shropshire Councillors we made a decision to increase the precept from £74 per annum to £112.19 per annum (for a Band D property). This represents an increase of 71p per week. We were advised to do this as Shropshire Council will be unable to fulfil a number of functions in the future due to its parlous financial situation. These functions include ditch clearance alongside road verges, verge cutting, drain maintenance, road sign repairs, bridge repairs and vegetation clearance and possibly pothole repairs as well going forwards. A PC near to us has been involved with a pilot project for the latter and if this is successful we will be putting in a bid to do this via our lengthsmans scheme or other local contractors. Mark Pearce is the lengthsmans on the PC and he would be willing to be trained up if necessary to carry out these services

around the parish. Having a local contractor would enable the PC to provide a quicker and more cost-effective service we believe.

Moving on to another roadside-related problem, namely litter. Compared to other local parishes our litter problem is not too bad. This is mainly due to a number of dedicated litter pickers who are "doing their bit" while out walking/ walking the dog etc. Thank you to all those trying to help maintain and improve the local environment. We live in a beautiful area- let's try and keep it that way. Dog walkers; please remember to pick up your dog poo and either dispose of it at home or use one of the dog poo litter bins.

We currently have a full cohort of councillors. In August Robin Gutteridge was co-opted onto the council. Robin lives in Chorley and brings a wealth of experience to the council.

Finally, I'd like to thank my fellow councillors and our two Shropshire Council representatives, Gwilym Butler and Simon Harris, for their continued support and valuable contributions over the last 12 months. But I'd like to say an especially big thank you to our fantastic parish clerk, Freda, who keeps everything ticking along efficiently and doggedly pursues the various county council departments (especially Highways!!) for answers to our requests and problems. She is well known for going the extra mile and I'm sure all the councillors would also have no hesitation in showing their gratitude for the excellent job she does.

David Young (Chairman)



...we really care and make learning fun.

Stottesdon C. of E. Primary School and Nursery

The Shropshire Gateway Educational Trust



April 2025

Annual Parish Meeting Report

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Stottesdon CofE Primary School and Nursery continues to thrive (94 school aged pupils + 24 pupils attending Nursery - some year groups are full others have a few places). Below are some highlights of our work and priorities:

- Outcomes for pupils in 2024 continue the strong pattern our school has a reputation for
 - in fact we were top of the Shropshire League Tables for 2024.
- As a school, we continue to run four classes and a Nursery (Nursery; Reception; Y1/2 (infants); Y3/4 (lower juniors); Y5/6 (upper juniors)) with an ambitious curriculum offer in all subjects. The school benefits from specialised teaching in RE, Music, French, Computing and many aspects of PE.
- The school offers a breadth of opportunities and experiences. This year that includes:
 - A range of extra curricular activities: music lessons; sports participation (gymnastics; football; tag rugby; netball; hockey; handball; fitness; multi sports and activities); gardening club; computing club; choir; craft club; cookery club; drama club.
 - Wide ranging enrichment and educational visits: bikeability; crucial crew (life skills and emergency services); annual sponsored walk; seasonal and religious celebrations: swimming; outdoor and adventure days; forest fun sessions at EYFS; Choral poetry evening at Lacon; visits to Hartlebury Castle, Birmingham Think Tank, Wroxeter, Dudley Zoo, a residential for our older pupils; visitors with museum artefacts (Egyptians and Vikings); visitors to help us with our STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) initiatives; visitors to help us understand different faiths (focus on Hindu this year); visitors from our public services - Shropshire Fire and Rescue/School Nurses/Police.
- As a CofE school, we continue to value our strong links with the church and have continued to celebrate harvests, Christmas, Easter and leavers in our church. We of course look forward to our church and community fete on the 4th July, 5.30pm
- The school benefits from being part of the Shropshire Gateway Educational Trust (for which Katie Jones is the CEO). Distributed leadership is a strength of the school and Caroline McKay is Assistant Headteacher. The Trust has many operational benefits for governance, finance, facilities management and finance.
- As a rural school, our wrap around care and holiday club continues to be an important asset to the community with little or no other provision locally. Charges are kept to the minimum to cover costs.
- Funding and finances continue to be challenging with initial indications showing Primary School budget shares to be shrinking for 24/25. Particular challenges include: SEND; school budgets to sustain levels of staffing to support pupil need; capital funding for buildings maintenance and repair.
- If you would like to gain further information about our school the [website](#) is a good place to start and the [weekly newsletter](#) keeps everyone informed.

Stottesdon C. of E. Primary School, Cleobury Mortimer, Nr. Kidderminster, Worcs. DY14 8UE

Office Tel: 01746 718617 Nursery/Wraparound: 01746 718769

Email: admin@stottesdon-school.co.uk

Website: www.stottesdon-school.co.uk

Head Teacher: Mrs. K. Jones Chair Of Governors: Dr R. Kennett
SFFT Registered Office: Lazon Child School, Cleobury Mortimer, DY14 8PE Company number 9115941

Subject: re: Annual Parish meeting - 7th April, 2025

Chorley Chapel report 2024|25

Hi Freda, I'm sorry I won't be with you on Monday, here is my report:

The chapel continues to be used on a fairly regular basis. Warm hubs in the winter months serving bacon baps etc and Cream Teas in the chapel gardens through the summer months. All are very well attended and a time for folks to catch up. Craft classes, exercise classes and now the art workshops run by Roxy all ongoing. Also the men's retreat weekends are usually full capacity, they just love coming to the rural setup here in Chorley.

The chapel grounds are kept in beautiful condition by Dave Allen from Kinlet. It's also good to see the compost heap being used, please feel free to take for your garden. We are still waiting for the electrical work agreed last year to be done. The guy has been waiting for warmer weather so now it's here - hopefully very soon!

The chapel folk and Willowdene continue to take the school assembly each week based on the Open the Book Bible at Stottesdon school. Katie Jones is a great support. We also join with Willowdene each Sunday evening to worship together. I continue the Bible group in my home every fortnight. All are welcome to these gatherings.

Matt Home spoke at our harvest thanksgiving bringing a tractor!!! to advertise it. Christmas saw us putting on a play at Willowdene (wonderful facilities there) which was great fun including live alpacas!!! very well behaved as they stood in for camels!!!

There is always plenty of maintenance work needed at the chapel ie the children's play area in desperate need of repair. We welcome all offers of help.

Thank you for your support.
Blessings, Sue Vincent

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Chorley Village Hall Annual Report for Parish Council AGM
7/4/2025

Claire Bradley Chair person
Chorley Village Hall

Looking back every year at the events that have taken place, I'm always surprised to be reminded of the variety and delighted that the hall is used by so many people in and around the parish.

Our regular users and popular classes continue to meet at the hall with the Wednesday morning YOGA with Jennifer Gennard and the Friday morning plus Tuesday evening PILATES with Nicky Long. The ever-popular monthly FILM CLUB meets on the second Thursday of the month, Contact Joe Bubb for membership details and upcoming films. The PARISH COUNCIL meet on the last Monday of the month, contact Freda Morris for details. The local WI meets every alternative third Wednesday of the month, contact Helena Hale. For all CONTACT DETAILS see the end of report.

In May we invited the Fire Prevention Service to run a talk with tips on keeping safe at home including an offer to take up their free home visits including checks on smoke alarms plus safety checks, which were booked by a number of local residents.

We were pleased to host the lunch venue for Stottesdon school's annual charity walk.

In June we were invited to take part in the LEAF national open farm Sunday at Willowdene by showcasing a lot of local arts and crafts talent, including local artists, artisans with local produce, tasty jams, pickles, cakes. The highly successful 12 local craft stalls and white elephant stall, attracted lots of visitors on the day raising funds for local charities.

From September to December, we organised a new weekly Strength & Balance class at the hall which attracted a number of new people.

November saw the very well attended Quiz and Fish & Chip supper December saw the Christmas Lights turn on trail through the village led by Santa on his Tractor sleigh lighting up the sky, as the Christmas lights switched on as it passed through. All preceded by welcoming hot drinks home-made cakes, a raffle & a chance to meet Santa, ending with a carol singalong at Homelands despite the weather. Donations raised

went to the Bridgnorth Foodbank, which continues to be supported with the weekly collection from the Chapel.

The ever-popular Malt Night in December with keen participants enjoyed a night tasting & comparing malt whiskies.

A highly popular Bingo night also took place in December.

In February a packed race night was held enjoying a flutter and a chilli supper.

Maintenance ongoing work continued throughout the year, along with larger jobs, which included new cladding on the end wall and repairs to the roof. We also installed and upgraded new lighting & hand dryers in the toilets and upgraded the side lighting in the hall.

We continue to support people wishing to trial new events, set up local clubs, social activities and look for more volunteers to help out.

Look out for posters at the hall, the Chapel, Stottesdon and Sidbury notice boards, our Facebook page @ Chorley Village Hall and on the local Chorley Help WhatsApp page.

The hall and fully equipped kitchen is available for private hire for parties/training sessions at low costs and are available at very reasonable rates for one off or regular bookings with help on hand from the Chorley Village Hall committee members and Friends.

I would like to thank all the committee members, officers and trustees, and local friends of the hall for all their work over the past year, in keeping the hall well maintained, ensuring another successful year for the hall as a resource for the local residents in our community covering Chorley, Stottesdon, Sidbury and the outlying hamlets, homes, farms and local businesses.

Contacts:

- Bookings on 07726 763833
- Film Club: Joe Bubb 07808 162891
- Yoga: Jennifer Gennard 07968 817643
- Pilates: Nicky Long 07941 851132
- WI: Helena Hale 07383 981800/Debbie Haynes 07780 113869
- Chair: Claire Bradley 07505 083597



St Mary's Parish Church, Stottesdon

Churchwarden's Report for 2024 to the Annual Parish Meetings in 2025 (APCM and APM)

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2024 was another eventful year at church – these are some headlines:

- ❖ Despite a 'clergy vacancy' throughout the year, we were to be able to sustain the weekly 10.30 Sunday service and provide for family celebrations of weddings, and funerals. We are very grateful to Justin Bailey, John Daniels, Neil Dunlop, Fiona Gibson, David Poyner and other volunteer priests who enabled us to offer these critical elements of Christian presence in the Parish.
- ❖ Attracting people to rural vacancies is a very real challenge in the Church – just as it is in teaching, medicine and other professions. The Rector's post will, with all our prayers and God's help, be filled during the coming year.
- ❖ As reported last year, explaining the history, treasures, and restoration of St Mary's were all part of the 2023 Lottery Heritage project – with a self-guided church tour and over 40 short videos showing St Mary's [in "Time-Team" fashion] 'behind the scenes'. The 'Edwin' logo above (copied from Medieval glass) features on our new heritage website, which includes copies of the church videos, the tour booklet and a host of newly published local heritage resources: visit www.stotthyheritage.co.uk and have a look for yourself!
- ❖ Thanks to very generous donations, restoration of the Treble Bell – 20 years after the other three were overhauled - was finished in time for Christmas and 'full circle ringing' is possible once again. Anyone who'd like to learn more will be extremely welcome at the weekly 5pm Friday bell practice!
- ❖ Whilst the Bellringers could claim to be the noisiest by far, the life and work of St Mary's depends on a network of volunteers: the makers of coffee, bakers of cakes, cleaners of brasses, providers of flowers, readers of lessons, writers of newsletters and many more! We simply could not do it without you and thus we record 'grateful thanks' for all that you contribute!
- ❖ All this happens under the ever watchful eye of the PCC, the charity which, through the Rector and Warden, enables Christian service and teaching in this community, and is responsible for heritage of 'national importance'. New PCC members are very welcome – do please get in touch to learn more...

Clare Tibbits
Churchwarden
March 2025

News of Community Events for SPRING and early SUMMER 2025

Over many years the National Gardens Scheme has been the *principal source of fundraising* for nursing and hospice charities around the country; Stottesdon Open Gardens have regularly contributed to this great national effort.



your interest with Clare (01746 718007) or Wade (718753).

Stottesdon Village Open Gardens for 2025 will be a celebration of Spring on **Saturday 26th April 12-5pm**.

A combined admission ticket to all the gardens is just £7.50 and children go free. Teas, refreshments and homemade cake and plant sales in the Parish Church.
Car Parking in the Pound Lane field by kind permission of Mick and Eunice Evans.

Volunteers and helpers will be most welcome - please register



VE DAY
80th ANNIVERSARY
A NATIONAL WORKING DAY OF REMEMBRANCE
8 M A Y 2 0 2 5

The newly restored 'ring of four' bells at St Mary's will be 'ringing out' with church bells nationwide from 6.30pm on **Thursday 8th May** as we mark this historic anniversary.

Stottesdon Community Fete will be on **Friday afternoon 4th July** on the School Field.
Bar, BBQ, Grand Draw Raffle, sideshows and more.....
Car Parking in the Pound Lane field by kind permission of Mick and Eunice Evans.

Volunteers and helpers will be most welcome - please register your interest with Clare (01746 718007)

