

Devolution of Services – Working Party Meeting, 15th October 2026, via Teams

Notes

Present: Cllrs P Carter, R Evans, P Arnold, D Morgan, N Evans, N Ingham,

Clerk: C Higgins

Open discussion with reference to Shrewsbury Town Council presentation slides shared with councillors in advance of the meeting which indicated STC willing to offer a range of services to neighbouring parishes but were seeking to offer a high quality of services rather than basic provision.

Grass cutting - PC suggested grass cutting of verges within 30mph limits be considered. *(Note, grass cutting frequency likely to be reduced by SC. Devolved budget est 58% of £4250.11, reducing to 50% in following year).* If devolved, visibility splays would need to be maintained on a service level agreement. Other grassed areas may be cut as frequently as required.

Visibility Splays – The only visibility splays within 30mph limits are at Longden crossroads and Longden Common. Presently Longden Common verges are maintained by residents, but this cannot be expected to continue indefinitely. The Longden crossroads are partly managed as wildflower verges, but a visibility splay will need to be maintained.

It was noted that STC had previously quoted to undertake grass cutting work in Longden. **It was noted that Longden was not listed in the villages where STC currently undertake works so clarification required to confirm if STC would still be willing to work in Longden.**

Bin emptying - RE stated bin emptying is not a statutory service so may not continue but group acknowledged this was not an issue at present. PC proposed this service be reviewed next year if service deteriorates. SC currently has a budget of less than £2,000 and the cost to the parish might be considerably more. *(Note, on 29th Sept 26, J Hernandez informed Great Hanwood PC that litter bin emptying and road cleaning are unlikely to stop).*

Gulley emptying – NE stated this work has not been done for many years. RE stated STC are not offering gulley emptying, (only road sweeping). PA suggested LPC could organise gulley emptying using a commercial firm. Suggestion that gulleys that cause flooding be prioritised (e.g. near streams). *(Note, no devolved budget for gulley emptying).*

Road sweeping – STC has purchased new road sweepers. RE suggested we commission road sweeping for 1 or 2 days per month to work around the residential streets systematically throughout the year. *(Note, this would cost considerably more than the budget that may be passed down by SC, currently £143.33).*

Private roads – It was noted that parishes cannot carry out maintenance on private roads, (e.g. Redhill Drive)

Annscroft bank – The bank previously had a grassed area at the foot of the bank which was mown but the area is now given over to shrubs and trees. It would require a flail cutter to tidy

the bank but is unlikely to be returned to amenity grass. The key concern is the maintenance of visibility for motorists.

Wildflower verges – DM suggested it would be useful to get a quote from STC to support annual/biannual cut and removal of cuttings. He noted that Lyth Hill wildflower verges are outside the 30mph zone, and many are maintained by residents. Some verges are privately owned.

RE identified visibility problems at Longden crossroads due to the extent of the wildflower meadow and suggested a larger visibility splay may be required.

Recommendations to full council:

1. Grass cutting – Consider cutting amenity grass and visibility splays in Longden village and Longden Common (8 cuts per year)

Consider adding play area grass cutting to contract to make it more attractive to tenderers

2. Annscroft bank – Consider strimming twice annually

3. Wildflower verges – Two annual cuts (March & August) including removal of arisings

4. Road sweeping – Request a day rate. Identify how much can be swept in a day. How will sweepings be disposed of?

5. Gulley emptying – Consider a one-off exercise – seek day hire costs from commercial operators

6. Weed spraying – Consider using Environmental Maintenance Grant for weed spraying if required

7. Bin emptying – No action. Monitor service levels and review in 12 months