Chair's Briefing

Stoke upon Tern Parish Council

August 2026

In responding to the fast-changing circumstances related to the empty new properties on Dutton Close, the recent advice received from our MP and the impending retirement of the Clerk, the Chairman agreed an emergency briefing to ensure that the Parish Council were able to maintain required momentum and progress.

The on-line briefing was held on Wednesday 12th August 2026, 11.00am to 12.00 noon.

Present: Councillors P Butters S Planton, S Bartram and J Scott

Clerk: G Bould

1. Dutton Close: With the fast-changing circumstances relating to the empty new properties on Dutton Close, it was suggested that there was a need to be able to review, discuss and respond to issues, questions and actions more frequently than the current meeting structure allows.

   It was also identified that the Parish Council's engagement with priority issues may also require a more proactive and responsive approach.

   Action: It was agreed, subject to approval by the broader Parish Council that:
   a. A series of on-line emergency briefings would be established, which enabled discussion and action between the schedule In-Situ Parish Council Meetings.
   b. The Parish Council, at its meeting in September, to be asked to approve delegated authority for the Chair and Vice Chair to agree and implement actions from these meetings,
   c. Update to be made available to the standard Parish Council Meeting by way of a Chair's update.

2. Petition: The Parish Council agreed, at its meeting 2nd July 2026, to support a public petition being placed by Mr Jason Scott. This is now live, but the Parish Council has received advice from our MP, that we should be focusing our efforts on ensuring that Shropshire Council uses the new builds for local housing needs. Removal has been explored, and the petition cannot be withdrawn.

   Action: No action, as the petition cannot be removed.

3. New Clerk: The focus was to agree next steps following the feedback at the last Parish Council Meeting, that we had only received one expression of interest.

4. The Clerk advised that we had now received 3 additional and promising applications.

   Action: It was agreed to review with Sutton upon Tern Parish Council, at the joint meeting on 19th August 2026, before agreeing any actions.