

Stretton Parish Council

Annual Parish Meeting on Thursday 25th April 2019, 7pm held in St Nicholas' Parish Church MINUTES

Present: Cllrs Richard Foster (Chair), Greg Harker, John Leefe, Molly Hayes, Nick Begy, Paul Finlay, Sarah Gresty (clerk) plus 22 members of the public

1. **Chairman's welcome.** Richard Foster (RF) welcomed everyone and opened the meeting.
2. **Apologies for absence.** Cllr. Brian Lester.
3. **Approve the minutes from last year 29 May 2018.**

A member of the public commented that, although he accepted that the wording of the minutes were accurate, he disagreed with the Chairman's report at the portrayal of two individuals in the parish as 'negative and hostile.' The Chairman would not confirm or deny who the individuals were, but Mr K Hawkes (KH) said he assumed that he was one of them and asked to be named in the minutes as such.

The Chairman stressed that the words he used were his interpretation and summary and he had not directly quoted the outgoing Monitoring Officer. After full discussion and exchange of views, it was agreed that the minutes could be signed as a true and accurate record.

Proposed: Kevin Hawkes, Seconded: Greg Harker and agreed by a majority of members present. RF signed minutes.

4. **Chairman's review of the year.** RF read the report below:

CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2018/19 *I am delighted to say that, after 3 years of change and disruption within your parish council, this last year has been relatively stable in terms of personalities, to many of whom the village and I owe our deepest thanks for their selfless contributions.*

First, I must mention the strong, helpful and consistent support of our Ward Councillor, Nick Begy, who has always gone the extra mile for Stretton in resolving uncertainties and clarifying situations arising between the Parish Council and Rutland County.

Next, thanks are due to our new (and young!) councillors, Paul Finlay and Molly Hayns, both of whom have brought new and fresh perspectives to our deliberations, as well as being of great practical help at getting information out, using either on-line or hard copy media distribution. In this respect, our Village Website has yet again benefitted from the kindness and expertise of Andrew Hayns and Penny Isaacs, for which many thanks are also due.

Thirdly, my gratitude must be directed toward Brian Lester, whose long service and thorough knowledge of all matters rural has been invaluable. Next, along with Brian, the ability of my vice-chairman, John Leefe, to place matters into perspective borne of his long association with the village and, lastly, to relative new-comer Greg Harker.

Greg's energy and sheer hard work on behalf of the village has seen a second defibrillator installed, this time at Stowe Court, making Stretton a much safer place for those with cardiac vulnerability. His lobbying of Highways England is also undiminished as he seeks to encourage a much higher priority for re-surfacing the Great North Road to reduce traffic noise.

Also deserving of a mention is John McCarthy, whose untiring leadership of Emergency Response planning and equipment will make Stretton and its inhabitants much more secure should a natural or man-made disaster isolate us from the emergency services. Thanks should also go to Michael and Bea Arnold who have taken up the challenge of Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators, after many years of hard work on behalf of our community by the McCarthys.

Last but by no means least, it is a huge pleasure to report the excellent service rendered to Stretton Parish Council over her first year by Sarah Gresty, our Parish Clerk. Although relatively new to such duties, she has

*absorbed her training well and her dual role with Essendine has brought economies of scale to our balance sheet. We all wish her well as she goes from strength to strength.
I close by reporting that, despite having such a wonderful team backing me up, this shall be my last duty as your Parish Chairman. Although I am willing to continue as a parish councillor, I feel that a new hand on the tiller would be appropriate after four years in the chair. Thank you for your support during my tenure and best wishes to whomsoever is chosen as my successor.*

5. **Presentation** from Andrew Granger & Co. Ltd, Agents for the landowner for the land at Woolfox. No-one attended from this company. Therefore, a general discussion took place in the public forum below.

6. **Public Forum**

- a) Cycle Route / Footpath: A member of the public requested an update on the footpath/cycle route proposal. RF and Nick Begy (NB) confirmed that Highways still have this on their list. The list is reviewed each year, however, the estimated cost was £300,000 and due to budget constraints, the proposal has been shelved by RCC for the time being. It was noted that if the Ram Jam development had gone ahead a CIL (community infrastructure levy) would have been received and funds could have been allocated. NB would work to keep this issue on the RCC list and hopefully move it up the priorities. NB to keep the Parish Council informed.
- b) Midlands Connect: RF reported on a recent meeting he had attended in Leicester, chaired by Sir Peter Soulsby, where various developments were aired with a strong move to make the A1 from Peterborough to Blyth into a 3 lane motorway. If that were the case, Highways England would then be obliged to undertake certain improvement works and both noise abatement measures and the footpaths and cycle routes would be raised for inclusion.
- c) Litter Pick: A resident asked if a litter pick had been organised this year. As nothing had been, a date of Saturday 11th May 10 -12 was set, meeting at the bus shelter.
Action: RF to Liaise with RCC for vests, pickers and sacks.
- d) Road Cleaning: A member of the public noted that RCC are now only cleaning the roads where there is a curb and not along the grass verges.
For information any resident can report any road and pavement issues on the RCC website Fix-My-Street. <https://www.rutland.gov.uk/my-community/fixmystreet/>
- e) Severn Trent: A member of the public reported that she had had a site meeting with Severn Trent recently who had agreed to repairing the banks with turfs after the recent works.
- f) Woolfox: Several members had attended a public meeting about the recent development proposals at the Victoria Hall, Oakham. General discussion on the viability and timescale of this development took place. The expected numbers of residents of the proposed development would more or less double that of the whole of Rutland at present. It was thought to be a long way off any planning stages. However, it was noted that a bid for housing infrastructure fund had been applied for.
- g) St Georges development: It was noted that this proposal was still in the early stages as the MOD would have to clean the site before development works and planning permission for the site had not yet been applied for. There is a long process: Local plan-consolation, full council-planning application, probably a full council vote. NB confirmed that planning was a long way off as no solid information had yet been received from the developers. Until an application was received, planning would not be open for consideration.

Date: _____