

Stretton Annual Parish Council Meeting

Thursday 24th May at 8pm in the back room of the Jackson Stops

MINUTES

Present: Cllrs Richard Foster, John Leefe, Brian Lester, Greg Harker, Molly Hayns, Paul Finlay, Sally Skyrme - Clerk

Guest: Ward Councillor Nick Begy

Members of the public Present: One

1. Election of Officers for 2018/19 Chairman

Cllr Richard Foster was the only person to put himself forward and he was elected as Chairman of Stretton Parish Council.

2. Election of Officer for 2018/19 Vice Chairman

Cllr John Leefe was the only person to put himself forward and he was elected as Vice Chairman of Stretton Parish Council

3. Public Session

A member of the public said there was an old sign attached to the Stretton sign as you drive into the village that needs removing.

A member of the public expressed concern that Rutland County Council (RCC) will be handing over the duty of mowing grass verges, she was concerned that it would cost more than what the County Council would give to the Parish Council in grants.

A member of the public asked why the parish Council didn't ask Gideon Visser to be the internal auditor. The clerk said she wasn't sure whether recent ex Cllrs would qualify to be internal auditors. She also asked why we didn't approach LARALC, Cllr Hayns said that was more expensive.

Cllr Lester said that the repair on Clipsham Road was coming undone and would need more work doing.

Action: *Cllr Finlay to remove old sign.*

Action: *Ward Cllr Begy to find out from Mark Loran what the situation will be with regards to grass verge mowing.*

Action: *Ward Cllr Begy to inform highways department.*

4. To receive declarations of unregistered disclosable pecuniary interests in agenda items and to receive and approve requests for dispensations from members on matters in which they have a registered Disclosable Pecuniary Interest

Cllrs Foster and Leefe declared an interest in item 12 because they are both active members of Friends of St Nicholas (FOSN) and 90% of the funds raised at the village fete will go to FOSN. Cllr Harker said he had an interest in item 12 because he is the chairman of the village fete committee. Cllr Hayns said that she is an inactive member of FOSN. It was agreed that Cllrs Harker, Leefe and Foster would not vote or comment during the discussion on item 12 – but as an inactive member of FOSN Cllr Hayns could take part.

Cllr Harker declared an interest in item 14 because it is his planning application to be discussed. It was agreed that he would not take part in the vote or discussion.

5. Apologies for absence

No absences

6. Minutes of previous meetings

Minutes from Parish Council meeting dated 27th March 2018 - **resolved** to approve and signed by the Chairman

Minutes from Extraordinary Parish Council meeting dated 15th May 2018 – **resolved** to approve and signed by the Chairman.

- a. Cllr Brian Lester said that he would like to add retrospectively that he had an interest in Item 4a of the minutes even though he didn't arrive at the meeting until item 5. He felt he needed to make this declaration because of recent allegations of corruption.

7. Matters arising

Sally said she had contacted the Clerk at Cottesmore Parish Council and he had told her that RCC had put the bollards in and then the Parish Council had paid them £1400. Sally contacted Rachael Thomas from RCC about this and she said she was doing an inspection of the village soon anyway and would let us know if she thought bollards were necessary.

Cllr Harker said that the Standing Orders still needed reviewing in light in the (General Data Protection Regulation) GDPR.

Action: *Ward Cllr Begy to chase this up with Rachael.*

Action: *Cllrs Harker and Hayns to make recommendation to the parish council regarding the Standing Orders.*

8. To agree the accounts and sign the annual governance statement

Sally presented the accounts for the financial year 2017 – 2018 to the Council. The internal auditor. It was **resolved** to approve the Annual Governance Return (AGAR)

- a) Section 1 – The Annual Governance Statement 2017/18 was approved and signed by the chairman and the clerk
- b) Section 2 – Accounting statements (page 6) were approved and signed by the chairman and the clerk

Action: *Sally do complete forms and get them ready to be viewed on the website.*

Action: *Cllr Hayns to put on the website once all correct documents are ready.*

9. New Clerk vacancy advertisement

Cllr Harker has forwarded an advert to LARALC to be placed on their website and others via LARALC. He is awaiting advice re hours and wages.

10. WW1 remembrance

A discussion was had about the pros and cons of purchasing Silent Soldier silhouettes from the British Legion. It was agreed that this is something that should be funded by voluntary donations from the public.

Action: *Cllr Harker to place a notice in the village newsletter about funding the Silent Soldier silhouettes of buying more lamp post poppies.*

11. Bus stop maintenance

A letter was read out from Rutland County Council asking parishes to notify them of any maintenance needs for their bus stops. It was agreed that there was no need in Stretton.

12. Village fete grant

Cllr Harker, as chairman of the village fete committee presented his request for £200 from the parish Council towards the village fete. He said the village fete would be a fun day for everyone with free entry. The proceeds would go to three charities: Friends of St Nicolas would receive 90%, East Midlands Air Ambulance; 10% and Prostate Cancer Charity would share 10%.

The cost of running the village fete is £650 for insurance, license and bands. He said the committee of eight people have been working very hard for the village fete and a grant would be a nice gesture.

Cllr Lester said that he felt that the village is too tribal, he had been asked by various people not to attend this meeting so that he couldn't vote on this issue. He said that he was thoroughly fed up with the situation and wished it would end. He said that it seems that all these problems have stemmed from the last event held in the village. He said he has always tried to be totally impartial and doesn't like the phone calls he has been getting. He has done his best to calm the situation down.

Cllr Finlay said he sees the village fete as an opportunity to bring villagers together, it will be hugely rewarding for the village

Cllr Hayns said she felt that the main reason for the village fete was to bring people together – not necessary to raise money.

Cllr Begy felt that the running of the village fete and the request for help from the Parish Council was all above board.

A vote was taken amongst the three councillors who had no personal interest in the fete, there was one abstention and two votes for the donation. Therefore, it was **resolved** to donate £200 to the village fete.

Action: *Sally to get cheque written and signed for village fete*

13. Ram Jam update

Cllr Begy said that as of Monday there was still no planning application, he thought that maybe they were trying to presell the development before it goes to that stage. The other half of the site is owned by Tim Heart and he has put in a pre-planning application for a bakery to extend their current bakery he is looking to increase employment.

With regards to applying for listed status for the Ram Jam building, Cllr Lester said that it isn't the original building there now because that was knocked down when the A1 was widened. A discussion was had, and it was **resolved** not to apply for listed status on the Ram Jam building.

14. Planning applications – including any that have come in after the agenda has been published

2018/01361/CAT – tree pruning at the Pantiles, Stretton

It was **resolved** that there were no objections to this planning application.

(Cllr Harker did not vote on this because of a personal interest).

15. Updates

GDPR and Risk Assessments

Cllr Hayns said that all the GDPR documents and risk assessments were now on the website

Cllr Foster and the rest of the council thanked Cllrs Hayns and Harker for all their hard work on these documents and policies.

Noise Pollution

Cllr Harker said that he has been trying to get hold of Highways England regarding the noise pollution from the A1. He said that he had an answer from Simon Wagstaff this morning saying there were no plans for noise reduction.

Cllr Begy said that he has a meeting with Highways England on the 28th of June and he will mention it there.

Defibrillators

Cllr Harker said that he had spoken to the manager of The Shires. They are still in the process of reorganising following a takeover. It is new management policy not the share defibrillators but if anyone needed it during working hours they could knock. Another Defibrillator would cost £2000.

Cllr Harker pointed out that Stocken could not be covered by the Stretton defibrillator and therefore we should establish where and how much it would cost to install. In the past, however, Stocken residents had been less enthusiastic about having their own defibrillator and Cllr Foster suggested that we consult residents of Stretton Woods and Stocken to see if they would want a defibrillator.

Action: Cllr Harker to put a request for opinions on this in the newsletter

16. Correspondence

An email from a member of the public was read out that had already been read by the Cllrs prior to the meeting:

It has come to my attention that item 12 on the agenda refers to precept money being given to boost the profits of Stretton Fete. 90% of which are to go to the Friends of St. Nicholas, to be used towards the reordering of the church.

Though I understand that parish councils are often asked to fund charitable causes, I quote "if we can get the church re-ordering off the ground, it will benefit everyone in the village". May I remind councillors that not everyone in the parish agrees with the said reordering of the church. Therefore, I would ask that those councillors voting tonight consider the wishes of all parishioners, as this donation though not a great amount of money, will set a precedent for future requests.

An email from the current Neighbourhood Watch leader John McCarthy was readout:

Please note the contact details for our new NW Coordinators: Michael & Bea Arnold, 4 Stowe Court, Stocken Hall Road, LE15 7RN

We are in the process of handing over and I will relinquish the post on 1 Jun.

Crime report read:

The crime reported for Rutland North beat for the month of April 2018 is as follows: -

Burglary	-	Langham
Burglary other than dwelling	-	Egleton, Whissendine
Theft of vehicle	-	Ryhall
Theft from vehicle	-	Hambleton, Greetham x 2, Burley, Barnsdale x 2, A1 x 7
Theft	-	Greetham x 2, Whitwell, Little Casterton
Criminal Damage	-	Greetham x 2, Market Overton, Essendine, Whissendine, Whitwell, A1

We have had a spike this month in theft from vehicles parked in isolated locations and using Social Media through our Twitter account we have released the suspect vehicle details. We are working to identify the suspects and would ask anyone with information to contact me.

We have also had 2 thefts from church roofs in both Whitwell and Ashwell and would ask that you spread the word to all your residents to report anything suspicious at the time around your village Church.

17. Accounts Bank Balance on 24TH May 2018

More detailed accounts available on the website www.strettonvillage.co.uk

Bank A/C

Name

	Balance
Community Account	
Business Premium Account	£50.00
Total	<u>£9,380.68</u>
	<u>£9,420.68</u>

18. Cheques and expenditure

LRALC Annual subscription cheque number 100425	£150.37
Came & Company Insurance cheque number 100426	£291.20
Rutland County Council clerk's wages cheque number 100427	£483.00
Sally Skyrme Stationary and memory stick cheque number 100428	£17.25
Somerby's Chartered Accountants internal audit cheque number 100429	£210.00
Stretton Village Fete cheque number 100430	£200.00

19. Next meeting time and place

Annual Parish Meeting 7pm Tuesday 29th May 2018 St Nicolas Church, Stretton

Parish Council Meeting 8pm Wednesday 1th July 2018 Back room of Jackson Stops, Stretton