

Stretton Parish Council
Meeting on Thursday 9th November 2017
8.00 pm at The Jackson Stops

MINUTES

Present: Cllrs Richard Foster (Chairman), John Leefe (Vice Chairman) Greg Harker, Molly Hayns, Brian Lester, Gideon Visser, Nick Begy (Ward Councillor) Sally Skyrme (Clerk)

Members of the public Present: three members of the public were present and one guest

1. Chairman's welcome

2. Public Session

We had a report from John McCarthy (parishioner in charge of the Emergency Response Plan in Stretton). He reported that the plan has been done and a copy has been sent to the Parish Council to file. An exercise was held on 18th July 2017 and another one is planned on 6th December 2017 (now amended to the 13th of December). Colin Briggs from Stocken Prison and Bob Ward from the Air Ambulance will be invited to attend. John said that volunteer street wardens are still needed to look after areas of the village, it would be a bit like Neighbourhood Watch where they would check on vulnerable people. This would involve no work unless a major disaster happens. John is also in touch with the water authorities regarding flooding and supply of water in a disaster. Now that the plan has been done it qualifies Stretton to a range of emergency equipment worth about £600. This will be stored in the annexe in Cllr Harker's house.

Cllr Harker said that his annexe was not free for the meeting on 6th December. Subsequently it was agreed to have It was agreed to have the next emergency response meeting on the 13th of December in Cllr Harker's Annexe.

Action: *Sally to book room in Jackson Stops (this was done, and the room will be used if no big Christmas bookings are taken before then).*

Action: *Cllr Harker to place an advert in the newsletter for volunteers*

A member of the public said that the website was not up to date and asked whether the Clerk should be inputting things directly. The Clerk explained that she had been shown how but it turned out to be easier to send documents to Peter Ransom-Jones – the problem this month was that he was away when the agenda was sent to him. Cllr Hayns offered to manage the documents going to the website.

Action: *Cllr Hayns to input documents if Peter Ransom Jones is away. The Clerk will also input documents once she has learnt how to do it.*

A member of the public asked about leaves being cleared in Stretton, have they been cleared because the drains seem to be blocked?

Cllr Lester said that Rutland County Council Highways department do it the wrong way round – they clear the drains then they clear the leaves – they should clear the leaves first then clear the drains.

Action: *Cllr Begy to contact Highways at Rutland County Council about this.*

A member of the public said they were disappointed at the response to questions he raised at the last meeting regarding the conservation status of the village. Cllr Foster said there had been some confusion over this but the Parish Council has stated that it does not support the lifting of the status of

conservation area and we have stated this to Rutland County Council and in the meetings.

Action: *Cllr Foster to place a statement in the Village Newsletter to put the Parish Council's position across to the villagers.*

3. Report from Laurie Appleton, Leicestershire Police

PC Laurie Appleton sent his apologies. Cllr Foster read out the Crime Report written by PC Appleton. He added that there had been an attack on the Co-op cash machine in Oakham and a spate of burglaries in Oakham. He also added that there is a new Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) called Lauren Orgall.

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

None declared

5. Apologies for absence

PC Laurie Appleton

6. Minutes of previous meetings

Both (19/10/2017 and 14/09/2017) approved and signed by the Chairman

7. Matters Arising from the minutes

None

8. Planning Applications.

2017/1011/FUL - Single Storey Extension to West of 2 Manor Court, Rookery Lane.

The Council considered the application and there were no objections.

Please see Stretton Parish Council's Responses to planning applications on:

<http://planningonline.rutland.gov.uk>

9. Updates

- a) Cycle path update. Ward Cllr Begy – Cllr Begy gave an update about the application to have the cycle path put on the Integrated Transport Plan. The deadline for this is 17th November 2017.
- b) Lamp post poppies. Cllr Foster – The Poppies had been bought and put on the lampposts in Stretton. He had made an extra £15 in donations which have been sent to the British Legion.
- c) Defibrillator update. Cllr Harker - Defibrillator is in the telephone kiosk on Manor Road and installed along with an emergency phone. Gill Harker carries out weekly checks. He has received free paint from Dacrylate Paints. Defib signs installed. Press release photograph to be taken next Wednesday. Awareness day to be organised. Cllr Foster said he had had a suggestion to have books in the kiosk in the summer. The key fobs with the code on will be distributed throughout the village.

Action: *Cllr Harker to place an advertisement in the newsletter asking for volunteers to upkeep the Telephone Kiosk.*

Action: *Cllr Harker to organise Awareness day (he has requested the Church for this)*

Cllr Foster recorded a formal vote of thanks to Cllr Harker who obtained the defibrillator and recognised that it was a lot of hard work to achieve.

- d) Tree works update. Cllr Leefe reported that the application is in for the plan to replace some trees in Stretton with ornamental trees. He said that so far there had been no formal objections. Cllr Lester said he has been approached by people with concerns. However, he felt unable to say who. Cllr Foster encouraged people to raise objections formally if they felt strongly and to speak to Cllr Leefe if they have any questions or suggestions.
- e) Metal inserts for bins. Cllr Lester – has replaced the metal inserts with plastic ones that are a waste product of his farm. He said they fit perfectly for the job. Cllrs thanked Cllr Lester for taking the time to do this.
- f) Overgrown bush near telephone kiosk. Cllr Leefe / Cllr Lester - Cllr Lester reported that he has cut back the tree near the post box on Manor road because it was creating a nuisance.
- g) Church grass cutting. Cllr Harker gave an update:
 - Still awaiting Friends of St Nicholas (FOSN) to agree to take on the work
 - FOSN meeting is 22 Nov 2017
 - In the meantime a further/final cut by Richard Crowden has been authorised. He said he would tidy up the churchyard for winter as well. Richard will invoice us sometime soon
 - At the church meeting a view was expressed that since everyone benefitted from a tidy church yard, maybe the PC should take on responsibility. However, Cllr Harker's view was that the church yard is the church's responsibility and if they cannot afford it then they should request assistance.

Cllr Visser said he has read that it is illegal for PC's to take on such work. Cllr Foster said he thought it was the PC's responsibility to allow people to mourn their loved ones. We get many visitors from abroad coming to look for their ancestors, so it is important to help with the upkeep of the churchyard when it was clearly the case that the Church was unable to.

Action: *Clerk to get clarification on this – We received the following answer from Leicestershire and Rutland Association of Local Councils:*

"If the churchyard is open the council has the legal power (under s.214(6) of the Local Government Act 1972) to maintain it.

Your council can either make a grant to the church or make a donation or, as you are already doing, pay a contractor to provide mowing services."

- h) Update on noise pollution. Cllr Harker updated the meeting:
 - The noise pollution report has been released. It says that Stretton is no worse or better than many other places close to a major trunk road. However, at least it's a start.
 - The solution is that badly affected houses will be contacted and offered grants. The two worst locations were The Shires and Spinney

Lane. Whether there will be any more houses offered a grant remains to be seen

- In September, Mrs Harris found out that the A1 between Harlaxton and Stamford was to be resurfaced so Cllr Harker contacted Highways England and spoke to the department only to be told that the resurfacing only comes as far south as South Witham. He then wrote to RCC Transport Division who said it was out of their jurisdiction and they could not intervene
- Cllr Harker then wrote to MP Alan Duncan. His office has asked him to draft a letter to Highways England.
- Cllr Harker was not hopeful that anything could be done in the short term but longer term, we need to get ourselves onto the next big programme starting in 2020/21. This may require Alan Duncan's help

Action: *Cllr Harker to draft a letter for Alan Duncan MP*

- i) CPRE membership renewal. Done
- j) Clerk's employment contract. Cllr Foster

Sally left the room while this was discussed. When she returned it was resolved that the Parish Council would accept the new contract drafted between Cllr Foster and Sally and it would be reviewed after six months.

Action: *Cllr Foster to write the contract to be signed by the Clerk.*

Action: *Sally to inform payroll at Rutland County Council when it is done*

10. Correspondence

Unfortunately, the Clerk brought in the wrong correspondence for the audit.

Action: *Sally to send a scan of the audit letter to the Councillors*

11. Accounts

Cllr Foster read out the bank statements.

Cllr Visser asked that the Clerk write up the accounts for every meeting.

Action: *Sally to prepare accounts for meetings from now on.*

12. Cheques and expenditure

Clerk's wages for the period 1.7.17 – 30.9.17 (plus admin)	£243.00
LRALC VAT training	£17.50
Office equipment	£23.46

13. Next meeting time and place 8pm Wednesday 10th January 2018 Jackson Stops (back room)

The meeting closed at 9.36 pm