**Stretton Parish Council**

**Annual Parish Meeting on Tuesday 29th May 2018**

**7pm held in St Nicholas’ Parish Church**

**DRAFT MINUTES**

**Present:** Cllrs Richard Foster (Chair), Greg Harker, Molly Hayns, Paul Finlayplus 11 members of the public

1. **Chairman’s welcome**

The Chairman welcomed the participants and explained the difference between this and normal PC meetings. He had selected a list of topics currently being addressed by the PC but stressed that this was an opportunity for the public to speak on any topic.

1. **Apologies for absence**

Cllrs Brian Lester, John Leefe and Ward Cllr Nick Begy. Angela Sutton, Julian Lessy, Michaeul and Bea Arnold and the Chan family also gave their apologies.

1. **Approve the minutes from last year**

The minutes from the last APM were approved and signed by the Chairman.

1. **Chairman’s review of the year:**

The past year has been eventful, with a lot achieved by a small group of constructive and supportive villagers, not least amongst whom have been John McCarthy, our excellent Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator and Emergency Response Team Leader and Greg Harker, who has championed our Defibrillator installation and sought to reduce the Great North Road noise by lobbying the County Council. Sadly, there have also been negative and hostile inputs by two individuals, who have made destructive comments and submitted formal complaints about my and other councillors' conduct. Needless to say, all of which, after costly and long investigation, have been dismissed by Rutland County Council's Monitoring Officer as being groundless fabrications.

I close by warmly welcoming new councillors Molly Hayns and Paul Finlay, who have already made valuable contributions, and thanking departing member Gideon Visser for his sage and constructive advice. It is also important to mark the departure of our Parish Clerk, Sally Skyrme, whose last meeting this will be. For the past two years she has served us well and has become a highly effective and personable clerk. We all wish her well.

1. **Public Forum**

A member of the public said that she was very pleased with how the website was coming on and that eventually we could have a welcome pack for the village on the website.

The Chairman thanked Cllrs Harker and Hayns for their hard work on improving the website.

A member of the public requested that finances were out on the website in a separate item to the minutes. Cllr Hayns will be doing this in the next few days.

A member of the public spoke about the stone walls in Stretton, how they are a distinctive feature of the village and people could be encouraged to keep their stone walls in good condition by attending courses in dry stone walling. We also have nice stained windows in the church. She suggested that Stretton has a heritage trail.

Cllr Foster suggested that she could send a note to Cllr Harker for these ideas to go into the village newsletter. The member of public said that she is still in touch with someone who has experience of heritage trails. She added that Kingscliff village got a grant to do their heritage trail.

There were no further comments from the public or Cllrs so the meeting was closed.