

STRETTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of Extraordinary Meeting held on Wednesday 17th February 2021 at 7pm held remotely on Zoom

Members Present: Cllr. Paul Finlay (Chair), Cllr. Greg Harker, Cllr. Richard Foster, Cllr. Michael Arnold, Cllr. John Cooch (JC), Mrs Jayne Isaac (Clerk), Cllr Nick Begy (Ward member)

5 members of the public attended

Ref	Item
012/21	To receive apologies
	There were no apologies.
013/21	To receive Declarations of Pecuniary Interests on items in the agenda
	There were no pecuniary interests declared. Cllr. Paul Finlay and Cllr. Richard Foster declared an interest in item 015/21, due to regularly playing golf at Woolfox Golf Club.
014/21	Comments/questions received from the public
	<p>A member of the public referred to Ref 003/21 in the minutes of the last meeting held on 14th January. He wished to be clear that his comments were his own and not those of Mr Lester.</p> <p>A member of the public read out her statement outlining all of her concerns in response to the review report issued following the disqualification of Brian Lester as councillor. Copies of the statement can be viewed in full on the website under correspondence. https://strettonvillageparishcouncil.co.uk/other/correspondence</p> <p>Further points/questions were made from another member of the public adding to those already raised regarding the lack of compassion in disqualifying Mr Lester.</p>
015/21	Review of procedures following the disqualification of Brian Lester as Councillor
	<p>Ward Cllr Begy gave a summary of his findings from his review of procedures carried out, following the disqualification of Mr Lester as Councillor, due to non-attendance at meetings. Cllr Begy gave clarity on the process and history of events, with advice being sought by the Chair with himself, LRALC and the RCC monitoring officer.</p> <p>The review showed that, although Stretton Parish Council followed the correct legal process, Cllr Begy concluded that there were a number of lessons to be drawn and suggested that there was a need to move forward for the good of the village. Cllr Begy acknowledged that there is a disconnect in law between what is seen as “right and just” and what is “law”. The full report is appended to these Minutes.</p> <p>The Chair asked committee members for their thoughts.</p>

	<p>All agreed that the outcome was regrettable and there are lessons to be learned for the future. Standing orders will be reviewed to ensure that apologies are voted on and accepted. This would have allowed debate and a possible solution discussed. However, apologies must be through official channels, and those not, can be noted but not officially accepted. All are to be made aware of this on appointment.</p> <p>All agreed that an apology was appropriate in the circumstances and there was unanimous agreement to write to Brian Lester giving thanks for his years of service on Stretton Parish Council and to offer apologies for the approach taken.</p> <p><i>Action: Chair to draft a letter for approval to go out to Mr Lester.</i></p>
016/21	Planning – to receive the following
	<p>Application 2020/1480/MAF Proposal: Erection of 60 leisure lodges for occupation on a non-continuous basis, renovation and conservation of existing barns to form a leisure suite including gym, a swimming pool and ancillary spaces including staff accommodation, renovation and alteration of the existing Clubhouse, erection of a new maintenance facility, alterations to the grounds including changes to the golf course and construction of lakes for leisure and ecological purposes, and ancillary works including alterations to the access drive, provision of a visitor check-in-kiosk, alteration to car parking, creation of a circular walk, alteration and extension of the noise bund, and consequential landscape works. Location: Woolfox Golf and Country Club, Hardwick Farm Lane, Empingham, Rutland PE9 4NJ</p> <p>This is a major development, although outside the Stretton parish. After discussion, it was noted that there were no objections and there was unanimous agreement to support the application on the basis of ecological development, employment opportunities for local communities and leisure facilities.</p> <p><i>Action: Clerk to enter response on RCC Planning Portal</i></p>
017/21	Finance
	<p>To approve payments as follows:</p> <p>G. Harker – Replacement Grit Bin purchased from Supertuff Europe - £147.60 (<i>already paid, cheque 100474</i>) LRALC – Internal Audit Service 2020-21 - £170.00 (<i>already paid, cheque 100475</i>) Community Heartbeat – Phone annual cost - £60.00 (<i>already paid, cheque 100476</i>) Community Heartbeat – Replacement defibrillator Fund - £100.00 (<i>already paid, cheque 100477</i>) J Isaac (Clerk) – Book of 2nd class stamps purchased - £7.92</p> <p>Proposed by RF, seconded by JC, unanimous agreement</p>
018/21	Defibrillator Replacement Fund
	<p>Cllr Harker updated members on the position with the defibrillator replacement fund.</p>

	<p>The defibrillator was purchased in autumn 2017 and has a life expectancy of between 8 and 10 years. SPC have a contract for regular annual maintenance of £151 per year, which pays for maintenance items (for example new pads were replaced last year).</p> <p>There is an account for replacement of the defibrillator which is £100 per year. The current amount sits at £300, plus an extra £100 accounted for in next year's budget, taking the fund up to £400. If the defibrillator needs replacing in 5-6 years time, sufficient funds should be available. Estimated replacement cost is £1,000.</p> <p>It was agreed to leave the fund at its current level, with the opportunity to review in next year's precept.</p> <p>Cllr Harker also gave an update on the plan for road signs at both ends of the village. These are scheduled to be put up in February and speed indicators would be considered for 3 or 4 months later.</p> <p>The resurfacing work on the A1 are still on Highways programme of works for the end of the next financial year or first part of the following year April 2022/23.</p>
019/21	Stretton sewage issues
	<p>The Chair gave an update on the Stretton sewage issue following the meeting held with the Governor at HMP Stocken, and subsequent emails with Anglian Water.</p> <p>There is serious concern following overflowing of raw sewage from two pumping stations in Stretton.</p> <p>It is believed the sewage from HMP Stocken is held in their holding tanks before being pumped through the network to Stretton, then onto Greetham, before finally ending up at the treatment plant in Cottesmore. However, clarity cannot be ascertained until copies of the plans are made available.</p> <p>Greetham PC are also experiencing sewage problems and are liaising with Anglian Water.</p> <p>Anglian Water has acknowledged the concerns raised by both parish councils and have proposed a meeting late in March, to discuss the issues experienced and share their long-term strategy and investigations.</p> <p><i>Action: Clerk to set up a meeting with Anglian Water for a mutually convenient date to include the Chair of both SPC and GPC.</i></p>
020/21	Notice of Vacancy
	<p>The deadline for 10 electors to request an election to fill the councillor vacancy has now passed and RCC have advised that no request has been received, therefore SPC can co-opt to fill the vacancy.</p> <p>A Notice of Vacancy is advertised on the website and parish noticeboards. Closing date for applications is Tuesday 27th April.</p> <p>Representation to be made at the next parish council meeting on 29th April.</p>
021/21	SPC Parish Meeting and Annual Meeting
	<p>The proposed date of 20th May 2021 for the parish meeting was confirmed. The parish meeting will be held at 6.30pm, followed by a separate annual meeting of the council. Location to be confirmed dependent upon Covid 19 restrictions</p> <p>The format and ideas for the parish meeting to be discussed at the April meeting.</p>

Meeting ended at 8pm.

Draft Minutes issued on 19th February 2021

A signed copy is held on file

Chair Signature