

STRETTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of Meeting on 14th January 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 |
|---------------|--|
| 001/21 | To receive apologies |
| | There were no apologies. |
| 002/21 | To receive Declarations of Pecuniary Interests on items in the agenda |
| | There were no pecuniary interests declared. |
| 003/21 | Comments/questions received from the public |
| | <p>4 members of the public present at the meeting read out their concerns and questions relating to the disqualification of Brian Lester as a Parish Councillor.</p> <p>A member of the public relayed a request from Brian Lester to accept his resignation and move on.</p> <p>Emails from a further 2 members of the public were received prior to the meeting, raising concern and posing questions relating to the disqualification of Brian Lester.</p> <p>A summary of questions raised by residents at the meeting and those received prior to the meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Why was Brian disqualified in the middle of a global pandemic?• Why was this not discussed in a public meeting?• Is it usual to disqualify a councillor due to illness?• Does SPC consider this action to be kind?• Would like to know why any disqualifying process was thought to be necessary and appropriate?• Please explain why SPC took no steps to mitigate the effects of s85 LGA 1972 by granting either a waiver or suspension of its provisions.• Please explain why Cllr Lester's absences were not recorded properly which would easily have removed the risk posed by s85.• Were you and the Parish Council aware of the provisions of s85 Local Government Act 1972?• Were you and the Parish Councillors aware of the risk to Mr Lester's position when you met on 30th July 2020? <p>All comments and questions were noted and will be reviewed with written replies to be forwarded to each in due course.</p> |

| | |
|---------------|--|
| | <p>Copies of correspondence received by SPC from residents can be viewed on the website. https://strettonvillageparishcouncil.co.uk/other/correspondence</p> <p>Concerns were received from a resident regarding any new lighting that will be installed over at the Ram Jam when it is made into a drive through. Will these lights be sympathetic to the rural environment? Chair agreed to investigate and report back at next meeting.</p> |
| 004/1 | To approve and sign the minutes from previous meetings |
| | <p>PCM – 29th October 2020 Corrections to ref 149.1 - Amend costs agreed for use of Greetham PC printer to 3p per single sheet, 4p per double sided sheet. <i>Action: Clerk to amend Minutes dated 29th October and resubmit for approval at next meeting.</i></p> <p>EO Meeting – 19th November 2020 – Proposed by RF, Seconded by MA EO Meeting – 10th December 2020 – Proposed by GH, Seconded by JC</p> <p>The Minutes for the above two EO meetings were signed as a true record – no corrections.</p> |
| 005/21 | Councillor Attendance |
| | <p>The Chair outlined that by law all councillors are summoned to attend parish council meetings. The disqualification rules apply for non-attendance throughout a period of six consecutive months from the date of last attendance. Councillors were reminded they agree and sign up to this requirement when they sign their acceptance of office forms.</p> <p>S85(1) of the Local Government Act 1972, provides that; <i>“if a member of a local authority fails throughout a period of six consecutive months from the date of his last attendance to attend any meeting of the authority, he shall, unless the failure was due to some reason approved by the authority before the expiry of that period, cease to be a member of that authority.</i></p> |
| 006/21 | Matters arising from previous minutes |
| 006.1 | <p>Replacement of Salt Bins The grit bin in Stretton village has been repaired. There is a need to replace the damaged bin at the crossroads of Stocken Hall Road and Clipsham Road. Cllr. G. Harker has researched the cost of buying a new 200 litre salt bin from a supplier and said he would be happy to order this. Kevin Hawkes indicated that he would be prepared to transfer the salt to a new bin.</p> <p>Approval of order to be placed to purchase a new salt bin at a cost of approximately £150. Proposed by RF, seconded by JC, and unanimous agreement.</p> <p><i>Action: GH to order new bin and send invoice to Clerk for re-imburement – Invoice to be approved at next meeting under Finance.</i></p> |

| | |
|---------------|---|
| 006.2 | <p>Mandate with Barclays Bank and apply for online banking</p> <p>The Chair reported that contact has been made with Barclays and the details are being sent by email within 24 hours to apply for online banking.</p> |
| 006.3 | <p>ITCP-2019-07 works at Stretton</p> <p>The recommendations contained in the latest version of the ITCP report were agreed by SPC on 4th March 20. RCC has now said that the road signs at both ends of the village and on the Stocken road would be completed by the end of February. The works for the trial installation of the speed indication detectors (SID) are delayed due to the contact being on maternity leave.</p> <p>An email update from Highways England has been received regarding the installation of 'quiet tarmac' on the stretch of the A1 by Stretton. Highways England have said that it is now unlikely that the road will be re-surfaced in the financial year 21/22, but if not in this programme it will be early in the 22/23 programme.</p> |
| 007/21 | Financial matters |
| 007.1 | <p>Finance Report and Bank Reconciliation to 31st December 2020</p> <p>The payments and receipts were noted and approved.</p> <p>Proposed by JC, Seconded by MA, unanimous agreement</p> |
| 007.2 | <p>To approve payments as follows:</p> <p>Expenditure:</p> <p>RCC - Clerk Salary Quarter 2 plus yearly admin charge - £1324.41 – <i>(already paid – cheque 100470)</i></p> <p>Proposed by RF, Seconded by MA, unanimous agreement</p> <p>Invoice from GPC for copies run off Greetham Printer - £7.14</p> <p>Proposed by JC, Seconded by GH, unanimous agreement</p> <p>RCC - Clerk Salary Quarter 3 - £643.18</p> <p>Proposed by JC, Seconded by GH, unanimous agreement</p> <p>RCC – Community Street Lighting - £394.52</p> <p>Proposed by GH, Seconded by MA, unanimous agreement</p> |
| 007.3 | <p>Income:</p> <p>HMRC VAT Rebate - £138.06</p> <p>Noted</p> |
| 007.4 | <p>2021/2022 Precept</p> <p>Budget proposal for discussion and approval – <i>circulated in advance of the meeting</i></p> <p>The Chair went through the proposed budget for 2021/22 line by line.</p> <p>Membership/Subscriptions - £230</p> <p>Equip/Repairs/Maintenance - £150</p> <p>Clerk's Salary + RCC - £2600</p> <p>Clerk Expenses – £100</p> |

| | |
|--|---|
| | <p>Defib. Maintenance and replacement - £250 <i>Action: GH to email contact to get clarity on the £100 to go into a fund towards the next defibrillator.</i></p> <p>E Telephone - £60 Street Lighting - £400 Training - £100 Insurance - £400 Donations - £100</p> <p>Proposed by PF, Seconded by MA, unanimously agreed.</p> <p>The following items of expenditure were revised after discussion:</p> <p>Audit Procedure – increase from £170 to £200 Proposed by RF, Seconded by MA, unanimously agreed</p> <p>Clerk's Overtime – increase from £120 to £200 Proposed by PF, Seconded by RF, unanimously agreed</p> <p>Grit Bins – reduce from £300 to £200 based on purchasing our own. Proposed by PF, Seconded by JC, unanimously agreed</p> <p>Stationery and postage to include printing costs – combine figures to total £90 Proposed by PF, Seconded by RF, unanimously agreed</p> <p>New Items of expenditure:</p> <p>Use of Community/Hub Centre at the Church to hold future parish council meetings - £200 Proposed by PH, Seconded by MA, unanimously agreed</p> <p>Cllr. G. Harker reported that building works are starting at the Church on Monday and the hub should be up and running by May. It is hoped that the parish meeting and subsequent meetings can be held there if the COVID rules allow.</p> <p>The total figure re-calculated for the 2021/22 budget amounts to £5280.</p> <p>After discussion, it was proposed that SPC put in a precept request for £5280. It is anticipated that there will be a general reserve available at 31st March 2020 of approximately 12 months income.</p> <p>The rationale for the increase in precept is due to the rental costs for the parish council meetings at the new village community centre and inflationary rises on other items of expenditure.</p> <p>Proposed by MA to set budget at £5280, Seconded by JD, unanimous agreement.</p> <p><i>Actions: Clerk to complete precept request and send to RCC Clerk to update Budget Spreadsheet and circulate to all.</i></p> |
|--|---|

| | |
|---------------|--|
| 008/21 | Planning – to receive the following Decisions: |
| 008.1 | <p>Decision Notice – Planning Application 2020/1172/LBA Proposal: Internal operations to separate the residential and the educational uses of the building including minor external alterations to remove externally fixed roller shutters and the formation of double doors to replace an existing window. The Shires School, Shire Lane, Stretton. RCC grant listed building consent</p> |
| 008.2 | <p>Decision – Planning Application 2020/0142/FUL Proposal: Demolition of the existing Ram Jam Inn and redevelopment of the site to provide two drive-thru units with associated parking and landscaping. Ram Jam Inn, Great North Road, Greetham Approved with the access to forecourt.</p> |
| 009/21 | Any other business |
| | <p>The Chair reported that Cllr. Brian Lester has submitted a resignation letter and proposed a vote to accept Brian's resignation. All agreed to accept Brian Lester's resignation and there was a vote of thanks expressed for his valued contribution on the Council.</p> <p>The Chair asked Cllr. Nick Begy to review the complaints received from members of the public following notification of disqualification of Cllr. Lester's position to ensure that SPC have followed the correct procedures. Nick Begy confirmed that he would be happy to provide an objective view and review with LRALC and the RCC monitoring officer. Nick's investigations will look to respond to the questions raised. Answers to the questions raised will also be fed back at the next full Parish Council Meeting on 29th April 2021.</p> <p><i>Actions: Clerk to write to all members of the public who have raised comments.</i></p> |
| 010/21 | Parish Council Forum |
| | <p>Next Meeting 18th January 2021 at 7pm. The agenda has been circulated to all members. Cllr. J Cooch said he would be happy to represent SPC at the January meeting.</p> |
| 011/21 | Schedule of Meetings |
| | <p>Next Meeting 29th April 2021 at 7pm.</p> <p>Schedule of dates ahead agreed: 20th May 2021 – Annual Meeting and Parish Meeting 22nd July 2021 21st October 2021 20th January 2022</p> <p>The Annual Meeting and Parish Meeting for the public will be held in May on the same evening – date to be agreed.</p> |

Meeting ended at 8.10pm.

Draft Minutes issued on 18th January 2021

A signed copy is held on file

Chair Signature