

**DRAFT**  
**STRETTON PARISH COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD REMOTELY BY ZOOM**  
**ON WEDNESDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2021 AT 6.30pm**

**Present:** Cllrs. Paul Finlay (Chair), Greg Harker, Richard Foster, Michal Arnold, John Couch  
Cllr. Nick Begy (Ward Member), Jayne Isaac (Clerk) and 4 members of the public.

1. **Chairman's welcome.** Paul Finlay welcomed everyone and opened the meeting.

2. **Apologies.** There were no apologies for absence.

3. **Minutes for approval from the previous annual parish meeting.**

The last annual parish meeting was held on 25<sup>th</sup> April 2019. There was no meeting held in 2020 due to the COVID 19 lockdown.

After discussion the minutes from the meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> April 2019 were approved.

Proposed: Richard Foster, Seconded Greg Harker.

4. **Chairman's Report for 2020/21** – Paul Finlay read the report below:

It goes without saying, the last year has been extraordinary and to use a well versed phrase this year, unprecedented! I took the position of Chairman of Stretton Parish Council as we went into the first lockdown and off the back of our previous chair and clerk stepping down from their positions. To Brian Lester as Chairman and Sarah Gresty as clerk, I thank you for your support during the previous year 19/20. The clerk's role was subsequently filled by Jayne Issac who has been a huge support to myself, the councillors and Stretton Parish. Jayne, we wouldn't be where we are without your calm and measured approach. Thank you. Jayne also works as clerk to Greetham Parish Council which is helping to bring both parishes together well for joint approaches on planning issues etc.

I also offer thanks to Nick Begy as our Ward Councillor. Nick, your support on all matters is invaluable, particularly with a couple of testing issues this year. Mix in a pandemic, a new team, remote working and of course the day job, nothing seems to be too much trouble. Thank you.

Thanks are due to the team of Parish Councillors. Richard Foster and Greg Harker continue their tenure and remain a constant sense of calm and reason, bringing experience of village politics with Michael Arnold in support. My thanks also to our new councillor, John Cooch, who with local authority background has brought in a new dimension to the team. John and Michael join us in representing the 'Stocken' side of the parish bringing a new balance to Stretton Parish Council.

Finally, thank you to Penny Issacs and Andrew Hayns for their hosting of the Stretton Parish Council website and for helping with training to enable Jayne to manage publications on the parish pages.

I think it's fair to say this year has been trying at times as we all get used to a new world. I'm keen Stretton Parish Council moves forward and helps to pin together the community we have by lobbying Rutland County Council on planning, highways and other pertinent issues raised by our public. The development of the community centre within the church is an exciting

development whilst we are also keen to forge stronger links with The Shires and HMP Stocken as both key employers and community within the parish. Keeley from HMP Stocken joins us tonight.

In closing, the pandemic has shown community is paramount to survival and with foresight, we can continue to move forward with the excellent work already done in the last twelve months, engage with more sections of our community and encourage those who have a voice but have been quiet so far to step up and take part.

## **5. Presentations**

### **Presentation from Keeley Moore, Community Engagement Lead at Stocken Prison**

#### Background on Prison

- Category C training prison
- Employ 450 staff
- 1040 prisoners
- Rehabilitative culture adopted to equip prisoners with the skills needed to function in society.

#### New Build Extension Plans

- The project will start at the beginning of next year
- It is anticipated it will take 18 months – 2 years to complete
- The new Wing will create 217 further places and 50 new jobs

#### Covid Outbreak

- The prison were successful in getting the outbreak under control in 4 weeks
- There are measures in place to contain the virus and protect the vulnerable
- Staff testing in place

#### Help by Stocken Prison in Community Work

- During the pandemic the prison ran the Rutland Food Bank
- A mass walk raised £2000 for a local care home
- Bicycles were donated to help the homeless in Leicester
- These are just a few examples of the wider community work carried out.
- There is a regular Community Newsletter – *Keeley will add SPC to the mailing list.*

The new building will create 50 new jobs and a further 217 prisoner places and will modernise the approach. It will increase the total population to around 1800.

The sewage system was questioned. There will be measures in place to combat this. The new build will look to design a better macerator to deal with disposal.

Cllr. Nick Begy suggested publicising the community work carried out. Keeley agreed to send some positive stories to Nick.

The issue of speeding and litter on the road to Stocken Prison was raised as a concern. It was agreed that Keeley would raise on staff platforms to take forward and communicate the message to staff.

It was questioned whether prisoners could cut the grass around the churchyard as community work. Unfortunately, this is no longer allowed as it is governed by higher levels since the recategorization of the Prison Service. It is out the hands of Stocken Prison.

The Chair thanked Keeley for her most interesting and informative presentation.

### **Presentation on the Church Community Hub by Greg Harker**

The refurbishment of the Church is currently in progress to provide a Church Community Hub which creates many opportunities for both the village community and parishioners of the Church.

Why is it being done?

- Last refurbished in 1881
- Church considered at risk of closure
- Attempt to transform 2010 – 2016, although much excellent work was done including plans approval
- Committee formed in 2019 and fundraising through grants started

What is being done?

- Roof repairs
- Internal refurbishment
- Redecorating throughout
- New heating installed
- Toilet installed
- Electricity modernised
- 2<sup>nd</sup> emergency exit created

How is it to be done?

- Through generous donations from the Leefe family, Jill Lessey, many residents and local businesses
- Major grants from grant giving bodies

Benefits

For the Church:

- The repairs have made building watertight and reduced the risk of closure
- Toilet facilities
- Heating system installed
- Pews replaced with high quality seating
- Servery for refreshments installed
- Complies with modern legislation – wheelchair access
- More comfortable environment for the congregation

For the Village:

- Improve wellbeing for all residents through inclusive community activity
- Venue for formal meetings, community and private events
- Opportunities for clubs, parent-child, fundraising 'village hall' type events

How can you help?

- Sustainability of the joint church and community centre will be key. Cost in region of £8,000 per year
- Join the Friends of St Nicholas, a non-religious organisation which will support the church fabric and community centre.
- Consider becoming a steward/patron through regular payments either to the PCC or The Friends
- Sign up for Easy Fundraising
- More details are at [www.stnicholasproject.co.uk](http://www.stnicholasproject.co.uk)

It is hoped that completion of the Church Community Hub will be end of June.

The Community Hub will need to raise approximately £8000 per year to make it sustainable.

## 6. Public Forum

Penny Isaacs read out the current situation with websites relating to Stretton:

In the village, we currently have the following websites:-

[www.strettonvillage.co.uk](http://www.strettonvillage.co.uk) – used for anything to do with the village

[www.strettonvillageparishcouncil.co.uk](http://www.strettonvillageparishcouncil.co.uk) – used for Stretton Parish Council business

[www.stnicholasproject.co.uk](http://www.stnicholasproject.co.uk) – used for the project to make St Nicholas church into a combined church and community centre

All three websites are hosted by, maintained by and the domains (web addresses) paid for by Andrew Hayns. Penny Isaacs does the majority of updating on all 3 sites. Jayne Isaac, the parish clerk, has now had 2 training sessions on the Parish Council website and updates the site on a day-to-day basis, calling on Penny whenever she needs assistance.

The St Nicholas Project website is due to be replaced, when the Community Centre is up and running, with a new website which will enable anybody to see what facilities are available etc. In our meeting it was decided that the new site would cover both the community centre and church aspects for St Nicholas. We then discussed the possibility of having one village website which covered all aspects of the village of Stretton. Penny said a new domain would be required and mentioned that there is another village called Stretton which also has a St Nicholas Church, so 'Rutland' should be incorporated into the new address. Richard Foster suggested [www.strettonrutland.co.uk](http://www.strettonrutland.co.uk).

I have checked and this is currently available (or if not still available, stretton-in-rutland probably is). The cost of this is quoted at £28.78 for 2 years.

Andrew Hayns (of Strettonservices) is prepared to host this new website without charge, as we have done for several years with the existing websites, but we think that the cost of the new website domain should be funded by the village. The village can buy this in their own right, or Strettonservices can buy it for the village and charge it back at cost. (normally Strettonservices would charge £25.00 per annum for this service) This would mean that the web address would automatically be renewed at whatever it costs in 2 yrs time and Strettonservices would charge the village, again at cost.

Strettonservices are happy to set up and maintain the new website, covering all aspects of the village and gradually phase out the current 3 websites, transferring anything required from the old sites to the new.

An example of another village, one of Strettonservices clients, who operates in this way is <https://www.theclaydons.org/> where both the front page content and the menu directs you to the different aspects of the village. We would envisage something similar for Stretton.

A link to Facebook can be included, or Facebook can run within the website.

If you would like to proceed along these lines, it would be a good idea to buy the website address as soon as possible, and decide who is responsible and how this is to be administered. Penny and Andrew are happy to give our time, as we have done over the past few years, to assist in this matter, including building the site based on consultation with all parties. This would include training on the use of the website for who-ever needs it, again without charge.

This is an ideal opportunity for Stretton to have an all-encompassing website, covering :-

- what is happening in the village
- Stretton Parish Council
- Church Business
  - Services etc
  - Parochial Parish Council
- Community Centre
- Church History
- Local History

And whatever else is required.

Note on existing domains re renewal dates.

strettonvillage.co.uk – expires 28 May 2021

strettonvillageparishcouncil.co.uk – expires 11 August 2021

stnicholasproject.co.uk – expires 16 Jan 2022

***Penny's proposal was agreed in principle – all voted in favour. Agreed to go on the Agenda for the next SPC meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2021.***

Other items raised by members of the public:

The footpath from Greetham to Stretton was raised. Nick Begy reported that this had been put on Highways schedule of works.

*Nick to ask Highways for an update and report back at the next SPC Meeting in July.*

A member of the public questioned why there had not been more concern raised regarding the motorcross development, whereas the Windfarm project had resulted in an action group. Nick Begy reported that the motorcross application will be refused due to the lack of information received.

It was noted that HGV movements are being recorded in Clipsham and the same was suggested for HGV movements in Rookery Lane, Stretton.

Disappointment was raised regarding the lack of Stretton residents making objections on the RCC planning portal against the 2 planning applications for warehousing and 30 new houses at the old Quarry site in Greetham. There is a committee set up in Greetham called SWAG (Stop Warehousing Action Group). This is a separate committee set up feeding into Greetham Parish Council to fight the proposed development. It was questioned as to how Stretton can best get involved. It was agreed that this be a regular agenda item at Stretton PC meetings.

The meeting closed at 7.50pm