

DRAFT

STRETTON PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of Stretton Parish Council Meeting held on
Thursday 31st March 2022 commencing at 7pm at Stretton Church
Community Hub**

Members Present: Cllr. Michael Arnold (MA) (Acting Chair), Cllr. Richard Foster (RF), Cllr. Greg Harker (GH), Cllr. John Cooch (JC), Cllr. Shani Storrie (SS), Cllr Nick Begy (NB) (Ward member), Penny Isaacs (PI) (Acting Clerk),

7 members of the public attended

Ref	Item
016/22	Chairman's Welcome and to receive apologies
	Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr. Paul Finlay and Jayne Isaac the Clerk
017/22	To receive Declarations of Pecuniary Interests on items in the agenda
	Cllr. S. Storrie declared an interest as member on the Jubilee Committee in the funding matters for the Platinum Jubilee – Ref: 021.7
018/22	Comments received from members of the public
	<p>A member of the public made several points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• They asked if SPC were going to follow up the 20 mph limit in the village. <i>It was agreed that this should be an agenda item at the next meeting. It was discussed but not implemented some years ago.</i>• A request for the footpath onto Church Farm at the top of Church Lane to be re-instated as it had had been barb-wired off.• A request that the pavement footpath from Stretton to George Henry wood be made wider. It was noted that a request had already been made with RCC following the previous PCM.• A request to consider extending the pavement to George Henry Wood so that it reached the footpath across Church Farm• £2000.00 has been set aside in the Precept for 2 SIDS. His view was that they would cost more and requested an assurance that further research would be done. <i>An explanation from the Chair and committee members that the ring-fenced money was added as a contingency. The request for SIDs from RCC dates back to 2019. RCC wanted to implement other measures first and this has been done, but recent correspondence has warned that it would be at least two further years before Stretton would be considered. The PC felt this was unacceptable and had asked the Ward Member to use his influence.</i>

	<p><i>NB has asked Andy Tatt, Head of Highways, to come and meet with the PC and walk the ground. The outcome from ITCP 2019-07, SIDs and path widening would all be on the agenda.</i></p> <p>Members of the PC agreed with the floor, that the measures implemented were not sufficient and despite the improved signage, there were daily stories of speeding vehicles including articulated lorries passing within cms of pedestrians</p> <p>Another member of the public said:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • She felt that RCC and not SPC should pay for SIDs if the case was strong enough as, in her opinion, they did not stop speeding. • Also, for privately purchased SID there would be installation, running and maintenance costs and that Highways Engineering would need to agree the location. <p>The committee acknowledged that they were already aware and would need to take these factors into account. The priority was to engage with RCC and determine what was possible through RCC. Hence the meeting with Highways was the next logical step.</p> <p>The same member of the public also raised the point that the Prison paid for the SID at Stretton Woods and since a large proportion of those found speeding during the Community Speedwatch exercise, offenders work for the prison, perhaps the prison should pay for further SID.</p> <p>During this discussion, two further suggestions were made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A chicane (similar to Greetham) could be considered. • Speed bumps were also suggested, although spillage from quarry lorries plus additional noise were seen as negative points. <p>During discussions NB covered all the information he was due to report on in item Ref: 025/22 - Traffic Calming</p>
019/22	To approve and sign the minutes from previous meetings
	<p>Parish Council Meeting held on 13th January 2022 Proposed JC, Seconded SS</p> <p>Extraordinary Meeting held on 24th February 2022 Proposed MA, Seconded SS</p> <p>The minutes of the above meetings were unanimously approved and signed as a true record.</p>
020/22	Matters arising from previous minutes
020.1	<p>Request for removal of sycamore tree in Manor Road</p> <p>SPC Chairman had sent a letter of complaint to Mr Mark Andrews, CEO of RCC regarding the decision not to remove a sycamore tree adjacent to 1 Walnut Close (complaint 24/22).</p> <p>A letter has been received from Mr Martin Jones in reply to the complaint and this was discussed by SPC. The strong feeling was that all the points mentioned</p>

	<p>in the letter pre-dated the letter from SPC Chair so it was unclear whether any further investigation had been done.</p> <p><i>This needs to be confirmed with Mr Visser (1 Walnut) - Action SPC Chair.</i></p> <p>Also, the letter did not address the specific complaints of not taking the well being of parishioners into account. Neither did Mr Jones explain why the consultant had not been asked specifically to look at this tree and its impact, but instead was asked to report on the general condition of all the trees in that area. Indeed the report photograph was of whitebeam trees nearby and not of the sycamore in question. It was extremely disappointing that Mr Jones did not address any issues but merely restated the party line.</p> <p>Proposed by MA, Seconded by SS to raise the complaint to Level 2. There was unanimous agreement.</p> <p><i>Actions: NB to raise the issue at an appropriate level in RCC to get a more objective assessment of the issues raised in the complaint. Clerk to raise the complaint formally to Level 2. GH to provide the clerk with any input needed.</i></p>
020.2	<p>Stretton Community Emergency Response Plan (ERP)</p> <p>It was known that a potential volunteer had come forward to take up the ERP role. However, the volunteer had not made contact. <i>Action: SS to approach the volunteer again.</i></p>
020.3	<p>Replacement of Village Sign T</p> <p>This was due for update from the chair but in his absence, Sue Armstrong-Brookes (SA-B, Chair of the Jubilee committee) was invited to speak. She was in contact with HMP Stocken and believed it was possible that they could make the sign. The timeframe would be too short for the June Jubilee celebrations but she undertook to come up with some potential designs by the time of the Parish Meeting (12th May). If this were possible, villagers could then vote on their preference ahead of manufacture and installation later in the year.</p> <p><i>SA-B agreed to report back to SPC with information on designs and timings.</i></p>
021/22	Financial Matters
021.1	<p>Asset Register</p> <p>The updated asset register was discussed. The register was agreed as presented, although it was noted that the laptop value had reduced from £543 to zero. The laptop had been replaced with a hire agreement with Greetham PC as recorded in previous minutes. ACR Computers (Stamford) are of the opinion that the hard drive is damaged, therefore advise that this should be scrapped.</p> <p>It was proposed that the old laptop should be scrapped</p> <p>Proposed by RF, seconded by GH and voted unanimously, it was resolved that the laptop would be scrapped.</p> <p>The current value of SPC assets amounts to £4,963.18. Proposed GH, Seconded RF, voted unanimously.</p>
021.2	<p>Annual Review of Clerk's salary</p> <p>The NALC pay award and payscales for 2020-21 have now been agreed and published. 1.75% increase. In the absence of the Chair, his note was read out that he has carried out an annual review with the Clerk and proposes:</p>

	<p>An increase from grade SCP14 to SCP15 as there has been no salary increase since starting the role in July 2020.</p> <p>The hourly pay increased to £12.45 per hour and will be backdated to 1st April 2021. Annual salary of £2,589.60 pa from £2,427.36 pa</p> <p>Proposed by RF, Seconded by GH All agreed</p> <p><i>Action: Clerk to notify RCC payroll of the increase and backpay due.</i></p>
021.3	<p>Internal Audit and AGAR for year ending 31st March</p> <p>A meeting with the internal auditor is arranged for 11th April. In the absence of the Clerk it was not possible to progress this further. Therefore, the completed AGAR with Internal Auditor Report to be approved at the next meeting on 12th May.</p>
021.4	<p>To Approve the Finance Report and Bank Reconciliation</p> <p>The Finance Report and Bank Reconciliation to 28th February 2022 (<i>circulated in advance of the meeting</i>) was considered.</p> <p>Proposed by RF, Seconded by GH - approved</p>
021.5	<p>VAT Return</p> <p>It was noted that the VAT Return had been submitted on 28 Feb 2022 Income pending of £113.64</p>
021.6	<p>To approve payments as follows – (<i>already paid</i>)</p> <p>LRALC – Internal Audit Service 2021/22 - £180.00 (<i>cheque no 100493</i>) RCC – Street Lighting 2021/22 - £376.66 (<i>cheque no 100494</i>) Greetham Parish Council – printing costs - £5.58 (<i>cheque no 100495</i>) Stretton Church – Venue for meeting 24th Feb - £40.00 (<i>cheque no 100496</i>)</p> <p>The above payments were proposed by MA, seconded by JC. All approved</p> <p>To approve invoices for payment: RCC – Clerk Salary Qtr 4 - £707.04 (includes the 1.75% increase) Stretton Church – Venue for meeting 31st March - £40.00 Penny Isaacs – Walnut tree purchased from Barcham Trees for Queens Jubilee - £57.00 (<i>payable out of 2022/23 budget</i>) Mrs Ottridge – Silverbirch tree purchased from Gates for Queens Jubilee - £55.98 (<i>payable out of 2022/23 budget</i>)</p> <p>The above payments were proposed by RF seconded by GH. All approved</p>
021.7	<p>Queen’s Jubilee Celebrations</p> <p>To approve orders to be placed for the Queens Platinum Jubilee Celebrations (<i>payable out of the 2022/23 budget</i>)</p> <p>S-AB said that costs so far identified were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Liability Insurance - £241.76 • Portaloo – Booking of 2 loos for the weekend of June 2nd to 5th – to include delivery and collection to Stretton - £204.00 (incl. VAT)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Band for 2nd and 4th June - £450.00 (looking for £225.00 from the QPJ fund. The rest of the costs covered by contributions to enter the event. • Trees: Walnut and Silverbirch: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Walnut tree already purchased by Penny Isaacs - £57.00 ○ Silverbirch tree already purchased by Val Ottridge - £55.98 • Prizes, pens and badges for QPJ - £50.00 estimate • Queen's Platinum Jubilee Flag - £25.98 • Time capsule - £35.99 <p>Total Expenditure - £895.71</p> <p>S-AB has received a commitment of a £500 donation from Hambleton Bakery for the Jubilee Celebrations which can be deducted from the above amount leaving a total of £395.71 against the provision of £1,000</p> <p>S-AB expected there to be some further expenses for competitions prizes etc.</p> <p>The above expenses will be made out of the provision set aside in the 2022-23 budget.</p>
022/22	Queen's Jubilee Celebrations
	<p>Susan Armstrong-Brookes (SA-B), the Chair of the QPJ Committee gave a brief update on what is being organised for the Jubilee Celebrations. £1,000 had been set aside by SPC at a previous meeting.</p> <p>The Jubilee Committee comprised: Susan Armstrong Brookes (Chair), Shani Storrie, Val Ottridge, John Stokes, Lizzie Foster, Penny Isaacs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Jubilee committee had met and agreed that there would be two main events: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A family barbeque in Peters Field (Stocken Hall Road) on Thursday 2nd June with entertainment and culminating in beacon lighting at 9.30. ○ A street party at the top of Church Lane on Sunday 5th June. There was planned to be a church service that morning so it would not start until 1300 hrs. • Hambleton Bakery have been approached and will contribute £500 which cover the cost of the music and will not have to take it from the £1000 allocated from SPC. • The Prison has been approached and discussions are under way for their workshop to contribute by possibly supplying: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Jubilee Bench ○ Slate plaques for the trees and time capsule • For the Queens Platinum Jubilee Green Canopy, we have acquired and planted a Walnut at Stocken and have acquired a Silver Birch – exact planting location to be confirmed. • Rutland Logs had agreed to provide wood for the bonfire plus a call for other burnable material will be made

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • S-AB was looking for Fire Marshalls for the beacon <p>A vote of thanks was proposed and unanimously agreed to S-AB and her committee for the excellent progress having been made.</p>
023/22	Planning
023.1	<p>To consider the following Planning Applications:</p> <p>Planning Application 2022/0269/CAT Proposal: (T1) 1 no. Hawthorn – Fell (T2) 1 no. Hawthorn – Fell. (T3) 1 no. Hawthorn – Fell. (T4) 1 no. Hawthorn – Fell (T5) 1 no. Hawthorn – Fell (T6) no. Hawthorn – Fell (T7) 1 no. Holly – Fell 7 Spinney Lane, Stretton LE15 7RB</p> <p>There was unanimous agreement to support this application – no objections.</p> <p>Planning Application 2022/0032/PTA Proposal: 1 no. Wellingtonia – Reduce by 20 metres 4 Spinney Lane, Stretton LE15 7RB</p> <p>There was unanimous agreement to support this application – no objections.</p> <p><i>Action: Clerk to enter responses to the above planning applications on the RCC Planning Portal.</i></p>
023.2	<p>The following Decision Notice was noted:</p> <p>Planning Application 2022/0162/CAT (T1) 1 no. Sycamore – Remove secondary stem at base to aid future development of tree and remove inclusion 10 Walnut Close, Stretton LE15 7QQ</p> <p>RCC has decided not to exercise its powers to make a provision Tree Preservation Order in this instance.</p>
024/22	HMP Stocken Prison Expansion Plans
	<p>Cllr. S. Storrie gave an update on the last meeting held on 19th January. Attending: Michael Arnold, John Cooch, Shani Storrie and Simon Wallace – who was in charge of construction but has moved on now but they were not given the name of his replacement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction still on target to start in June, 2022 with the contract going to Waits Construction. The project is currently still in the survey and design process. Expected end date for construction is December 2023, with the first prisoners arriving January 2024. • Sewage – There is no official update, discussions are still ongoing with Anglian water. It is hoped that plans will be finalised next month. They are looking at replacement pumps for the existing system but need to have the system clear before this can happen. Currently two tankers a day attend the prison to take away waste. They are also looking at a screening tool to take out the solid waste that will be disposed of separately. They are also looking at timings of waste being pumped into the system out of hours so as not to impact on the village. • The solar farm issue was raised but Mr Simon Wallace not involved with this project. • A letter to residents has been drafted and is awaiting approval before being sent to SPC residents regarding the prison construction development. No letter has yet been received by residents.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr Simon Wallace will ask about writing a short article for the next SPC newsletter and hopes to have it to send to SPC Clerk by the end of the first week in February 2022. Mr Simon Wallace will be handing over his work to a new post holder, yet to be confirmed, as he has a new position within the prison. He hopes to have a name for us to work with by mid-February 2022. No new name has yet been given. <p>Concern was expressed that neither Anglian Water nor the prison seem to allocating enough priority to the potential sewage problem although it was a precondition of building go ahead. The Ward member was asked to raise awareness of SPC concerns with RCC to ensure that the issue was not forgotten.</p> <p><i>Action: NB to raise at appropriate level in RCC</i></p> <p>RF said that the report was disappointing and felt these issues should also be raised with the prison governor. It was felt that SPC Chair would wish to take this up with the governor on his next visit.</p>
025/22	Traffic Calming
	<p>Cllr. N. Begy was to give an update on:-</p> <p>Pavement widening on Clipsham Road Comments on SIDS from RCC Introduction of SIDS</p> <p>However, this had already been covered during discussions in the comments from the public section. See Ref: 018/22.</p> <p>Stretton to Greetham footpath NB reported that a meeting has been arranged with MP Alicia Kearns & Kevin Hawkes. It was decided that a Councillor from SPC should be present and RF agreed to attend.</p>
026/22	Correspondence
	<p>Correspondence received by the Clerk for information has been posted on the website https://strettonvillageparishcouncil.co.uk/other/correspondence</p> <p>Noted:</p> <p>Police Report – November 2021</p> <p>Notes from Rutland Action Climate Group 21st February 2022</p> <p>LRWT: Strategy to tackle ecological and climate change – 4th January 2022</p> <p>Stretton and Stocken Newsletter – February 2022</p> <p>Police Report – February 2022</p> <p>Rutland News – March 2022</p>
027/22	Agenda items for next meeting
	<p>To approve AGAR for 2021/22</p> <p>To approve/review Regulatory Documents</p> <p>Election of Chair for 2022/23</p> <p>Stretton to Greetham Footpath</p> <p>20 mph speed limit in village</p> <p>SIDS</p>
028/22	Next Meeting
	<p>The next PC meeting and Annual Council meeting will be held on Thursday 12th May at 7pm. This meeting will follow on from the Annual Parish Meeting which starts at 6.30pm.</p>

Meeting ended at 20.19

Draft Minutes issued 4th April 2022.