

# STRETTON PARISH COUNCIL

## DRAFT - Minutes of meeting held on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2023 at 7pm at the Stretton Community Hub, Church Lane.

Deborah Rolfe, Clerk to the Council  
email: [strettonparishcouncilclerk@gmail.com](mailto:strettonparishcouncilclerk@gmail.com)  
27<sup>th</sup> January 2023

### 1. Resignation of Chairman Richard Foster from the council

Cllr G Harker made the public aware that Cllr Richard Foster had resigned as chair for the parish and as a parish councillor with immediate effect due to ill health. Cllr Harker thanked Richard for his valuable service to the parish both as member and chairman over many years.

### 2. Election of Chairperson (declaration of acceptance of office)

In the absence of a chair Cllr G Harker proposed himself as chairperson and asked for further nominations. No further nominations were received. It was PROPOSED by Cllr J Cooch, SECONDED by Cllr S Armstrong-Brookes and UNANIMOUS IN FAVOUR to accept Cllr G Harker as Chair for Stretton Parish Council. Cllr G Harker completed and signed the Declaration of Office.

#### Election of Vice Chairperson

Cllr G Harker asked if any members of the council would like to hold the position of Vice Chairperson. Cllr J Cooch put himself forward for the role. It was PROPOSED by Cllr S Storrie and SECONDED by Cllr G Harker and UNANIMOUS IN FAVOUR to accept Cllr J Cooch as Vice Chairperson.

### 3. Chairman's welcome

The chairman welcomed all those present to the meeting.

### 4. Record of members present

PRESENT - Cllrs Greg Harker (Chairperson), John Cooch (Vice Chairperson), Shani Storrie, Sue Armstrong-Brookes and Tamara King.

IN ATTENDANCE- Deborah Rolfe, Parish Clerk for Stretton Council, Councillor Nick Begy and 10 members of the public.

### 5. To receive and approve apologies for absence.

No apologies were received.

### 6. Declarations of pecuniary interests in relation to agenda items and approve requests for dispensations from members on matters in which they have a registered Disclosable Pecuniary Interest. Additions to Registers (section 27 Localism Act 2011) – NONE WERE RECEIVED

### 7. Public Forum.

The parish clerk read out an email received on behalf of a member of public. The member of public wanted the following noted:-

ITEM 10 – Consider whether to retain precept funding for SID

“I consider it would be a complete waste of public money for the Parish Council to fund SID, not only the capital cost but the ongoing maintenance would be considerable. The £2000 should be used to offset some of the 2023/24 Precept after the 73% increase last year “

A member of the public made reference to the minutes dated 6<sup>th</sup> December 2022 as being inaccurate, stating that the minute taker should have been mentioned as such and not as acting clerk. It was agreed that the minutes would be updated with an amendment.

It was noted by a member of the public that documents on the website had been changed. This should not have happened and was due to lack of a clerk to the council.

A new clerk has now been appointed and will supervise all such activity closely.

There was concern raised regarding the invoices relating to the Community Hub. An understanding of how the charges are calculated and what agreements are in place to ensure transparency to the parishioners. Are there any additional charges being made? Cllr S Armstrong-Brookes agreed to provide an update at the next Parish Council Meeting dated 30<sup>th</sup> March 2023.

**8. To approve and sign the Minutes of meeting held on:-**

- Parish Council Meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> September 2022.

It was resolved to accept the Parish council Meeting minutes of 29<sup>th</sup> September 2022 with amendments which are highlighted.

PROPOSED by Cllr S Storrie SECONDED by Cllr G Harker  
UNANIMOUS IN FAVOUR

- Extra Ordinary Meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> December 2022.

It was resolved to accept the Parish Council Meeting minutes of the Extra Ordinary Meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> December 2022 with the amendment that Penny Isaacs be stated as minute taker and not acting clerk.

PROPOSED by Cllr S Storrie SECONDED by Cllr G Harker  
UNANIMOUS IN FAVOUR

- Extra Ordinary Meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> December 2022

It was resolved to accept the Parish Council Meeting minutes of the Extra Ordinary Meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> December 2022

PROPOSED by Cllr G Harker SECONDED by Cllr S Storrie UNANIMOUS IN FAVOUR

**9. To receive Matters arising for information exchange**

- QPJ Tree Planting and Time Capsule – S. Storrie  
Cllr Storrie gave an update. Trees had not yet been planted and it was the intention of the committee to meet on 23/01/2023 to discuss a suitable date but stressed a degree of flexibility due to weather.  
The locations have been identified as the roundabout by the A1 (highways approval given) and Stretton Woods waiting for a decision where to plant the tree. The time capsule location is still to be decided. The capsule will contain Newspaper, Recipes, Local Articles and Photos.  
The prison has donated fencing, compost and loaned a ceremonial spade to assist with the tree planting. The Parish Council would like to thank them for the donation.
- Update on Fire and Rescue Services Event – Michael Houlden/G Harker  
Cllr G Harker gave an update – Due to illness the planned event did not go ahead in November. However, the Parish Council were hopeful that an event would be held in March. A member of the public, at that point, said that Juliet Burgess Ray – Community First Responder for EMAS, has volunteered to train anyone in the parish on the defibrillator.

## 10. Update on Traffic Calming and Highways

- Response received from Cllr. Rosemary Powell RCC at Highways following the visit to Stretton.  
Agreed that Clipsham Road Hedge would be trimmed by Rutland County Council 3 times a year.  
It has been noted that the additional 30mph speed repeater signs have now been installed on the Clipsham Road.
- Response to Rutland County Council report ITCP 2022-01  
Cllr G Harker read out the response from Robyn Green after an exchange of emails concerning the content. She has agreed to revise and re-issue ITCP-2022-01.

The concerns raised regarding safety, the width of the path and the costs associated with widening it continue. The parish requested this be revisited and an accurate assessment of costing be provided.

In the latest correspondence, prior to the precept meeting, she had updated her advice with regard whether the parish should purchase our own SID.

The options were:-

1. RCC can assist with the installation of simple (non-approved) SID, but the funding would have to come from Stretton Parish Council.
2. Stretton Parish Council could part fund the cost but the design would be determined by RCC
3. Await the re-issue of ITCP-2022-01 plus the results of further investigations by Rutland County Council which could prove to Rutland County Council that there is a requirement for one and, as such, any SID would then be funded by RCC.
4. Ring fence the money in the bank account whilst further evidence is gathered but do not increase the precept.

It was unanimously agreed to adopt option 4, making clear that the preferred option is for RCC to install and maintain any SID. However, it is possible that the village could be asked to contribute.

- Update on cycle/footpath Stretton – Greetham
- Ward member N Begy said there was, perhaps an opportunity given that RCC had been granted money under the Government's 'Levelling Up' Agenda. He agreed to look into this further, including adding additional arguments around new developments. This will be placed on the 30<sup>th</sup> of March agenda
- To consider speed limits on A1 slip road.

It was agreed that there was an ongoing issue with speed on the A1 slip road and that this would be raised as a concern with Rutland County Council. This will be placed on the 30<sup>th</sup> March agenda.

- To consider traffic calming measures on Rookery Lane.

It was agreed that there was a need to consider traffic calming measures on Rookery Lane. Cllr T King agreed to communicate with Highways at Rutland

County Council in the first instance to discuss options. This will be placed on the 30<sup>th</sup> March Agenda.

Cllr S Storrie brought up the issues with Stocken Hall Road and the verge being eroded by large lorries and insufficient room for them to pass. Also, that when it rains the area near Peter's Field, the gravel washes over the road and is a danger to motor bike riders.

ACTION – Cllr N Begy agreed to raise the issue with Highways at RCC.

#### 11. Kings Coronation Celebrations

- To consider public celebration of King Charles Coronation

The Parish is very keen to put on an event that resembled the Queens Jubilee. It was agreed that a separate, non-parish council committee (as per the QPJ) was required to organise this and Cllr T King volunteered to head this up. The Parish agreed it will support the event with funding of £1000.

PROPOSED Cllr J Cooch Cllr T King UNANIMOUS IN FAVOUR

#### 12. Parish Council Administration - Storage of SPC Files and responding to Clerk Emails

- The removal of electronic files from the Greetham Parish Council laptop will be carried out by ACR Computers at a cost of £45, covered by Greetham Parish Council.

Cllr G Harker gave an update – Cllr Harker has been able to remove all the data from the old Stretton Parish computer and reset it to factory settings. Although old the computer was still in reasonable condition and the Parish felt it may benefit a charity. It was agreed that Cllr Armstrong-Brookes would see if there were any organisations that would benefit.

- To consider the management and response of emails sent to [strettonparishclerk@gmail.com](mailto:strettonparishclerk@gmail.com)

The clerk requested that all enquiries must be sent to the Parish Clerk email address so that they can be responded to or be passed onto the relevant department where necessary.

- To consider and approve disposal of Stretton Parish Council Lexmark printer
  - o Use for printing newsletters

It was agreed after an update from Helen Campbell that the Printer can be used for printing the village newsletter in the event that HMP Stocken was unable to. The Council agreed to fund the cost of no more than £160 a year

PROPOSED – Cllr S Storrie SECONDED – Cllr J Cooch UNANIMOUS IN FAVOUR

- o Use by Community Hub

Cllr S Armstrong-Brookes agreed that she would look at the use of the printer for the community hub.

#### 13. Financial matters

- To approve the Finance Report and Bank Reconciliation to 31<sup>st</sup> October and update on budget expenditure - *circulated in advance of the meeting*
- To approve payments as follows:

##### Invoices:

- Stretton County Council – Clerk Wages Qtr 2 - **£699.37** *paid in October, cheque no: 100523*

- Rutland County Council - Community Street Lighting Recharge 1e – **£709.10**  
Invoice no 9141653 £90.24 and Invoice 9142431
- Proforma Invoice from SCRHA – **£40.00 + heating credit note.** Hire of Community Hub venue for PC Meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> November. This was not approved as the meeting was cancelled.
- Invoice from SRCHA – **£15 + Heating £42.78.** Hire of Community Hub venue for EO PC Meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> December 2022.
- Proforma Invoice – **£15 + Heating £21.90.** Hire of Community Hub venue for EO PC meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> Dec 2022.
- Proforma Invoice from SCRHA – **£40.00 + heating.** Hire of venue for PC Meeting on 19<sup>TH</sup> January 2023.  
This will be £30.00 + Heating not £40.00 as stated above.
- To consider and approve the overtime hours accrued by the Clerk to 31<sup>st</sup> October.
  - o Note: October salary and overtime to be paid in December through the RCC quarterly pay run. **£642.96**
- To receive and approve expenditure on computer equipment for clerk.
  - o £30.00 purchase of computer and postage. Donation to be made.  
It was agreed that a donation of £20.65 would be made to Cllr S Armstrong-Brookes who would pass to the charity of her company's choice.  
**PROPOSED Cllr S Storrie SECONDED Cllr J Cooch UNANIMOUS IN FAVOUR**
  - o ACR Computers for updating and installing all necessary data required to get the computer operational £265.00.
  - o ACR Computers quote to erase and dispose of old Stretton Parish Council laptop £32.00 incl. VAT. Not approved. Laptop cleaned and donated to charity as per above.  
  
It was PROPOSED by Cllr J Cooch SECONDED by Cllr T King that the above accounts were a true and accurate record.
- **Income to be noted - Noted**
  - o Bank Interest 6<sup>th</sup> June – 4<sup>th</sup> September - £3.72
  - o Bank interest 5<sup>th</sup> September to 31<sup>st</sup> Dec?
  - o Pending Rebate due from GPC – Rental of Laptop - £57.00
- To agree the rebate from Greetham Parish Council in respect of the rental of the laptop due to resignation of the Clerk, as follows:
  - o Annual Payment made by Stretton Parish Council - £171.00
  - o Charge for 1<sup>st</sup> April to 30<sup>th</sup> November (incl. 1 months notice as per contract) - £114.00
  - o Repayment due to Stretton Parish Council - £57.00

#### 14. To receive and approve Precept application for Financial Year 2023

- Review of 2022 expenditure  
  
Cllr G Harker gave an overview of the Precept for 2023/24 and the rationale behind the figures for each department. Overall, the increase in electricity cost and cost of living inflation meant that a rise was necessary. It had been agreed (Item 10) that further money would not be set aside for the SID and would not be included in this year's precept but would be ringfenced in the bank account for the future should the need arise.

- Determine level of expenditure for 2023

The level of expenditure was agreed as £9035. This is a decrease of £91 for the year.

Cllr N Begy agreed to challenge the ownership of the lighting costs. The Parish felt that as the main lights were leading to HMP Stocken, they should indeed be responsible.

**15. Update on Barclays Bank Account** – bank mandate change form in progress to include new Clerk on the account.

- The clerk gave an update on the Barclays Bank Account – Due to the sudden resignation of Cllr R Foster due to ill health it has left the parish with only one signatory for cheques. This has left the parish unable to process any payments until more signatories have been assigned. Barclays Bank are notorious for being very slow when making changes and it was felt that this process will take some time to complete. The clerk has submitted her personal details and is now waiting for access to the account. This will allow the clerk to see the most up to date information. The clerk will not have authority to process payments.

Cllr S Storrie, Cllr T King and Cllr J Cooch agreed to be signatories.

Cllr S Armstrong-Brookes agreed to be auditor for the clerk's accounts

The clerk will update the Financial Risk Assessment once all is completed.

## Planning

### **Settlement Hierarchy Methodology Engagement – consider SPC response**

- Cllr S Storrie agreed to complete.

**16. To consider the following applications:**

- Spinney Bungalow, felling of sycamore tree (no reference provided on letter)  
There were no comments and no objections.

**17. The following decision notices were noted:**

- **Application 2022/1031/CAT**
  - i. Push back line of trees behind property to appropriate pruning points just the far side of the fence line. Land North of Spinney Lane. **RCC has decided not to exercise its powers to make a provision Tree Preservation Order in this instance.**
- **Application 2022/1048/CAT**
  - i. Removal of lowest limb of 1 No. sycamore. Prune back branches by approx. 1.5m into appropriate pruning points for good growth. The Rookery, 10 Spinney Lane, Stretton. **RCC has decided not to exercise its powers to make a provision Tree Preservation Order in this instance.**
- **Application 2022/0842/FUL**
  - i. Single storey side extension, alterations to existing fenestration and new retaining wall Jacobs Barn, Rookery Lane, Stretton Planning Permission Granted by RCC subject to conditions.
- **Application 2022/1221/CAT**
  - i. Fell 3 no. Eucalyptus Trees (T1, T2 and T3) to the rear of the site. Erskine Barn Rookery Lane Stretton Rutland LE15 7RA. Rutland County Council

District Council has decided not to exercise its powers to make a provisional Tree Preservation Order in this instance.

- **Application 2022/1144/FUL.** Replacement windows and doors and 2 new rooflights. Meadow Croft Barn Rookery Lane Stretton Rutland LE15 7RA. Planning Permission Granted by RCC subject to conditions.

#### **18. Correspondence**

Correspondence received by the Clerk for information has been posted on the website.

<https://strettonvillageparishcouncil.co.uk/other/correspondence>.

- 19. Date and time of next meeting.** Proposed date for Annual Parish Meeting and Annual Parish Council Meeting on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> May at 6.00pm. (Must be within 14 days of 4<sup>th</sup> May elections)

**THE NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING DATE IS SET FOR 30<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2023 AT 7.00PM IN STRETTON COMMUNITY HUB.**