

MINUTES OF EXTRA ORDINARY MEETING

of Stretton Parish Council held in Stretton Community Hub, Church Lane, Stretton on
28th June 2023, at 7:00 pm

PUBLIC FORUM:- At the start of each Parish Council meeting there is a public forum at which members of the public may ask questions or make short statements on items relating to the agenda below or to bring matters for future meetings.

2 members of the public made comment regarding agenda item 2023-32. Light Pollution was a serious concern for the residents who lived opposite the Ram Jam Inn Development. The council agreed that it would discuss the concerns in more detail when it came to the agenda item.

A member of the public made comment regarding agenda item 2023-34. Concerns have been raised regarding speeding on the A1 Slip Road/Shires Lane. There have been a number of accidents involving lorries, a near miss when a toddler was near the road and numerous wildlife have been killed by speeding vehicles.

2023-28 Chairmans Welcome
Cllr Greg Harker welcomed all those present to the meeting

2023-29 Record of **Members Present**
Cllr G Harker, S Armstrong-Brookes, S Storrie, T King and C Cassapi

2023-30 To receive **apologies** for Absence
Apologies of absence were received from Cllr J Cooch. It was **RESOLVED** to accept these apologies unanimously.

2023-31 **Disclosure of Pecuniary Interests:** To receive any declarations of interest in accordance with the requirements of the Localism Act 2011, and to consider any requests for dispensations in respect of disclosable pecuniary interests'
Register of Interest Forms from Cllrs G Harker, S Armstrong-Brookes and S Storrie were submitted to the Proper Officer Debbie Rolfe on the 27th June for consideration. The purpose of the Special Dispensation Request for all 3 councillors was to be able to participate and vote on agenda item 2023-23 whereby Stretton Community Hub was going to be mentioned in the discussion. Having reviewed the request by all 3 Councillors it was decided that Section 13, h i,ii and iii of Stretton Parish Council Standing Order Regulations shall apply and Dispensation was granted by the Proper Officer to the Councillors for this meeting only.

2023-32 To discuss and approve comments for submission to Rutland County Council in respect of Planning Applications 2023-0598-ADV and 2023-0475-ADV
Both applications were discussed and it was **RESOLVED** by a majority vote to submit the following comments to Rutland County Council Planning Department.

Comment on Planning Application 2023/0475/ADV - **OBJECT**
Stretton Parish Council objects to the proposal insofar as:

- The three illuminated signs on the eastern elevation visually intrude onto the village of Stretton.
- SPC contends that the 3 signs on the eastern elevation add nothing to assist with attracting customers since both northbound and southbound vehicles will have passed the point at which they would need to exit the A1 in order to reach the facility. At best only one of the three signs is needed.
- The total number of signs on this and the other applications for the Ram Jam together will be significant and create light pollution to Stretton residents.

We ask:

- That careful consideration is given to the brightness of the signs permitted and an overview of the impact of all of the signage applications is taken together on the light pollution affecting Stretton.
- We ask that consideration be given to a condition being placed that all sign lighting must be switched off when the facility is closed.
- In this regard, we understand that the adjacent garage lighting is turned off at 2130 hours daily. Consideration should be given to making this a condition of approval.

SPC also notes with concern the road layout of the location map. In previous planning approvals, we stipulated that local traffic from the B668 must still be able to access the petrol service station. On the

location map, the road markings have been changed which would mean that access to the petrol station would only be possible by entering the garage via the northbound forecourt exit slip. This is a safety risk. This could be a simple error because it is also noted that on planning application 2023/0598/ADV, the road markings are correct. The applicant should be requested to amend their map.

Comment on Planning Application 2023/0598/ADV - **OBJECT**

Stretton Parish Council objects to the proposal because:

- The sign is proposed to be placed on the corner of the Ram Jam plot. However, access from the A1 is only via the garage forecourt some 100 meters prior to the sign. Access to the Ram Jam services will be via the southern garage forecourt entrance. A driver picking up this sign late might be tempted to backtrack via the forecourt northern exit. This is a road safety concern and we, therefore, also question its usefulness.
- The sign is facing across the A1 to the village of Stretton. This, together with signage on other applications for the Ram Jam site will be significant and create light pollution to Stretton residents.

We ask:

- That careful consideration is given to the brightness of the sign permitted and an overview of the impact of all of the signage applications is taken together on the light pollution affecting Stretton.
- We ask that consideration be given to a condition being placed that the sign lighting must be switched off when the facility is closed.
- In this regard, we understand that the adjacent garage lighting is turned off at 2130 hours daily. Consideration should be given to making this a condition of approval.

2023-33

To discuss the potential of holding Councillor and Police Beat Officer Surgeries for Stretton Parish Council and set any budget requirements necessary.

A discussion was held regarding Councillor and Police Beat Officer Surgeries. It was put forward by Cllr S Armstrong-Brookes that a meeting could take place on the 9th September 2023 alongside the Community Hub Coffee Morning. The cost of hiring the hall would be waived by SRCHA and the cost of electric would be split 50/50 between SRCHA and SPC. It was also discussed that Stretton Parish Council should hold their own surgeries so that the popularity and issues raised could be gaged by the councillors.

It was **RESOLVED** by a majority vote that Stretton Parish Council would hold a Councillor Surgery on the 19th August 2023. Cllr N Begy will be invited to attend.

2023-34

To receive update from Highways Focus Group

The Focus Group met with Christine Wise who is newly elected to the Highways Department for RCC on the 22nd June 2023. The main purpose of the visit was to discuss the speeding issues within the village.

It was felt that Christine took on board what SPC had to say but it felt like the Parish was up against the same issues as before with regards to RCC's policies and they were not very moveable.

The Focus Group walked the village highlighting areas of most concern and it was agreed that SPC, Christine and Cllr N Begy would work together to try and get a resolution to some of the issues, however, this would take time. Cllr C Cassapi is collating evidence to support the issues raised and asks that any information be passed to her via email at ccassapi@strettonpc.co.uk

Highways England have made contact regarding safety on Pedestrian, Cycling and Equestrian routes. Stocken Hall Road, Slip Road and Clipsham Road were mentioned. The Focus Group will put together a response to Highways England as there is a budget for safety measures to be put into place, although other villages are included in this.

2023-35

Meeting closed at 20.07 and confirmation of next meeting date confirmed as 12th September 2023

Deborah Rolfe,
Clerk to the Council
4th July 2023