

MINUTES OF MEETING

of Stretton Parish Council held in Stretton Community Hub,
St. Nicholas Church, Church Lane, Stretton on
Thursday 25th July 2024 commencing at 7.07pm

Public Forum: Members of the public may ask questions or make short statements on items relating to the Agenda, below or request topics for future meetings.

There were 5 members of the public present

A member of public requested to make a statement on agenda item 2024-29. The member of public felt it was disappointing that the supporters of the election for 3 vacant councillor positions did not consider the financial implications before signing and supporting it, however appreciated that they may not have been aware of the cost implications beforehand, requesting that in future people give consideration to the process of co-option of prospective councillors before supporting the call for an election. The same member of public also made comment on agenda item 2024-38 in relation to the expenditure of the 2 litter bins. In light of the recent £2100 election costs, it is requested that the purchase of the bins be delayed until 2024/25. This will be discussed further at the agenda item.

A member of the public requested to make comment on 2 topics not related to any agenda item. The chair allowed the comments to be made.

Topic 1 - Woolfox Depot – the member of public wanted to express his concern that with the change of government, RCC could decide to reconsider applications for a Solar Farm, Wind Turbines and the 7500 homes for which the application(s) were withdrawn. It was hoped that Stretton Parish Council would not support any applications of this type.

Topic 2 – Stretton Village – 2 years ago assurances were given that there were no plans to change Stretton from a Parish Council to a Parish Meeting and that the council would exist and carry on as it is. The resident was seeking assurance that this would still be the case. Cllr J Stokes thanked the resident for his comments.

A member of the public requested to make comment on agenda item 2024-38 – A letter was circulated to the parish council prior to the meeting. The location and cost of litter bins had not been brought up before and there was concern that the locations and cost were not appropriate. The resident provided further information to the council, which was supported by another member of the audience. It was requested that the locations be reconsidered.

A member of the public spoke to Cllr Cassapi to provide comment on agenda item 2024-36 – there was concern that the suggested speed limit of 30mph on Shires Lane would be too low and there would not be enough room to obtain a safe speed to join the A1, they did however think a limit of 40mph would be acceptable to allow a safe speed to be obtained. This will be discussed further at the agenda item.

2024-22

Record of Members Present

Cllrs J Stokes (chair) C Cassapi, G Harker, R Foster and S Storrie

Cllr John Stokes informed the council that the meeting was being recorded

2024-23

To receive **apologies** for Absence

RESOLVED - It was agreed by a unanimous vote in favour to accept apologies of absence from Cllr P Finlay

2024-24

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'

Cllr S Storrie declared an interest in agenda item 2024-28 in her capacity as treasurer for Stretton Community Hub. It was agreed that Cllr Storrie would remain in the room but make no comment or vote.

2024-25

To approve and sign the Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting

- 27th June 2024

RESOLVED - It was agreed by a unanimous vote in favour to accept the minutes of the Full Council meeting dated 27th June 2024 as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

GOVERNANCE

- 2024-26 To receive, consider and resolve an amendment to the Standing Orders in relation to making planning decisions between meetings
RESOLVED – It was agreed by a unanimous vote in favour to accept the following wording to be added to the Standing Orders at section 15b xiv

“Any planning application received by the Parish Council will be notified by the clerk to all councillors within 2 working days of receipt and wherever possible will be included for discussion at the next available Parish Council Meeting. If published deadlines do not allow for discussion at the next Parish Council Meeting, then all Parish Councillors will submit their comments by email within 5 working days to the Planning Focus Group with all councillors copied in. At all times to enable comment the number of Parish Councillors must be quorate as in a Parish Council Meeting and those that would otherwise be excluded from discussion and voting due to a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest or Other Interest must exclude themselves from providing comment and shall then take no further role in the process. Comments will be coordinated by the Planning Focus Group and then notified to all Parish Councillors for a final review. After 48hrs, the Chairman shall then submit final comments via the clerk to the local planning authority. If further time is needed to agree on a planning application due to its nature, the clerk will request an extension so that an EO can be called and with local residents the application effects being consulted where possible. All planning applications notified and under consideration must be listed clearly on the Parish Council website and posted on the relevant notice boards”

- 2024-27 To receive update on Financial Regulations
The clerk gave an update on the new Financial Regulations. The Finance Focus group have reviewed the document and changes are required to align it to the needs of Stretton Parish Council. This will be completed over the next 2 months and presented back to the council at the September meeting.

- 2024-28 To receive, consider and resolve to adopt a venue Hire Contract with Stretton Community Hub
A discussion took place and questions raised in relation to the hourly rate. One member of the public was invited to participate, to provide further clarification on the draft contract. Would the hub consider a Winter/Summer rate? It was also requested that some clarity be sought on the section relating to the cost of any auxiliary heating. This item was deferred to the meeting in September.

FINANCE

- 2024-29 To approve a revision of the 2024-25 Budget allocation
RESOLVED – It was agreed by a unanimous vote in favour to accept the 2024-25 Budget allocation to accommodate an unscheduled election expense of £2100 to appoint 3 councillors. For further detailed information relating to the individual lines of budget reallocation please see document 2024-29 revision of 2024-25 budget placed on the financial section of the website.

- 2024-30 To receive, approve and adopt the 2024-25 Reserves Policy
RESOLVED – It was agreed by a unanimous vote in favour to accept the Reserves Policy including a deletion of the writing highlighted blue at Appendix 1 and a revision of Appendix 2.

- 2024-31 To receive and approve payments and note receipts listed below as per financial reports attached.
- 18th June 2024 – 18th July 2024

Invoice Date	Date Paid	Vendor	Description	Amount
19 June 2024	17 July 2024	RutlandWeb	New Emails & Web Updates	£70
24 June 2024	17 July 2024	LRALC	Internal Audit	£200
24 June 2024	17 July 2024	LRALC	Training – J. Cooch	£50

RESOLVED – It was agreed by a unanimous vote in favour to accept the Financial Report dated 1st April 2024 – 18th July 2024 as a true and accurate record of accounts including the payments made between meetings listed above.

- 2024-32 To receive, consider and resolve the move from Barclays Bank to Unity Trust Bank
RESOLVED – It was agreed by a unanimous vote in favour to move the bank account from Barclays to Unity Trust. Signatories for the account will be Cllr R Foster, Cllr S Storrie, Cllr P Finlay and Cllr G Harker.
- HIGHWAYS**
- 2024-33 To approve that the Highways Focus Group approaches the Woodland Trust to install dog bins at George Henry Wood
It was agreed that Cllr G Harker would provide contact details to Cllr Cassapi who would approach the Woodland Trust to discuss the installation of a dog waste bin at George Henry Wood.
- 2024-34 To approve that Stretton join the waiting list for Community Speed-watch in 2025 (and nominate an organiser)
It was agreed that Stretton Parish Council would contact Sukhvinder Gill, Sustainable Change Behaviour Officer, RCC and request to be added to the list for a Speed Watch Campaign in 2025. Cllr R Foster agreed to be the organiser of the next event.
- 2024-35 To nominate a champion to review the Street Lighting costs for the Parish with RCC
It was agreed that Cllr G Harker would review the street lighting costs for the parish. Cllr J Stokes will provide data gathered so far to Cllr Harker.
- 2024-36 To approve that the Highways Focus Group approaches National Highways to reduce the speed limit on Shire Lane
Cllr Harker had raised the speed limit issue on Shires Lane with Highways England (HE). HE felt that 30mph would be too slow but were continuing to investigate. Cllr Harker would keep Cllrs apprised of progress.
- 2024-37 To receive Highways Focus Group summary update to include:-
- Extension of the bus route service
- Cllr Cassapi attended Greetham Parish Council meeting to find out more information on the extension of the bus route service. Greetham Parish Council are requesting an extension of the route to the 5 Counties, Showman's People Site. Cllr Cassapi felt that there was an opportunity to extend it further to Stretton. A meeting with Rutland High 5 and Paul Dunn, Rural Transport Officer is due to take place.
- There have been no updates to the Highways table since the last meeting. Cllr Cassapi will be attending the North Rutland Highways Focus Group on 30th July it is hoped that RCC and the Police will be in attendance. The topic of SID's, Cycle/Footpath between Greetham and Stretton will be discussed.
- 2024-38 To receive, consider and resolve the location and costs of 2 general waste bins
It was agreed at the last meeting and noted on the minutes, that Cllr Cassapi would be looking for funding from other sources to pay for the bins. This is ongoing, no funding has been sourced yet. It was agreed after discussion that we would request from Rutland County Council permission to install 1 x bin at the Bus Stop on Stocken Hall Road. Should any cost to purchase and install the bins be required this will be brought back to council for a formal decision. There will be no cost to empty the bins. The location of any further bins would be discussed at a future meeting.
- 2024-39 To inform about the consultation for small grant funding for Crime Prevention, by responding accordingly to the letter received from the Deputy Crime Commissioner
It was agreed that Cllr Cassapi would respond to the Deputy Crime Commissioner.
- PLANNING**
- 2024-40 To receive any matters arising for information exchange in respect of planning applications received and to note the decisions of RCC upon applications validated and determined.
- 2024/0710/CAT - No objections
2024/0708/PTA - No objections
2024/0711/ADV – No objections – it was requested that the lights be turned off when the business is closed.
2024/0707/DIS – No objections – it was hoped that a Historical Information Board be provided as well
- TREES**
- 2024-41 To receive Tree Focus Group summary update

Cllr R Foster has arranged a meeting with Stuart Kidd, Tree Officer at RCC to discuss the Tree Management Policy and to raise a query in relation to self-seeding Sycamores. Cllr Foster hopes to provide some answers for residents who are having tree related issues at their property.

COMMUNITY

- 2024-42 To receive Community Focus Group Summary update
There was no update from the Community Focus Group

COMMUNICATIONS

- 2024-43 To receive Community Focus Group Summary update
Helen Campbell has volunteered to be a member of the Communications Focus Group. Terms of Reference are being drawn up and will be presented at the next meeting for approval.

CORRESPONDENCE

- 2024-44 A record of Correspondence received by the Council since the last meeting
- 1 July – Deputy Police Crime Commissioner Letter
 - 1 July – A resident email - Bin(s) location / funding / rationale 'litter attracts litter'
 - 6 July – A resident email - bin location

OTHER ADMINISTRATION ITEMS

- 2024-45 External items from outside the parish, including reports from any meetings attended
Cllr C Cassapi attended the ASWAR (Autospeed Watch Alliance Rutland), Sergeant Liam Palmer was in attendance. It was considered a very positive meeting and further discussions continue between Parishes and Police on the handling of the data produced by the cameras. Sergeant Palmer informed the group that a new speeding initiative called Operation Numbers is due to take place in the Autumn. Cllr Cassapi spoke with Sergeant Palmer about Stocken Hall Road reduction to 40mph and clarification has been sought on whether the police would support this. Sgt Palmer explained there is another operation bespoke to HMP Stocken to deal with current issues the prison is experiencing, Cllr Cassapi raised the issue of litter and speeding for consideration as part of this.
Cllr S Storrie attended a meeting to discuss the Neighbourhood Plan. Cllr N Begy will provide contact details so that this can be explored further and placed on a future agenda.
Cllr C Cassapi attended a Rutland High 5 meeting which was mostly recapping what had been achieved in the previous year.
Cllr S Storrie has had a discussion with the High Sheriff to attend Stretton Parish. A date and location is still to be agreed. This should be a free event to allow all residents access.
- 2024-46 To receive and note future agenda items
- Biodiversity Policy
 - Emergency Plan
- 2024-47 Meeting closed at **21.09** and confirmation of next meeting as 26th September 2024 at 7.00pm

Deborah Rolfe, Clerk to the Council, 15th August 2024