

MINUTES – ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
Held at 6pm on Wednesday 7th May 2025 at Greetham Community Centre

Following the resignation of Cllr Storrie, Cllr Hawkes opened the meeting and informed the public that the meeting was being recorded. Two members of the public attended the meeting.

2025-01 Election of Chair and signing of Declaration of Acceptance of Office for Chair

The Council RESOLVED to elect Cllr Hawkes as Chair, who signed the Declaration of Office of Chair in the presence of the Proper Officer

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2024-02 Election of Vice Chair

The Council RESOLVED to elect Cllr Allan as Vice Chair.

Public Forum: There were no issues raised by the members of the public.

2025-03 Record of Members Present :

Cllr D, Allan; Cllr K, Hawkes; Cllr J, Stokes; Also in attendance, Ward Cllr N, Begy

2025-04 To receive apologies: there were no apologies received

2025-05 Disclosure of Pecuniary Interests: Cllr Hawkes declared a pecuniary interest with respect to item 2025-12 (Planning) and would leave the room. As his departure from the room would leave the Council inquorate, it was RESOLVED to not discuss this item on the agenda.

2025-06 Approval of minutes

The Council RESOLVED to approve the minutes for the Full Council Meeting – 20th March 2025 and the Extraordinary Meeting – 1st April 2025. The Chair signed copies of the minutes.

2025-07 The Council RESOLVED to approve payment for:

LRALC	19/4709	Membership 2025-26	£310+VAT
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2025-08 The Council noted the following payments made since the last Council meeting:

LRALC	19/4341	Internal Audit	£200
Greetham CC	286/2425	Hall Hire	£36
Greetham CC	270/2425	Hall Hire	£41

2025-09 The Council RESOLVED to approve the bank reconciliations as presented for the periods:

- 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025
- 1 April 2025 to 26 April 2025

2025-10 Governance: On advice of the LRALC Auditor, it is proposed that this agenda item should be deferred until the next meeting, pending availability of documents necessary to perform the audit. The Council RESOLVED to defer the items under this agenda item to the following meeting.

2025-11 Governance : The Council RESOLVED to approved retention of the following regulatory documents for 2025-26:

- a. Financial Risk Assessment – No changes
- b. Financial Regulations – No changes
- c. Standing Orders – No Changes
- d. Co-Option Policy - New

2025-12 Planning: As Cllr Hawkes declared a pecuniary interest with respect to Planning Applications 2025/0445/LBA and 2025/0450/FUL, the Council RESOLVED not to discuss the item, but to invite residents to submit their own comments directly on the RCC Planning Portal. The Council noted Planning Application 2025/0195/FUL.

2025-13 Given that there were currently 3 vacant positions on the Council, the Council RESOLVED not to establish or assign specific roles and responsibilities to individual Councillors with respect to Highways, Finance, Planning etc. until the vacant councillor posts would be filled.

2025-14 To discuss the involvement of Parish Councillors with organisations outside of Parish Council: The Council RESOLVED not to set up or assign specific roles and responsibilities to individual Councillors with respect to organisations outside of the Parish Council until the vacant councillor posts would be filled. Such engagement would be decided on an ad hoc basis until such time as vacant posts were filled.

2025-15 Confirmation of next meeting dates:

The Council resolved to meet at Greetham Community Centre on the following dates / times

- 25 June 2025 – 19:00*
- 15 September 2025 – 19:00
- 17 November 2025 – 19:00
- 19 January 2026 – 19:00
- 16 March 2026 – 19:00

**The Chair noted that a provisional booking for Defibrillator Training had been made, starting at 17:00-19:00 in Greetham Community Centre. It was hoped the Shires Staff from Stretton Woods/Stretton village would be encouraged to participate. Further information would be distributed in due course via Social Media. Up to 30 places available.*

2025-16 To consider the view of parishioners on the implications for Stretton concerning the various devolution options for Rutland under discussion: The Chair attended a meeting at RCC on 26th April. Key points are:

- There are no anticipated implications for Parish Councils that are known so far;
- One proposal for Rutland devolution has already gone forward; another two proposals would go forward by the next deadline;
- Parishes have no say;
- Parishes will not be consulted;
- Government will make the final decision.
- Key dates are – 28 November 2025 – final date for submission of full detail proposals with evidence of local engagement and clear reason ‘why’.

A member of the public noted the importance to note that devolution may reduce councillor representation from 21 to 3. And that it would be important for North Rutland to be one such voice.

2025-17. Briefing from the Chair of the Rutland Quarry Forum concerning the dangers to health from increased levels of PM10s. (See attached briefing slides)

2025-17 To consider a request from a Branston-by-Belvoir resident to inspect the Stretton Village Pump

In preparation for this agenda item, one councillor had inspected the pump and expressed concern that the pump might easily break if opened or attempted to be dismantled. Another councillor thought it necessary to approach English Heritage for planning permission to inspect / open the pump, given it has grade II listing, encouraging that instead the requestor may wish to research plans held at museums etc. The Councillors RESOLVED to decline the application and to invite the clerk to respond accordingly.

2025-18 To consider inviting candidates to apply for co-option to vacant positions.

The Council recognized that it was functioning well, recognizing there are currently 3 councillor vacancies. The Council RESOLVED to review any application submitted by an eligible applicant to fill a vacancy.

The Chair closed the meeting at 19:00

Acting Clerk to the Council, 9 May 2025