

MINUTES – STRETTON PARISH COUNCIL

**Held at 7pm at Greetham Community Centre on Monday 17th November 2025,
commencing at 7:00 pm**

Cllr Hawkes (Chair) opened the meeting at 7pm.

Public Forum. There were no questions from members of the public.

2025-76	All Parish Councillors were present at the meeting (Cllr Allan, Cllr Hawkes (Chair), Cllr Stokes). Two members of the public attended the meeting. One officer from National Highways Limited and the Community Safety Manager from Rutland County Council attended for contribution to agenda item 2025-89.
2025-77	There were no apologies for absence.
2025-78	There were no declarations of pecuniary interest.
2025-79	The Council RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the Stretton Parish Council Meeting dated 15 th September 2025 as drafted.
2025-80	The was no update provided by the Police.
2025-89	For expediency, the Chair decided to bring forward agenda item 2025-89 to receive an update on how to secure 'social value funding' from National Highways Limited. Mr Phil Shaw (Route Manager - Nottinghamshire, Lincolnshire & Rutland) outlined the tenets of the Social Value Fund, which is open to any project that delivers positive value, benefits and a lasting legacy for local people, the community, the environment, or the economy. Grants of up to £10k are available and should contribute to projects which contribute to NH social value pillars, namely Economic prosperity, Improving the environment, Community wellbeing, Equality, diversity. Mr Shaw doubted that the full £10k grant would be given, since the benefit would be to only a few in the community. Mr Shaw stated that National Highways is a risk averse organisation that would not tolerate any bicycle activity on land behind the crash barrier next to the carriageway; recognised that it was safe for youngsters to ride bicycles on the A1 carriageway; that it was safe for youngsters to ride bicycles on Shires Lane, where there was no barrier at all to the A1; that the footpath traversing woodland west of the B668/A1 flyover would be fenced either side of the footpath if bicycle activities continued in the wood; would check the ownership of the wood in question as he wasn't sure whether National Highways owned the wood, given that the definitive map did not show the wood was owned by National Highways; that signs would be posted near the site to deter trespassers; that an inspector would visit the site weekly; that corrective action would be undertaken to remove jumps and to fill in holes; would possibly consider gifting Tanglewood to the Parish to provide

	<p>a space for leisure development; that the grant of up to £10k could be granted subject to finding a suitable plot of land.</p> <p>Mr Crouch suggested SPC might write to local landowners to consider whether a parcel of land could be gifted or leased; further suggesting Cllr Begy might renew his efforts to secure funding for the cycle-path to Greetham.</p>
2025-81	Cllr Begy provided an update on his surgery call; 6 Stretton residents participated; the main issue concerned speeding on Stocken Hall Road and 3 residents were concerned about the venue of SPC meetings.
2025-82	<p>The Chair thanked Greetham Community Centre Management for their generosity to host the recent defibrillator training on 27th October at zero cost, which was well attended by Cottesmore, Greetham, Stretton and Exton residents; thanked Juliet Burgess-Ray for the professional organization of training event, noting her offer to arrange a further training session for the community in 6-months' time; noting that both Parish defibrillators are registered on 'The Circuit'; that a further defibrillator guardian had volunteered making 6 in total; that the Shires School offered a defibrillator to the Parish subject to SPC taking on the responsibility for its maintenance.</p> <p>The Council RESOLVED to accept the donation of defibrillator equipment from the Shires School, noting the arrangement to maintain the equipment at its current location at Stretton Wood, subject to a request to removal being received, pending the sale of the property.</p>
2025-83	<p>The Council RESOLVED to approve the:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> SPC Safeguarding Policy 2025; SPC Reserves Policy 2025; SPC Policy Review Timetable 2025.
2025-84	The Council noted the progress made to address the areas for consideration or improvement identified in the Audit 2025-2026 as follows : (continued overleaf)

	Area for consideration or improvement	Recommendation	Action taken by SPC
	<p>Pages are identified with an excellent footer identifying each page with title and page number and the last page signed and dated, it would be a positive step for the Chair to initial each page.</p> <p>In minutes 25/07/24 item 2024-23 and 11/11/24 item 2024-50 the apologies were 'accepted' but should have been 'approved'</p> <p>Although the laptop was donated it is now a PC asset and should be recorded as such on the asset register.</p> <p>The website provided by RutlandWeb is progressing well but lacks a search facility which can make finding specific documents more challenging.</p> <p>Policies and procedures are available on the website under 'Governance' tab, it can be difficult to find them.</p> <p>There is an 'Invoices' tab on the website but the last invoices stored there were for the 2020/21 year, so it is clearly not being used.</p> <p>There were no Terms of Reference (TOR) for most of the Focus Groups, although the groups are on 'hold' at present.</p> <p>Last year there was a Complaints Procedure on the website, but it did not cover vexatious complaints or bullying. Now there is a Vexatious and Bullying Policy, but it does not cover general complaints.</p> <p>The PC has a growing collection of policies and trying to review them all at one meeting (typically the APCM in May) is not reasonable or practicable and is unlikely to allow Councillors sufficient time for a proper review.</p>	<p>The stored hard copies are signed on the last page but recommend that the Chair initials each page.</p> <p>Ensure that the minutes reflect that the apologies were approved by Council rather than accepted.</p> <p>Add the laptop to the asset register with a value of £1 but with a suitable insurance value.</p> <p>Can RutlandWeb provide a search function which would be very useful and helpful.</p> <p>It might be beneficial to have a 'Policies' tab and separate policies from other governance related documents.</p> <p>Recommend either restoring the process or removing it as long as the information is available to view elsewhere.</p> <p>Once the PC has decided on the future of these groups it should create TOR's for each one.</p> <p>Recommend reviewing the two documents and creating a Complaints Policy that includes vexatious complaints and bullying.</p> <p>Recommend that the PC develop a policy listing (could be a list, procedure or even a policy) detailing the name, date (or issue no.), frequency of review and when due.</p>	<p>Completed with effect from 1 April 2025.</p> <p>Noted – such requirement has not been exercised since 1 April 2025.</p> <p>Completed in the revised SPC Asset Register adopted 2025-34a.</p> <p>Finding documents has been considered. A clearer approach has been adopted in the revised website after 1 April 2025.</p> <p>The Governance tab has been revised to include policies and applicable documents by respective year to ease location of applicable documents.</p> <p>Following recommendation of a former SPC Clerk concerning UK GDPR, invoices are no longer uploaded to the SPC website. Instead, invoice details are summarised individually in the periodic bank reconciliations as presented in detail to SPC / public.</p> <p>Ongoing, subject to appointment of additional councillors.</p> <p>A revised complaints policy is adopted under 2025-34d, based on templates policy documents.</p> <p>A list of policies and review dates was adopted under agenda item 2025-58g.</p>
2025-85	The Council noted the area of the Kilnside Energy Park had changed slightly, removing some solar panels from the North of Pickworth, including a parcel of land for biodiversity and expanding the area on the other side of the A1.		
2025-86	The Council RESOLVED to object to planning application 2025/1372/CAT because the application is short on detail, there is no identification of the trees concerned in the application, a concern regarding the possible impact of flooding in this area of Stocken Hall Road; recognising the danger and dilapidated state of the trees, given the recent fallen tree.		
2025-87	<p>The Council RESOLVED to approve the:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Payment of invoice 133/2526, £32, Greetham Community Centre for hire of facilities, 15th September (2hrs SPC Meeting); Receipt of bank interest received, £67.98, 30th September 2025; Payment to RCC for street-lighting for Stretton Parish 2025/26 £797.63 and move sufficient funds from the savings to current account; Clerk submit a request to HMP Stocken to reimburse SPC £323.36 for 15 streetlights along Stocken Hall Road approaching HMP Stocken; <p>The Council noted the draft Precept calculation for 2026/2027, subject to finalisation at the next meeting.</p>		
2025-88	The Council RESOLVED to approve:		
2025-90	The Council noted the work to apportion Streetlighting costs between Stretton		

	<p>Parish and HMP Stocken.</p> <p>The Council noted the delay to install a replacement for the Speed Indicator Device on Stocken Hall Road, which was now scheduled for March 2026.</p>
2025-91	<p>With respect to Waste bins, the Council RESOLVED to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) approach RCC to install a floor-mounted Victoriana polythene plastic ground mounted bin at the Stocken Hall Road Bus Stop, at a cost of £389 + VAT (including installation, delivery & purchase) and then b) approach HMP Stocken for a 50% contribution; c) approach RCC to repair / replace the damaged waste bin located on Shires Lane.
2025-92	Ward Cllr Begy informed that he would ensure the requirement for the cycle path between Greetham and Stretton was included in new budget year.
2025-93	The Council RESOLVED to invite RCC Tree Officer, Mr Stuart Kidd for a village walk to visit a replacement tree for the Lilac Tree removed during the Spring.
2025-94	Due to time constraints, the Chair closed the meeting at 21:00. The remaining items on the agenda will be considered at the next meeting of SPC, scheduled for 19th January 2026.

Cllr John Stokes,
Acting Clerk to the Council,
19th November 2025