

MINUTES – STRETTON PARISH COUNCIL

Held at 7pm on Monday 19th January 2026 at Greetham Community Centre, Greetham.

Councillor Hawkes (Chairman) opened the meeting at 7pm.

2025-102	All members of the Council were present, (Councillor Allan, Councillor Hawkes (Chair), Councillor Stokes). Ward Councillor Begy and one member of the public were also present.
2025-103	There were no apologies for absence received.
2025-104	There were no disclosures of Pecuniary Interest.
2025-105	The Council RESOLVED to approve the minutes of a) the 17 th November 2025 Parish Council Meeting as drafted; b) The 17 th December 2025 Extraordinary Parish Council Meeting as drafted.
2025-106	The Council RESOLVED to suspend the meeting at 19:03 to allow members of the press and public to ask questions or make short statements on items relating to the agenda or request topics for future meetings.
	Councillor Stokes took the opportunity to express his thanks to Mrs Corrinne Cassapi for organising the successful community litter pick in and around Stretton on Saturday 17 th January. Councillor Allan informed that she had received feedback from the litter pick, and the Chair accepted she would introduce this under the agenda items discussing litter bins (2025-114/115).
	The Public Forum was closed and the Parish Council meeting resumed at 19:04.
2025-107	Leicestershire Police were not in attendance, but the Council noted the helpful summary provided by PC Spruce on 3 rd December 2025 (attached at Annex).
2025-108	The Chair expressed his thanks to Councillors Allan & Stokes for the work to revise the Parish Clerk Job Description.

	The Chair expressed concern regarding the inclusion of “must have” the CiLCA qualification as an absolute requirement. Cllr Stokes recognised that by including this formulation it may well reduce candidates, however, given the problems SPC had previously encountered by employing well intentioned but unqualified personnel in the role of Parish Clerk, and being tempted into negotiation by previous forthright councillors, it could not be envisioned to employ an unqualified individual who might be susceptible to being led astray, outside of legality, as might have occurred in the past. A qualified clerk would understand the importance of integrity, given the focus throughout CiLCA training which specifically references ‘Integrity’ as a core tenet. The Chair questioned whether holding a valid driving license should be insisted upon? Councillor Allan explained that Stretton is a rural community and train / taxi may not be feasible. The Chair countered that the clerk may live in the village or travel with a push-bike. Councillor Allan suggested that if an otherwise qualified applicant not possessing a drivers license would convince SPC that they could meet SPC’s requirements then employment could be offered. The Chair was ‘quite happy’ with the explanation. The Chair questioned whether an ‘equal opportunities statement’ needed to be added, reminding that LRALC might be able to review the draft job description. Councillor Stokes stated that the revised draft did not deviate significantly from previous language, further expressing reservations over the veracity of LRALC advice given LRALC’s inference that a previous clerk may claim ‘constructive dismissal against the Council’. Councillor Allan proposed the document for approval. Councillor Stokes seconded the document. Councillor Hawkes (Chair), however, declined to sign expressing his recommendation for LRALC to review the document. He was content for the Vice-Chair to sign the document, passing to Councillor Allan for signature given that both Cllr Allan and Cllr Stokes (majority) were content with the document. Accordingly, the Council RESOLVED to approve the revised Parish Clerk Job Description and Personal Specification (Proper Officer / Responsible Financial Officer). Councillor Allan proposed that at the next meeting the scope for the timeline of recruitment should be discussed.
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	The Council RESOLVED to consider the modalities associated with the advertisement, application, screening and interview processes as well as the timeline for proceeding at the next meeting.
2025-109	There were no applications received to consider co-opting to the Council.
2025-110	The Council: a) Noted receipt of Bank Interest in the sum of £64.01; b) Noted receipt from HMP Stocken for Street-lighting in the sum of £323.36; c) Noted the invoice 196/2526 for £21 to Greetham Community Centre for venue hire on 17th December 2025 had been paid; d) RESOLVED to approve payment of £52 to ICO.org for Annual Data Protection Registration; e) RESOLVED to approve payment of £210 to LRALC for the Annual Internal Audit Fee (2025-26); f) RESOLVED to approve a precept for Stretton for year 2026-27 in the amount of £3,850; g) RESOLVED to approve the Acting Clerk forward Stretton's 2026-27 precept to RCC.
2025-111	The Council: a) RESOLVED to approve the bank reconciliation for the period 1 April 2025 to 31 December 2025; b) Noted the Table of transactions per the 2025-26 precept forecast; c) RESOLVED to approve budget line increases from reserves for the following budget lines: - Audit (£210); - Bank Charges (£2); - Membership/Subscriptions (£18); d) Noted the increase in monthly Unity Trust Bank charges from 1 February 2026 rising from £6/month to £7/month; e) Noted that VAT recovery of VAT paid would take place at the end of the financial year (last week of March) for year ending 2025/2026. The Council further noted that the VAT reclaim for the previous financial year (2024-25) could not yet be claimed, due to insufficient documentation provided by the previous clerk.
2025-112	The Council noted an update from Cllr Allan following correspondence with Mr Stuart Kidd (RCC Forestry Officer) concerning the positioning of a tree to replace the lilac that was felled last year (located on the corner of Manor Road / Church Lane). Following community feedback, the clerk will write to

	Mr Kidd suggesting a meeting with Councillor Allan to find and agree a location near the roundabout / Shires Lane for the new tree.
2025-113	The Council noted an update from Ward Councillor Begy that the new solar farm proposal, 'Kilnside Energy Park' at Woolfox / Pickworth bordering Stretton / Clipsham / Exton had been "put on hold".
2025-114	The Council noted that the site for a waste bin near the bus stop on Stocken Hall Road was not supported by RCC. Councillor Allan will work with stakeholders, including Stretton Wood Community Director Mr Mark Cooper to identify an acceptable location for the waste bin before going ahead with the purchase.
2025-115	The Council noted the kind offer by Councillor Hawkes to have a look in the Spring at the possibility of repairing the waste bin located on the corner of Shires Lane and Clipsham Road, and to report back. Following her statement under 2025-106, Councillor Allan reported that at the recent litter pick, included with the vast quantity of litter collected were a number of discarded temporary road signs, 'chucked into the undergrowth'. When RCC collected the litter-picking kit, Mrs Cassappi (litter-pick organiser) mentioned to them the amount of litter remaining at the side of the carriageway. The Chair questioned why this item was being discussed now in the context of this agenda, expressing concern that it was being discussed without writing to the clerk and being blindsided. The meeting was interrupted by a member of the public; the Chair suspended the meeting at 20:02 to allow Cllr Allan to return to her car. The meeting resumed at 20:04. Continuing, the Chair expressed that he was not comfortable discussing the issue, as he had not received prior notification, nor had he been informed about the village litter pick, further asserting that Councillor Allan had tried to bring in an item that was not on the agenda, and therefore suggested to include on the agenda of the following meeting. Councillor Allan explained that the issue only arose two-days prior following the return of the litter picking kit, when RCC Highways informed that 'we' [SPC] should communicate with National Highways as they could collect the signs and also perform some litter picking.

	The Chair questioned why this was an issue for SPC given that the litter picking was organised by a member of the public, outside of the Council, further asserting that the issue be placed on the next meeting agenda and that he was not willing to discuss further. Councillor Allan expressed her disappointment that the Council was not thinking about the community. The Chair stated that the Council was thinking about the community, but had an agenda and work to get through according to a system which involves writing to the Council through the clerk. If the Council receives information through the clerk, then the Council is properly informed and not blindsided at a meeting. He reiterated that he knew nothing about the issue nor what these people want. Councillor Allan requested it be noted that she felt disappointed that we are not interested in the community.
2025-116	The Council noted the update from Ward Councillor Begy that Councillor Wise was continuing to push for the Stretton to Greetham cycle path.
2025-117	The Council noted receipt of correspondence as detailed on the meeting agenda.
2025-118	The Council noted the participation of Councillor Stokes on the well attended community litter pick at the weekend. There were no additional external items from outside the Parish or reports or meetings attended.
2025-119	Items for the next agenda: a) Per item 2025-108 above, to consider the modalities associated with the advertisement, application, screening and interview processes as well as the timeline for proceeding with recruiting a Parish Clerk / RFO; b) Per item 2025-114 above, Councillor Allan would report back regarding the placement of the new waste bin near Stretton Wood; c) Councillor Allan reported that during recent community litter pick, several traffic signs were found discarded; that RCC suggesting to contact Highways England to collect the signs.
2025-120	The Chairman confirmed the next meeting will take place at 7pm on 16 March 2026 at Greetham Community Centre, and closed the meeting at 20:11.

Cllr John Stokes

Acting Clerk to the Council

17th February 2026

Annex - Leicestershire Police Update for Stretton PC

**Jake Spruce**
To: John Stokes, Lauren >

12/3/25

Hello John,

Thank you for your email and I apologise for the length of time that it has taken for me to reply, this is due to some extended leave I have taken.

I am forming a reply on the presumption that you've not sought assistance and received a reply on the matter elsewhere.

I had asked for a colleague to attend the meeting on 17th November in my absence, however they had a last minute emergency that they had to attend to and so were unable to go. Please accept our sincere apologies for this.

With regards to an update from the Police, please see the below that I had pre-prepared ready for the meeting:

Acquisitive crime statistics, (that effects the community):

October – nothing of note for Stretton (to date 23/10).

September – nothing of note.

August – 1 burglary to farm in Stretton, saddles, tools and a cattle trailer stolen.

July – nothing of note.

June – 1 report of persons being disturbed whilst tampering with a farm gate and then fleeing.

May – nothing of note.

April – nothing of note.

March – nothing of note.

February – nothing of note.

January – nothing of note.

Speed camera van statistics:

The Road Safety Partnership Mobile speed camera van has spent over 6.5 hours in Stretton in 2025 and captured a total of 7 offences. The van attends Stocken Hall Road.

I hope this helps.

Kind regards,

Jake

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**Leicestershire
Police**