

**Notes of the Annual Parish Meeting, 7th May 2025, 19:00,
Greetham Community Centre**

1. Chairman's welcome

The Chair (Councillor Hawkes) welcomed five members of the public to the meeting.

2. Chairman's review of the year

The Chair's speech is attached at Annex.

3. Public Forum: An opportunity for any Stretton resident to provide their views

One member of the public questioned why is the Council existing, suggesting that no-one was interested to join the Council and there's no benefit or point in it, further proposing that projects outlined in the Chair's report lacked detail and that all activities performed by Stretton Parish Council could instead be undertaken by Rutland County Council.

The Chair thanked the member of the public for their comments.

There being no further comments, the Chair closed the meeting at 19:10.

J Stokes
Acting Clerk
Stretton Parish Council

ANNEX

Chairman's Report for 2024–2025

Thank you all for being here this evening.

It's been a challenging year for Stretton Parish Council. We've seen several councillors and clerks come and go—our previous Chair stepped down just short of two weeks ago.

That means our three current councillors, all new in recent months, have inherited some long-standing issues that still need sorting.

Despite being smaller than we're allotted, the Council is now stable, positive and determined to rebuild.

We're working with integrity and are fully committed to resolving the tasks we've inherited. Our goal is to focus on what really matters: representing and serving every member of this community openly, fairly and transparently.

Key Issues for 2025–26

1 Village Defibrillator

- Currently maintained by two volunteers (thank you, Gill and Greg Harker!).
- The Parish Council pays for its upkeep.
- We plan to expand the volunteer team and bring overall responsibility back under the Council, so this life-saving equipment is secure for the long term.

2 Flooding

- Serious flooding affected several areas again this year.
- We will work with RCC Highways and HMP Stocken to plan improvements, reduce future risk and keep everyone's homes accessible.

3 HMP Stocken Partnership

- We continue to build a strong, supportive relationship with the prison on issues such as:
- Speeding on Stocken Hall Road and through Stretton Woods Estate.
- Roadside litter left by prison visitors.
- Extra load on our sewerage pumping station following the prison expansion.
We're grateful to our MP, Alicia Kearns, who is helping us set up a meeting with Anglian Water to find lasting solutions.

4 Woolfox Development

- We're keeping a close eye on any plans for housing or business projects at Woolfox, alongside neighbouring parishes that would also be affected.

5 Quarry Proposal

- A new quarry has been suggested near the village.
- Tonight we heard from the Chair of the Rutland Quarry Forum about potential impacts.
- We will keep you informed as this moves forward.

So Looking Ahead

There is plenty of work for us in the coming year, and we're determined to lay solid foundations:

- **Policies and Procedures**
Finish and update our essential documents so the Council runs lawfully, efficiently and transparently.
- **Council Resources & Precept**
Keep a close eye on budgets and the cost-of-living pressures facing everyone. Your current councillors secured a 36.5% reduction in the Parish Precept.
- **Communications**
Improve transparency with regular updates and a refreshed website.
- **Staffing & Volunteers**
Appoint a qualified Clerk and co-opt new volunteers to bring fresh energy to the Council.
- **Community Projects**
Work towards creating a leisure space or play area for everyone to enjoy.
- Putting the Footpath between ourselves and Greetham back on the agenda
- **Ongoing Partnerships**
Continue to collaborate with the Rutland Quarry Forum on any quarry plans.

Thank you once again for your attendance and support.

We look forward to working with you all in the year ahead, serving Stretton with integrity and openness.