

MINUTES – ANNUAL STRETTON PARISH COUNCIL

Held at 6pm on Monday 3RD June 2026 at Greetham Community Centre, Greetham.

2627-01	Councillor Hawkes (Chairman) opened the meeting at 6pm and read a statement with advice he had received from the Leicestershire and Rutland Association of Local Councils concerning the date of the Annual Parish Council Meeting as follows: <i>Before we begin, I should note that this Annual Meeting of the Parish Council is being held in June rather than May as required by Schedule 12 of the Local Government Act 1972.</i> <i>The meeting was delayed due to scheduling difficulties and councillor availability.</i> <i>I confirm that this meeting is being convened to transact the statutory business of the Annual Meeting, beginning with the election of the Chairman. All business conducted tonight will be recorded in the minutes and approved at our next ordinary meeting.</i>
2627-02	Councillor Kevin Hawkes was re-elected as Chair by unanimous decision.
2627-03	Councillor Dilys Allan was re-elected as Vice Chair by unanimous decision.
2627-04	The Council RESOLVED at 6:09pm to suspend the meeting 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. One member of the public reported they had reported to both the Church Warden and RCC Tree Officer the presence of a dangerous tree in the churchyard. The meeting resumed at 6:11pm.
2627-05	All members of the Council were present, (Councillor Allan, Councillor Hawkes (Chair), Councillor Stokes). Two members of the public attended. Ward Councillor Begy sent his apologies due to annual leave.
2627-06	Cllr Hawkes declared a Pecuniary Interest with respect to agenda item 14c. The Council resolved not to consider or discuss this agenda item, so that the Council would remain quorate. There were no other declarations of pecuniary interest.
2627-07	The Council considered an email (see agenda item 2627-24e) and RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the 16 th March 2026 Parish Council Meeting as drafted. The Council agreed to respond to the email accordingly.

2627-08	The Council RESOLVED to approve payment of the following invoices: LRALC – Inv 19/5427 – Membership 2026-27 - £330.38 Zurich Insurance – Ref MLAACH10 – PC Insurance 2026-27 - £264.
2627-09	The Council noted payments/bank charges levied as follows: Greetham Community Centre – Hall Hire 16th March - £41 Bank Charges – March 2026 - £7 Bank Charges – April 2026 - £7
2627-10	The Council noted income received as follows: Quarterly Bank Interest to 31 March 2026 - £57.94 Precept receipt from Rutland County Council - £3,850
2627-11	The Council considered and RESOLVED to approve the: a) Financial reconciliation for the period 1 April 2025 – 31 March 2026; b) Financial reconciliation for the period 1 April 2026 – 20 May 2026; c) Table of transactions for the period 1 April 2025 – 31 March 2026; d) Table of transactions for the period 1 April 2026 – 20 May 2026; e) Current & deposit account statements for period 1 April 2025 – 31 March 2026; f) Internal Audit Conclusion for 2025-2026; g) Annual Governance Statement – 2026; h) Submission and publication of the AGAR – 2025-2026; i) Dates for Exercise of Rights of Public Inspection (4 June to 14 July 2026); j) Council’s Certificate of Exemption 2025-2026; k) Explanation of variances for 2025 – 2026; l) Council does not meet the criteria for Power of General Competence – 2025-2026; m) Council’s Asset Register – 2026; n) Armed Forces Covenant - 2026; o) Reserves Policy - 2026; p) Standing Orders - 2026; q) IT Policy - 2026; r) Record Retention Policy - 2026; s) Use of a GDPS Checklist - 2026; t) Updated Policy Review Schedule - 2026.
2627-12	The Council RESOLVED to submit an objection to planning application 2026/0361/MAF.

	The Council RESOLVED by majority decision to have no objection to planning applications 2026/0212/FUL and 2026/0605/CAT.
2627-13	The Council agreed the following Parish Council Meeting dates, to be held 7pm at Greetham Community Centre: a) 3 August 2026 b) 5 October 2026 c) 16 November 2026 d) 4 January 2027 e) 15 February 2027 f) 15 March 2027 – (Annual Parish Meeting, HMP Stocken Visitor Centre)
2627-14	The Council confirmed that an application for the Parish Clerk / RFO position had been received and considered but not pursued further. It was RESOLVED to re-open the advertisement with LRALC and on village notice boards for the period 8 June to 14 July.
2627-15	The Council noted that RCC had removed a serviceable Speed Indicator Device, located on the Southbound carriageway where the HMP Stocken driveway joins Stocken Hall Road. Removal of the SID raised concerns with HMP Stocken personnel as well as Stretton Wood Estate residents which met on the 6 May 2026 Annual Parish Meeting. The Chair agreed to write again to the RCC Traffic Engineering Officer, Highways to reinstate the equipment.
2627-16	The Council RESOLVED to submit the name of one individual following the invitation of The High Sheriff (see agenda item 2627-24r).
2627-17	The Council received an update from Cllr Allan concerning the placement of a floor-mounted Victoriana Polythene/plastic waste bin on Stocken Hall Road. The Council RESOLVED to approve funding for the installation of a waste bin close to the footpath. Cllr Allan will continue liaison with RCC to arrange installation at the agreed cost of £413. SPC will seek partial reimbursement (50%) from HMP Stocken after installation.
2627-18	The Chair informed that following detailed inspection, the waste bin located on the corner of Clipsham Road and Shires Lane was beyond economic repair. The Council RESOLVED to consider the modalities for its replacement, once RCC were no longer able to empty or provided advice, and to include estimated replacement costs in the reserves for 2027-2028.
2627-19	Cllr Allan informed that in consultation with RCC Tree Officer Stuart Kidd, a Sorbus Torminalis /Wild Service Tree would replace the Lilac Tree that had been removed in 2025 from the corner of Manor Road and Church Lane. The tree would be placed on the land bounded by Clipsham Road and Shires Lane.

2627-20	The Council noted the correspondence received since the last meeting: a) 17th, 18th, 20th, 23rd March & 21st April 2026 – Emails from RCC Highways – J. Dixon (Traffic Engineering Officer) re SIDs on Stocken Hall Road; b) 18th March 2026 – Email from GCC – P Devoto re Invoice for SPC hiring GCC (16th March 2026); c) 18th March 2026 – Email from RCC Communications informing of Cllr Waller’s resignation as Leader of the Council (RCC); d) 25th March 2026 – Email from The Shires School re Students’ potential contribution to support planters in the village; e) 27th March 2026 – Email from “The Hub Committee” reference minute reference 2526-141 (SPC meeting 16 March 2026); f) 27th March 2026 – OPCC Newsletter; g) 30th March 2026 – Email confirmation from HMP Stocken to use the Visitor Centre for the 6 May Annual Parish Meeting; h) 1st April 2026 – Email clarification from RCC Finance reference 2024-2025 Q4 payroll invoice for previous clerk. i) 2nd April 2026 – Email from The Shires School re the defibrillator donated to SPC, located at Stowe Court; j) 2nd April 2026 – Email from RCC Finance concerning the payment of the 2026-2027 precept payment to Stretton Parish Council; k) 2nd April 2026 – Email from RCC Communications confirming the details of Cabinet roles and responsibilities; l) 7th April 2026 – Email from Ward Councillor Begy reference flags around the West roundabout; m) 7th April 2026 – Email from RCC Democratic Services in response to 2627-24(e); n) 8th April 2026 – Email from RCC Communications announcing the ‘New Community Small Grants Programme’; o) 10th April 2026 – Email from LRALC, confirming the vacancy for Parish Clerk / RFO is advertised on the LRALC website, and will appear in the weekly ‘round-robin’ to all Leicestershire & Rutland Parish Councils; p) 13th April 2026 – Email from Chair of the Hub concerning an update for the APM; q) 14th April 2026 – Email from Andy Saunders re participating in the APM (reopening of The Jackson Stops); r) 20th April 2026 - Email from High Sheriff requesting nominations for recognising people making a difference in the community; s) 26th April 2026 – Email from Church Warden concerning APM; t) 27th April 2026 – Email from Chair of the Hub concerning the APM; u) 1st May 2026 – Email from resident concerning a letter from RCC Tree Officer authorising pruning of tree to remove a dead branch; v) 7th May 2026 – Email from RCC with information concerning £1.6million investment for RutlandMemorial Hospital;
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	w) w) 13th May 2026 – Email from Rev Anthony Oram – Complaint regarding access etc. to St. Nicholas Church; x) x) 14th May 2026 – Email from Dr Sarah Furness, Lord Lieutenant of Rutland re Charity Open Garden; y) y) 14th May 2026 – Email from Leics SA regarding reporting of AGAR; z) z) 19th May 2026 – Email from Clear Councils regarding SPC Insurance premium for 2026/27; aa) 20th May 2026 – Email from IMI, re War Memorial Cleaning
2627-21	On the matter of the complaint regarding ‘access to St Nicholas Church, conduct of Church representatives and failure of pastoral and ecclesiastical duty’, the Council also considered the advice received on the matter from Leicestershire and Rutland Association of Local Councils. The Council RESOLVED to write to the complainant along the following lines: <i>Dear xxxx,</i> <i>Thank you for your patience while Stretton Parish Council considered your complaint. The Council met on Wednesday 3rd June, and wishes to confirm that the Parish Council has no ownership or management role in St Nicholas Church or its ‘Hub’.</i> <i>The Parish Council has no legal authority over keys, access arrangements or the conduct of those acting on behalf of the Parochial Church Council (PCC), the diocese, St Nicholas Church or its ‘Hub’.</i> <i>It is therefore not within the power of Stretton Parish Council to investigate this incident or to direct how St Nicholas Church, the PCC or its ‘Hub’ is run.</i> <i>At the same time, the Parish Council is deeply troubled by the allegation that a member of our community - a villager - who wished to access St Nicholas Church for prayer felt hurried, intimidated and made unwelcome. Whatever different accounts there may be, this is not how anyone would wish a neighbour to experience their parish church.</i> <i>The Parish Council understands that St Nicholas Church opens its doors for a Sunday service once every 4 weeks as a place of worship and reflection for the whole Parish. It is for the PCC to determine how to consider St Nicholas Church can be accessed by parishioners for day-to-day worship and prayer and how people are treated when they access St Nicholas Church to pray.</i> <i>It is understood that you have already raised the matter directly with the appropriate Church and Diocesan authorities, and the Parish Council recognises that is for them to properly consider and respond to your complaint according to their own procedures.</i> <i>The role of the Parish Council is limited to receiving and recording the complaint as the elected body for this community and encouraging a resolution by the appropriate authority that allows parishioners to feel that their church remains a welcoming house of prayer that is open to all - in practice as well as in principle.</i> <i>While this response will not adequately satisfy the issues raised in your complaint, the Parish Council trusts that the PCC / diocese will investigate to resolve the matter.</i>

2627-22	The Chair closed the meeting at 7:50pm, and confirmed the next meeting would take place on 3 August 2026 at 7pm, Greetham Community Centre.
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Cllr John Stokes
Acting Clerk to the Council
6th June 2026