

Stretton Annual Parish Council Meeting

Thursday 11th May at 7.30pm St. Nicholas Church, Stretton

MINUTES

Present: Cllrs Richard Foster, John Leefe, Brian Lester, Gideon Visser, Greg Harker, Sally Skyrme - Clerk

Guest: Ward Councillor Nick Begy, PC Laurie Appleton

Members of the public Present: nine

1. Election of Officers for 2017/18 Chairman

Cllr Richard Foster was the only person to put himself forward and he was elected as Chairman of Stretton Parish Council.

2. Election of Officer for 2017/18 Vice Chairman

Cllr John Leefe was the only person to put himself forward and he was elected as Vice Chairman of Stretton Parish Council

3. Apologies for absence

None

4. To receive declarations of unregistered disclosable pecuniary interests in agenda items and to receive and approve requests for dispensations from members on matters in which they have a registered Disclosable Pecuniary Interest

None declared

5. Minutes of last meeting on 9th March 2017

Minutes agreed and signed by Chairman (with an amendment by Cllr Lester)

6. Public Session

PC Laurie Appleton gave a report on crime in the village – there have been four reported crimes, one of them being a drive off from the petrol station and another being a break in at a farm. He has stopped getting any call regarding hare coursing so he has closed his file on this for the year. The new priority is off road biking in Castleton – he asked that any crime or witness to off road biking should be reported on 101.

Cllr Foster read a report from Neighbourhood Watch asking for help with the Speed Watch Scheme – two members of public said they had responded to the request but had had no response.

Action: Cllr Foster to ask John McCarthy if he had received the emails.

A member of public brought up the issue of a noise barrier on the A1 road – he said that one is needed similar to the ones that are used in France that absorb the noise – not deflect it upwards.

Another member of the public said she was putting together a Welcome Pack for new villagers. She also mentioned a MacMillan Coffee morning happening in September and would also like to organise an open gardens event in Stretton for next Spring. Jo Haywood, the newsletter editor is now taking over the website offered to help with the welcome pack.

A member of the public said there is an issue with rubbish outside Hawthorne Farm – it is an eyesore.

Action: Cllr Foster agreed that action would be considered at the next meeting

A member of the public asked about the planned path from Stretton to Greetham. Cllr Foster said it has now been taken off the list of proposed paths.

Action: Cllr Foster will bring this up at the next meeting with RCC with a view to get it back on the list.

7. Matters arising from the minutes

With regards to the planting of trees

Action: Cllr Leefe to get together with Lee Overton to get a plan in place to plant the new trees in the village.

With regards to mowing the church yard – Cllr Harker has spoken to church representatives and is convinced that funding for mowing the church yard does not exist. With regards to Friends of St Nicolas – their responsibility relates more to the building not the church yard.

Action: It was resolved that the Parish Council would continue to fund the mowing of the church yard whilst looking into other ways of getting the church yard mown.

8. Planning applications

2017/0331/FUL – (farm gates) no objections

2017/0278/FUL – (Ram Jam development_ Cllr Begy will be raising this in the planning meeting. Stretton Parish Council response: Stretton Parish Council does not object to the planning application but would seek assurance that the nature of the building is sympathetic to the conservation status of Stretton village. There are concerns, however, that the pump would not cope with the waste water, it is believed that the pump is big enough for the extra capacity but the electricity supply is not strong enough to work the pump at a larger capacity. Therefore, Stretton Parish Council would seek assurance that this will be taken into account and dealt with.

Cllr Leefe volunteered to organise this on 25th March 2017 10am

9. Councillor vacancy update

Councillor Overton resigned on 13th April 2017 and a notice has been displayed giving 24th of May as the deadline for the request for an election. If no – one responds to this then the advertisement for the post of Councillor can then be displayed for co-opting.

10. Approval of Accounts for 2016/2017

Accounts to be approved at the next meeting.

11. Defibrillators

Cllr Harker has been researching defibrillators in the village and has been speaking to the managers of the places where defibrillators already exist, at the Shires and Stowes Court, both owned by Acorn. Acorn have offered to place the defibrillators on the outside of the buildings so that they could be used by the public. He said that this just left the centre of the village without a defibrillator. He proposed that they adopt the telephone box or ask BT if they can put the defib in with the phone or have it outside Jackson Stops. The full cost of a defib that does not need a power supply is £1500 plus VAT.

He would continue to investigate the best way forward including contacting the Karen Ball Trust who might be able to help with finance.

A proposal to go ahead with purchase of a single defibrillator was carried by 3 votes to 1 with 1 abstention.

Action: Cllr Harker to proceed to the next stage of purchasing a single defibrillator for the village.

With regards to Stocken Hall residents - a member of the public from there said that residents had decided not to have a defibrillator up there. Cllr Foster said they can change their minds on this if they want to.

12. A1 crash barrier /sound barrier and planting

It was resolved to pursue the goal of getting a sound barrier on the A1 past the village.

Action: Cllr Harker to make enquiries with highways

13. Review of village Conservation Area status

Cllr Foster said that all of the personal responses he has had from villagers have been entirely opposed to changing the status.

The cons to the conservation area status are that it is necessary to put in planning applications for trivial things

The pros are that the campaign against the wind farm was a success largely to do with the status, the status of the village is enhanced and house prices are kept up.

Due to the strong response against changing the status Cllr Foster proposed a resolution that the PC shelves and stops any review of the conservation area status.

Cllr Leefe said it was not properly advertised and it should be brought to the wider community – we need to look at what status the village is at.

Cllr Lester said it is not the top status

Cllr Harker said that we need to look into the process.

Action: Cllr Begy will research the status and the procedure and the item will be kept off the agenda until the research is done

It was resolved that no more discussion would be had about this until all of the research is done by Cllr Begy and Cllr Foster's resolution was carried unanimously.

14. Exploration of changing Stretton back to a Parish Meeting

Cllr Lester said that he is totally against this because he had lived in the village when it was a Parish Meeting and it was undemocratic, although the Parish Council is not ideal it is more democratic.

Cllr Visser said he had researched into it and at first he was for a Parish Meeting but now he is ambivalent.

Cllr Lester suggested that the money the Parish Council has could be used to maintain the church

Cllr Leefe agreed saying the church is soon to close and the Parish Council could take over and make it into a community centre

Cllr Harker said that he had spoken to people in the village who remembered how chaotic it had been when it was a Parish Meeting and most people he had spoken to are against going back to being a Parish Meeting.

Cllr Foster proposed that the Parish Council having done the research believes that the best way forward is to remain a Parish Council.

It was resolved unanimously to back this proposal

Cllr Lester asked about the speed limit on Clipsham road

Action: Cllr Begy to enquire about this.

15. Cheques and expenditure

LRALC membership fee £148.72

Came & Company Insurance £280.00

Sally Skyrme paper and postage £7.51

16. Next meeting time and place

Thursday 8 pm 6th July Jackson Stops Pub (back room)