

Stretton Parish Council
Meeting on Thursday 6th July 2017
8.00 pm at The Jackson Stops

DRAFT MINUTES

Present: Cllrs Richard Foster (Chairman), Brian Lester, Gideon Visser, Greg Harker, Sally Skyrme - Clerk

Guest: Ward Councillor Nick Begy, Martin from Heartbeat Trust and Juliette from Karen Ball Foundation.

Members of the public Present: Three members of the public were present

1. Chairman's welcome

2. Public Session

Cllr Begy said that he will be reviewing the Standing Orders for Stretton to improve the process and transparency. He will feedback in the September meeting.

A member of the public brought up the issue of the stench coming from the Northwest. Cllr Begy said that Environmental Health have looked into this and checked farms for fly larvae but none have been found (please see copy of email below for more in-depth explanation of smell)

You will appreciate that it is a recognised agricultural practice that arable farmers use animal manures, slurries and also what is called 'sewage sludge cake', these materials have beneficial properties for the soil, crops and are also a means of utilising waste products that otherwise has very limited uses and if not spread would just accumulate. The sewage sludge you have specifically mentioned is heat treated 'pasteurised' by Anglian Water before it is delivered to the farmers, this is to destroy harmful pathogens that may otherwise be present.

I inspected the manure heaps in closest proximity to Greetham last week and no larvae of Common House Flies were found, this includes one heap that appeared to have been sewage sludge. This has been consistent with our past investigations of manure heaps. As larvae aren't in the manure heaps, spreading it won't result in adult Common House Flies emerging from the spread manure. As manure and sewage sludge is spread out and incorporated into the soil it will become very thinly distributed and dry out this all acts to make the sewage sludge and manure even less viable as a potential site for Common House Flies and their larvae.

I realise that as crops are now starting to be harvested, this is frequently followed by spreading of manures and sewage sludge which is an inherently malodorous process and is an integral part of the arable practices of ploughing and sowing of next year's crops. Malodours from spreading decline over time due to natural processes and this is enhanced by incorporating manure and sewage sludge into the soil. Each farmer can only spread once a crop has been harvested and only incorporate the material after it has been spread. The stages of harvest, spreading, ploughing and sowing are determined by priorities of harvesting at the correct time and the practicalities of weather conditions and ensuring next year's crop is sown to allow germination and growth in late summer / autumn. This may for example may

mean a farmer harvests a quarter of his fields then spreads, ploughs, but has to return for harvesting (due to the weather / crop etc.) before again returning to the other stages of spreading, ploughing and sowing. For individual farmer balancing these priorities means they may have to return to spreading over a number of days, spaced over many weeks, resulting in long periods when malodours are present. This can mean for an area surrounded by farmland the malodours from spreading can often go on for weeks, because spreading takes place on different fields and by different farmers around the locality over time.

If residents do have a specific concern or location, if the details could be passed through we could investigate. However if normal agricultural practices are being followed there is nothing we can require the farmer do. I would only expect action to be required if for example manure or sewage sludge is being spread at such a rate or on the same land so frequently that the condition of the land becomes effectively permanently saturated with sewage sludge or manure and so becomes a constant single source of malodours as a result of unreasonable agricultural practices.

Please come back to me if you have any questions.

Yours sincerely

Andrew Woodhouse | Environmental Protection Officer

Rutland County Council

Cllr Begy recommended that people contact Environmental Health every time the smell occurs.

Cllr Lester said that if the sludge is ploughed in the smell wouldn't be a problem – the problem is that farmers are not ploughing it in.

A member of the public asked about the report on the conservation area status. Cllr Begy said that he had provided a document but it was decided in the APCM by the village and the Parish Council not to pursue this.

A member of the public brought up the question of the rubbish outside Hawthorne Farm. Cllr Foster explained that this would be dealt with in matters arising.

3. PC Laurie Appleton was not able to attend the meeting. Cllr Foster reported back that there had been no crime in Stretton since the last meeting.
4. **Demonstration of Defibrillator by Heart Beat Trust and statement about grant towards defibrillator.**

Martin from Heartbeat Trust gave a brief demonstration of the defibrillator he said was best for members of the public who have no experience of using defibrillators. He explained how the telephone Kiosk could be used as a defibrillator base also with the added feature of a phone to contact emergency services meaning there would be no need for a 'change of use' application. He said the application to adopt the telephone kiosk in Stretton had already been started and the consultation period ends on 7th September 2017. He was hopeful that the defibrillator could be ready for use by the end of September. The initial cost of the defibrillator is £2000 with a grant from the Karen Ball Trust of £1000. The managed service of the defibrillator and the telephone and telephone kiosk is £100 per year plus £410 to pay upfront.

Cllr Lester proposed that the PC goes ahead with the managed service and the Council resolved to go ahead with the proposal.

5. 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

6. Apologies for absence

Cllr John Leefe

7. Minutes of last meeting on 11th May 2017 and extraordinary meeting on 22nd June 2017.

Both approved and signed by the Chairman

8. Matters Arising from the minutes

With regards to tree planting, Cllr Leefe has started completing a form to get rid of trees that need to be felled in order to start planting new trees.

It was resolved by the Council that Cllr Leefe should go ahead with the planning permission application.

With regards to Hawthorne Farm it was decided that this was not a matter for the Parish Council. Cllr Begy suggested that any issues like this can be raised with Planning.

It was resolved to take it no further. (Cllr Lester added – unless it is yellow with Ragwort)

9. Matters arising from Annual Parish Meeting on 1st June 2017

Cllr Lester was concerned that there is no contract to mow the churchyard. Cllr Harker said that he and a team of volunteers had strimmed the churchyard last time and Mow & sow had done a one-off mow. It took four people about an hour. He said he would get the church lawnmower back

from Jonathon and speak to Cllr Leefe about getting a regular group together to mow the churchyard but said that it would also be necessary to find a contractor. Cllr Foster said the responsibility is ultimately with the Parish Council. Cllr Visser said it is with the Church. Cllr Harker said the Parish Council should pay until alternative arrangement can be found. Cllr Lester suggested paying a contractor three times a year and Friends of St Nicolas can do cuts in between.

Action: *Cllr Harker to look into possible contractors and also forming a group of volunteers.*

Cllr Begy drew people's attention to letters that were being sent out regarding the proposed footpath/ cycle path. He urged people to read the letters and respond to them to say whether they would or wouldn't use the proposed path.

With regards to the weeds on the newly laid asphalt on Walnut Close, Cllr Begy asked that evidence is sent to him so that he can inform the relevant people.

Action: *Cllr Visser to send photos to Cllr Begy*

With regards to a boundary change on the Spinney Cllr Foster will look into this. Cllr Visser said the boundary has not changed.

Action: *Cllr Foster to investigate possible boundary change*

10. Co-option of Councillor after the resignation of Lee Overton

No-one has come forward for this role. It was resolved that the vacancy would be restated on the website and notice boards. Cllr Foster also asked that people ask around for people who are interested.

11. Defibrillator: Decision on maintenance support options and adoption of telephone box.

Dealt with in item 4.

12. Planning Applications.

2017/0547/FUL – The Rookery – below ground installation of LPG tank

2017/0581/CAT – The Old School – Willow Coppice

2017/0561/FUL – Greetham Lodge Farm – Micro Scale Anaerobic Digester (slurry only) – came in after the agenda was published.

Please see Stretton Parish Council's Responses to planning applications on:

<http://planningonline.rutland.gov.uk>

13. Update on noise pollution

Cllr Harker has had an exchange of emails with Highways England and they have promised to meet with the Parish Council in a few weeks. In the meantime, he will check the minutes to see if there is evidence of a promise back in 2010 to put in a smooth surface on the stretch of the A1 going past Stretton. He said it may take years to get any action but it is worth doing if it ultimately improves the lives of villagers.

***Action:** Cllr Harker to look through minutes and keep up lines of communication with Highways England.*

14. Possibility of village fete for 2018.

Cllr Harker suggested a village fete for next year, he is willing to organise it. He is working with Terence Padmore, it will be a non-Parish Council event and Friends of St Nicholas will be in charge of financing the event.

Cllr Begy asked that he is informed of the date.

15. Clerk's employment terms.

It was agreed that Sally would write down the hours she does for Stretton Parish Council and complete the details of employment contract.

16. Correspondence

Sally read an email from Dave Bell, the Highways Operations Manager at Rutland County Council, requesting information with regards to winter maintenance. It was agreed that this could be dealt with by the Community Response Plan led by John McCarthy. It will also be discussed in a meeting planned on 18th of July at the Pantile's annexe. The email has been forwarded to John McCarthy.

17. Accounts

Bank Statements checked by Chairman

18. Cheques and expenditure

Rutland County Council

for Clerk's wages plus admin from 1.1.17 – 31.3.17

£243.00 (Cllr Leefe still to sign and post cheque)

Mow and Sow for Strimming Churchyard

£100.00 (Cllr Leefe still to sign and post cheque)

Sally Skyrme for an accounts book, folders and postage

£13.09 (not signed by Cllr Leefe so kept until next meeting)

19. Next meeting time and place

8pm Thursday 14th September 2017 Jackson Stops Pub (back room)