

Stretton Parish Council
Meeting on Thursday 14th September 2017
8.00 pm at The Jackson Stops

MINUTES

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

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

1. Chairman's welcome

2. Public Session

A member of the public referred to item 17 on the agenda regarding the maintenance of the church yard. He said he was hoping it was in response to an email stating that the responsibility for maintaining the churchyard lies with the Friends of St Nicolas.

A member of public expressed deep concern about some correspondence he had read in the Rutland times which stated that the Parish Council had instigated a review of the conservation status of the village and the Planning Policy Manager expressed his understanding 'that Stretton Parish council was very keen to review its Conservation Area'.

Action: Cllr Foster contacted Dave Brown, the relevant officer at Rutland County Council with the following email:

In response to a question by a rightfully concerned resident who had heard (in the press) to the contrary, at tonight's Stretton Parish Council meeting it was again made clear and unanimously by all councillors that, at this time, no action is required to review the status of the village's Conservation Area. It is also the case that the Parish Council has never requested such a review. Please could you ensure that all relevant officers are informed of the fact and that any enquiries from the press are answered along those lines.

A member of public complained that the minutes missed out a point he made about the minutes being too long and Cllrs not being consistent with their decisions.

A member of the public mentioned a Macmillan Coffee morning at 10am 30th September in the Old School House or if it is raining it will be in the church.

3. Report form Laurie Appleton, Leicestershire Police

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.

Although a member of the public said that his spare wheel had been stolen from his car when it was in the drive and he had reported this to the police.

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. Apologies for absence

Ward Cllr Nick Begy and PC Laurie Appleton

6. Minutes of previous meetings

Both approved and signed by the Chairman

7. Matters Arising from the minutes

None

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

Molly Hayns put herself forward for co-option. Molly spoke about how she has lived in the village for just over a year, she has worked in the charity sector, for Just Giving and in leadership development. She has been welcomed into the village and felt that she would like to contribute to the village by joining the Parish Council.

The Cllrs then considered Molly's co-option.

Cllr Lester was concerned that Molly was not sufficiently experienced in village life to which Molly suggested that she could contribute by looking at things with fresh eyes.

Cllr Harker pointed out that Molly was the only volunteer and it was for more experienced members to provide guidance. Both Cllrs Visser and Leefe agreed. The Chairman welcomed the interest from a younger generation.

Cllr Foster proposed to co-opt Molly Hayns as Councillor and Cllr Harker seconded it. It was resolved to co-opt Molly as Cllr. The Clerk handed her the declaration of acceptance form to sign and Cllr Hayns came and sat at the table.

Action: *Sally to inform Rutland County Council of Cllr Hayns acceptance of office*

Cllr Hayns to complete the Register of interests form and send it to Rutland County Council

9. Planning Applications.

2017/0841/CAT – cutting back a eucalyptus tree off Rookery Lane.

The Council had no objections

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

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

10. Cycle path update

Cllr Foster reported back for Cllr Begy saying there had been 40 responses from local people with only two against the cycle path.

Cllr Hayns said that Greetham mentioned the cost of the path but Stretton weren't informed

Cllr Harker said that despite some comments the scheme would definitely increase safety.

Cllr foster said the path would encourage walkers and cyclists and the Parish Council should support it.

It was resolved that Stretton Parish Council wholeheartedly supports the building of a cycle path and would take action where necessary to support it.

11. Lamp post poppies

Cllr Foster explained the scheme whereby people can buy lamp post poppies for £3 to attach to lamp posts. He said that Cottesmore Parish Council had bought 20.

Cllr Visser said that as a person he was in favour of the poppies but they shouldn't be bought with public money and suggested that all the Cllrs put money in individually to buy the poppies.

The Council was in favour of purchasing poppies along the lines proposed by Cllr Visser and it was resolved that Cllr Foster would buy 20 poppies and people could donate what they wanted in return.

Action: *Cllr Foster to buy poppies and collect donations*

12. Electoral Review of Rutland

Cllr Foster spoke about this saying there were to be Electoral boundary changes in Rutland due to population changes but it does not affect Stretton.

13. Defibrillator update

Cllr Harker has written an update (see below). He also spoke about a photo shoot to be arranged with Karen Ball Trust and putting a donation box in Jackson Stops for people to pay towards the Defibrillator:

Following the PC decision to go ahead, a defibrillator is to be installed in the kiosk opposite the Jackson Stops Inn. The installation will be completed by the Community Heartbeat Trust

(CHT) and a £1000 grant has been donated by the Karen Ball Trust (KBT) to assist with the purchase. The PC approved the expenditure to:

- Purchase the defibrillator
- Purchase an emergency phone
- Contract CHT to complete the installation and provide a managed service
- Cover annual support charges

CHT (Martin Fagan) has, on our behalf, taken over responsibility for the kiosk from BT. BT has since removed all of their equipment. CHT will now assemble all of the new equipment and arrange a date for the installation (estimated as before the end of September)

The defibrillator installation will then be commissioned, including it being registered with the East Midlands Ambulance Service (EMAS). It will require weekly serviceability checks (Gill Harker) which will be recorded by the EMAS. The defibrillator will be housed in a locked, environmentally controlled cabinet. The cabinet lock code will be available for all Stretton and Stocken residents in the form of a key ring fob.

Following commission, there will be an official opening ceremony with CHT and KBT, including a press release. About 1 month after installation there will be a 'community awareness' (training) session open to all within the village. It is emphasised that no prior training is required to operate the defibrillator.

Costs:

Initial costs:

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| • View Defibrillator | £975 |
| • Shock Box Sentry Mild Steel low voltage (for kiosks) | £595 |
| • Sundries: Signage, Rescue kit, Torch, fobs | £60 |
| • Emergency telephone (price to be confirmed) | £395 |
| • Community awareness session | £175 |
| • Installation | £200 |
| • Delivery | £50 |
| • Coded key fobs | |

TOTAL £2450

Less grant from Karen Ball Trust £1000

Therefore initial cost (donation) for Parish Council £1450

Recurring costs invoiced annually (subject to VAT):

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| • Annual support package | £126 |
| • Emergency telephone running cost (£1.16 per week) | £60.32 |
| • Council replacement fund = £100 per annum. | £100 |

Therefore annual recurring cost £286.32 (+ VAT)

CHT has agreed to set up a charity checkout account (no charge) so anyone wishing to donate to support the defibrillator or renewal fund can do so via credit card or monthly donations.

14. Tree works update

Cllr Leefe had a form to be signed and handed in to take out the trees he had earmarked. He said there are lots of trees that need raising and there are so many trees that it is looking overcrowded. He said he would speak to Lee Overton about it to see what can be done.

Cllr Leefe said he would replace trees with smaller ornamental trees.

15. Metal inserts for bins

Cllr Lester said that all of the inserts for the dog waste bins were falling apart and disintegrating. He suggested that he could replace them with some cut down five-gallon drums that he has on his farm.

Cllr Leefe said that it is the responsibility of the Parish Council to maintain the bins

Cllr Harker offered to help

It was resolved to go ahead with Cllr Lester's idea.

Action: *Cllrs Lester and Harker to change bin inserts*

16. Overgrown bush near the telephone kiosk

A Judas tree that was planted by the Parish Council about 20 years ago for a twinning event is blocking the post box. Cllr Lester offered to cut it back.

Cllrs Harker and Foster said we should talk to the homeowners near the bush.

It was agreed that Cllr Lester and Cllr Harker would cut back the bush after they had spoken to the home owners.

Action: *Cllr Lester and Cllr Harker to do above.*

17. Church grass cutting

Cllr Foster said that the Friends of St Nicholas Church (FOSN) will be discussing this at their next meeting. He said that generations of villagers are buried there so maybe we should continue to fund it?

Cllr Harker said there are no volunteers to cut the grass at the moment and Richard Crowden has been doing it. He will need to cut it once more this year then he will invoice the Parish Council at the end of the mowing season.

Cllr Hayns asked if the Friends of St Nicholas will take it on but this was yet to be decided.

Cllr Visser said that he was in full agreement with the member of public who brought the subject up in the public session.

Cllr Foster said that he also fully backs this option if FOSN can take on the mowing.

It was agreed to await the outcome of the meeting of FOSN.

18. Update on noise pollution

Cllr Harker gave an update on this because he has been working on trying to reduce noise pollution:

Highways England spent 48 hours in The Spinney and 15 minutes in other areas of the village measuring the noise caused by the A1. He is awaiting the report but he was told that the average noise levels in the village are around 59 – 67 decibels. It is recommended that it should not be higher than 55 decibels.

He said that, if the case were approved, Stretton would be on a list for noise reduction measures that will not start until 2021. Therefore, works were unlikely to be carried out much before then but it is good that Stretton is on the list. There might be a possibility that Stretton could volunteer for trial noise reduction schemes and he would report back at the next meeting.

We have a copy of a letter from Highways dated 2007 stating that noise reduction would start by 2010. We need documented evidence of any illness in the village caused by noise. And we need to co-opt Sir Alan Duncan, MP into the campaign once we have the report.

Cllr Hayns asked whether the measures would be for individual dwellings or more general. This is not yet known. She also commented that she had experienced modern resurfacing and found it to be very effective.

19. CPRE membership renewal

Cllr Harker has looked into this and said that 1725 parish councils have membership. It offers free planning advice which would help cope with developments etc.

Cllr Lester said that that kind of advice could cost £70 an hour so membership is like an insurance

It was resolved to renew the membership

Action: *Sally to renew membership and pay £36 to CPRE*

20. CAMRA letter regarding local pub as a community asset

Cllr Leefe said that the Jackson Stops building is owned by Ancaster and they have said it must remain a pub. By joining the register it can stop them selling the pub to just anyone and it gives the community a chance to run the pub if wanted.

Action: *Cllr Harker to talk to the pub landlords*

21. Clerk's employment contract

Sally to meet with Cllr Foster to discuss this.

22. Correspondence

We received a letter from Rutland Foodbank requesting a donation to help with the running costs. It was resolved to donate £100 to this.

Cllr Foster said he had received an email about Hooby Lane Quarry with someone concerned that it is too big and stocks are piling up.

Cllr Leefe said that Rutland County council want them to knock the sides down.

Cllr Hayns said that stones are always in the road, who's responsibility is it to clear them up? Cllr Leefe said he would talk to them.

Cllr Harker suggested that we ask them for a donation to the village fete.

Action: Cllr Leefe to talk to the Quarry manager

23. Accounts

No bank statements available this month

24. Cheques and expenditure

Clerk's wages for the period 1.4.17 – 30.6.17 (plus admin)	£243
Rutland Foodbank donation	£100
CPRE membership	£36

25. Next meeting time and place 8pm Thursday 9th November 2017 Jackson Stops (back room)

The meeting closed at 9.34 pm