

Stretton Parish Council
Meeting on Thursday 26th November
8.00 pm at The Jackson Stops
Meeting Number 4/2015

MINUTES

Present: Cllrs Richard Foster, Brian Lester, John Leefe, Lee Overton, Roger Begy

1. **Apologies for Absence:** Peter Ransome-Jones
2. **Declarations of Interest:** None
3. **The Chairman welcomed Jean Denyer, the local representative of Rutland Community Agents and invited her to explain the role of her organisation.**

Community Agents is funded by Rutland County Council, through Spire Homes who manage the service. They seek referrals from any organisation or individual to help vulnerable people who need support of any kind. They provide free support to anyone who is vulnerable or in need whether they live independently in their own or in a rented home, and also if they live in residential care. The team are qualified to fit lifelines (Assistive Technology) There are three in the team at present. The other two are Sally Vincent (full time) and Elaine (part time). Jean distributed a number of leaflets and contact details to councillors present for future reference. The Chairman and Councillors thanked her for attending the meeting.

4. **The Chairman invited observations from residents of Stretton present.**

Mimi Harris remarked on the untidy condition of the bus shelter saying that it contained leaves, litter and out of date notices. The Chairman agreed to have a look and decide whether tidying it up was simple volunteer exercise or whether Mow & Sow needed to be employed to do it.

5. **Election of Clerk to succeed Mr Tony Bianchi (Mrs Penny Briant):** Formally proposed by Richard Foster, seconded by John Leefe and agreed by all present.
6. **Approval for attendance of Cliff Bacon:** Agreed, to assist Penny Briant, the new Clerk.
7. **Minutes of last meeting on 24th September 2015.**

Brian Lester explained that omitted from the minutes was a discussion last time concerning an overhang of vegetation onto the footpath leading to George Henry Wood, which could cause walkers to step into the road. The responsibility for removing this overhang had not been agreed at the meeting. The Chairman reported that he had subsequently cleared the obstruction referred to. Subject to adding this reference to the minutes, they were agreed for signing by the Chairman.

8. **Matters Arising from the minutes;**

It was reported that the branch of a tree had broken and the bough was protruding into the highway on the Clipsham Road just a little further towards Clipsham from the previous obstruction. At the request of the Chairman, John Leefe agreed to have a look at it, and if necessary, to contact highways at RCC to clear it.

9. Interim Accounts and Budget for 2015/16

A document showing income and expenditure to date together with a budget for the remainder of the current financial year was presented by the Clerk and discussed. Its adoption was proposed by John Leefe, seconded by the Chairman and approved by councillors with one abstention. Due to the resignation of Pippa an additional cheque signatory was required to bring the total to three. Lee Overton was duly nominated and elected as the third cheque signatory. Other signatories are The Chairman and John Leefe. Cheques require to be signed by any two of the three signatories. The Clerk will obtain the necessary forms from the bank and arrange for Lee Overton and the other cheque signatories to complete necessary details. She will then submit the completed forms to the bank.

10. Draft Standing orders for discussion.

A model form of standing orders suitable for Parish Councils had been circulated with the agenda. This is a comprehensive document and it may be possible to simplify it before adoption by Stretton. The Chairman requested that all parish councillors read the document and send their comments in writing to the Clerk by the 10th December. Recommendations will then be considered with a view to formally adopting a version of the Standing Orders at the next Parish Council meeting.

11. Refreshing of Rutland Local Plan; Issues and Options Document.

Consultation is now open on the Rutland Local Plan Review, Issues and Options Consultation. The consultation period ends on 12th January. The key consultation documents are available to view on line. Roger Begy agreed to obtain for Stretton a hard copy of the issues and options Consultation Document for use by anyone who does not have internet access.

The Chairman requested that all councillors study the documents in turn and write up their views and suggestions on the proposals before the next Parish Council meeting on the 7th January. At that meeting, a final response from Stretton should be agreed.

12. Stretton PC Website

It is the understanding of the Parish Council that Peter Ransome-Jones has agreed to act as Web Master for the Parish. It was considered that the minimum content of the web site should include the names and contacts of all Parish Councillors, Parish Council meeting Agendas and Minutes and related documents such as interim accounts, budgets and standing orders when formally agreed.

It is further understood that in future, the Clerk will send electronic copies of documents referred to above, after they have been approved by the Chairman, to

Peter Ransome-Jones and that he will arrange to promptly post them to the Parish Council web site.

13. **Planning Applications:** A local planning application for the removal of a mature tree was considered and it was agreed that there were no objections from the Parish Council.

14. **Other correspondence:** There was none.

15. **Any other business.**

15.1 Roy Wicks of Church Lane Greetham can advise on the process of obtaining and financing a village defibrillator. **The Clerk is asked to contact Roy to obtain details and report on the details at the next meeting.**

15.2 Concerning some individual street lighting issues, **the Chairman will talk to Cllr Tony Mathias at RCC**

15.3 There is a need to adopt a new councillor to replace Pippa. **The Clerk is asked to talk to the Elections Office at RCC to establish the correct procedure and to proceed with the process accordingly.**

15.4 There will be a planned "Clean for the Queen" around next April. Stretton will participate in this. **The Clerk is requested to obtain some details of the plans from RCC and to include the matter as an agenda item at the next meeting.**

16. **Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 7th January 8pm at the Jackson Stops**

(Clerk will request facilities at The Jackson Stops)

The Meeting closed at 9.31 pm. Chairman thanked all for their attendance.