Stretton Parish Council

Meeting on Thursday 8th September 2016

8.00 pm at The Jackson Stops

DRAFT MINUTES

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

Guest: Ward Councillor Nick Begy

Members of the public Present: One member of the public was present.

1. **Public Questions and comments on the agenda**

   Cllr Foster apologised that this item was left out of the agenda and as a result the member of public had to wait until the end. The member of the public asked about the progress with regards to the defibrillators being fitted in the village. Cllr Foster said that Tony form Clipsham would be coming to explain how things were being done in their village. He has also spoken to Dr Emma Chan about running the two defibrillators with members of the public. The Parish Council will place a request in the Village Newsletter to ask for volunteers to come forward to help with the fitting and running of the defibrillators.

2. **Declarations of Interest both Personal and Prejudicial on items on the agenda**.

   Cllr Lee Overton said he had an interest in Wilfred's planning application

3. **Apologies for absence**

   None.

4. **Minutes of the meeting of 12the May 2016.**

   All correct except that Cllr Brian Lester said that at the time he said that he didn't think the co-opting of the two Councillors was legal and didn't agree to co-opting them. It was later discovered that it was not correct to co-opt the two Councillors and since then the correct procedures have been followed. The minutes will be amended accordingly.

5. **Matters arising from the Minutes**

Item 10 regarding roadside verges and the cable at the bottom of Church Lane has been resolved due to work and enquiries made by Cllr Foster and Cllr Lester.

Item 11 Cllr Nick Begy was able to confirm that the speed signs are being considered to be changes from 40 mph to 30 mph

Cllr Lester said that there is still a problem with sewerage coming from Stocken Prison and ending up in his field because of a flap on the storm drain dyke. It was resolved that Sally would draft a letter to Rutland County Council for Cllr Lester's approval.

6. **Parish Councillor Vacancy Update**

The Chairman showed a letter to the meeting stating that Cllr Peter Ransome - Jones had resigned. As a result, a casual vacancy had been made which had been advertised but no- one came forward to request and election so the post will now be co-opted at the next meeting if someone comes forward. The post will be advertised in the Village Newsletter and with notices on the village notice boards. The Chairman asked that the notices state that the Council would be pleased to hear from people from Stocken and Stretton Woods because these areas are underrepresented in the Parish Council, the Parish Council would also like to hear from women because there are no female Councillors.

7. **Co-opting of Councillor post since the resignation of Pippa Atkins**

Gideon Visser put himself forward for co-option and it was resolved to accept him as a Councillor for Stretton Parish Council. Gideon signed the Acceptance of Office statement and from then on sat at the table as a Councillor.

8. **Planning Applications**

Planning Application number: 2016/0811/FUL

There was no objection to the planning application so long as it is a temporary structure. Cllr Lester expressed concerns about 'planning creep' so it was resolved that Sally would write saying there are no objections so long as it is temporary and also express the Council's concerns about 'planning creep' both in and also outside of Stretton.

9. **Overgrown footpath between Threeways and Hollytree Cottage**

Cllr Leefe will email Cllr Begy to tell him exactly where it is so that he can speak directly to Mark Loran at Rutland County Council.

10. **Tree and bulb planting for the winter**

Cllrs Leefe and Overton have been assessing the village to find sights that would be suitable for new trees. They have a few places in mind but are open to suggestions. They will be planting white walnuts trees to acknowledge the Roman history in the village.

With regards to bulb planting, Cllr Foster said that a family in the village are planting spring bulbs in the village this winter ready for when their daughter gets married next spring.

11. **Allocation of specific roles to individual Councillors**

Cllr Foster muted the possibility of becoming a Parish Meeting rather than a Parish Council, however it was resolved to remain as a Parish Council. However, it was decided that different Councillors could have different 'spheres of interest' so that all enquiries did not always go to the Chairman. It was decided that Cllr Foster's area would be liaison, for example with the police and military. Cllrs Leefe and Overton's area would be trees and paths and planning. Cllr Visser's area would be finances such as grants, precept and audit. Cllr Lester's area would be the rural environment – so he would want to know about any trees being chopped down etc. None can make decisions on their own with regards to the Parish Council.

12. **Establishing a formal approach to meetings**

The Clerk has been attending training and has gained more knowledge about the running of Parish Councils so the idea of setting up a planning committee was looked into for times when planning applications come in in between Parish Council meetings. Cllrs Lester, Overton and Leefe were selected as the members of the planning committee. The clerk will look into the setting up of planning committees.

13. **Council's submission to the Village Newsletter**

The chairman is to compile an email to send to Emma Chan. Detailing the decisions in this meeting and the last Annual Parish Council Meeting.

14. **Other correspondence**

    Cllr Overton has received an email from a Parishioner stating concerns about the state of Stocken Hall Road caused by heavy traffic to and from the prison. It was resolved that Cllr Overton and The Clerk would draft a letter to the Governor at Stocken Prison. The Clerk said that she had had an email about possibly accessing the County Council's website service. She has looked into it and it was quite expensing but she will make further enquiries.

15. **Any other business**

    The clerk took the contact details for all of the Councillors. She also had cheques to be signed for the following: £168 to Rutland County Council for the Clerk's wages, £90 for Mow and Sow for mowing the cemetery, £23.57 for postage / stamps.

16. **Next meeting** Thursday 10th November 2016 8 pm at Jackson Stops back room