

Stretton Parish Council
Meeting on Thursday 10th November 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: Four members of the public were present

1. Public questions and comments on the agenda

A member of the public emailed a question:

Will the chairman and vice chairman step down with immediate effect due to the on going investigations into the SPC financial ethics by RCC, connected to villagers money being allocated to FOSN of which the chairman and vice chairman are shown on the FOSN records as being on the FOSN committee therefore allocating funds to an organisation of which they are directly involved Declarations of interests do not appear to have been declared to RCC

Will the then interim chairperson make a clear statement that PRECEPT funds allocated to Stretton will not be used to finance FOSN activities without clear declarations in the SPC minutes that FOSN will be the beneficiary of SPC PRECEPT funds/money

The question was considered, however prior to the meeting the Monitoring Officer had given her response to the investigation and it was decided that because the investigation was over the question was no longer relevant. However, the Chairman acknowledged that mistake had been made and in future declarations of interest would always be clear in the interest of transparency and that all of the recommendations made by the Monitoring Officer would be put into place. The Vice Chairman also agreed to this.

Cllr Lester then made comments regarding village unity and responses to planning applications, which were added to by Cllr Overton.

A member of the public asked that individual planning applications are put on the agenda in future. She also asked about the leaf clearing at the Rookery and about the bank opposite Church Farm which has been left in a mess by Severn Trent Water.

Action: Sally and Cllr Lester to draft a letter to Severn Trent Water and email Rutland County Council about the leaves and the ongoing problem of the storm drain.

A third member of the public brought up the situation regarding the paying of the insurance for the Queen's Bonfire Party in April. It was explained that a temporary minute taker had not minuted the fact that the Bonfire Party was organised by Friends of St Nicolas and the Parish Council voted unanimously to support it by paying for the insurance. It was resolved that in future, as with the first question, declarations of interest would be clear and minuted.

The same member of public brought up an incident at the Queen's Bonfire Party. This issue was discussed in detail and it was concluded by an agreement that the Parish Council endeavour to be as inclusive as possible regarding all future village public events.

2. 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

3. Apologies for absence

None

4. Minutes of last meeting on 8th September 2016

Minutes agreed and signed by Chairman

5. Revised minutes of 12th May and also Minutes of 9th June APM

Minutes agreed and signed by Chairman

6. Matters Arising from the minutes.

None

6a Defibrillator group (consider email from Peter Watt and volunteer offers) –

this item was brought forward because a member of the public, Gill Harker, has offered to be part of the group to organise the defibrillators and it wasn't fair to make her wait until the end of the meeting.

An email was read out from Peter Watts who has offered the use of his defibrillator at 1 Stowe Court. This news was welcomed because it means that all three areas of Stretton can be covered by a defibrillator each. It was decided that the PC would still purchase two defibrillators for the other two areas of Stretton, the old village centre and Stocken Hall. A discussion then took place about other people who had said they would get involved and it was resolved that Gill Harker would lead the project and the Chairman would give her the contact details of the other people who might wish to get involved. Cheaper options for defibrillators and advertising for more volunteers would also be investigated.

7. **Co-opting of councillor post, following resignation of Peter Ransome Jones.**

Nobody has come forward it was resolved to keep advertising the post on the notice board and in the village newsletter.

8. **Training – cost and dates available in January / February.**

The possibility of in house training was discussed and it was decided that this would be a good idea given the recent mistakes that had been made. A few dates were put forward.

Action: Sally to liaise with Leicester and Rutland Association of Local Councils (LARALC) to discuss training dates. The cost would be £190 for training all council members. It was agreed that this would be worth paying for.

9. **Membership of the SLCC (Society of Local Council Clerks)**

Sally explained the role of the SLCC and the benefits of joining – it was decided that we needed to look into it further – the cost would be £58 per year.

10. **Purchasing book called Local Councils Explained**

Sally explained that this is a useful book published by the SLCC – the cost is around £50 (cheaper if you are a member of the SLCC). It was agreed that Sally could buy the book if she could find it for less than £30.

Action: Sally to source second hand book if possible

11. **Paying for IT consultant to maximise use of computer**

Sally explained that the computer wasn't functioning to its maximum potential. Ward Cllr Begy offered his services to help resolve any issues with the computer.

Action: Sally to contact Cllr Begy regarding issues with computer.

12. **Purchasing ink, paper, envelopes and folders.**

Resolved to allow these purchases and also to try and get ink cheaper online.

13. **Applying to Transparency Fund for Scanner in retrospect and possibly for PC website.**

It was resolved that the PC should apply to the transparency fund for a printer and scanner. With regards to the website – it was resolved to continue with the village website and simply put PC notices onto that.

Action: Sally to apply for a transparency grant for a printer and scanner. Sally to discuss access to the website with the people who run the village website.

14. **Planning Applications.**

- 1 Stowe Court 2016/0969/FUL – no objection
- Revised application 2016/0811/FUL – no objection but we would like to reiterate what we said in the original response
- Woodlands Farm 2016/1040/FUL – For transparency's sake the PC wish to be assured that this is and will remain a mobile structure and not a permanent one underpinned by bricks

15. **LED Lighting**

It was resolved to approve the proposal as it would save the village a lot of money in energy costs

16. **Red Cross appeal.**

It was resolved not to support the appeal financially.

17. **See item 6a**

18. **Items for notice boards and submissions to village newsletter**

None discussed

19. **Correspondence (CPRE quiz)**

Quiz was handed out to those who wanted it.

20. **Any other business**

The necessity of an independent internal auditor was discussed – two possibilities were put forward.

Action: Sally to look into whether they would be available and suitable
Richard Foster gave Sally the correspondence one of which was a refund of £155 from the Woolfox Wind Farm Action Group.

Cheques were written for Mow and Sow - £40, LARALC £140 (training)

21. **Next meeting time and place**

8pm 12th January 2017 the Jackson Stops back room