

Stretton Grandison Group Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held at The Stables, Canon Frome, HR8 2UN On Monday 3rd February 2020 at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs: Helen Heathfield (Chairman); Charles Pudge, Malcolm Davies, Andy Towers, Richard Crompton and Richard Henson.

In attendance: Emma Thomas – Parish Clerk,

Public: 2

1. **To accept any apologies for absence and note the reason**
None
2. **To record any Declarations of Interest and consider any written Requests for Dispensations**
None
3. **To approve the minutes of the meeting held on the 11th November 2019**
The minutes were APPROVED and duly signed by the Chair.
4. **To receive a brief report from the Ward Councillor – Cllr. Jonathan Lester**
It was RESOLVED to defer this item until Cllr Lester arrived.

Cllr. Ed Godsall joined the meeting.

5. **Public participation session for local residents to raise matters relevant to the parish council**
The following matter was raised:
- Background was given as to the history of parishioners trying to get traffic calming measures put in place.

Cllr Jonathan Lester arrived.

- What was Cllr Lester doing to push forward the highway measures discussed in September 2019? *It was NOTED that Cllr Lester had contacted Cllr Harrington to ask how Herefordshire Council would be supporting the Parish Council in enabling the scheme to be put into reality.*

It was AGREED that further discussion should take place under item 8 of the agenda.

It was AGREED to take item 4 next.

4. **To receive a brief report from the Ward Councillor – Cllr. Jonathan Lester**
Cllr Lester's report included the following items:
 - The budget will be discussed at the next Council meeting on the 14th February. This sets the Corporate budget for the coming years. There is planned to be a 4% rise in Council Tax for 2020-21
 - The LEP funding for the Southern Link road will have to be returned as it is no longer going ahead – possibly along with the £3.8 million already spent.
 - The Administration are planning to spend £39 million on electric buses as well as borrowing up to £100 million for new Council houses.
 - Grant funding is being looked at as a way of paying for plans to resolve the phosphate issues in the River Lugg.

6. **Planning**
6.1 **To note any planning applications approved/refused by Herefordshire Council since the last meeting**
The following items were NOTED

DATE	APPLICATION NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	PC COMMENT	HFD COUNCIL DECISION
Sept 2019	192758	Old Birchend, Bosbury, Ledbury, Herefordshire HR8 1HF The retention and alteration of a fence and the retention of a pergola (Retrospective)	Support	Approved with conditions

17/19

Sept 2019	192959	Pool House, Fromes Hill, Ledbury, Herefordshire HR8 1HW Proposed detached garage/studio outbuilding.	Support	Approved with conditions
Nov 2019	193420	Stretton Grange, The Old Forge, Stretton Grandison, HR8 2TS Installation of a garden shed/summerhouse and hot tub in the rear garden.	Support with comment	Approved with conditions

7. NDP

7.1 To receive an update on the Regulation 14 consultation and next steps

The clerk REPORTED that Regulation 14 had been completed. The NDP Steering Group would be meeting at the end of February, with the Consultant, to discuss possible next steps. Any recommendation would come to the Parish Council for approval in March.

8. To consider an update on highway issues through Stretton Grandison

The clerk REPORTED that, after much chasing, she had received the costs from Balfour Beatty for the traffic calming measures wanted. The total maximum cost for dragon's teeth; white gates; improved chevron signage and SID assessments and bases within Stretton Grandison will cost £13,500. The Police and Crime Commissioner had agreed to pay 50% of this sum at the meeting in September 2019, and external funding was also being sought.

The improved decals and white lines were not possible as the surface of the road is too bad. This has gone to the asset management team to look at the possibility of surface dressing – although this had not been earmarked to be done in 2020-21. It was RESOLVED that the Parish Council, Parishioners and Ward Cllr Jonathan Lester should meet with Cllr John Harrington to put pressure on Herefordshire Council to bring this forward for completion as soon as possible. The clerk will liaise with Cllr Lester over dates.

The Traffic Regulation Order, submitted by the clerk, to have a buffer zone of 40mph on entry to the village had been ranked at number 14 and would therefore likely be undertaken by Herefordshire Council in 18-24 months time.

It was RESOLVED to undertake all of the traffic calming measures above – assuming the budget was approved in item 9 below, and that external funding from bodies and the PCC were forthcoming as expected.

Thanks were given to the clerk for her diligence and perseverance with this matter.

9. Finance

9.1 Confirmation of bank balances and note and sign finance report – Appendix 1

The Clerk REPORTED that finances were as expected for the period. It was NOTED that Cllr Andy Towers had been added as a signatory on the bank account. The report was APPROVED and duly signed as evidence of budget monitoring and bank reconciliation.

9.2 To consider invoices for payment

9.2.1 Clerks expenses £39.08 (Previously circulated)

9.2.2 Clerks salary for December and January

9.2.3 HMRC - £232.80

9.2.4 Kirkwells – NDP Regulation 14 Consultation £1680

9.2.5 Autela – Payroll Services – £47.08

It was RESOLVED to approve the above invoices for payment and the cheques were signed.

9.3 To receive an update on the Poorland Meadow Trust

It was REPORTED that the bank account had still been unable to be opened. Cllr Malcolm Davies will try other banks. It was NOTED that the trustees needed to be changed to reflect the new Stretton Grandison councillors. The clerk REPORTED that she had spoken to the lessee of the fields but had not issued any invoice for rent of the land as there was no account to pay the money into.

9.4 To consider the draft 2020-21 budget and precept - Appendix 2

It was RESOLVED that the precept should increase to £14,000 for 2020-21. £5000 of this would be set aside to pay for traffic calming measures through Stretton Grandison and thereafter be named "Community Fund" within the budget. This increases the precept by c.£21.00 per annum per average Band D household.

10. To consider an update on faster broadband in Canon Frome.

It was REPORTED that the design phase had been completed. The installation of the cables would now take place – with every household in the Parish being connected by April 2020.

11. To consider any highway or footpath issues for reporting to Balfour Beatty

The following items were NOTED for reporting:

- Missing white lines on the highways throughout the parishes.

- Overgrown hedges on Fromes Hill need trimming before they fall on the highway.
- A very large pothole by Southfield has opened up.
- Ditches in Castle Frome at the bottom of Church Road need clearing to stop the highway from flooding.
- Since the cattle grid on the Stretton End of the Homend Estate has been mended it floods to overflowing every time it rains.

The Parish Footpath Officer REPORTED no issues on the Parish Footpaths.

Cllr Lester was asked when someone could make a claim against Herefordshire Council in the event of their vehicle being damaged by a pothole. The response was: If Balfour Beatty had earmarked the pothole for repair no claim could be made; if the pothole was not known about then a claim could be made.

12. To consider Parish Photographs 2020.

Cllr Helen Heathfield REPORTED that she had arranged for Parish photographs of Canon Frome Parishioners to be taken this Spring. If any other Parish was interested, she REQUESTED that they contact her. It was NOTED that Stretton Grandison Parish wished to be included.

13. To consider any correspondence received by the clerk – VE Day

The clerk handed out information on the forthcoming national VE Day celebrations. It was RESOLVED to revisit this item at the March meeting.

14. To consider any items for the next agenda – no discussion

Canon Frome Church – when the information is available.

15. To note the date of the next meeting – Monday 9th March 2020 at 7.30pm

NOTED

A resolution was passed to exclude the press and public from the following confidential item – employment matters

Cllr Lester and the public left the meeting.

16. To consider the Clerks Annual Appraisal

It was REPORTED that the clerk's appraisal had been completed by the Chair – and that both parties were happy with the arrangement and that no issues had been raised. The clerk was thanked for her hard work.

The meeting closed at 9.00pm

Signed: _____



Dated: _____

9-3-20