

09/24

STRETTON GRANDISON GROUP PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Clerk: Mrs Emma Thomas, Hadleigh, Bishops Frome, Worcester, WR6 5AP. Tel: 01885 490414
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**Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council
held at St James Church – Canon Frome
on Monday 18th November 2024 at 7.30pm**

Present: Cllrs: Helen Heathfield (Chair), Andy Towers, Richard Crompton and Charles Pudge

In attendance: Emma Thomas – Parish Clerk
Ward Cllr Jonathan Lester

Public: 4

1. **To accept any apologies for absence and note the reason**
Apologies were RECEIVED and ACCEPTED from Cllr Rebecca Tully
2. **To note the self-disqualification of Cllr Charlotte Phillips and next steps**
The self-disqualification was NOTED. Charlotte was thanked for her time on the Council. The clerk will now hang the Notice of Vacancy
3. **To record any Declarations of Interest and consider any Requests for Dispensations**
None

Cllr Olivia Manning joined the meeting

4. **To consider approval of minutes of Parish Council meeting held Monday 16th September 2024**
The minutes were APPROVED and duly SIGNED by the Chair.
5. **To receive a brief report from Three Crosses Ward Councillor Jonathan Lester**
Cllr Lester's report included the following items:
 - Parishioners have been discussing highway safety concerns with him
 - Central Government's plan for devolution is still being discussed
 - The implications following the budget are being worked through
 - Children's Services continue to improve.

Cllr Ed Godsall joined the meeting

6. **Public participation session for local residents to raise matters relevant to the Parish Council**
Concerns were raised regarding highway safety issues in the parishes – with particular note given to:
 - Speed on the A417
 - Mud on the road
 - Narrow lanes becoming rat runs
 - Poor driver behaviour.It was AGREED this would be an agenda item in January.
7. **To consider the following planning applications for determination by Herefordshire Council**
 - a) **222728 - Whitwick Manor, Lower Eggleton, Ledbury, HR8 2UE**
The erection of and the construction of an anaerobic digestion (AD) plant with associated facilities, including feedstock storage clamps; tanks; lagoons and wetland filtration system; and connection to the national gas grid, together with the installation of photovoltaic panels on buildings, a grain store and dryer and the construction of a new vehicular access to the A417.
It was RESOLVED to continue to object to this application for the following reasons:
 - It will continue to have an adverse effect on the surrounding highway network
 - It will continue to have a negative impact on noise and air pollution in the area
 - The site and size of the AD continue to be contrary to Herefordshire Council's Waste and Minerals Policy
 - The Environment Agency permit was not properly consulted on and contains provisos that may not happen
 - It remains an industrial scale operation in a rural setting
 - It will continue to have a detrimental impact on farming should there not be enough manure to feed it.

b) 242679 - The Beech House, Stretton Grange, Stretton Grandison, Ledbury, HR8 2TS

Proposed works to mature Sycamore -1) Reduce height of the tree by up to 3m from 17m to approximately 14m. 2) Reduce main lateral branches on the east side of the canopy by 1-2m 3) Reduce over extended limb @ 7m facing south east by 3m. Reasons for works - The tree has a top heavy form, leans to the east and has a canopy bias to the east. The works will help reduce the likelihood of branch failures.

It was RESOLVED to support the application on the condition that a qualified tree surgeon completes the works.

Ward Cllr Jonathan Lester left the meeting

Four members of the public left the meeting

8. Finance:**a) To consider the November 2024 finance report and bank statements. – Appendix 1**

The clerk REPORTED that all income expected had now been received. Spend remains low against budget for the period. The report was APPROVED and signed as evidence of budget monitoring and bank reconciliation.

b) To consider the following invoices for payment

- a) Clerks November Salary
- b) Clerks November expenses £170.91 – previously circulated
- c) HMRC PAYE - £109.80
- d) St James Church Canon Frome – Meeting Hire - £15.00
- e) HALC – web-hosting and domain name services - £72.60
- f) WHA Accounts – Refreshments at Parish Event on 15th September - £95.00

The above invoices were APPROVED for payment by BACS

c) To note the following payments made between meetings under clerks delegated authority

- a) Clerks October salary
- b) HMRC PAYE - £109.80

NOTED

d) To consider the draft budget and precept figure for 2025-26 – Appendix 2

The draft budget and precept figure were considered. It was RESOLVED to request a precept figure of £14,500 again for the year 2025-26 at an annual cost of £63.90 for an average Band D household. It was NOTED that the average for Herefordshire is £79.04. The draft budget was APPROVED.

9. Highways/Footpaths:**a) To consider any highway or footpaths issues for reporting to Balfour Beatty**

None

b) To consider an update on cycle access and safety along the A4103

None received

c) To receive an update on the working and servicing of the SIDs

It was REPORTED that new batteries were likely needed. It was RESOLVED to purchase 4 new batteries at a cost of £430 + VAT. It was NOTED that if the SIDs need a service they will need to be returned to the company as they do not offer on-site services.

10. To consider an update on setting up a table tennis club and next steps.

It was REPORTED that there has been some interest in this. It is hoped that this, alongside a coffee morning, can start in January.

11. To consider joining the Cider Press newsletter at a cost of £300 per annum and next steps – including distribution of the newsletter.

It was RESOLVED to join the Cider Press Newsletter. It was AGREED that Cllr Heathfield would write the first article to go in the newsletter. This needs to be submitted by the 1st February 2025 for a March distribution. It was AGREED that distribution would be discussed in January.

12. To consider any correspondence received by the Clerk

- To confirm the parish priorities for the next quarter – Safer Neighbourhood Team – it was AGREED that the priorities should be - speeding
- Herefordshire Council – Tree, Hedgerow and Woodland Strategy consultation - NOTED

13. To consider any items for the next agenda (no discussion)

None

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14. To note the date of the next meeting – 20th January 2025 – St James Church – Canon Frome

NOTED. The following meeting dates for 2025 were NOTED:

2025 Meeting dates: - all meetings will start at 7.30pm

20th January 2025

17th March 2025

19th May 2025 – *to be preceded by the Annual Parish Meetings*

14th July 2025

15th September 2025

17th November 2025

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

15. Clerks Employment

a) To consider the clerk's annual appraisal and salary review.

It was REPORTED that the Chair and Clerk had undertaken the review. The clerk was thanked for her hard work. It was RESOLVED to increase the clerk's salary from SCP26 to SCP32.

b) To consider awarding the clerk the NALC approved national pay-rise back-dated to 1st April 2024

It was RESOLVED to award the clerk the national pay-rise back-dated to 1st April 2024

The meeting closed at 8.45pm

Signed: _____



Dated: _____

20.1.25