

09/25

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 17th November 2025 at 7.30pm**

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

In attendance: Emma Thomas – Parish Clerk

Public: 1

1. **To accept any apologies for absence and note the reason**
None
2. **To record any Declarations of Interest and consider any requests for dispensations**
None
3. **To consider approval of minutes of Parish Council meeting held Monday 15th September 2025**
The minutes were APPROVED and duly signed by the Chair.
4. **To receive a brief report from Three Crosses Ward Councillor Jonathan Lester**
Cllr Lester had emailed his apologies.

Cllrs Ed Godsall and Olivia Manning joined the meeting

5. **Public participation session for local residents to raise matters relevant to the Parish Council**
A discussion was held about drainage and flooding issues at Five Bridges Cottages. The clerk summarised the situation regarding proposed schemes and available funding.

The member of the public left the meeting

6. Planning

- a) **To consider an update on the meeting with Herefordshire Council NDP Team to discuss the development of the current NDP.**

The clerk REPORTED that at the initial meeting, Herefordshire Council confirmed their intention to stop using the NDP in decision making after May 2026 – up until this time it only carries limited weight. They have since confirmed that this advice was incorrect and that the NDP does have full weight until it is withdrawn.

- b) **To receive an update on Central Government funding for NDP's**

It was NOTED that Central Government will not be funding Parish Councils to review their NDP's moving forwards.

7. Finance:

- a) **To consider the November finance report and bank statements. – Appendix 1**

The clerk REPORTED that in the region of 50% of the budget has been spent. The report was APPROVED and signed as evidence of budget monitoring and bank reconciliation by Cllr Andy Towers

- b) **To note the following payments made between meetings under Clerks Delegated Authority (Finance Regulations item 5.5)**

- a) Clerks October Salary
- b) HMRC September PAYE £213.20
- c) HMRC October PAYE £173.74
- d) SID Control Unit as agreed 15th September 2025 - £51.51

The above payments were NOTED

- c) **To consider the following invoices for payment**

- a) Clerks November Salary
- b) Clerks November expenses £124.60 – previously circulated
- c) HMRC PAYE - £173.74
- d) St James Church Canon Frome – Meeting Hire - £15.00

10/25

- d) **To consider the 2026-27 budget and precept figure alongside the Reserves Policy – Appendix 2 & 3**
The draft budget was considered. It was RESOLVED to approve the budget with a precept figure of £14,500.
This will mean an average Band D household will pay an annual precept figure of £63.90 based on the 2024-25 tax bases figures. The Reserves Policy was NOTED as in line with the budget.

8.Highways/Footpaths:

- a) **To consider any highway or footpaths issues for reporting to Balfour Beatty**

The following issues were RAISED:

- Several issues involving overgrown trees and hedges were NOTED. Cllrs were REQUESTED to email the clerk the exact location so she can log them all.
- The "give way" sign at the junction with the C1154 and A417 needs clearing from the hedge.

- b) **To receive an update on the working and servicing of the SIDs and next steps**

It was REPORTED that the new control unit has been installed but the batteries do not appear to be charging correctly. It was RESOLVED that Cllrs Andy Towers and Ed Godsall would re-orientate the solar panel. The clerk will obtain quotes to purchase new SIDs at the January meeting if no progress can be made.

- c) **To consider an update on speeding through The Homend and next steps**

The clerk REPORTED that speed data was not being collected from the Homend but from the A417. Herefordshire Council have confirmed that they will not be collecting data from the Homend.

- d) **To consider an update on submitting a drainage grant application alongside Bishops Frome Parish Council**

The clerk REPORTED that she had submitted a grant for £25,000 for drainage works to the Five Bridges area. She has not heard anything back.

- e) **To consider submitting PRoW grant applications throughout the year and next steps.**

It was REPORTED that the clerk could apply for funds to cover upgrading footpath equipment and installation costs. If any opportunity comes to mind, Cllrs should email the clerk a photo, description and W3W of the location so that an application can be submitted.

9. To consider Cllr attendance at the table tennis club.

It was REPORTED that the October and November sessions had to be cancelled due to a lack of Councillors being available to assist. It was discussed whether Sunday afternoon is the right time to hold the event. It was RESOLVED that Cllr Richard Crompton would endeavour to canvass parishioners for assistance in running the event and preferred times.

10. To consider any correspondence received by the Clerk

- Parish Summit – Herefordshire Council – NOTED
- Electoral Review – Herefordshire Council - NOTED

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

None

12. To note the date of the next meeting – Monday 19th January 2026 – St James Church – Canon Frome
NOTED

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

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

The appraisal was undertaken – no issues were raised.

The meeting closed at 20:24

Signed: _____

Dated: _____

19-1-26

2026 Meeting Dates:

Monday 19th January 2026

Monday 16th March 2026

Monday 18th May 2026

Monday 20th July 2026

Monday 14th September 2026

Monday 16th November 2026