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 14th September 2026 at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs: Helen Heathfield (Chair), Ed Godsall, Richard Crompton and Charles Pudge

In attendance: Emma Thomas – Parish Clerk
Ward Cllr Jonathan Lester
Bethan Roberts – potential co-optee for position of Cllr for Eggleton Parish

Public: 0

1. **To accept any apologies for absence and note the reason**
Apologies were RECEIVED and accepted from Cllr Andy Towers.

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 18th May 2026**
The minutes were APPROVED and duly SIGNED by the Chair.

4. **To consider the minutes of the Annual Parish Meetings held – 18th May 2026 and any issues therein**
The minutes were NOTED. There were no issues raised therein that are not already on the agenda.

5. **To consider co-opting a Parish Councillor for the Parish of Eggleton**
Bethan Roberts was welcomed to the meeting. She was asked to say a few words as to why she wants to become a Parish Councillor. A vote was taken by Cllrs, and she was duly co-opted onto the Parish Council. She signed her Acceptance of Office form and was reminded to send her Register of Interest form into Herefordshire Council within 28 days.

Cllr Olivia Manning joined the meeting

6. **To receive a brief report from Three Crosses Ward Councillor Jonathan Lester**
Ward Cllr Lester's report included the following items:
   - Issues relating to devolution
   - A traffic Officer was assaulted in Hereford
   - The Council have started preparing the 2027-28 budget

   Cllr Charles Pudge raised some issues regarding debris collection by the highway; over-hanging hedges and potholes.
   Cllr Ed Godsall queried the cost of the excessively over-engineered bridge that has been installed in Canon Frome recently.

7. **Public participation session for local residents to raise matters relevant to the Parish Council**
None

8. **To consider the following planning applications for determination by Herefordshire Council**
   a) 262386/7 - Church House, Castle Frome, HR8 1HQ
   Installation of an EV charger and Listed Building Consent
   It was RESOLVED to support the application.

   b) 261426 - Land adj Vicarage Cottage, Canon Frome, Ledbury,
   Approval of reserved matters (Appearance, Landscaping, Layout & Scale) following approval 243259 (Outline planning permission for two self-build dwellings including minor widening of existing access and drainage works).
   It was RESOLVED to support the application.

9. Highways/Footpaths

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

The following items were NOTED for reporting:

PRoW ESG23 and 22 are causing some parishioners issues as there are bullocks in the field and the gate cannot be easily opened.

Cllr Charles Pudge RAISED a PRoW issue with the Ward Cllr. He will email details so the Ward Cllr can look into the problem.

b) To consider requesting the road through the Homend Park become a "quiet lane"

It was RESOLVED that the clerk should investigate this.

10. To consider a project for the parishes

It was AGREED that Cllrs should come to the November meeting with some ideas about what this could be. The following suggestions were RAISED for consideration: A Group Parish Produce Show or involving Ashperton Primary School. It was queried whether Herefordshire Council would allow the Parish Council to buy and install a PRoW bridge. The clerk will follow this up with an email to the Ward Cllr.

11. To consider attracting more parishioners to become Parish Councillors.

It was AGREED that Cllrs should keep asking around.

12. To consider the table tennis club

It was NOTED that a coffee morning during the week may prove more popular. Cllr Richard Crompton will continue asking around for anyone interested in helping.

13. Finance:

a) To consider the September 2026 finance report and bank statements. – Appendix 1

It was NOTED that the precept payment one and VAT claim for 2025-26 have been received. The report was APPROVED and signed as evidence of bank reconciliation and budget monitoring by Cllr Olivia Manning.

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

a) Clerks June, July and August Salary
b) HMRC June PAYE £173.74
c) Clerks July expenses £26.99 – previously circulated
d) HMRC July PAYE - £173.74
e) HMRC August PAYE - £173.74
f) St James Church Canon Frome – Meeting Hire - July - £15.00
g) Autela Payroll Services Ltd - £72.00

NOTED

c) To consider the following invoices for payment

- Clerks September salary
- HMRC September PAYE - £173.74
- Clerk's expenses - £18.40 previously circulated

The above invoices were APPROVED for payment by BACS

d) To note the following direct debits taken

a) ICO - £47.00

NOTED

e) To consider the insurance renewal from Zurich for £438.45

The insurance renewal was CONSIDERED. It was RESOLVED that this still adequately covered the needs and risks faced by the Parish Council. It was RESOLVED to pay the renewal cost.

f) To note the data security check undertaken by BOSS and to consider purchasing Ninja RMM & antivirus software at an annual cost of £45.00

The data security check was NOTED. There were no issues raised within it. It was RESOLVED to purchase the software.

g) To consider increasing the clerk's mileage allowance to 55p per mile in line with the current HMRC rate.

It was RESOLVED to increase the clerk's mileage allowance to the HMRC going rate of 55p per mile – backdated to April 2026.

14. **To consider any correspondence received by the Clerk**
    - HALC – 10 things you need to know in May/June/July and August 2026
    - Herefordshire Council – Legislation requirement to remove residential addresses from PC interest forms
    - Herefordshire Council – Amendment to arrangements for dealing with Code of Conduct complaints
    - Planning 222728 – Whitwick Manor – Planning Appeal notification
    - Parish Summit date – 13th October 2026

    The above correspondence was considered/noted. It was RESOLVED that the residential addresses should be removed by Herefordshire Council and not the clerk as it is their responsibility to do so. It was further RESOLVED that Code of Conduct complaints should continue to be dealt with by the Monitoring Officer and not the Parish Council. The clerk REQUESTED that the Ward Cllr consider altering the date that the summit is held on as some parish councils meet on the second Tuesday of the month and can therefore never attend. The Ward Cllr AGREED to ask the Group.

15. **To consider any items for the next agenda (no discussion)**
    Put the newsletter on the website.

16. **To note the date of the next meeting – Monday 16th November 2026 – St James Church – Canon Frome**
    NOTED. Ward Cllr Lester gave his apologies in advance.

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

Ward Cllr Jonathan Lester left the meeting.

17. **To consider awarding the clerk the NALC approved salary increase backdated to 1st April 2026**
    It was RESOLVED to award the clerk the NALC approved salary increase backdated to the 1st April 2026

The meeting closed at 20.22

Signed: [redacted] Dated: 16.11.26