Parish Council News

The Council met on Tuesday the 8th January and here are some of the highlights......

The Council was asked to comment on the following planning applications;

**18/00765/RMA** – Land adjacent to 41 Streatham road, Wilburton. The erection of six dwellings. An amendment was received, involving moving plots 5 & 6 back. The Council made no further comments to this application.

**18/00602/AND** – 95 Streatham Road, Wilburton. To continue to use the existing Beach Babies sign. The Council made no objections to this application.

**APP/V0510/W/18/3209394** – Lazy Otter Meadows Caravan Park, Cambridge Road, Stretham. Proposed extension to Lazy Otter Meadows Caravan Park to allow for the siting of 34 static holiday/lodges together with environmental improvements. An appeal has been made to the Secretary of state against the decision of East Cambridgeshire District Council to refuse to grant planning permission. The Council made no further comments to this and let their previous comments stand.

**18/01526/VAR** – Land adjacent to 16 Fieldside, Stretham. Variation of condition 1 (approved plans) of previously approved 16/01766/FUL for construction of 2 detached dwellings. This application has been approved.

The Council was saddened to receive the resignation of Councillor Thake. The Parish Council would like to take this opportunity to thank Councillor Thake for all of his contributions to the Council and Village over the last couple of years. Therefore a vacancy has become available on Stretham Parish Council. A notice will be placed on the Council notice board next to the Doctors. If you would like to find out more details or would like to receive an application form please contact the Parish Clerk.

Councillor Saunt and Councillor Williams have been working together on the blue plaque project and gave an update to the Council. A list has been drawn up of all the men who were of age and who could serve in the war, this includes 100 names, however it is thought that there were more who left to fight. Currently 25 names are on the War Memorial. Using the 1911 census Councillor Saunt and Councillor Williams have managed to located some of the streets that the men lived on, however they have not been able to locate specific houses. The project continues so do please look out for further updates and offer any knowledge that you may have.

Councillor Nuttall has purchased a set of old maps of the village, these will be mounted and put up for display.

The Council was shocked to hear of the vandalism and graffiti that has happened in the village over the Christmas period. Many residents may have noticed that the Christmas tree lost its lights towards Christmas. This was due to somebody ripping the lights off the tree, breaking not only the lights but also the tree itself. The Pirate ship on Ely Road has been sprayed in graffiti and has had part of it stolen. Yet again four windows have been smashed at the Pavilion and more graffiti has been sprayed on the front of the building. The Parish Council is in contact with the Sergeant at Ely Police station and will be meeting with him soon to discuss these issues. The Council respectfully
asks residents to be vigilant. If you see anyone vandalising the village or spraying graffiti, please contact the Police. This can be done anonymously and would help stamp out the anti-social behaviour we are currently experiencing.

**The Council** would like to update the village map of footpaths etc. If anyone has the skill and ability to assist with this project please contact the Clerk on 07507597368 or email stretham.clerk@gmail.com

We would like to include a small section in future newsletters where we can show our appreciation to members of the Parish for their continued support for our community. Should you know of anyone to whom you would like to pass on your gratitude, then please get in touch with the Parish Clerk.

Your Parish Clerk can be contacted on 07507597368 or via stretham.clerk@gmail.com

For any queries in relation to Stretham and Wilburton Community Land Trust, please contact Rachel Watts on swclt.clerk@gmail.com or on 07762040800

The Parish Rooms, Pavilion and All Weather Pitch can be booked by calling Maureen Hutter on 649917 or via email strethamparishrooms@googlemail.com

If you have any features or photographs that you would like to submit for the Newsletter then please contact Laura Shearing Tel: 07736840169 email: Laurashearing@rocketmail.com

Jonathan Hall is the new Police Community Support Officer based at Ely Police station. Cambridgeshire Constabulary has recently undergone a reshift of staff and the areas which are covered by PCSO’s. Jonathan is the point of contact for our area and If there is anything you feel you need assistance with please get in touch using 101.

**The Council received the following letter from Jenny Day following Remembrance Sunday...**

My husband Roger and I wanted to pass on our thanks to everyone involved in the organisation of Stretham’s Remembrance Weekend on Saturday and Sunday. It was wonderful to see so many people of varying ages involved in the village tribute. Saturday’s event in the church involved a very poignant presentation from Mike Petty and a good old fashioned Sing a Long with the Stretham Outreach Singers. Sunday’s event started at the Cemetery memorial and continued at the one at the Church with a service in the Church to follow. Thanks must go to Natalie and Ellen for their wonderful words and the amazing service using videos and the seven steps from a soldiers perspective. The Church singers were excellent too along with the choice of hymns. The reading by 3 of the younger members was beautiful and so natural they are a credit to the village as are all the youngsters who attended. So many of them were genuinely interested in the medals and stories from so long ago. We were close to tears throughout. Well done to everyone who contributed to such a special occasion.

Best Regards
Roger and Jenny Day

The next Parish Council Meeting is on Tuesday 5th February at 7pm at the Parish Rooms
Stretham Parish Council

There are currently 10 Councillors on the Parish Council (and a vacancy to be filled) the current Councillors are:

**Janet Parish** - Chair of the council and is also Chair of the Feast and the Amenities committees. Janet is a retired senior local government officer for children, youth and community. As well as serving on the council Janet is the Chair of Stretham Youth Centre and Vice Chair of the Stretham Charity

**Dominic Bright** - Vice Chair of the council and is also Chair of Footpaths and Highway committees. Dominic is a civil engineer. As well as serving on the council Dominic is on the Stretham Players committee and takes the lead on the logistics for Feast events.

**Richard Nuttall** - Chair of the finance committee. Richard is a Technical Project Manager. Richard also maintains the Parish Council website.

**Charles Roberts** – Charles is a business consultant and a Farmer. As well as serving as a Parish councillor Charles is the Deputy Mayor of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority, Leader of East Cambs District Council, Chair of the Stretham and Wilburton Community Land Trust and a Trustee of Stretham Youth Club Hall

**Anthony (Mick) Murfitt** – Mick is retired. As well as serving as a councillor Mick helps to raise funds for the local charities, including the Air Ambulance, by running bingo nights.

**Andrew Prevett** – Andrew is a domestic property landlord.

**Jo Taylor** – Jo is the Chair of the Recreation Ground Committee. Jo is a senior technical support consultant. As well as serving as a councillor Jo is the clerk to the Stretham Charity and is Chair of the Stretham Players.

**Colin Williams** – Colin is a retired consultant.

**Peter Speed** – Peter is retired. As well as serving as a councillor Peter is a Stretham Charity trustee.

**Jackie Saunt** – Jackie is a retired teacher. As well as serving as a councillor Jackie is on the committee of Stretham Youth Centre.

There is currently a vacancy on the council.

**Clerks:**

**Kim Bolderson** – Clerk. Tel no: 07507597368 Email: Stretham.clerk@gmail.com

**Sharon Bromley** – Assistant Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer. Email: Stretham.assistant@gmail.com
The Council has a number of sub committees which enable business to be progressed efficiently and in between meetings. The Committees and their responsibilities are set out below together with the names of the councillors on each committee at the present time.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Committee</th>
<th>Responsibility</th>
<th>Members</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amenities</td>
<td>Jubilee Gardens, Cemetery, Parish Rooms, Bins, street furniture, bus shelters, Christmas lights, Farmers Markets, Eleanor’s Field, etc</td>
<td>Janet Parish – Chair Andrew Prevett Dominic Bright Richard Nuttall Vacant Jackie Saunt</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feast</td>
<td>Planning, organising and running the Feast celebrations</td>
<td>Janet Parish – Chair Dominic Bright Charles Roberts Colin Williams Jackie Saunt Richard Nuttall</td>
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<tr>
<td>Footpaths</td>
<td>Maintenance and protection of footpaths</td>
<td>Dominic Bright – Chair Colin Williams Mick Murfitt Jackie Saunt</td>
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<tr>
<td>Recreation Ground</td>
<td>Recreation ground, short Road play area, Topsy and Tim play area, Manor Farm play area, Pavilion, all weather pitch</td>
<td>Jo Taylor – Chair Mick Murfitt Andrew Prevett Jackie Saunt</td>
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<tr>
<td>Highways</td>
<td>Highway related issue – paths, roads etc</td>
<td>Dominic Bright – Chair Mick Murfitt Peter Speed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Finance</td>
<td>Management of the Council’s income and expenditure.</td>
<td>Richard Nuttall – Chair Janet Parish Charles Roberts Peter Speed Jo Taylor Jackie Saunt</td>
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Fenland Celery a local tradition...

It is fortunate that the Stretham Christmas Farmer’s Market falls mid way through the Fenland Celery season and local farmers G’s Fresh kindly provide some of the very finest roots grown in the rich black soils close-by the village.

Traditionally a Victorian artisan crop white winter celery was grown from October to December for the Christmas markets. Fenland celery has been revived by local farmers G’s Fresh, who have grown celery in the Isle of Ely for over 50 years.

A British heritage ingredient, whose delicate sweet nutty taste and clean, crisp texture is owed to the traditional growing methods and rich Fenland soil in which it is grown. Fenland celery is part of an exclusive club of quality British foods that have earned Protected Geographical Indication (PGI) status from the European Commission.

The Christmas market saw the G’s celery eagerly snapped up by excited shoppers and stallholders alike, many remembering fondly the days when untrimmed heads of celery with the black soil still on their roots could be bought at local stalls and shops.

Hamish Mellor of G’s sampling the crop.
Did you know that The Stretham Charity have funds available for Stretham residents who are struggling with living costs? This could be due to illness, disability, low income etc. The charity also have funds available for residents who are struggling with education related costs—this could be for further education, university, apprenticeships, uniform, school trip fees etc.

If you or anyone you know needs some financial assistance to improve health or well-being, please get in touch.

Application forms available via our website wwwstretham-charity.org.uk or via the charity clerk Jo Taylor tel: 07761655511 Email: Strethamcharityclerk@gmail.com

All applications and communication made to the Stretham Charity are completely confidential.

Registered charity no 1078863

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**We Need Your Help**

Did you know, in 1716, Martha Digby of Stretham left in her will some land, the income from which was to be used for various charitable purposes.

The Stretham Charity administers Martha Digby’s land in accordance with her instructions and one of these is that each Easter a small grant is to be given to Widows and Widowers in financial hardship, that are residents in the parish of Stretham. However in this day and age it is difficult for us to identify Widows or Widowers in Stretham... so we are asking for your help...

If you are a Widow or Widower on a low income and live in Stretham or you know of anyone that might qualify and benefit from this small gift. Please contact.

Write to: Jo Taylor, Stretham Charity, 4 Top Street, Stretham.
Email: strethamcharityclerk@gmail.com
Telephone: 07761655511
A new “Stretham Past and Present” Facebook Group

A new Facebook page has been set up where you can seek and share information about the village and it will contain various articles about aspects of the community. There will be regular posts. If you are into Facebook then you might find something of interest.

https://www.facebook.com/groups/334571303808656/

St James’

Saturday 9th February at 6.30pm
Mike Petty Indian Evening; A talk about one missionary’s incredible journey and the part our village played in it. Come and join us for an entertaining evening including traditional Indian food. Tickets cost £7 and are available from Stretham Stores

Monday 11th February 4.30 - 6pm
Messy Church - Anyone young and older invited to come and join us for a fun, relaxed gathering in the church including crafting and activities, Bible story, singing and ending with a meal.

Tuesday 5th March 5-7pm (must arrive by 6.45pm) Shrove Tuesday Pancake Evening - Why not let us do the cooking on pancake night? At only a £2 adults and £1 children (12 and under) entry you’ll leave with your tummies and hearts full ready for the Lent period.

Little Bears

Fun for 0-5s with a Parent/Carer

Mondays 9:15-11:15 Term Time

at St. James Church, Stretham

Toys, crafts, snacks, music time, Tea/coffee & friendship.

£2 per family
Calendar of events in Stretham

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Youth Centre</th>
<th>30th Jan, 7 - 9pm - Motiv8 - Drop-in for young people with a disability</th>
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<td>Youth Centre</td>
<td>31st Jan, 4 -6pm - Jun Youth Club for 7 - 11 year olds</td>
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<td>Youth Centre</td>
<td>31st Jan, 7 - 9pm - Youth Café for 11 +</td>
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<tr>
<td>Youth Centre</td>
<td>4th Feb, 7 - 8.30pm - Glow - girls dance keep fit and make up bar project</td>
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<tr>
<td>Youth Centre</td>
<td>5th Feb 7pm - Parish Council meeting</td>
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<td>6th Feb, 9.30-12.30pm - Young @ Heart Over 60's drop-in</td>
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<td>7th Feb, 4 -6pm - Jun Youth Club for 7 - 11 year olds</td>
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<td>Youth Centre</td>
<td>13th Feb, 9.30-12.30pm - Young @ Heart Over 60’s drop-in</td>
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<td>13th Feb, 7 - 9pm - Motiv8 - Drop-in for young people with a disability</td>
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<tr>
<td>Youth Centre</td>
<td>14th Feb, 4 -6pm - Jun Youth Club for 7 - 11 year olds</td>
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<tr>
<td>Youth Centre</td>
<td>14th Feb, 7 - 9pm- Youth Café for 11 +</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth Centre</td>
<td>20th Feb, 9.30-12.30pm - Young @ Heart Over 60's drop-in</td>
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<td>St James'</td>
<td>5th March 5-7pm (must arrive by 6.45pm) - Shrove Tuesday Pancake Evening</td>
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If you have an event you would like to be included in the calendar please email laurashearing@rocketmail.com
Volunteer needed to help with a drop-in for young people with a disability. Would suit a young person 16 + who is wanting to gain experience for a future carer working in child or young people related services. Training will be available. The drop-in session runs on a Wednesday during term time 7 - 9pm.
Contact Janet on 07734252266 email strethamyouthcentre@gmail.com to find out more or to express an interest.
New Class  
EVERY WEDNESDAY  
STRETHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL  
7.00pm – 8.00pm  
£5.00 per session

FITSTEPS is an up-beat dance fitness class featuring all your favourite dances from Strictly to create a fun and effective way to stay fit. Suitable for all ages and abilities plus you don’t even need a partner! Everyone welcome, from age 16+

Tel: Janet on 07730 223557 or find me on Facebook @fitstepsely, www.fitsteps.co.uk
CINDERESSEX

TICKETS ON SALE - STRETHAM STORES

DON’T MISS THIS HILARIOUS PANTO
A MODERN TWIST TO CINDERELLA

THURSDAY 21st FEBRUARY 7.30
FRIDAY 22nd FEBRUARY 7.30
SATURDAY 23RD FEBRUARY 2.00 & 7.30 PM

ADULTS £6.00 KIDS AND CONCESSIONS £3.00

(Full price tickets only on Saturday Evening Performance)

Stretham Youth Centre, 73 High St, CB6 3LD
www.strethamyouthcentre.com

Mondays Glow Girls (10+) dance keep fit and make up bar project 7—8.30pm
Wednesdays Motiv8 Drop-in for young people with a disability aged 13—25. 7—9.00pm
Thursdays Junior youth Club for children aged 8—11 years 4—6pm.
Youth Café for young people aged 11—18 years 7—9pm

Keep an eye out for our detached youth workers and SPACE holiday activity sessions.

One off and new projects also run regularly. Please like our Facebook page or visit our website www.strethamyouthcentre.com to keep up to date

If you would like more information on our work please contact Janet on 07734252288 or via email on strethamyouthcentre@gmail.com

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Front cover photo kindly provided by Charles Roberts