

Stretham Parish Council
Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on
Tuesday 3rd December 2019 at 7pm
In the Parish Rooms, High Street, Stretham

Present: Councillor Parish (Chair), Councillor Saunt, Councillor Murfitt,
Councillor Taylor, Councillor Nuttall, Councillor Wright

In attendance: The RFO and The Clerk

19/123 To receive apologies and approval of absences.

Absent:

Councillor Roberts – Work commitments

Councillor Williams – Illness

Councillor Clark – Personal commitments

Councillor Speed – Personal commitments

19/124 To receive declarations of interests and to consider requests for dispensations

None

19/125 To resolve that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 5th November 2019 are a correct record

The Clerk explained that Councillor Clark had been missed, as being in attendance at the last meeting on the set of minutes provided to Councillors. The Clerk has now added Councillor Clark to the minutes to be signed. The Council resolved that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 5th November 2019 are now an accurate record. Proposed by Councillor Saunt and seconded by Councillor Murfitt.

19/126 Public Participation

A member of the Speed Watch group was in attendance to give an update on their last Speed Watch meeting.

On Friday the 22nd November 4 sessions were run, 3 by Manor Farm in the morning and one late afternoon by the recreation ground.

These sessions were supported by Sgt Mark Rabel and two special Constables, however they were not in continuous attendance, being called away and then returning.

They did ticket 2 drivers who were exceeding 40mph entering the village and had one fail to stop.

A total of 58 cars were caught speeding of which 33 were leaving the village. In the first hour the highest speed recorded was 47mph, and another 15 exceeding 40mph.

A few unwanted gestures were directed at the volunteers, but they did also receive a few thumbs up

The morning session really did highlight the need for some form of speed reduction measures entering the village.

Finally have the speed watch signs been ordered. The Clerk said yes, they have.

19/127

To receive an update about the progress of actions from the last meeting of Stretham Parish Council on 5th November 2019

I have been in touch with Pam at Highways with reference to The Grove and the moss on the path that was reported. Pam checked their position on this type of thing and the reason there is moss is because the path has little use, if there was more footfall then the moss would not develop and spread. Pam said she appreciates that there is concerns but there is not much they can do. However, we could use the Community Pay pack team to tackle this sort of thing, Pam is going to put it forward for them to do.

I wrote to Stretham Sporting to inform them that the Council will not be refunding the full £600 but has made a goodwill gesture of £300. Stretham Sporting said they were extremely disappointed and find it really sad that the Council are refusing to acknowledge its own error and are keeping 3300 of their money raised from players subs and their own fundraising. They are now going to seek legal advice before responding further and will inform parents of the Councils response.

I have looked through the planning documents and cannot find anything relating to a building going up at 45 Cambridge Road. The only planning documents for this property is for tree felling. I have sent an enquiry form into East Cambs regarding this issue.

As per the last meeting 2 new dog poo bins have been purchased, one for manor farm and one for the high street. The ditch at the recreation ground has been cleared.

Luke and I have been to look at the trees at Topsy and Tim Park, Tree number 1 requires all of the Ivy removing. Tree 2 - all Ivy needs removing or fell to the ground. Luke recommend we fell as much as possible, as most of the crown is dead. Tree number 3 – Needs to be felled to the ground, the tree has 3 large broken branches, which if removed would leave almost no crown. The tree is not in a good way at all.



The tree down the cemetery path needs all the deadwood removing and the canopy reduced to British standards, up to 25% and no more.

It was proposed by Councillor Saunt to get the work done to the Trees, this was seconded by Councillor Wright, with the whole Council in agreement. Councillor asked the Recreation Ground Committee to look at what type of trees could be planted to replace the ones that need to be taken down.

19/128

To adopt the final budget

Councillors were all given a copy of the revised budget. It was proposed by Councillor Nuttall to accept the proposed budget, this was seconded by Councillor Saunt, with the whole Council in agreement.

19/129

To receive the resignation of Councillor Bright

The Council received an email from Councillor Bright (Vice Chair) informing them of his immediate resignation from the Council due to personal circumstances. Councillor Bright said he had enjoyed his time on the Council and everything he has done for the village. Councillor Parish said that Councillor Bright would be missed and passed on her thanks for everything he has done.

As Councillor Bright was vice Chair of Stretham Parish Council and Chair of the Footpaths and Highways Sub – Committee, it will be put on the agenda for the January meeting to appoint a new Vice Chair and Chair of the Sub Committee. The Clerk to put an Advert in the Newsletter for a new Councillor.

19/130

To review Terms of Reference for the Sub-Committees

Councillors were given a copy of the terms of reference for the Highways & Footpaths and the Recreation ground Sub-Committees, all Council members were given an opportunity to ask questions.

- a) It was proposed by Councillor Nuttall and seconded by Councillor Taylor to adopt the Recreation Ground Sub-Committee Terms of reference, with the whole Council in agreement.

- b) It was proposed by Councillor Wright to accept the Terms of Reference for the Footpaths & Highways Sub-Committee; this was seconded by Councillor Murfitt, with the whole Council in agreement.

19/131

To consider planning applications:

19/01573/FUL – 49 – 51 Station Road, Wilburton. Change of use of a vehicle dismantling premise to B1 light industrial/office use. The Council made no comments.

19/01598/FUL – 1 Old Orchard Lane, Stretham. Erection of 1 Summer house, 1 x Green House, 2 x Sheds and associated works in a residential garden. No objections were made to this application, this was proposed Nuttall and seconded by Councillor Taylor with the whole Council in agreement.

19/132

To receive planning application decisions:

19/01497/FUL – Stowbridge Solar Farm, Newmarket Road, Stretham. Installation of a replacement inverter and storage container. This application has been approved.

19/01440/FUL – 5 Ashe Place, Berry Close, Stretham. Erection of new porch to the side of the property, move patio doors, alterations to rear window and internal alterations. This application has been approved.

18/01338/FUL – Land South of 1 to 4 Stowbridge Cottages, Green End, Stretham. Proposed detached dwelling and double garage. This application has been approved.

19/00811/FUL – 22 Akeman Close, Stretham. Two storey side extension and single storey front and rear extensions. This application has been approved.

19/133

To receive an update on the progress of SWCLT

Councillor Parish attended the Wilburton open event and had a look at the plans. Councillor Parish said she was impressed with the amount of open green space.

19/134

Finance - to authorise payments from SPC accounts and to note receipt of income

1. Income Received (November)

Bank Interest (CIL account)	£3.28
Bank Interest (32-day account)	£48.32
Burial Fees	£200.00
Parish Rooms - Room Hire	£556.00
Land Rent – Carey	£129.00

Total income received: **£936.60**

2. Cheques signed since last meeting:

<u>Cheque No</u>	<u>Payee</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Total Amount</u>
002877	Royal British Legion	Poppy Wreath (Donation)	£30.00

3. Cheques for Signature:

<u>Cheque No</u>	<u>Payee</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Total Amount</u>
002878	Wages	Keyholder Fee	£60.00
002879	Wages	Bus shelter maintenance	£80.00
002880	Wages	Wages & WFHA - November	£559.52
002881	Wages	Wages, WFHA & Overtime - November	£781.93
002882	HMRC	PAYE/NI - November	£67.10
002883	Haysom Ward Miller	Development & Design – GP Surgery	£3659.94
002884	Wages	Newsletter printing	£737.00
002885	Wages	Caretaker charges & cleaning materials	£392.55
002886	R H Landscapes	Grass cutting – additional Cut £483.41	£1023.41
		Brush cut ditch on side of rec £540.00	
002887	Wages	Newsletter Delivery	£80.00
002888	C Roberts	Refund of Zipper Funds	£475.00
002889	Wages	Event Licence (Farmers Market) & Ink Cartridges	£102.98
002890	Cancelled	Cheque cancelled	
002891	Viking Direct	Ink Cartridges & Postage stamps	£131.03
		Total:	£8150.46

The RFO requested authority to also pay an invoice from Goff Petroleum in the sum of £1640.47.

4. Direct Debits taken out since last meeting:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Frequency</u>	<u>Total Amount</u>
Anglian Water	Water - Cemetery	Quarterly	£12.07
Anglian Water	Water - Pavilion	Quarterly	£83.39
EDF	Electric – Parish Rooms	Monthly – December	£32.00
EDF	Electric – Pavilion	Final account	£16.59
ECDC	Council Tax - Cemetery	Monthly - December	£63.00
ECDC	Council Tax – Pavilion	Monthly - December	£55.00
		Total Direct Debits:	£262.05

5. Letter to Lloyds Bank requesting the transfer of the following funds from the CIL account to the current account:
 2 x invoices paid to Haysom Ward Miller – GP Surgery Contribution, approved by Council 5th November 2019:
 Invoice 1802 – 5th March 2019 £2575.95
 Invoice 1865 – 26th September 2019 £3049.95
Total transfer required: £5625.90

6. Bank Account Balances:

Balance of CIL as at 2 nd December 2019	£94,813.65
Less Transfer of Haysom Ward Miller Fees to current a/c <u>(£5,625.90)</u>	
Balance of CIL Account	£89,187.75

Detailed Income and expenditure report for CIL account attached to this report.

Balance of 32-day interest account as at 2 nd December 2019	£87,067.90
--	-------------------

Balance of 'old' reserve account	£1.03
---	--------------

Balance of current account as at 2 nd December 2019 £31,873.16	
Less unpresented cheques	(£90.00)
Less Cheques for payment	(£8,150.46)
Transfer from CIL account to General account	<u>£5,625.90</u>
Balance of current account once cheques/transfers cleared:	£29,258.60

7. Date of Next Finance, Governance & Personnel Committee Meeting

Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 17th December, commencing at 7.30 pm in the Parish Rooms. Members are requested to advise the RFO if they are unable to attend, to ensure a quorum.

It was proposed by Councillor Nuttall that all cheques be paid, this was seconded by Councillor Murfitt, with the whole Council in agreement.

19/135

To receive Correspondence

An email was passed round to Councillors from a group called Power for people regarding the Electricity Bill.

An email was received from a concerned resident of Short Road, stating that the footballers are causing a lot of mud on the footpaths round Short Road. The Council asked the Clerk to forward on to the resident the details of the football clubs so he could discuss it further with them.

19/136

To receive verbal reports from Sub – Committees:

Footpaths Working party – None

Amenities Working Party – The Christmas Farmers Market will take place on the 14th December. Councillor Parish asked the Clerk to contact Luke to get rid of the ivy around the trees at the cemetery.

Recreation Ground Working party – A meeting will be held in January with the Bowls Club to discuss ways of funding the net required to be put around the hedge to stop footballs from going over into the Bowls Club.

Highways Working Party – None

Finance, Governance and Personnel Committee – Councillor Nuttall and the RFO have had a look through the insurance policies, a number of queries have been raised with them and will be discussed at the next finance meeting and brought back to full Council. The weekly play park inspections are still an issue and the Insurance company have confirmed that if these are not carried out it will affect our public liability insurance. The insurers have said that the person carrying out the checks can be a Councillor and all that is required is a weekly visual inspection and a tick list be completed as evidence. The RFO to present for the Council to consider.

Feast Sub – Committee – None

19/137

Items for discussion at the next Parish Council meeting

To receive applications for a new Councillor

To appoint a Vice Chair of the Parish Council

The December Finance and Governance Sub – Committee December meeting minutes to be adopted

An update from the Recreation Ground Sub – Committee regarding the Bowls Club Netting.

19/138

To receive Councillor Questions

Councillor Murfitt reported that there had been two near misses on the Zebra Crossing this month. The Clerk has already spoken to the Highways Department about this and they have said the following;

I've checked with Road Safety in the past about the crossing issues and as its positioned to spec for visibility etc I can't see where more signage will stop drivers speeding... because its either the pedestrian thinking they have right of way and crossing in front of cars or the road is clear for them but while crossing a speeding car approaches... either way signs will not help here, those zebra crossings make it clearly visible in daylight so there is no excuse for drivers not seeing it. Sadly, it's the few that choose not to be sensible or as I said the pedestrians are walking out before cars have stopped. I don't know if that is the case and don't want to accuse anyone but it may be an idea to put something in your parish magazine about the possibility of reckless drivers and that pedestrians DO NOT have right of way on a zebra they should wait

until the vehicles actually stop before stepping off the kerb to cross... not just assume an approaching car will stop... especially loaded lorries.

Sorry if that sounds a bit harsh but it's a reality. I do understand that the pedestrians, especially the elderly or disabled that cross slowly are most vulnerable but there is no excuse for drivers not see this crossing and they should be going 30mph max so able to stop if necessary. The reckless, speeding drivers that pay no heed want punishing. Your Speed Watch program may help as regulars get to know where these are likely to be so keep speed down but you nor the police can patrol this area 24/7 so I can't stress enough that pedestrians should also be on their guard and keep aware while crossing.

However, I will check the sign warning of the Pedestrians crossing is still visible and prominent and I could maybe get a bigger one or add a SLOW plate underneath it if not already. There are SLOWs on the road which have been refreshed recently and if I can do anything further, I will let you know.

Councillor Taylor asked if she could be included in the next meeting regarding CCTV.

Councillor Saunt reported that a road sweeper has mounted the path on the High Street near the church and has caused the path to crack. The Clerk to report to Highways.

The meeting closed at 7.45pm

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on Tuesday 7th January 2020 in the **Parish Rooms** at 7pm