

Stretton Parish Council

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday 13 May 2024 at 7pm, in Stretton Village Hall.

In attendance: Councillors: B. Hunter, R Horton (Chair), J Maxwell and J Thompson

Also in Attendance: Kath Gruber (Clerk/RFO); Councillor K Gilliott (DCC and NEDDC)

Apologies: Councillor M Clarke

Absent: Councillor T. Gray

APM/0524/01 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillor Clarke

APM/0524/02 Chair's Report 2023/24

Councillor Horton gave her report of the Parish Council's activities over the last year.

This year has been another one of change for the Council as we welcomed new councillors Bruce Hunter and Tim Gray who have already had a positive impact on the Council and our initiatives. This leaves us with just one vacancy and places us in a much better position for Council meetings and delivery of projects.

Council Finances/Cost of Living

The Council continues to operate within its budget. We are a small parish with limited funds and rising costs puts more pressure than ever on the Council's finances. With this in mind, the Council resolved to raise the precept by 5% this year. This equates to an additional £3.72 on per month for households which will help to meet the Council's costs without, we hope, overburdening residents.

In order to pursue larger and more costly projects in the Parish, the Council has made a concerted effort this year to pursue funding options, which has allowed us progress improvements within the Parish without affecting the Council's day to day budget.

Larger projects

The first of these projects is a speed indicator device in Woolley Moor, for which funding has been secured and we hope that the device will be installed in the coming months. This should go some way to address the issue of speeding in Woolley Moor, and will provide us with data to bolster our case for further traffic calming measures, if required.

The second more long term project is improvements to the playground at Jubilee playing fields, for which we have passed stage one funding with a major funder. If secured, this would allow us to make some meaningful and long overdue improvements to the playground for the benefit of the community and particularly the children at Stretton Handley School.

Cemetery and Cemetery Lodge

As to other matters, Cemetery Lodge continues to be let to the same tenant and the Council has continued with its maintenance and improvement programme to keep it habitable.

Woolley Moor Show

Despite the weather, the Woolley Moor show was a success again in 2023 and the Council is grateful to the show committee for organising this fantastic event for the community. The Council has continued its discussions around how surplus funds from the Show could be used to benefit the community, in particular via contributions to the playground project and restoration of the playing fields pavilion. The show committee also kindly donated new signs for the Jubilee Playing Fields, which are now installed and look much tidier.

Summary

Finally, I'd like to thank all the councillors and clerk for their support over the previous year. Councillors give up their time voluntarily and the increase in projects being pursued by the Council does take up more time. I hope that these efforts all contribute towards making the parish a positive place to live.

Also thanks to Councillors Andrew Cooper, and Kevin Gillott for consistently attending our meetings and their continued support in our community.

APM/0524/03 Annual Finance Report 2023/24

A copy of this is available on the Council's website: [RecAndPay \(strettonpc.com\)](https://strettonpc.com)

APM/0524/04 Other Parish Matters

Councillor Thompson asked that next year the Village Hall would be providing an annual report for this meeting.

APM/0524/05 Date of next Annual Parish Meeting

Will be held on Monday 12/5/2025 at 7pm in Stretton Village Hall

Meeting closed at 7.04pm