

**A MEETING OF STRETTON PARISH COUNCIL
WAS HELD ON WEDNESDAY 4th JULY 2023 AT 7.00PM
AT THE PRIORY CENTRE, STRETTON**

The following members of the Council were present:

Cllr E Pritchard	Chair
Cllr K Winson	Vice Chair
Cllr M Goode	
Cllr M McKiernan	
Cllr M Low	
Cllr S Slater	(ESBC Cllr)

Also present was the clerk, SCC Cllr Peters, ESBC Cllr Bullock and members of the public.

1. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME AND PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS

2324-037

The Chair opened the discussions.

Several residents attended regarding the number of lorries using Craythorne Road and the speed of the traffic which is making it very hazardous for pedestrians. The road surface is being damaged along with the grass verges and trees along the side of the road due to the width not being sufficient in places for two vehicles to pass. Concern was also expressed with regard to the rubbish and fires on the former golf club site. They also commented on the lack of grass cutting of the verges which has left them in a mess and looking unsightly. The Chair advised of a recent meeting with the Police & Fire Commissioner and that similar issues had been raised. ESBC Cllr Bullock advised that the rubbish had been removed and a camera installed to monitor fly tipping plus a meeting had been held with the land owners who had agreed to smarten up the area and install better security. ESBC Cllr Slater advised that ESBC has a zero tolerance policy to fly tipping and that he would contact the Planning Department to see if any stipulations had been made on access to local building sites. SCC Cllr Peters advised that he was aware of the points raised regarding vehicles and he would raise this at his scheduled meeting with the County Highways Team.

A couple of residents commented on the recent set of traffic lights located at the junction of Church Road and Jordan Avenue due to the sewerage that was reportedly flowing onto the highway. Cllr Goode advised that this work had been completed. They also asked when the drains would be cleaned along Church Road and if the traffic calming could be replaced with something better. SCC Cllr Peters replied that the drains were on a rota for cleaning and he would check this; plus he was discussing traffic calming with SCC Highways Team.

Another resident advised of a dangerous tree near to the steps from the A38 down to the Woodland Walk. The Clerk advised that this section of land did not belong to the Parish Council but she would ask for the Parish Council contractor to check this out.

A resident from Hurst Drive advised that the bollard at the end of the road onto the private land had not been replaced. The Clerk advised she would check the status of the report.

A resident from Bridgeside commented on the suspected Japanese Knotweed on Station Walk and that following the inspection was happy that there was none in the area. The resident also commented that the Woodland Walk was very nice and liked the new area made.

A resident advised of two dangerous paving slabs in the Precinct by the noticeboard. The Clerk to contact the landowners regarding this.

A resident enquired how many times a year would the verges along Church Road but mown and that 6 times during the season was not sufficient to keep them tidy and in good condition

2. APOLOGIES

2324-038 There were no apologies to be received from Parish Councillors. Apologies were received from ESBC Cllr Walker.

3. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

2324-039 There were none to disclose with regard to agenda items.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON TUESDAY 6th JUNE 2023

2324-040 The circulated minutes were approved as a true and accurate record following a proposal from Cllr Winson and seconded by Cllr Low with all present in favour.

5. ACTIONS UPDATE FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

2324-041 A copy of the action update had been circulated prior to the meeting.

	REFERENCE	ACTION POINT	FOR WHOM	ACTION TAKEN
1	2223-035	William Shrewsbury Grave	Clerk / Cllr Pritchard	St Mary's Church contacted and given approval. Archdeacon advised faculty required – application submitted. Quote for work obtained Notice of Action displayed for objections by the end of May. Application referred to Chancellor for determination.
2	2223-115	Replacement play equipment	Clerk	Completed Action Closed
3	2223-176	Anglesey Parish Council - network group	Clerk	Advised of wish to be included
4	2223-176	Councillor vacancies	Chair / Clerk	Posters developed
5	2324-017	Bus Shelter Repairs / Surveys	Clerk	Order placed - Repairs completed Awaiting survey results
6	2324-018	Japanese Knotweed Survey	Clerk	Visit taken place and no knotweed evident Action Closed
7	2324-019	Damage Claim	Clerk	The claimant has been directed to contact insurance company to make claim. Claimant contacted insurance company awaiting further information

6. CHAIR REPORT ON POLICE MEETING

2324-042 A copy of the report had been circulated prior to the meeting. The meeting had been organised for Parish Councils to talk with Ben Adams the Police and Fire Commissioner for the area. The Chair informed that the lack of presence and data at Parish Council meetings had been made and the Commissioner had advised that there is a push to get more police officers and that it was acknowledged that communication needs to improve not just with Councils but also the public and that all incidents need to be reported. The Commissioner is keen on early intervention projects. Cllr Low informed that school parking had been discussed and the need for better communication with residents/parents/schools.

Cllr Slater advised that he is also meeting with the local Inspector and will reiterate concerns.

7. OPEN SPACE ITEMS

2324-043 Flail mower upgrade proposal – Information with costs had been circulated prior to the meeting. The Clerk advised that the current flail mower was still working but was struggling to do some of the larger areas. Cllr McKiernan proposed the purchase of the upgraded model, seconded by Cllr Goode with all in favour.

Weed Control Measures. A couple of information booklets from the Pesticide Action Network had been circulated prior to the meeting. The Clerk enquired the Council's thoughts on weed control measures specifically around the buildings, pathways and paving and that spraying of organic solutions would be a more efficient way of controlling. Cllr McKiernan commented that the information had been very useful and that the Parish Council should join the Network plus exploration of the path machine should be undertaken. Cllr McKiernan proposed that the Parish Council allow the use of spraying of organic solutions for weed control, this was seconded by Cllr Low and carried unanimously.

8. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

2324-044

- ESBC - New Fundraising Platform. Information had been circulated prior to the meeting. It was agreed to promote on the website and social media. Cllr Slater reminded that good causes had until the 22nd July to register,
- ESBC - Standards Committee - Information had been circulated prior to the meeting. Cllr McKiernan expressed an interest to be a representative.
- Mr Parry Email - Church Road Bus Stops. The Clerk advised of the email and that the response of SCC was that the stops will remain in place. Mr Parry asked for hardstanding for the stop and as this is not Parish Council land or responsibility the request passed onto SCC Cllr Peters.

9. REPORTS BY STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCILLORS, EAST STAFFORDSHIRE BOROUGH COUNCILLORS AND STAFFORDSHIRE POLICE.

2324-045

SCC Cllr Peters advised :

- His is Chair of the panel holding the Police & Fire Commissioner to account and making him aware of the issues in East Staffordshire. It is intended to have 250 more officers by May 2024.
- That all meetings held at SCC are webcast via the website
- Aware of the problems along Craythorne Road and will discuss weight restrictions with Highways Team
- Will check the schedule for drain cleaning and take back comments on grass cutting
- That pot hole reporting needs to be done via the County Council reporting app so that there is a formal record

ESBC Cllr Bullock advised:

- Of the project to pave the tow path. The work will start in September in Branston and work its way along to Stretton. Cllr McKiernan updated that this was part of the Town Deal Funding and why Stretton was now included in the project.
- Of the work to get Stretton Surgery open full time in the area and that Kate Kniveton MP was also involved. The ICB had advised that they were aware of issues and that local provision should operate the same as the main provision. Cllr McKiernan advised that the PPG of the surgery were holding a coffee morning where patients could attend and talk to staff. It was agreed to publicise on social media/website.
- That the fly tipping at the former golf course was being monitored
- That the Princess Way flyover had been inspected following safety concerns

ESBC Cllr Slater advised:

- Of his meeting with the Police Inspector
- Of the ESBC Councillor Community Fund, where community groups can apply for funding. Each councillor has £1500.

Cllr Low advised of the Coffee Morning being held at the Red Lion Community House where residents can speak with police officers on 8th July 2023. This to be publicised on website and social media.

10. DATE TIME AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

2324-046 The next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday 5th September 2023 at 7.00pm at the Priory Centre.

11. PLANNING APPLICATIONS AND PLANNING MATTERS

2324-047 The Clerk had circulated a register of valid planning applications with status, prior to the meeting, for consideration and updated on the current status. There were no comments to be made.

12. COUNCILLOR RECRUITMENT

2324-048 Mr Gerald Holmes had made an expression of interest to join the Parish Council. He gave a brief resume of his background and why he would like to join the Parish Council. Cllr Goode proposed the co-option of Mr Holmes onto the Parish Council, seconded by Cllr Winson with all present in favour.

13. FINANCE

2324-049 A copy of the payment schedule below was circulated at the meeting and payments were approved following a proposal by Cllr Winson n and seconded by Cllr Low with all present in favour.

Payment Code	Transaction	Description	Payment
DD	Right Fuel Card	Diesel	£51.91
BAC080623	C Allen	Salary	£1,160.53
BAC090623	A J Smith	Salary and reimbur	£2,337.89
BAC100623	HMRC	PAYE / NI Conts	£1,187.09
BAC110623	CPRE	Membership	£36.00
DD	The Peoples Pension	Pension Conts	£607.72
BAC010723	C Winson	General Maint	£2,371.91
BAC020723	Stump Busters	Removal of stumps Woodland	£480.00
BAC030723	Rainbow Waste	Wheelie bin and empty	£367.52
BAC040723	ESBC	Election Costs	£182.60
BAC050723	G C McCulloch	Litterpicking/Maint	£634.00
BAC060723	Yee	CCTV Fault Repair	£102.00
BAC070723	Prince & Son	Cleaning Hillfield	£150.00
BAC080723	PJC Tree Services	Woodland Works	£1,200.00
BAC090723	Alan Cox Decorating Svcs	Painting Works	£5,040.00
BAC100723	Campion Bros	Mowing	£1,344.00
DD	BT	Tele and BB	£76.78
DD	EDF Energy	Electric Changing Rooms	£101.71
DD	EDF Energy	Electric Floodlights	£15.68

2324-050 The Clerk circulated a copy of the current years budget and allocated areas. There were no questions raised in relation to the budget.

14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

2324-051 The Chair advised that a request had been received for additional seating at Bitham Lane Community Park. The Clerk to obtain some costings.

The Chair advised of the request received the day of the meeting from the Gala group for funding for the picnic in the park event to be held in August. The Chair advised of her disappointment that this late request had circumvented the usual funding application process. Following discussion Cllr Goode proposed a pledge of £250 towards the event if it takes place, seconded by Cllr Low with all in favour. The Clerk to advise the group that this is a one off gesture and in future the proper process for funding needs to be taken.

The Chair suggested posting Councillor profiles on social media to promote both the council and who residents can contact.

The Chair enquired if there were any books left that had been written by Cllr Goode and that these could be promoted up to the run up of the anniversary of VE Day.

Cllr Slater enquired if it would be possible to use the Parish Room for monthly surgeries and that this would be for all the Borough Councillors. The Clerk to liaise with Cllr Slater for starting in September.

SIGNATURE

DESIGNATION

DATE