

**STRETTON PARISH COUNCIL**  
Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly held in St Matthew's  
Church Hall, Stretton  
on Monday 4 April 2016 at 7.30pm

Councillors in attendance;

L. Jones – Chairman  
T. Lyons  
J. Furber  
B. Jones

Also present;

Cllr P. Kennedy  
G. Lett – Clerk to the Parish Council  
4 residents

**PA42 Apologies**

Apologies were received from Cllr J. Higgins and Cllr D. Buckley.

**PA43 Minutes of the Meeting held on 13 April 2015**

The minutes were agreed and signed as a true record.

**PA44 Chairman's Report 2015/2016**

The Chairman, Councillor L Jones, introduced herself and welcomed Councillors and residents to the Annual Assembly. Councillor Jones thanked the Councillors for electing her as Chairperson for the year and for their continued support and the time they dedicate to the Parish Council.

Cllr L. Jones offered her thanks to the following;

To Cllr J. Higgins for her on-going work with the parish newsletter, for representing the council on the Old School Trust, her recent successful application in registering the Ring O'Bells as a community asset, and attending Parish Council meetings at other parishes.

To Cllr D. Buckley for maintaining the website and also to Cllr T. Lyons for representing the PC on the board at Pewterspear Green Trust and also his dedication to walking around the Parish and noting things that need attention. Also together with gathering evidence of speeding and his assistance with Twinkling Stretton.

To Cllr D. Hutchinson (now retired) for representing the Parish at the meetings at Manchester Airport, and to Cllr B. Jones for attending meetings at various Parish Councils and the Town Hall. Also, to Cllr J. Furber for all her help with Twinkling

Stretton, in printing the flyers and assisting with the refreshments.

To Mrs Andrea Marshall for representing the Parish Council in the Rights of Way Forum as its Footpath Warden; To Mr Neil Higgins for assisting the Parish Council with photography and the plaque for the Christmas Tree; To Mr Harry Mosedale for kindly donating the piece of tropical hardwood for the plaque installed by Neil; To Mr Dion Camm for allowing the Parish Council to store planters, signs at his premises and also for the litter picking in the village carried out by his staff; To Mr Phil Pegum for his representation on the PGT; To Alison Crewe, her fiancé Nick and Mrs Pat Lyons for their assistance with the refreshments at the Twinkling Stretton event.

To retired Clerk, Linda Crewe, for her extremely hard work carried out for the Parish Council over the last 7-8 years; To Gillian Lett, for accepting the position and doing an excellent job.

To Ward Cllr Paul Kennedy for all his assistance in various matters over the past year.

Cllr L. Jones offered her apologies if anyone had been missed from this list.

Cllr L. Jones went on to highlight the events and projects which were undertaken by the Council in the last year.

### **April Meeting**

Richard Evans, head of Planning Enforcement at WBC attended this meeting and explained the role of the enforcement team and that enforcement is now a standalone department and is no longer under the Planning department umbrella.

The speeding sign was now operational around the Parish. Cllr J. Higgins and the Clerk attended a meeting with Mike Davies in the Planning department where some of the difficulties the parish was experiencing were raised. A successful meeting with each party able to appreciate the others' point of view.

### **May Meeting**

A successful litter pick was completed in Lower Stretton and the possibility of purchasing own litter picks was raised, instead of having to borrow them from WBC.

### **June Meeting**

At this meeting, the suggestion of having the A559 declassified and/or finding a solution to the ongoing problems with HGVs. It was agreed to contact the other PCs along the road to ask for their support.

The newsletter was agreed to be distributed.

### **July Meeting**

Sharon Wells from WBC attended the meeting to explain all the budget cuts that have affected the services received by the Parish. Largest of the problems were explained to SW, including A559, litter, position of planters, over-growing hedges and verges and

flooding. SW agreed to look into each of these issues.

Cllr L. Jones attended the church service for Stretton Walking Day and did the walk, which was well attended.

## **AUGUST RECESS**

### **September Meeting**

Cllr Winstanley from Hatton PC and Cllr Meacock from Walton PC attended the meeting to discuss the Boundary Review. A large number of residents attended this meeting to report the speeding on Stretton Road. It was agreed that the PC contact WBC and ask for more signage for the school and possibly a 20mph limit being implemented.

Cllr J. Higgins raised the possibility of registering the Ring O'Bells as a community asset and agreed to investigate further.

2 Cllrs attended the PC meeting at Marston to discuss the issues on the A559.

The next project, Village Betterment, was agreed due to the lack of works being carried out by WBC.

Clerk tended her notice.

### **October Meeting**

New Clerk was appointed whilst the retiring Clerk agreed to stay on for 3 months to train and advise. The Audit was approved.

2 Cllrs attended the PC meeting in Hatton and it was agreed that the 3 Parish Councils (Stretton, Hatton, Walton) affected by the boundary review would send a joint letter as well as individual letters. At the Hatton PC meeting the police outlined the details of Operation Shield, to be rolled out across the same 3 parishes. It was agreed that the Hatton Chair would liaise with the police and report any updates back.

Cllr T. Lyons undertook traffic observations on Stretton Road and reported back. It was suggested that residents along Stretton Road also undertake similar observations as evidence of speeding.

Meetings with other PCs on the A559 continued.

Cllr B. Jones and Cllr J. Furber joined the Parish Council.

### **November Meeting**

Cllr J. Higgins advised the application to register the Ring O'Bells as a community asset was being compiled and that she was happy to progress the application personally.

Cllrs attended more meetings along the A559.

Village Betterment project was discussed and it was agreed that the area between Bee Hive and M56 motorway roundabout be prioritised. Quotes for planters were received

and it was agreed to purchase 5. The possibility of new Village signs was investigated. It was agreed to purchase 3 sets of extra lights for the Twinkling Stretton switch on.

Cllr L. Jones attended the Remembrance Service at St Matthew's church along with Cllr B. Jones and placed a poppy wreath on the war memorial in the churchyard.

### **December Meeting**

Delyse Bailey from HCA attended the meeting to discuss the issue of building new houses on land belonging to HCA in Stretton. Rowland Blackstock, Chair of PGT, also attended the meeting to discuss the options regarding the Sports Pavilion.

It was decided to freeze the precept once again at £21.00.

Results of the boundary review were published, with Hatton, Stretton and Walton to be amalgamated into Appleton and Stockton Heath wards despite representations from all. The application to register the Ring O'Bells as a community asset was submitted.

All the PCs along the A559 agreed to back Stretton on trying to find a solution to ongoing problems. Cllr L. Jones and Cllr B. Jones attended a meeting with Mr John Dwyer, Police Commissioner, and explained the problems on the A559. He agreed to support the campaign.

Purchase of 2 village signs was agreed.

Twinkling Stretton took place. Due to very poor turn out at Lower Stretton, it was agreed to move the date back to a Sunday in 2016. Very good turnout at the PGT switch on. A gift token, flowers and card were presented to retiring Clerk in appreciation of all the hard work she had completed.

### **JANUARY RECESS**

#### **February Meeting**

During the recess the new Clerk resigned and Linda Crewe kindly stayed on to help out whilst a new Clerk was found. New Clerk appointed 1<sup>st</sup> February.

Ring O'Bells was registered by WBC with a decision due by 13<sup>th</sup> March.

Ian Stewardson, traffic manager at Warrington contacted Cllr L. Jones to discuss issues on A559. A meeting to include all other PCs along the route was suggested in March.

It was agreed to employ AMS Landscapes to install the planters. It was also agreed to purchase the 2 village signs in green and gold. Green Home and Garden quoted for installation and removal of lights on the tree in Lower Stretton. As it was considered considerably cheaper, it was agreed that battery operated lights would be purchased for 2016.

#### **March Meeting**

MP David Mowat raised boundary review question in Parliament. Whilst debated, motion passed with new boundary to come into effect in May 2016.

Objection made by Whitley Chair, John Lawson concerning further impact on the level

of HGVs using the A559 should approval be given to change of use application by Bentleys Farm.

New signage order placed, which along with the planters will greatly enhance the look of the borough.

12 litter picks to be ordered for general use by PC and residents to use across the Parish.

The meeting closed at 8.00p.m.

Signed as a true record:

.....(Chairman)  
3<sup>rd</sup> April 2017

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