

Stretton Sugwas Parish Council

The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Parish Council held on
Thursday 21st March 2024 at 6.00pm in Stretton Sugwas Village Hall.

In attendance: Andy Fellowes (AF, Chairman), John Robinson (JR, Vice Chair), James Croft-Hill (JCH), Stuart Howard (SH) Garnet Cresswell (GC), Jane Denney (JD).

Also present: Ward Councillor Bob Mathews (BM) and five members of the public.

1. **To receive apologies of absence – Corrie Smissen, Emma Noble (Parish Clerk)**
2. **To receive declarations of interest and written applications for dispensation – none received**
3. **To adopt minutes of previous meeting – 18th January 2024.** The minutes were proposed to be a true account of the meeting by GC and seconded by SH – all those present were in agreement – it was therefore resolved that the minutes are ADOPTED.

4. Public Forum –

4.1 Local Residents – At Chairman's discretion, up to 10 mins will be allocated for the public to make representations, ask questions & give evidence in respect of any item on the agenda. At the chairman's discretion the members of the public present were given permission to make any representations under item as appropriate.

One local resident was concerned about the road safety of the A438 between Swainshill and Kings Acre Halt nearby the Breinton Lane junction. In the last few years there have been a number of accidents and near misses with more recently (12/01/2024) an accident resulting with a hospital A&E submission. The resident has consulted other residents along the road towards Hereford and has been made aware of a number of instances of excess noise resulting from lorries and motorbikes, and possible speeding vehicles. She also mentioned of the danger of crossing the road due to the bend and limited visibility and using narrow footpaths next to the road which is stopping her from walking her children to school. She has collected a number of signatures from residents concerned about the road safety. She has asked the PC to discuss with Herefordshire Council / Highways Agency the possibility of (1) reducing the speed limit from 40mph to 30 mph (2) the installation of speed cameras, and (3) the installation of Speed Indicator Devices (SID).

AF advised that GC was in the process of setting up a Community Speed Watch (CSW) team and once the vetting of the participants has been completed will be able to monitor vehicle speeds through the village. The PC will review the installation of SID once the CSW is up and running. The PC are also in the process of installing White Gates and further road markings which is hoped to make road users more aware of the speed limit along the A438. BM suggested contacting Mike Gill to request any overgrown hedges along the A438 be cut back

4.2 To receive Ward Councillor Report – BM advised of ongoing consultations regarding a Hereford bypass on the west side of the city and 7,000+ new houses in the surrounding fields along Kings Acre Road. Also, additional funding is available for footpaths and drainage issues (see 8.2 and 8.3 below).

5. To comment on planning applications determined by Herefordshire Council

5.1 Planning application 240133 – The Lakes, Swainshill. Variation of condition 4 following grant of application P191554 – Amendment to position and reduction of house size plot 10 – PC confirm no objections.

5.2 To consider Appeal of refusal of planning 230727 – 2 dwellings between Rose Cottage and Great House. PC still have objections to this request and will submit further representation stating that the allocation for new properties submitted in the Neighbourhood Plan has already been exceeded.

6. To consider D-Day celebrations

GC has contacted the school to ascertain if they want any involvement in the celebrations. JR and JCH have investigated the lighting of a beacon and found the H&S conditions make it too complicated to continue. Due to the lack of interest/participation it was decided not to continue with this project.

7. To consider updating the Police Charter – PC confirm top 3 community issues remain unchanged.

8. To consider the following schemes/funding

8.1 Lengthsman scheme and funding 24/25 – PC to budget £500

8.2 PROW 24/25 – PC made aware of additional £250k funding for minor projects/refurb of stiles and gates. AF is the Footpath Officer and continues to monitor the footpaths in the parish. AF understands that there is to be a survey of the Wye Valley Walk to ensure footpaths are being maintained.

8.3 Drainage 24/25 – Herefordshire Council is launching a new Local Drainage Fund (LDF) to address local highway drainage issues. PC to submit an expression of interest with the following issues identified – A438 between Kites Nest and Turnpike Cottage / Church Road – between church and speed limit sign / Church Road bend opposite entrance to Barnsfield / Church Road junction at Travellers Rest. – GC to liaise with EN.

9. Speed Indication Devices/road markings/white gates

9.1 The PC wish to install SID and will consider possible locations along the A438 once the Community Speed Watch is up and running

9.2 White Gates installation – a site has been identified (towards the boundary west of Swainshill adjacent to the 40mph signs. Balfour Beatty have been contacted and a site visit is to be arranged.

10. Parish Reports and Issues

10.1 Copse – JD confirmed that a tree had been planted on 29/02/2024 to commemorate King Charles coronation. Four pupils from Stretton Sugwas school assisted with the planting.

10.1.2 Footpaths – The PC wish to thank Steve Davis for his work tidying the footpath verge in Church Road. The pavement footpath between Kites Nest and Turnpike Cottage has been identified for clearance of vegetation and remarking of verge. EN to obtain quote under the Lengthsman Scheme.

10.1.3 Milestones – Quote of £420 for refurbishment of markers accepted. JCH and AF to examine sites to ascertain safe removal of milestones.

11. Noticeboard – The noticeboard at the Village Hall has recently been refurbished and the PC would like to give their thanks to Christopher Williams for this. With reference to the replacement of the noticeboard at the Copse, the PC confirmed purchase of 2-bay, 6 x A4 Man-made Timber noticeboard costing £1,145.38. EN to order.

12. To consider holding area for community equipment used by volunteers – AF is to ask Village Hall committee whether items can be stored at the Village Hall.

13. Finance

13.1 To consider clerks salary and expenses in accordance with pay scale and budget – ACTIONED

13.2 To consider invoice for HALC – Annual membership £546.22 – ACTIONED

13.3 To note financial position and bank reconciliation - NOTED

13.4 To note salary payment to clerk for Feb chq 476 – NOTED

13.5 To note payment to Wyevale chq 479 – NOTED

13.6 To note Payment to clerk for plaque £75.60 – NOTED

13.7 To consider an internal auditor – PC would like to continue with Chris Pinches.

14 Courses – The PC confirmed funding for GC to attain a HALC run course on 26th March.

15. To raise matters for next agenda – Annual Parish meeting & Parish Council meeting. Guest speaker not required. Items raised – JD stated there was a recently held consultation meeting were possible housing development from Kings Acre to Stretton Sugwas was mentioned. Unfortunately, no parish councillors from Stretton Sugwas were able to attend – can EN make enquiries to obtain details of outcome of consultation.

14. To note date of next meeting(s) May 16th 2024

Meeting closed at 7.25pm