

Stretton Sugwas Parish Council

Minutes of the ordinary Parish Council Meeting on
Thursday 17th July 2025 at 6.00pm in Stretton Sugwas Village Hall.

Present: Andrew Fellowes (Chairman – AF), Marianne Marshall (Vice Chair – MM), Garnet Cresswell (GC),
John Robinson (JR), Stuart Howard (SH), Jane Denny (JD).

Also present – 3 members of the public, Ward Cllr Taylor and E Noble (clerk)

1. **To receive apologies of absence – James Croft-Hill**
2. **To receive declarations of interest and written applications for dispensation – none received**
3. **To adopt minutes of previous meeting –** Annual Parish Council Meeting and Annual Parish Meeting May 2025 – JR proposed the minutes were a true record of the meeting and should therefore be adopted, GC seconded this and all present were in agreement that the minutes should be 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.- to note email received from local resident regarding traffic calming measures along Church Road by St Mary Magdalene Church – see item 7 and report from a local resident regarding possible breach of security at The Copse – see item 8
 - 4.2. **To receive Ward Councillor Report** – Ward Cllr Taylor informed the parish council that Milke Gill, Locality Steward, will no longer be the contact for the parish. Phil Pankhurst will take over from August 1st. There is currently a consultation for Merton Meadow regeneration on line at Herefordshire Council which can be accessed up until the end of August.

There has been a call for possible sites for planning applications as 11,000 new homes are needed as part of the development plan for Herefordshire. The parish council will contact local land owners such as the Duchy. By contacting local land owners this could possibly help with reviewing the NDP (which has recently expired) and give the parish more control over the location of housing development sites rather than Herefordshire Council deciding where the sites should go. The NDP will meet to discuss this further and bring to a parish council meeting in the near future.

ACTION: Planning Steering Group

Greylands- no decision has yet been made however a number of objections have been received.

Flood Risk Management – there are new contacts for this and the clerk will forward the details to the parish council.

ACTION: CLERK

Ward Cllr Taylor and councillor Cresswell have carried out a site visit to look at the parking issues around the school at peak times. This is ongoing and Ward Cllr Taylor suggested a single item agenda to look at how to look at small parcels of land around by the school/school grounds/dropped kerbs/stride and ride etc in the hope that suitable parking can be sourced.

ACTION: ALL

Councillor Cresswell recently attended a parish council meeting in Credenhill and invited Wye Ventures to the parish council meeting. Wye Ventures deliver outdoor trials and challenges to children and are looking for volunteers. Should anyone be interested in joining them more information can be found on line.

5. **To comment on planning applications determined by Herefordshire Council** – no planning applications have been received.

5.1 To note planning decisions determined by Herefordshire Council – no notification has been received.

5.2 To note no funding for future NDP's – The Parish Council discussed this at length and instructed the clerk to use the template provided by HALC to write to the local MP expressing disappointment in this decision.

ACTION: CLERK

6. **Traffic Regulation Order Scheme** – Speed Limit U73019 30mph from the junction C1197 for approx. 939metres in a westerly direction. – This item was discussed by all present and it was agreed by all those present that the clerk would confirm that the parish council not only supports this TRO but would also be in favour of Church Road being made a 30mph road all the way through the parish.

ACTION: CLERK

7. **Church Road** – to consider traffic calming measures as raised under item 4.1 – a local resident has raised concerns over Church Road speeding cars and has asked the parish council to consider traffic calming measures. The Parish Council are considering purchasing a Speed Indication Device which, it is felt, will help reduce speeding traffic. Traffic humps were discussed and it was noted that the site has recently benefitted traffic calming measures in that village 'white gates' were put up and also new road markings which give the illusion of the road being narrower and also the absence of middle lines were all part of the traffic calming measures that have been delivered over the last 4/5 years. Once the SID is in place it will provide data on the speed of the traffic along Church Road and this will help the Road Safety Partnership Team on how to further calm traffic as appropriate. Ward Cllr Taylor is also aware of the concerns.
8. **To consider securing The Copse** - a local parishioner has noted that The Copse has gained the attention from a few individuals possibly looking to set up camp on the area – the parish council are aware that there have been caravans setting up camp at Credenhill Woods and other neighbouring parishes. The clerk has contacted the local police team who will keep the area under surveillance and suggested the parish council secure the entrance. It was agreed by all present that the clerk will consult with the locality steward in order to purchase a lock that the grounds maintenance team can access to cut the grass. All agreed a budget of £100 be set aside to secure the area.
9. **SIDS update including base work** - GC and SH met with Natalie from highways to look at 6 sites for the proposed SIDS. 5 sites were confirmed as suitable for the base specification requirements and it was confirmed that only retention sockets could be used with the lid being replaced when they are not in use. GC has obtained 4 quotes for solar powered SIDS which include useable programs data with graphics. GC has also obtained a quote from Tarvis Perkins for retention sockets (GC also contacted Jewsons, Tudors and also the suppliers direct in Worcester) and was quoted a price of £198 plus VAT for each socket – 5 sockets would be needed. The quote for the SID was £5895.00 including VAT and a quote from Richard Mills to provide the bases to required specification was £1240 plus VAT. Agreed sites for SIDS were on verges by the following dwellings:

1. Old Weir Cottage/Stone Cottage
2. Brockenhall View
3. Kemeys
4. Church Road
5. Oakdene

GC had informed the parish council that a grant from the OPCC was possibly available to help communities and this would possibly meet the criteria. All present agreed that the parish council would apply for a grant and that it can take up to a month for confirmation if you are successful. GC confirmed that he had already applied on behalf of the parish council and was due to hear if the application had been successful in the next 10 days or so. GC will forward the information on to the clerk so she can liaise as appropriate with the OPCC providing financial information and bank details as appropriate. GC confirmed he had quoted the costings to the OPCC to be around £9000.

ACTION: GC

10. **To consider purchasing a trolley cart from volunteer litter picks** – GC informed the parish council that the volunteer litter picker has requested a trolley to help him collect purple bags of rubbish due to the number of bags he is collecting. The Parish Council are thankful to Steve for litter picking and unanimously agreed to fund a trolley for him. GC informed the parish council that the trolley had been purchased and presented a receipt for payment totalling £40..

11. To consider village gates A438 – The item was discussed at length as this may help with traffic calming. It was agreed that the clerk will ask for a quote from Herefordshire Council. **ACTION: CLERK**

12. To consider Wyescapes questionnaire - AF agreed to fill the form out on behalf of the parish council. **ACTION: AF**

13 Finance – to consider payments in accordance with the budget and note bank reconciliation

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

13.2 To consider payment to HMRC in relation to clerks salary - ACTIONED

13.3 To consider payment to R Mills drainage for drainage asset map - ACTIONED

13.4 To note bank reconciliation - NOTED

14.. To consider local maintenance works

14.1 Footpaths – SS11 broken stile emailed from Breinton Parish Council – AF will have a look at the stile and report as appropriate. **ACTION: AF**

14.2 To consider work for the lengthsman in accordance with the lengthsman grant – the clerk will meet with Richard Mills (Lengthsman) to ask him to provide a maintenance schedule for the parish to include cleaning the white gates on Church Road. Branch overhanging by school – AF to trim. **ACTION: AF CLERK**

14.3 To consider PROW grant scheme – The scheme was discussed however as the parish is mostly covered by the Wye Valley Walk (meaning footpaths and footpath furniture is well maintained) it was felt that the parish council would not join the scheme at this present time.

15 To consider participating in the drainage grant scheme 25/26

15.1 To consider drainage works in accordance with drainage grant 25/26 – All present agreed that the clerk will meet with Richard Mills to identify possible works that would meet the grant criteria – to include drainage issues on the A438 by the tied cottages. **ACTION: CLERK**

16 To consider agenda items for next meeting – SIDS, PARKING, REVIEWING NDP

17.To note date of next meeting - September 18th 2025

The meeting finished at 7.35pm