

Stretton Sugwas Parish Council

The minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting on Thursday 16th July 2026 at
6pm in Stretton Sugwas Village Hall.

In attendance: Cllrs Marianne Marshall (in the Chair), John Robinson, Garnet Cresswell, Jane Denny, Patricia Hales, Ward Cllr Charlotte Taylor, two members of the public, Tanya Walshe (Parish Clerk/RFO)

1. To receive apologies of absence – apologies were received from Cllr Andrew Fellowes
2. To receive declarations of interest and written applications for dispensation – there were none.
3. To adopt minutes of previous meetings – 21st May 2026 and 18th June 2026 – Cllr Garnet Cresswell proposed that the minutes were a true record of the meeting and that they should be adopted, Cllr Jane Denny seconded this and all present were in agreement. It was therefore **RESOLVED** to adopt the minutes.

The clerk advised that an issue remained with delivery of parish council emails to one councillor. The clerk would continue to pursue the creation of the councillor's parish council email account. **ACTION:** Clerk to follow up the outstanding email account issue.

4. Open Session –

4.1. Public Participation

A member of the public requested that parish council minutes and other relevant parish information resume being published in the parish magazine.

The Clerk confirmed that approved minutes would be submitted to the magazine editor, together with the dates of upcoming Parish Council meetings. The Clerk advised that several sets of recently approved minutes would be submitted before the publication deadline. **ACTION:** Clerk to submit the approved minutes and upcoming meeting dates to the parish magazine.

4.2. To receive Ward Councillor Report – Ward Cllr Charlotte Taylor gave a verbal report. Matters covered included:

- A480 traffic concerns. Complaints had been received regarding queuing traffic, unsafe overtaking and vehicles making U-turns on the A480. A site visit had taken place with a traffic management officer. It has been proposed that warning signs be installed near the blind bend to alert drivers to the likelihood of queuing traffic.

08/07/2026

- Flooding and drainage. The Ward Councillor had visited areas affected by flooding, including land near Oakfield View and the Yazor Brook. Further discussions would take place with the relevant flood and drainage teams. A specialist assessment was being undertaken regarding the grilles and the accumulation of debris within the flood alleviation system. The Ward Councillor continued to request an annual clearance programme, preferably during September, covering the watercourse and pond.
- Crime information. The Ward Councillor had obtained access to more detailed neighbourhood (Ward) crime information and provided a brief summary of recently recorded incidents within the area.
- King's Acre planning application. The planning application for approximately 45 dwellings opposite the garden centre remained under consideration. Further drainage and infiltration information had been requested.

5. Road Safety and Traffic Calming

The Council discussed road safety concerns and the work of the Community Speed Watch Group. Potential monitoring locations and the suitability of existing locations were discussed. It was noted that some sites were subject to different speed limits and enforcement thresholds. The Council agreed that road safety locations and signage should remain under review.

6. Speed Indicator Device

The Council considered the proposed replacement speed indicator device. Quotations and product information had been previously circulated to councillors. The Council noted that a refund remained outstanding for the previously returned device. The Clerk did not yet have online access to the Parish Council's bank account and was awaiting bank statements. It was **RESOLVED** that the Council would not purchase a replacement speed indicator device until the outstanding refund had been received and confirmed. It was **RESOLVED** that all financial correspondence and requests for refunds should be made through the Clerk as the Council's central point of contact. **ACTION:** Cllr Garnet Cresswell to provide the Clerk with the supplier and order information necessary to pursue the refund. It was further agreed that information should be obtained from nearby parish councils regarding the make, performance and reliability of their speed indicator devices. **ACTION:** Clerk to pursue refund if not showing on next bank statement. **ACTION:** Clerk to obtain references and information from nearby parish councils concerning their devices.

7. Council Communications.

Cllr Garnet Cresswell raised concerns regarding limited responses to requests for information and assistance and the difficulty of progressing council projects without clear ownership or feedback. The Council acknowledged that communication had been disrupted during the period in which it had operated without a permanent Clerk and that councillors had sometimes worked through separate and overlapping email conversations. It was agreed that the Council needed a clearer and more consistent process for managing correspondence, allocating work and recording actions. It was **RESOLVED** that Council business, complaints, financial matters and proposals requiring council's consideration should normally be sent to the Clerk. It was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk would act as the central point of contact for circulating information. It was **RESOLVED** that councillors leading on an agreed project could communicate directly with relevant parties, provided that the Clerk and Chair were kept informed.

It was noted that meetings should remain focused on the published agenda.

8. Action Points. It was agreed that this item had been covered in item 7.

9. Grit and Salt Bins

The Council considered requests for additional grit or salt bins, including possible locations near Roman Way and Swainshill. It was noted that the highway authority might not approve bins on unadopted roads, although the Parish Council could potentially fund a bin where appropriate and subject to permission. **ACTION:** Cllr Garnet Cresswell to send Clerk details of proposed locations. **ACTION:** The Ward Councillor would seek advice from the relevant officer regarding the suitability of the locations, the application process and any associated costs. **ACTION:** Clerk to forward the proposed locations to the Ward Councillor.

10. Section 106 Wish List

The Council discussed the need to prepare a list of projects that could be supported through Section 106 developer contributions.

Possible projects included:

- Road safety and traffic calming measures
- Improved pedestrian access and footways
- Bus stop and public transport infrastructure
- Outdoor recreation or exercise equipment
- Sports and community facilities

It was agreed that the council should establish a clear and prioritised list rather than continuing to defer the matter. It was **RESOLVED** that all councillors would submit potential Section 106 projects to the Clerk. The Council also agreed to hold an informal discussion to develop the list further.

It was suggested that residents should be invited to submit ideas through the parish magazine. **ACTION:** Clerk to prepare a parish magazine notice inviting residents to submit suitable suggestions.

11. Grass Cutting at The Copse

The Council discussed responsibility for grass cutting at The Copse following the transfer of land. The area continued to be cut, although it was unclear which contractor was undertaking the work and who was responsible for issuing instructions. The Council wished to identify the contractor so that appropriate management could be discussed, including;

- Protecting existing wildflower area
- Avoiding areas where orchids or other notable plants might be present
- Creating or maintaining a meandering path through the longer grass
- Considering further wildflower planting

ACTION: The Ward Councillor agreed to identify the relevant contractor or inspecting officer.

Additional concerns were raised regarding verge cutting and vegetation affecting the pedestrian route between Roman Way and the Church. **ACTION:** Clerk to email Ward Councillor with a request to clarify who is cutting the grass at The Copse.

12. Finance

Members considered the following payments:

12.1 Clerk's salary and expenses		In accordance with contract
12.2 Autela payroll services		£19.14
12.3 Cllr Garnet Cresswell reimbursement of expenses		£69.71

It was **RESOLVED** that all payments be approved

13. Matters for the next agenda

- The possible purchase of bat-detection equipment for use by residents (Ward Councillor Taylor)
- Progress on the Section 106 Wish List
- Review or renewal of neighbourhood development plan (Cllr Garnet Cresswell)
- Progress on the replacement speed indicator device and outstanding refund

14. To note the date of the next scheduled meeting

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on 17th September 2026, 6pm, Stretton Sugwas Village Hall

Meeting closed 7:15pm

Tanya Walshe, Clerk to Stretton Sugwas Parish Council

DRAFT

12/07/2026