

# STETCHWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Mrs. Karen Peck

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## MINUTES

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2026 at The Ellesmere Centre (Gredley Room) at 7pm.

Present: Councillor Saunders (PS) Vice Chair, Sharp (AS), Breen (SB), Puddick (JP), France (AF) and District Councillor Lay (JL) and County Councillor Edge (JE)

- 120326/1 Apologies for Absence (Local Government Act. 1972 s.85 (1))**  
Apologies were received from Councillor Bell. The Clerk was absent.
- 120326/2 To Receive Declarations of Pecuniary and non-Pecuniary Interest**  
AS – St Peter's Church payment and Ellesmere Centre  
AF – St Peter's Church payment
- 120326/3 Open Forum for Public Participation**  
An opportunity for parishioners to address Parish Councillors and for Councillors declaring a prejudicial interest to address the meeting in relation to the business to be transacted.  
No members of the public were in attendance.
- 120326/4 To Approve the Minutes of Stetchworth Parish Council held on 8<sup>th</sup> January 2026**  
The Parish Council meeting minutes of 8<sup>th</sup> January 2026 were approved unanimously. Motion carried.
- 120326/5 District & County Councillors' Reports**  
County Councillor Edge provided a full written report that was circulated to council before the meeting. JE highlighted that the County Council budget had been passed in February 2026 and noted an extra £20 million for road maintenance but there was a government shortfall in road maintenance funding.  
District Councillor AS gave a brief verbal report – District budget set with 0% increase. Planning Committee (Burwell Battery Plant) was refused at Committee.  
Waste Services in the district will change on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2026, delivery of new bins will start to be delivered in March 2026 onwards.
- 120326/6 The Ellesmere Centre Report**  
The squash court project in obeyance. Formal paperwork is being reviewed in terms of the lease.
- 120326/7 Council Business:**
- LGR Consultation - case for Woodditton and Burwell to submit a further response  
The Council discussed the subject, and it was agreed to **approve** the further joint response letter.  
**For: PS, SB, JP, AF Against: AS**
  - To discuss and receive update on the Post Office closure from Ellesmere Trustees  
AS updated Council over the history. In May 2023 Trustees met with Post Office Ltd who supported the Post Office. Due to ill health the Post Mistress was unable to continue and the Post Office within the Centre closed in September 2025. In January 2026 AS, as a Trustee made contact to establish the future of the Post Office with the Post Mistress, concluding that they had regrettable had to retire from the post. Post Office Ltd then advised the Post Office was too close, Ellesmere staff had tried to open communications with PO Ltd with no success. AS then picked up the matter. 7 applicants applied to take over the role as Postmaster/Mistress and AS updated 2-3 applicants are still live in the process. AS noted, that the other option being looked at was running a Community Post Office, which would look at the Centre opening a Commercial arm of the charity to incorporate a Community Post Office. All options are currently open and it's unlikely to open for another 4-6 months. Trustees meet again on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2026 and a further update will be provided. PS enquired if the new arrangement would support the current opening hours. AS noted, this would be dependant in the new employees.  
The Parish Council would like to formally thank Charlotte Cane MP, County Councillor Jonny Edge, District Councillor Sharp, the Ellesmere Office Staff (Andrea and Julie) and the community for their support in fighting to save our Post Office and keeping the village Post Office alive.
  - Parking concerns High Street – Stetchworth  
The Parish Council had received a further complaint about the dangerous parking conditions on High Street. The Council will continue to work with the Nursery and other users to help educated road users for everyone's safety.
  - To ratify Newmarket 10k event on the recreation ground  
The Parish Council had reviewed all paperwork and insurances and were happy to approve the event. **Approved** unanimously. Motion carried.
  - To note Hockey Proposal  
This item was deferred to the next meeting.
  - 23 Coopers Close – Parish Owned Tree – Anglian Landscaping made contact to undertake undetailed works to a parish owned tree. No works report or photographs have been received; therefore, the matter cannot be considered. Awaiting full report with supporting images before discussion.  
The Council noted the above and await correspondence.
- 120326/8 a) Finance - to approve accounts for payment:**
- |  |              |
|--|--------------|
| January 2026                               |              |
| ICO – Data Protection Fee                  | DD £47.00    |
| HMRC, Wages and Expenses - January         | BACs £558.62 |
| Unity Trust – Service Charge               | BACs £6.00   |
| TBM – Microsoft 365 and domain and support | BACs £33.75  |
| Ellesmere Centre – Hire                    | BACs £12.00  |
| St Peters Church – LHL service Inv. 200260 | BACs £40.80  |

SSE – Street Light Energy	DD	£293.53
February 2026		
HMRC, Wages and Expenses	BACs	£558.62
TBM – Microsoft365, domain and support	BACs	£99.75
Unity Trust Bank – service charge	BACs	£6.00
SSE - Street Light Energy	DD	£103.79
March 2026		
HMRC, Wages and Expenses	BACs	£577.73
TBM – Microsoft and domain and support	BACs	£33.75
SSE – Street Light Energy	DD	£88.64
Red Shoes Accounting - Payroll	BACs	£50.40

All payments were unanimously **approved**. Motion carried. **Proposed PS Seconded SB**

b) To note monies received: None

c) To accept bank reconciliations for 28<sup>th</sup> February 2026

All payments and bank reconciliation were **approved** unanimously, **Proposed: PS Seconded AF**. Motion carried.

**120326/9 Planning**

(a) To receive planning application decisions and tree works: -  
**25/00929/FUL Ellesmere Centre, Stetchworth – approved**

(b) To consider planning applications received: -  
**26/00159/FUL 101 High Street, Stetchworth**  
Two storey extension and alterations  
The Parish Council had no objection to the application.

**120326/10 Date of Next Meeting & Matters for Future Consideration –Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May** at 7pm Annual Parish Meeting followed by Annual Meeting of the Parish Council 7.30pm (or directly following the APM) all in The Gredley Room, Ellesmere Centre

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Karen Peck  
Clerk and RFO  
Stetchworth Parish Council

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Wayne Bell  
Chairman  
Stetchworth Parish Council

Meeting closed at 20.11