

# STETCHWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

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## ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> May at The Ellesmere Centre (Gredley Room) at 7.30pm.

### Minutes

Present: Councillor Bell (WB) Chairman, Saunders (PS) Vice Chairman and Kempton (LK). County Councillor Jonny Edge.

200525/1	<b>Election of Chairman &amp; Signing of Declaration of Acceptance of Office form.</b> It was unanimously <b>RESOLVED</b> to elect Councillor Bell as Chairman for the coming year. Councillor Bell signed the Acceptance of Office as did the Proper Officer. <b>Proposed PS Seconded LK</b>
200525/2	<b>Election of Vice-Chairman.</b> It was unanimously <b>RESOLVED</b> to elect Councillor Saunders as Vice Chairman for the coming year. Councillor Saunders signed the Acceptance of Office as did the Proper Officer. <b>Proposed WB Seconded LK</b>
200525/3	<b>To receive &amp; approve apologies for absence.</b> Councillor Sharp, Breen, Puddock, France – apologies accepted.
200525/4	<b>To Receive Declarations of Pecuniary and non-Pecuniary Interest</b> Councillors to declare any personal and/or pecuniary interest in any item on the agenda and to inform the Chairman if they wish to speak on the matter during the Public Forum. None were made.
200525/5	<b>Open Forum for Public Participation</b> 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. There were no members of the public in attendance.
200525/6	<b>To Approve the Minutes of the Meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> April 2025</b> It was unanimously <b>RESOLVED</b> to approve the Full Parish Council Meeting minutes of 14 <sup>th</sup> April 2025 as a true and accurate record of the meeting. Motion carried. <b>Proposed WB Seconded PS</b>
200525/7	<b>Council business</b>  a) Annual Play Area Inspection Report and works required The Annual Inspection had been circulated to all members before the meeting. It was agreed that the list of works required should be completed. It was also discussed that the BMX and play area was coming to the end of its life and plans should be made to renovate the area in the next 5 years. Motion carried to approve specified works. <b>Proposed WB Seconded PS</b>  b) Clearance of signage for safety purposes The Parish Council discussed the recent reports of overgrown signage and warning signals. This had been reported to CCC under ref 00507518, with a response from CCC being received on 14.5.2025 stating "At this time we do not feel that any action is necessary". Agreed unanimously to ask JE to investigate and PC to do works themselves. <b>Proposed WB Seconded PS</b>
200525/8	<b>The Ellesmere Centre</b> Ellesmere Centre Report. No report was provided.
200525/9	<b>District &amp; County Councillors' Reports</b>  I am delighted to have been elected to represent the residents of the Woodditton Division and really look forward to supporting this diverse set of communities, from Lode in the northwest to Kirtling & Upend in the southeast.  Firstly, a huge thank you to Alan Sharp, for years of service as a hardworking councillor for our community. There are so many that will appreciate everything you have done to support them.

## Elections and County Council Composition

The elections in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough on Thursday 1 May have resulted in changes of political control of both Mayoral and County Council level.

Conservative Paul Bristow gained the Mayoralty, following four years of Labour under Nik Johnson. The results were as follows:

Candidates	Cambridge City	East Cambs	Fenland	Huntingdon	Peterborough City	South Cambs	Total
Paul Bristow (Conservative)	5,042	5,733	8,302	13,797	15,769	11,600	60,243 Elected
Ryan Coogan (Reform UK)	3,122	5,924	9,246	13,376	9,221	8,758	49,647
Lorna Dupre (Liberal Dem.)	6,340	7,473	2,050	9,024	2,907	13,817	41,611
Bob Ensich (Green Party)	5,332	1,528	1,528	3,206	2,649	4,477	18,255
Anna Smith (Labour)	13,382	2,863	2,863	6,694	7,629	9,927	42,671

Four of the five candidates won at least one of the six districts, showing how fractured opinion in this country has become. The winner received the votes of 28% of those who voted, and 9.3% of the electorate as a whole. Meanwhile, the Liberal Democrats won a majority of seats on the County Council. Again, many seats being won or lost by a handful of votes. The composition of the council following the 1 May elections is as follows:

Liberal Democrats 31

Conservative 10

Reform UK 10

Labour 5

Green Party 3

Independent 2

Politicians and local authorities at every level of government will be adjusting to the new dynamic.

## Quality of Life survey

The County Council's third annual countywide Quality of Life survey has launched this month, and will help the council understand and track residents' views across Cambridgeshire. The survey asks residents about their views on topics such as life and community, transport, health and wellbeing, children and young people, and the council and its services. The information gathered from previous surveys has already been used to inform the council's Business Plan and Budget processes. This year there are two questions to help introduce the concept of Local Government Reorganisation to residents and provide an early indication of awareness. Even if you are not one of the 1,100 people in this district contacted by the market research company, you can still take part. The survey is available at [www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/quality-of-life-survey](http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/quality-of-life-survey) until Monday, 21 July. The responses will then be collated and published to councillors and the public in the autumn. The results will help inform council meetings and priorities for the years ahead.

## Environment

Cambridgeshire County Council has been re-accredited as a Bronze 'Carbon Literate Organisation', highlighting the organisation's dedication towards tackling climate change, working towards a zero-carbon future, and reducing its organisational carbon emissions. This is a nationally recognised scheme which helps organisations reach 'an awareness of the carbon costs and impacts of everyday activities and the ability and motivation to reduce emissions on an individual, community and organisational basis'.

## Buses

From 27 May, the Tiger Bus Network will be delivering two new services. Though unfortunately these do not directly support our immediate area, they will provide some onward options from Newmarket.

	<p>Tiger 4 (Newmarket to Addenbrookes) and Tiger 5 (Soham to Cambridge). For those wanting to take a look online her is the link <a href="https://cambridgeshirepeterborough-ca.gov.uk/tiger-bus-routes/">https://cambridgeshirepeterborough-ca.gov.uk/tiger-bus-routes/</a>. I will be working over the coming years to help support those in our community needing improved public transport options.</p> <p>Highways</p> <p>Burrough Green have seen recent road treatment on Bradley Road, heading to Haverhill and Dullingham has planned road treatment to Station Road scheduled on 27th May, which I will aim to update you on further at the meeting. One of my main priorities will be focusing on how we can make sure work required to local roads is better captured and prioritised in the future. The first full council meeting is on 20 May, so next time I will be able to update you further and clarify the specific areas of council I will be working within. <b>Cllr Jonny Edge, 07974 348141, jonny.edge@cambridgeshire.gov.uk</b></p>																																								
20525/10 (a)	<p><b>Finance - to approve accounts for payment:</b></p> <table><tr><th>Ref:</th><th>Payee/Item</th><th></th><th>Total</th></tr><tr><td>(1)</td><td>ROSPA – Annual Inspection</td><td></td><td>£211.20</td></tr><tr><td>(2)</td><td>TBM – Renewal of ESET for 1 year</td><td></td><td>£33.75</td></tr><tr><td>(3)</td><td>Stetchworth Church Council - Portaloo</td><td></td><td>£38.40</td></tr><tr><td>(4)</td><td>RH Landscapes – Grass Cutting April</td><td></td><td>£312.00</td></tr><tr><td>(6)</td><td>SSE – Street Light Energy</td><td></td><td>£144.82</td></tr><tr><td>(7)</td><td>S&amp; J Accountancy Services</td><td></td><td>£90.00</td></tr><tr><td>(8)</td><td>CAPALC – Affiliation Renewal</td><td></td><td>£380.86</td></tr><tr><td>(9)</td><td>HMRC, Staffing and Expenses</td><td></td><td>TBC</td></tr><tr><td>(10)</td><td>The Ellesmere Centre - hire</td><td></td><td>£12.00</td></tr></table>	Ref:	Payee/Item		Total	(1)	ROSPA – Annual Inspection		£211.20	(2)	TBM – Renewal of ESET for 1 year		£33.75	(3)	Stetchworth Church Council - Portaloo		£38.40	(4)	RH Landscapes – Grass Cutting April		£312.00	(6)	SSE – Street Light Energy		£144.82	(7)	S& J Accountancy Services		£90.00	(8)	CAPALC – Affiliation Renewal		£380.86	(9)	HMRC, Staffing and Expenses		TBC	(10)	The Ellesmere Centre - hire		£12.00
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(b)	<p>To note monies received: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>East Cambs District Council Precept 2025/26 1<sup>st</sup> Instalment £10039.50. All income was <b>APPROVED</b>.</li></ul>																																								
(c)	<p>To approve and adopt Standing Orders</p> <p>Having review the Standing Order it was unanimously <b>RESOLVED</b> to approve them. Motion carried.</p> <p><b>Proposed WB Seconded PS</b></p>																																								
	<p>To approve and adopt Financial Regulations</p> <p>Having review the Financial Regulations (2024) it was unanimously <b>RESOLVED</b> to approve them. Motion carried.</p> <p><b>Proposed WB Seconded PS</b></p>																																								
	<p>To approve the Standards and Code of Conduct for Members</p> <p>Having review the Standards and Code of Conduct for Members it was unanimously <b>RESOLVED</b> to approve them. Motion carried.</p> <p><b>Proposed WB Seconded PS</b></p>																																								
	<p>To approve the Councils Policies and Procedures, including the adoption of General Power of Competence</p> <p>Having review the Policies and Procedures, including the adoption of General Power of Competence were unanimously <b>RESOLVED</b> to approve them. Motion carried.</p> <p><b>Proposed WB Seconded PS</b></p>																																								
	<p>Internal Audit Report 2024/25 to be accepted and approved</p> <p>Having review the Internal audit Report 2024/25 it was unanimously <b>RESOLVED</b> to approve it. Motion carried.</p> <p><b>Proposed WB Seconded PS</b></p>																																								
(d)	<p>AGAR 24/25: External Audit Certificate of Exemption to be approved</p> <p>The Council considered the AGA 24/25 External Auit Certificate of Exemption was circulated to all councillors. It was unanimously agreed it should be approved. The document was signed by the Chairman and the Clerk.</p> <p><b>Proposed WB Seconded PS</b></p>																																								
	<p>AGAR 24/25: Annual Governance Statement 2024/25 to be approved</p> <p>It was unanimously <b>RESOLVED</b> that statements 1-8 in the Annual Governance statement for 2024-25 should be answered “YES”, statement 9 should be answered “N/A” and the document should be approved by council. The document was signed by the Chairman and the Clerk.</p> <p><b>Proposed WB Seconded PS</b></p>																																								
(e)	<p>AGAR 24/25: Accounting Statements 2024/25 to be approved</p>																																								

	<p>The Council considered the Accounting Statement 2024-25 as circulated to all councillors. It was unanimously agreed it should be approved. The document was signed by the Chairman and the Clerk.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Proposed WB Seconded PS</b></p>
(f)	<p>Appointment of Internal Auditor 2025/26</p> <p>It was unanimously <b>RESOLVED</b> to appoint S &amp; J Accounting as the Internal Auditor for 2025-26.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Proposed WB Seconded SB</b></p>
<b>200525/12</b>	<b>Planning</b>
(a)	<p><u>To receive planning application decisions and tree works:</u></p> <p><b>25/00070/FUL 9 High Street, Stetchworth – APPROVED</b> Construction of side porch, rear single storey extension, conversion of outbuilding into habitable room.</p> <p><b>25/00071/FUL 11 High Street, Stetchworth – APPROVED</b> Construction of side porch and single storey rear extension, conversion of existing outbuildings into habitable room</p> <p><b>25/00020/FUL Newmarket Equine Hospital, Cambridge Road, Newmarket – APPROVED</b> Extension to equine hospital to accommodate CT Scanner</p>
(b)	<p><u>To consider planning applications received:</u></p> <p>None</p>
<b>200525/13</b>	<p><b>Date of Next Meeting &amp; Matters for Future Consideration</b></p> <p>Next meeting 17<sup>th</sup> June 2025 7pm</p> <p><b>Meeting closed at 19.39</b></p>