STILTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting that took place on Tuesday 10 February 2026 - held at the Church Meeting Room, Stilton at 7.30pm.

Present: Councillors: Ayres (Chairman), Arscott, Green, J Leonard, O Leonard, Murtagh and Shailer

Clerk: Lawrence

Others: 4 members of the public

PC023/26 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Paice had sent apologies – personal reasons – **accepted.**

PC024/26 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST/DISPENSATIONS

Cllrs Ayres and O Leonard declared non-pecuniary interests in PC028/26.

PC025/26 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- A representative from Stilton Heritage advised that the draft lease had been considered following feedback from their solicitors and this would be forwarded to the Parish Council's solicitors shortly – if any problems with the lease suggestions, an in person meeting to discuss was suggested between Stilton Heritage and the Parish Council
- A member of the public brought the lack of a lift at Halls the Chemist to council's attention (Council has contacted Halls regarding highlighting use of the bell outside and suggested installing a hand rail). **Clerk to contact Huntingdonshire District Council to highlight.**
- Suggestion of calling a tree 'Martin's tree' on Apreece Way was raised – **no problem in principal but this to return to the Parish Council if funds are needed for a plaque.**

PC026/26 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 13 January 2026 were confirmed a true record and signed by the Chairman.

PC027/26 REPORTS FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS

Neither County Councillor Bywater or District Councillor Alban were present but County Councillor Bywater had sent a report detailing County Council budget setting with a proposed 4.99% increase it their council tax element for the next financial year. He also encouraged responding to the Local Government Reorganisation consultation which is open until 26 March 2026, highlighting Option E whereby Huntingdonshire would become a unitary council in itself.

Cllrs Ayres and O Leonard left the meeting. Cllr Murtagh took over as Chairman.

PC028/26 STILTON HERITAGE

A representative put forward suggestions to ensure the secure receipt of mail for Stilton Heritage, requested a suitable position to install the charity's new post box at a time prior to the lease commencing and asked for agreement to register the Church Street address with the Post Office so that any mail is appropriately delivered.

Resolved

Stilton Heritage to position a post box on the left-hand side brick post at the entrance to the Cemetery (Parish Council's 'Parish Room' sign to be removed), prior to the lease commencing with agreement to register their address at the site.

Cllrs Ayres and O Leonard rejoined the meeting and Cllr Ayres resumed as Chairman

A member of the public left the meeting

PC029/26 PLANNING

No planning applications had been received.

PC030/26 FINANCIAL REPORT

The Clerk/RFO provided the bank reconciliation for January and reserves balance. CCLA interest for January was noted at £434.10. A partial refund of the deposit from Octopus Energy of £295 was recorded and the Clerk updated on accurate spending at Howsafe as £99.60, KT McPartlins tank emptying at £540 alongside receipt of Anglian Water quarterly Invoices for both the Parish Room and Pavilion.

Resolved

PC030/26.1 Cllrs Arscott and Ayres confirmed expenditure checked and correct with Clerk overtime of 17.5 hours for January (already paid) and 25 hours for February while covering the vacant Pavilion Administrator role

PC030/26.2 Expenditure for February.

To:	Reason:	Amount:	Authorised Ref:
Staff wages	Salaries, HMRC and pension costs	5,284.67	LGA72,s.112
Octopus Energy	Pavilion gas	453.47	LGA76,s.19
Octopus Energy	Pavilion electricity	225.90	LGA76,s.19
EE	Staff mobile - Pavilion	14.38	LGA76,s.19
Barclays	Account charges	13.30	LGA72,s.151
TW Lightning	Lightning protection to CCTV/light pole	504.00	LGA72, s.111
Howsafe	Caretaker clothing	99.60	LGA72,s.112
PWLB	Loan payment for Parish Room	4,310.12	LGA2003,S1,p2
Peterborough Print	Newsletter - bi annual	132.00	LGA72, s.142
Peterborough Print	New Pavilion signs	386.40	LGA76, s.19
Starboard Systems	Annual booking software renewal	673.92	LGA76, s.19
Parish Council Websites	Annual planning software for website	216.00	LGA72, s.111
Anglian Water	Pavilion water	119.39	LGA72, s.111
Anglian Water	Parish Room water	60.96	LGA72, s.111
ICO	Data protection - annual charge	47.00	LGA72, s.111
HDC	Outstanding security provision	1,388.00	LGA76, s.19
HDC	Q3 village maintenance	5,448.30	LGA76, s.19
Business Waste	Pavilion bin emptying	80.50	LGA76, s.19
KT McPartlins	Tank Emptying - Pav	540.00	LGA72, s.111
LW Electrical Ltd	Net Zero works - completion payment (grant)	23,398.00	LGA76, s.19
LW Electrical Ltd	Net Zero auxiliary works (grant)	1,716.00	LGA76, s.19
Norbert Janecki	Net Zero works - GRP unit (grant)	593.89	LGA76, s.19
Parish Online	Annual membership	162.00	LGA72, s.111
SPC credit card	Screwfix - toilet syphons, postfix, etc	99.55	LGA72, s.111
SPC credit card	Amazon - toilet rolls, printer ink	171.36	LGA72, s.111
SPC credit card	Amazon - gloves, soap, bin bags	50.64	LGA72, s.111
SPC credit card	Virtual Landline - Clerk phone	8.75	LGA72,s.111

Church Meeting Rm	Room hire for meetings	67.50	LGA72,s.111
	Monthly total:	**46,265.60**	

*** VAT included**

PC031/26 INSURANCE

The annual insurance premium was outlined from Zurich (3-year tie-in, 2026 is year 3) and recent claim for Pavilion boiler issues advised as being awarded (£1,121.16 with a £100 excess so £1,021.16 to be paid shortly).

Resolved

Payment to Zurich for annual Parish Council insurance - £3,145.29.

Cllr Vickers declared an interest in PC032/26 and left the meeting for the Cheese Rolling application for Pavilion and Community field use

PC032/26 GRANTS WORKING GROUP

Councillor Arscott detailed the grant award from Cambridgeshire County Council to address Apreece Way culvert concerns. An application from Cheese Rolling for concessionary Community Field and Pavilion use on Sunday 24 May 2026 was discussed alongside an application from Stilton Christmas Lights for concessionary/complimentary Pavilion use on Thursday 31 December 2026.

Resolved

PC032/26.1 Parish Council to accept the Cambridgeshire County Council Watercourse Grant for £2,675 and carry out works at Apreece Way ditch to alleviate the grill blocking up. Clerk to speak to the flood team at CCC and contact Anglian Water regarding the grill further down

PC032/26.2 Cheese Rolling to be provided with complimentary use of the Community Field (waiving the £360 resident's - 06:00 to 24:00) but given staff cleaning costs, emptying of the cess pool and energy costs, the Pavilion to be offered at the 25% resident rate of £337.50 for use 09:00 until 24:00

PC032/26.3 Stilton Christmas Lights application for complimentary Pavilion use on 31/12/26 – not approved. The need for locking up/security, opportunity to hire out and generate much needed income determining the decision. To be offered with the 25% resident discount instead.

A member of the public left the meeting

PC033/26 PAVILION COMMITTEE (PVC)

Cllr J Leonard, as Chairman, reported from the meeting on 03/02/26, including deposit levels, purchasing extra crockery/cutlery, bouncy castle problems, ACRE membership and new table need. Motorisation of the high windows (ongoing), parking plans (ongoing), pitch maintenance (to be added to the Amenities Management committee meeting agenda on 03/03/26) and the Football Agreement, were all outlined.

Resolved

PC033/26.1 Deposits for adult parties to be £250-£500 (risk level to be accessed by Pavilion Administrator/Clerk)

PC033/26.2 Additional crockery/cutlery to be purchased from Nisbets to accommodate 150 diners – budget: £773.46 (to be taken jointly from Pavilion Maintenance EMR and Asset Replacement EMR)

PC033/26.3 Bouncy castle issues – staff to contact Third Party providers for certificates and insurance documents before event to ensure compliance

PC033/26.4 Annual ACRE membership - £74.50+VAT – to commence from 01/04/26

PC033/26.5 15 tables to be purchased to replace current wooden ones - £2,117 (budget: Asset Replacement EMR) – Clerk to check tables in person to make sure suitable before purchase

PC033/26.6 Football Agreement (Stilton clubs) – Clerk to arrange signing.

A member of the public left the meeting

PC034/26 FINANCIAL, GENERAL PURPOSE AND COMMUNICATION COMMITTEE

Cllr Arscott, as Chairman, reported from the meeting on 27/01/26 detailing Q3 receipts and expenditure, and budget position for the remainder of the financial year. Communication re the precept increase for FY2026-27 was put forward along with the new IT Policy and an Action Plan for FY2026-27.

Resolved

PC034/26.1 Chairman's residents letter approved re the precept increase (to be included in SCAN column for March and PC's digital newsletter (Precept and Budget information FY26-27 document to be added to website)

PC034/26.2 IT Policy adopted (small changes to be made)

PC034/26.3 Action Plan for FY26-27.

PC035/26 VILLAGE NOTICEBOARD

Cllr Shailer outlined quotes for a new board at the North end of the village. A budget source was considered along with the location and logistics of installation.

Resolved

Purchase of oak noticeboard from Noticeboard Company for £2,669 + VAT (budget: CIL) – to be sited on Mill Road, PC owned land (left hand side). Caretakers to install.

PC036/26 PARISH ROOM

The Clerk reported quotes for the EPC certificate needed prior to the building being leased as a Heritage Centre are ongoing and the First Registration with Land Registry is underway.

PC037/26 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

The Clerk updated on suggestions to enable forward movement of the Neighbourhood Plan – video call to be set up with Troy Planning and Design to see if they can assist.

PC038/26 NET ZERO VILLAGES GRANT WORKS

Cllr J Leonard provided an update on project completion (all going well and on time), current project spend and additional works required, separate to grant – these will be costed and outlined for consideration at the March meeting.

The Chairman advised that as the 2-hour time limit was approaching, the meeting would be extended by 30 minutes

2 members of the public left the meeting

PC039/26 BARN CLOSE PLAY AREA

Cllr Murtagh fed back from the Open Meeting at the Pavilion on Saturday 7 February 2026 (6 voters plus families attended).

- Council to acknowledge YES (Young people Engagement Stilton) involvement – **deferred to the next Parish Council meeting**
- Next steps to be determined (equipment, going to tender and timeframe) **– deferred to the next Parish Council meeting.**

PC040/26 FARMER'S MARKET

Councillors attending the Farmers Market on 15/02/26 were confirmed for the Sunday Surgery (Cllr Ayres and possibly Cllr Murtagh). Community Café issues were detailed.

As it was approaching a meeting limit of 2.5hrs, the Chairman advised an extension of 15 minutes

PC041/26 CLERK'S REPORT

Relevant issues were reported on …

- Green bin need for Mill Road (x2) – **Clerk to apply for**
- Offer of a Woodland Trust tree pack – **not needed**
- Parish elections including instruction from council to set up a meeting to deliver nominations and need to publicise in the Parish (SCAN/digital newsletter) – **Cllr**

Arscott reported the video supplied by HDC is very informative (nomination meeting to be confirmed at the March meeting).

PC042/26 CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence to be addressed included:

- No lift at Halls the Chemist – **previously addressed PC025/06**
- Layby on North Street being taken out of action – **Cllr Alban chasing**
- Donations to Christmas Lights team – **Clerk to advise collections all year round and information available re donations raised on social media**
- Litter picking hero.

PC043/26 PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT 1960 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

In accordance with Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings Act 1960 and by reason of the confidential nature of this item's business, the Press and Public were exluded from the meeting.

PC044/26 FOOTBALL ACADEMY CONTRACT

Clerk outlined a proposal for consideration – **determined not suitable at this time.**

PC045/26 STAFFING

Cllr Arscott, as Staffing Sub Committee Chairman, reported from the meetings on 04/01/26 and 10/02/26 regarding applications and interviews for the position of Pavilion Administrator to enable a resolution to fill the position.

Resolved

The successful candidate was agreed. Employment to be offered from w/c 23/02/26 (hours and SCP detailed in PC021/26). Clerk to arrange contracts, etc prior to commencement.

PC046/26 PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT 1960 RE-ADMITTANCE OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

The confidential business having been concluded, the Public and Press were re-admitted to the meeting.

Meeting closed: 22:14

Next meeting – Tuesday 10 March 2026 at 7.30pm