STILTON PARISH COUNCIL

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

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

Clerk: Lawrence

Others: 7 members of the public

PC047/26 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllrs Arscott and Vicker had sent apologies – personal reasons – **accepted.**

PC048/26 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST/DISPENSATIONS

Cllr Ayres and O Leonard declared a non-pecuniary interest in PC067 and PC069 re Stilton Heritage.

PC049/26 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A member of the public spoke on PC055 regarding placing a bench in the Cemetery and being willing to move the daffodil bulbs currently located at the site. They also provided information on PC056 – YES complimentary use of the Community Field (kitchen use and toilets – to hopefully be used if no Pavilion hire on the day), and PC057, being happy to continue to populate the planters at the bottom of Caldecote Road this year.

A member of the public asked for a bench to be placed on Apreece Way with a memorial plaque to Martin Pearce.

A representative of Stilton Heritage explained the reasoning behind wishing to change the building name to Stilton Heritage Centre, detailed the Schedule of Condition that had been drawn up by the Heritage group and also updated on draft lease negotiations.

PC050/26 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 10 February 2026 were agreed a true record and signed by the Chairman.

PC051/26 REPORTS FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS

District Councillor Alban informed he would be standing again as District Councillor at the May elections and informed the next Parish Meeting would focus on play area provision. Also detailed: fly tipping (report on HDC website), support for Option E in the Local Government Reorganisation and Cross Keys' update on the old golf course site/Stilton Lodge (awaiting).

County Councillor Bywater reported that the Cambridgeshire County Council tax to rise by 4.99% (80% of the budget spent on Children's Services and Adult Social Care so not much for repairing roads which are in a bad state). Also detailed: support for Option E in the Local Government Reorganisation, Balfour Beatty to do a street light update to LED bulbs (report any consequential dark patches), Sawtry swimming pool to re-open on 01/04/26 and verge parking (report as verge damage to Highways).

PC052/26 LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION

The Parish Council discussed which option to support and determined how to promote the online feedback form prior to closing on 26/03/26. Options being:

1. ***North Cambridgeshire and Peterborough*** Peterborough, **Huntingdonshire**, East Cambridgeshire, Fenland (originally option B)
2. ***North West Cambridgeshire Peterborough*** Fenland, **Huntingdonshire** (originally option A)
3. ***Central Huntingdonshire*** **Huntingdonshire** (originally option E)
4. ***Greater Peterborough*** Peterborough, **9 wards from Huntingdonshire** (originally option D)

Resolved

PC052/26.1 Parish Council to support Option E in the Local Government Reorganisation (Clerk to fill the online form in)

PC052/26.2 Cllr Ayres to generate ideas on how to promote the consultation in the village.

District Councillor Alban and County Councillor Bywater left the meeting

PC053/26 PLANNING

CCC/26/028/FUL - Sawtry Junior Academy, Middlefield Road, Sawtry, PE28 5SH - Erection of 7-bay mobile classroom for a temporary period – **recommend approval.**

PC054/26 FINANCIAL REPORT

The Clerk/RFO provided the bank reconciliation for February and reserves balance. CCLA interest for February was noted as £347.24. Clerk overtime for covering the Pavilion Administrator role for February (payment in March) was detailed as 27 hours.

Resolved

PC054/26.1 Cllr Ayres confirmed expenditure has been checked and is correct

PC054/26.2 Expenditure for March.

To:	Reason:	Amount:	Authorised Ref:
Staff wages	Salaries, HMRC and pension costs	6,041.22	LGA72,s.112
Octopus Energy	Pavilion gas	519.42	LGA76,s.19
Octopus Energy	Pavilion electricity	182.35	LGA76,s.19
EON	Parish Room electricity (quarter)	169.29	LGA76,s.19
EE	Staff mobile - Pavilion	14.38	LGA76,s.19
Barclays	Account charges	8.50	LGA72,s.151
BM Pest Solutions	Quarterly rodent control	144.00	LGA76,s.19
CAPALC	Councillor Training - Cllr Paice	120.00	LGA72,s.111
SCAN	Extra page payment	20.00	LGA72, s.142
Business Waste	Pavilion bin emptying	72.16	LGA76, s.19
KT McPartlins	Tank Emptying - Pav	0.00	LGA72, s.111
Victor Marjoram	Grass cutter fuel	13.82	LGA72, s.111
LW Electrical Ltd	Additional solar battery works (CIL)	937.20	LGA76, s.19
SPC credit card	Screwfix - new brush	17.97	LGA72, s.111
SPC credit card	Amazon - cleaning products	71.82	LGA72, s.111
SPC credit card	Amazon - display board and cleaning item	146.99	LGA72, s.111
SPC credit card	Amazon - speakers and clips	108.47	LGA72, s.111
SPC credit card	Test Meter - legionella tester Pav	195.54	LGA76,s.19
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:	**8,859.38**	

*** VAT included**

PC055/26 BENCH REQUESTS

A request for a bench in the Cemetery and on Apreece Way open land were considered.

Resolved

PC055/26.1 A bench can be positioned outside the current Parish Room, to be purchased by the requesting members of the public then donated to, and maintained by, Stilton Heritage

PC055/26.2 The Clerk to source a quote for a wooden bench for Apreece Way open land and bring back to the April meeting (fund-raising in the village to be looked into too).

PC056/26 GRANTS WORKING GROUP

A Supporting the Community Grant application from Stilton Guides was evaluated and a complimentary Pavilion/Community Field use application from Young people Engagement Stilton (YES) was considered.

Resolved

PC056/26.1 Stilton Guides to be asked for further details re numbers attending and the current £250 budget for Supporting the Community grant applications to be placed in an EMR pending the deferred decision at the April meeting

PC056/26.2 Complimentary Community Field use for YES on 11/07/26 (and kitchen/footballer toilets if no Pavilion booking is taking place – decision 1 week beforehand).

PC057/26 AMENITIES MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Cllr Murtagh, as Chairman, reported from the meeting on 03/03/26.

Resolved

PC057/26.1 Revised Terms of Reference

PC057/26.2 All Working Groups should have 1 or more councillor as members and each Terms of Reference to reflect this

PC057/26.3 Grave survey to be undertaken by Fenland Stoneworks (£300+VAT)

PC057/26.4 Tree survey to be undertaken by Global Tree Solutions (£1,000+ VAT)

PC057/26.5 Village Maintenance contract to be extended on 01/05/26 for a further year with Huntingdonshire District Council with scope and frequency as agreed - Clerk to contact HDC for accurate pricing (to be detailed for approval at the April meeting)

PC057/26.6 A bin on the Community Field to be added (footballers to be asked for a contribution prior to allocation of funds)

PC057/26.7 High Line Skate Parks to be asked to attend a meeting re Skate Park renovation (Cllrs Murtagh, Ayres and Clerk to attend).

PC058/26 PAVILION

The Clerk reported rodent control quotes would be deferred to the April meeting. Request for a Pavilion Puppy class was outlined, an update on new tables provided and a 'decorator rate' discussed/determined.

Resolved

PC058/26.1 The puppy training class to be allowed on a trial basis (no dogs on chairs and hall floor to be cleaned the morning after)

PC058/26.2 A decorator rate with a 50% reduction for 1 hour only to be allowed as long as hirer on site for handover too (if requested).

PC059/26 PAVILION STREET LIGHTING/COLUMN TESTING

An update on the light column across from the Pavilion was provided (column removed by Balfour Beatty following presumed vehicle impact).

Resolved

PC059/26.1 Lighting asset register and Lighting Column Inspection policy

PC059/26.2 Structural light testing of 8 street lights and 2 CCTV posts to be carried out by Caspian (£750 + VAT).

2 members of the public left the meeting

PC060/26 BARN CLOSE PLAY AREA

Council acknowledged YES (Young people Engagement Stilton) involvement in the recent public meeting at the Pavilion. The Barn Close Play Area report and forwarded documents were discussed to determine next steps.

Resolved

PC060/26.1 Request for Formal Quotes document to be finalised by Cllr Murtagh and the Clerk ready for sending out (closing date 01/05/26)

PC060/26.2 Clerk to apply for a National Lottery Grant for £20,000

PC060/26.3 Project budget: £32-£37,000 (made up from the National Lottery Grant if awarded and CIL, or just CIL if no grant)

PC060/26.4 Companies to be approached for formal quotes: Online Playgrounds, Proludic, Kompan, Playdale and Sovereign (selected due to: established, reputable playground specialists, range of design approaches and price points, relevant experience in public play areas with a fair and competitive basis for value for money).

As the 2hr limit was approaching, the Chairman advised the meeting would be extended by 30minutes

PC061/26 NET ZERO VILLAGES GRANT WORKS

The Clerk confirmed submission of final costs to Huntingdonshire District Council of £36,834.26 (project completion by 28/02/26). Total project costs with small finishing touches post project completion date of £39,045.26 (£25,598.10 grant and CIL expenditure on the project of £13,447.16). Cllr J Leonard provided an update on the project completion.

Potential installation optimisation was outlined to 16kWh of battery capacity (quote received from LW Electrical of £5,190 + VAT – only 1 quote due to project continuity, warranties and compatibility). Benefits of extra battery capacity: environmental benefit - CO2 saving (290kg and 250kg of standard coal in 8 days already), energy security and £1,000+ pa saving in costs/extra Feed in Tariff income predicted). Councillors/staff having access to data generated by the batteries was confirmed and how to publicise the finalised project given some thought.

Resolved

PC061/26.1 LW Electrical and Environmental Systems Ltd to supply and install 2 × Sigenergy SigenStor 9.04kWh batteries with LED display, 5 core Ho7 AC cable and recommission the existing battery system for £5,190+VAT (budget: CIL)

PC061/26.2 Leon Williams of LW Electrical is the controller of data generated by the batteries and can be contacted for any changes of permission needed

PC061/26.3 A project presentation to be made at the Annual Parish Meeting and details published in SCAN/Parish Council newsletter to enable promotion of the project.

PC062/26 CLERK'S REPORT

The Clerk reported on relevant issues including …

- Election nominations – date for delivery to HDC (in person on 01/04/26 at 10am)
- Cheese Rolling – enquiry regarding if a Parish Council stall on 24 May 2026 is needed – **SPC to take a table inside for £10 (Cllr Ayres and Murtagh to attend if available)**
- Calendar of meetings for next year **- deferred**
- Cllr Paice to undertake Councillor Training on 21/03/26 for £75 and Code of Conduct training on 10/06/26 for £45 (CAPALC)
- Accessibility checking of all documents/website (Assertion 10 AGAR) was advised
- Footballer charge for white lining and request for the Parish Council to purchase the paint at £150 per month (lining) and £20 (paint) x 10 months of the year (no May or June) – **approved.**

PC063/26 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Plans for the meeting were discussed whereby Pavilion energy and Barn Close tender return designs potentially could be showcased. Clerk to establish Pavilion availability for May and

outline at the April meeting.

PC064/26 CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence addressed included:

- Request for metal detecting in the village – **to be allowed on PC land (no digging on the football pitches, in play areas or burial ground and findings shared equally)**
- Stilton Bird Song Walk – publicity requested – **to be pointed to the village Facebook pages.**

3 members of the public left the meeting

The Chairman extended the meeting by a further 20 minutes as the 2.5hr limit was approaching

PC065/26 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 excluded from the meeting.

PC066/26 STAFFING

Councillor Ayres reported on annual appraisals. The Lead Amenities Caretaker job description was deferred - to be forwarded to the Staffing Sub-committee/April Parish Council meeting.

Resolved

All staff members were recorded as having satisfactory performance (to enable movement to the next SCP on 01/04/26 for those eligible).

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

PC067/26 HERITAGE CENTRE LEASE

The Clerk reported on draft lease negotiations following the deadline of 28/02/26 and council resolved how to proceed.

Resolved

A meeting be arranged with Stilton Heritage to discuss elements preventing lease completion. To take place by end of March (the Clerk to attend and all councillors invited). To be reported to the April meeting for further decision making if still unresolved.

Cllrs Green and Paice left the meeting

The Chairman extended the meeting by a further 10minutes as the 2hr 50 min limit was approaching

PC068/26 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.

Cllr O Leonard and 2 members of the meeting re-joined the meeting

PC069/26 PARISH ROOM

The Clerk advised on the need for an EPC certificate prior to the building being leased as a Heritage Centre and updated on the First Registration with Land Registry **(in progress)**. Quotes for a Lease Plan were presented, the fire proof safe not being needed by Stilton Heritage was discussed (Cllr J Leonard to look into removing) and a renaming request put forward.

Resolved

PC069/26.1 Caretakers to measure the Parish Room to establish EPC needs
PC069/26.2 David Hartley Architect to provide a 1:250 and 1:500 lease plan for £100+VAT
PC069/26.3 The Parish Room to be renamed Stilton Heritage Centre (Cllr O Leonard abstained from voting).

Meeting closed: 21:26
Next meeting – Tuesday 10 March 2026 at 7.30pm