STILTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting that took place on Tuesday 14 April 2026 - held at the Church Meeting Room, Church Street, Stilton at 7.30pm.

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

Clerk: Lawrence

Others: 2 members of the public

PC070/26 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllrs Arsoctt, Paice and Vickers sent apologies for absence – personal reasons **– accepted**.

PC071/26 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST/DISPENSATIONS

Cllrs Ayres and O Leonard declared a non-pecuniary interest in PC090/26.

PC072/26 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No members of the public wished to speak.

PC073/26 MINUTES

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

PC074/26 REPORTS FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS

County Councillor Bywater was not present. District Councillor Alban reported on late working at the Cross Keys old golf course site (resolved – apologies to be sent to residents affected), appreciation for the member of the public who tidied up recent village graffiti, tree issues near the Cooper Thornhill ditch and village road resurfacing and at the Norman Cross roundabout. Cllr Green asked about the traffic lines on North Street (unknown) and Cllr Shailer raised the layby near the Bellway site and dirt/sign issues (being sorted).

The Chairman advised PC076/26 would be brought forward.

PC076/26 STILTON LODGE SITE/16 NORTH STREET

Cllr Murtagh raised a concern regarding the disturbance of land/environmental issues.

Resolved

Cllr Murtagh to forward information to the Clerk to enable an email to be sent to Michelle Sacks (HDC) with District Councillor Alban copied in.

District Councillor Alban left the meeting.

PC075/26 PLANNING

26/00566/TREE - Church of St Mary Magdalene Church Street Stilton - T3 - Horse Chestnut - fell due to concerns that the roots are inadequate to support the tree **– recommend approval.**

PC077/26 FINANCIAL REPORT

The Clerk/RFO provided the bank reconciliation for March and reserves balance. CCLA interest for February of £329.93 and the Q4 VAT refund of £4,637.18 was noted. Additional expenditure for the Local Council Award Scheme (NALC) £96.00, Caters £225.00, Npower £273.66, Business Waste extra weight £8.56 and ICCM annual membership £110.00 was detailed. Final overtime for the Clerk of 19 hours while doing the Pavilion Administrator role was recorded (April payment).

Resolved

PC077/26.1 Cllrs Ayres confirmed expenditure has been checked and is correct

PC077/26.2 Expenditure for April.

To:	Reason:	Amount:	Authorised Ref:
Staff wages	Salaries, HMRC and pension costs	7,915.01	LGA72,s.112
Octopus Energy	Pavilion gas	399.79	LGA76,s.19
Octopus Energy	Pavilion electricity	91.17	LGA76,s.19
PWLB	Loan payment for Pavilion	2,268.10	LGA2003,S1,p2
HDC	Parish Room rates	217.70	LGA76, s.19
HDC	Pavilion rates	768.00	LGA76,s.19
HDC	Village bins (Apr-June26)	255.45	Litter Act83, ss5-6
EE	Staff mobile - Pavilion	14.38	LGA76,s.19
Barclays	Account charges	12.10	LGA72,s.151
HDC	Security charges - Pavilion	500.00	LGA76,s.19
Cllr Paice	Councillor Training - mileage	40.95	LGA72,s.111
SCAN	Newsletter (Apr-June26)	120.00	LGA72, s.142
Business Waste	Pavilion bin emptying	80.72	LGA76, s.19
Npower	Annual street lighting charge	273.66	Highways Act 1980
Carl Cater	Top soil and granite chips	225.00	LGA72, s.111
NALC	Local Council Award Scheme	96.00	LGA72, s.111
ICCM	Annual subscription	110.00	LGA72, s.111
KT McPartlins	Tank Emptying - Pav	360.00	LGA72, s.111
Victor Marjoram	Fence repair materials	53.28	LGA72, s.111
Victor Marjoram	Fuel for grass cutter	35.62	LGA72, s.111
Cambs ACRE	Annual membership	74.80	LGA76, s.19
Parish Council Websites	Annual email/website charge	273.60	LGA72, s.111
CAPALC	Annual membership charge	726.38	LGA72, s.111
SPC credit card	SQ seating - sample table	95.34	LGA72, s.111
SPC credit card	Post office stamps	3.99	LGA72, s.111
SPC credit card	Amazon	122.18	LGA72, s.111
SPC credit card	Screwfix	102.25	LGA72, s.111
SPC credit card	Screwfix	97.25	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:	**15,408.97**	

*** VAT included**

PC078/26 BENCH REQUESTS

Cllr Ayres updated on plans for a bench on Apreece Way open land. The Clerk detailed costs and plans to purchase were determined.

Resolved

A bench to be placed on Apreece Way open land (Clerk to find further prices for plastic benches and return costings to the May meeting).

PC079/26 WORKING GROUPs

- Grants - A Supporting the Community Grant application from Stilton Guides was deferred as still awaiting further information
- Green Spaces – Cooper Thornhill open land to be considered as a possible orchard, Mill Road open land to be looked at too for planting opportunities and the Working Group to have a walk around the village to come up with a list of extra areas for attention
- Traffic and Parking – undertake a village walk to establish areas of concern.

PC080/26 PAVILION

The Clerk updated on suitability of suggested tables and the need for 2 x new trolleys. An offer to purchase the old tables/trolleys was put forward along with a quote for speaker connection and quote for mechanising the at height hall windows (further quotes to be sought before being presented to the next Pavilion Committee meeting).

Resolved

PC080/26.1 Purchase of 15 x 154cm tables from Costcutter UK and 2 x trolleys for £2,780.50 + £33.33 carriage + VAT (budget: Asset replacement EMR)

PC080/26.2 Clerk to liaise with the member of the public who may wish to purchase the old tables/trolleys (visiting site on Thursday). If not wanted, Cllr Shailer to dispose of

PC080/26.3 LW Electrical to connect the hall speakers for £345 + VAT.

PC081/26 PAVILION STREET LIGHT

An update on the light column across from the Pavilion was provided (column removed by Balfour Beatty following presumed vehicle impact). Quotes to replace the street light were detailed for acceptance.

Resolved

PC081/26.1 Balfour Beatty to reinstate the light column for £1,677.57 (HDC to arrange)

PC081/26.2 Clerk to submit an insurance claim for costs.

PC082/26 BARN CLOSE PLAY AREA

The Clerk confirmed the National Lottery Grant has been submitted for £20,000 and Requests for Formal Quotes sent out – deadline 01/05/26. Public involvement re feedback on the designs and councillors to join the Clerk in opening quotes, was confirmed.

Resolved

PC082/26.1 Feedback to be requested from residents at the Annual Parish Meeting

PC082/26.2 Councillors Ayres and Murtagh, and the Clerk, to open quotes and apply data to the success matrix following the closing date, compile feedback from residents and present to the June Parish Council meeting for a successful contractor to be appointed.

PC083/26 QUALITY MARK

Cllr Arscott was due to report on being successfully awarded the Bronze Quality Mark with subsequent discussion on how to publicise.

As Councillor Arscott was not present, this item was deferred.

PC084/26 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The Clerk advised of available dates at the Pavilion during May and plans for the meeting were confirmed.

Resolved

The Annual Parish Meeting to take place on Monday 18 May 2026 at 19:00 in the Pavilion. Net Zero project information, Barn Close Play Area designs, the awarded Quality Mark, Parish Councillor vacancies and Local Heroes to be on the agenda (Clerk to advertise in SCAN, on noticeboards and Facebook).

PC085/26 VILLAGE MAINTENANCE CONTRACT – SCHEDULE OF WORKS

The costings and scope of works for the contract extension commencing 01/05/26 were discussed, along with inclusion of pitch maintenance within the contract with Huntingdonshire District Council. Caldecote Road/Pavilion planter plans were confirmed.

Resolved

PC085/26.1 Huntingdonshire District Council to continue with village maintenance as per the scope of works at a price of £16,490.44 from 01/05/26 to 30/04/26. This to also include pitch maintenance as per the schedule

PC085/26.2 The budget for Caldecote Road/Pavilion planters set at £250 and Dee Darnell to continue to populate.

PC086/26 CLERK'S REPORT

Relevant issues were reported on:

- Calendar of meetings for next year – **to be circulated shortly**
- Village walk 2026 – **to be arranged if needed**
- Plans for the internal audit – **to be confirmed shortly**
- Cooper Thornhill hedge works (school side) – **works by the school have not taken place, Clerk to chase for a date as ongoing reports of concerns**
- Beacon planning permission – **Clerk to submit when time allows**
- Village sign (North Street) – **progress being made, should be reinstated in May**
- SPC bus shelter and clutter inside – **Stilton Christmas lights team to clear clutter apart from the old Telephone Box door which Cllr J Leonard will remove**
- Village compost – HDC – **delivered on Saturday 11 April.**

PC087/26 CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence to be addressed included:

Request from Music4You for a reduced charge rate due to booking issues at the Pavilion – **to be offered additional toilets, use of crockery and bin disposal at no charge.**

1 member of the public left the meeting

PC088/26 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.

PC089/26 STAFFING

Resolved

PC089/26.1 Lead Amenities Caretaker job description

PC089/26.2 Lead Amenities Caretaker allocation of 20 hours per week on SCP24 (LC2 24 – 28) from 01/04/26

PC089/26.3 Clerk hours of 28 per week from 01/04/26

PC089/26.4 Allocation of overtime for weekend Pavilion cleaning – Clerk to arrange (to be added to the Scheme of Delegation).

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

PC090/26 HERITAGE CENTRE LEASE

The Clerk updated on draft lease negotiations following an informal meeting with Stilton Heritage and feedback from Wellers solicitors.

Resolved

As issues from the informal meeting had been addressed and incorporated into the updated lease, no further changes are now to be made. Lease to be completed ideally by 30/04/26.

As the meeting time limit was approaching, the Chairman advised there would be a 15-minute extension.

PC091/26 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.

Cllrs Ayres and O Leonard re-joined the meeting and Cllr Ayres took over as Chairman.

PC092/26 PARISH ROOM

Clerk advised on the relevant issues including First Registration with Land Registry (still ongoing).

Resolved

PC092/26.1 An EPC certificate to be arranged by the Clerk (£170 budget)

PC092/26.2 Cambridgeshire Roofing Services to repair water ingress issues for £1,384.76.

Meeting closed: 21:45

Next meeting – Tuesday 12 May 2026 at 7.30pm