STILTON PARISH COUNCIL

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

Present:

Councillors: Ayres (Chairman), Arscott, Graham, J Leonard, O Leonard, McCullough, Mitchell, Murtagh and Shailer

Clerk: Lawrence

Others: 5 members of the public were present

PC148/26 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies had been received at the meeting start (Cllr Green sent apologies shortly after – work commitments).

PC149/26 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST/DISPENSATIONS

Cllrs Ayres, Graham and O Leonard declared a non-pecuniary interest in PC163/26.

PC150/26 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- A member of the public reported the War Memorial needs some upkeep (weeds, membrane, old wreath removal and gravel swept back in place).
- A representative from Stilton Heritage provided information on their request for a meeting, spoke to support lease viability and explained why the lease had not been signed
- A member of the public asked for confirmation that the Community Marquees would still be available for community use once the Cheese Rolling CIC takes over holding them – this was confirmed by a representative from Cheese Rolling (requests for use to be sent to the Cheese Rolling team).

PC151/26 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 9 June 2026 were confirmed a true record and signed by the Chairman.

PC152/26 REPORTS FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS

Members acknowledged reports from County Councillor Bywater and District Councillor Alban (neither present).

3 members of the public left the meeting

PC153/26 FINANCIAL REPORT

The Clerk/RFO provided the bank reconciliation for June and Reserves Report. The following were noted:

- CCLA interest of £326.60 for June alongside a transfer of Pavilion deposit interest of £38.76 and precept savings account interest of £57.54 into the current account
- A Q1 VAT refund of £2,064.60
- Receipt of £20,000 from the National Lottery for Barn Close Play Area renovation
- Transfer of £10,000 from the precept savings account into the current account.

An option to pay HDC for village maintenance monthly by direct debit rather than quarterly BACS was considered. Additional expenditure of £16 for grass cutter fuel, £3,615 to Glyn Mould for the North Street village sign (CIL), £120 quarterly payment to SCAN and £114.42 for barrier bearings were also detailed.

Resolved
PC153/26.1 HDC village maintenance to be paid by monthly direct debit
PC153/26.2 Cllr Arscott confirmed expenditure has been checked and correct
PC153/26.3 Expenditure for July.

To:	Reason:	Amount:	Authorised Ref:
Staff wages	Salaries, HMRC and pension costs	7,100.28	LGA72,s.112
Octopus Energy	Pavilion gas	61.36	LGA76,s.19
Octopus Energy	Pavilion electricity	73.95	LGA76,s.19
HDC	Parish Room rates	214.00	LGA76, s.19
HDC	Pavilion rates	764.00	LGA76,s.19
HDC	Q2 bin emptying (July-Sept)	438.60	PHA1875,s.164
EE	Staff mobile - Pavilion	15.42	LGA76,s.19
Barclays	Account charges	10.90	LGA72,s.151
HDC	Annual CCTV provision charge	9131.98	LGA76,s.19
HDC	Security charges - Pavilion	836.00	LGA76,s.19
HDC	Alarm maintenance (Thompsons)	241.50	LGA76,s.19
HDC	Alarm call out (hirer charged)	66.00	LGA72, s.19
Business Waste	Pavilion bin emptying	76.36	LGA76, s.19
KT McPartlins	Tank Emptying - Pav	180.00	LGA72, s.111
LW Electrical	Inverter replacement (Pav Energy EMR)	702.00	LGA72, s.19
SCAN	Quarterly costs for SCAN (July-Oct)	120.00	LGA72, s.142
Victor Marjoram	Fuel for grass cutter	35.24	LGA72, s.111
SPC credit card	NISA - stamps	9.05	LGA72, s.111
SPC credit card	Screwfix - frost thermostat (Parish Room)	26.18	LGA72, s.111
SPC credit card	Amazon - cleaning materials/Pav supplies	198.82	LGA72, s.111
SPC credit card	Amazon - tea pot/jugs	29.48	LGA72, s.111
SPC credit card	Bolton Engineering - barrier repairs	32.76	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:	**20,440.13**	

*** VAT included**

PC154/26 TREE WORKS

Quotes to carry out all tree works as highlighted in the recent village tree survey were detailed as still in progress. Two quotes to remove the leaning Wellingtonia in the Cemetery for £1,490 (John Griffin) and £900 + VAT (Global Tree Solutions) were considered.

Resolved

Global Tree Solutions to be asked to remove the Wellingtonia (T20) and leave a 12ft stump to enable carving at a future date. Clerk to confirm costs with the stump left. Maximum payment: £900 + VAT (budget: tree works).

PC155/26 GREEN SPACES WORKING GROUP (GSWG)

Cllr Mitchell briefly put forward ideas for a new working group to replace the current GSWG.

To be discussed further at the next GSWG meeting on 23/07/26

PC156/26 BARN CLOSE PLAY AREA REFURBISHMENT

£20,000 awarded from the National Lottery to refurbish Barn Close Play Area was confirmed. An update was provided re the site meeting with Kompan on 09/07/26 and quotes for adding a sleeper bed/foliage at the long-walled side of Barn Close, put forward.

Resolved
PC156/26.1 Clerk to contact former contractor to remove the concrete
PC156/26.2 HDC to be asked if they could supply a bowser to water the grass seed
PC156/26.3 Anglian Water to be asked if there is a standpipe that could be used on a newly seeded play area
PC156/26.4 Barn Close residents to be advised works to commence 29/07/26 – 08:00 until 17:00 weekdays and 09:00 to 13:00 weekends
PC156/26.5 SRJ Landscapes to provide a curved cobbled path, planting area, 2 sleeper benches and remove current foliage for £3,295 + VAT (budget: CIL). Clerk to confirm path full length and that Kompan are in agreement with the plan (bushes to be removed first and then path installed)
PC156/26.6 Planting plan to be considered by the Green Spaces Working Group later in the year.

PC157/26 TRAFFIC AND PARKING WORKING GROUP
A report by members was presented to council.
Resolved
PC157/26.1 Clerk to ask HDC how often Civil Parking visit the village and what they find
PC157/26.2 A meeting with the Local Highway Officer and Working Group to be requested (Tim Alban and Simon Bywater to be invited to attend too)
PC157/26.3 Working Group to use the gazebo in the village to consult with residents.

PC158/26 PARISH ONLINE
Cllr Graham made recommendations on the potential use of Parish Online.
Resolved
Councillor Graham to hold a workshop to share information on how to use the software – dates to be circulated and the Church Meeting Room booked.

PC159/26 CRIME PREVENTION – Q2 2026
Cllr Arscott presented the quarterly Crime Report (to be added to the website/social media).

PC160/26 CLERK'S REPORT
The clerk reported on relevant issues including:
- The Vacancy Notice Period following the resignation of Cllr Paice has passed – **co-option of the vacancy is available**
- Request for the Cheese Rolling CIC to take back ownership of the marques – **agreed (to remain available for community use)**
- Permission granted by Highways (Local Highway Officer) to place the new noticeboard at the suggested location opposite the Mill Road Mini Nature Reserve
- Pavilion wifi issues/resolution **– 3C appear to have resolved**
- Request for a final invoice reduction from Music4You – **20% reduction to be applied to the outstanding May invoice**
- Equipment needs for village maintenance by Caretakers – **a Stihl Brush cutter, Stihl long reach hedge cutter and Reciprocating Saw to be purchased for a total of £1,212.50 + VAT (budget: Watercourse grant). Training to be arranged prior to use.**

PC161/26 CORRESPONDENCE
Correspondence to be addressed included:
- Parking issue on Church Street re penalty notices – **Traffic and Parking Working Group made aware/HDC contacted by resident**
- Stilton swifts **– Green Spaces Working Group to make contact**
- Willow tree concern – Mill Road – **reported to Highways by member of public and Clerk (highlighted on the tree survey as needing works)**
- Elm Road/Ash Road – tree replacement suggestion - **noted**
- A request for the recent tree survey to be made public **– to be added to Parish Online with the aim of making public once set up**
- Additional hedgehog signs – **Clerk to look into options**
- Request for minibus parking at the Pavilion **– not suitable**

- A new clothing bin **– not suitable**.

Councillors Ayres and O Leonard left the meeting and Cllr Murtagh took over as Chairman (as Cllr Graham only attends Stilton Heritage meetings and is not a trustee, he remained in the meeting).

PC162/26 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.

The Chairman advised a 30-minute meeting extension would be applied as the 2-hour meeting limit was approaching.

PC163/26 HERITAGE CENTRE LEASE

A request from Stilton Heritage for an informal meeting (following non signing of the lease) was put forward alongside advice from Wellers solicitors. The viability of leasing the Parish Room to Stilton Heritage was considered.

Resolved

PC163/26.1 No informal meeting to be arranged with Stilton Heritage to discuss the lease

PC163/26.2 The leasing of the Parish Room to Stilton Heritage considered unviable given no agreement over lease terms, expiration of deadline and 2 years of negotiation

PC163/26.3 An alternative solution to still enable Stilton Heritage to use the Parish Room as a Heritage Centre to be considered (Clerk and Cllr Murtagh to speak with Wellers to draw up a new proposal)

PC163/26.4 Stilton Heritage be invited to a meeting to allow a new proposal to be outlined for consideration (all councillors to be invited to attend the meeting).

PC164/26 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: 21:52

Next meeting – Tuesday 11 August 2026 at 7.30pm