STILTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting that took place on Tuesday 9 June 2026 - held at the Church Meeting Room, Church Street, Stilton at 7.30pm.

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

Clerk: Lawrence

Others: 5 members of the public

PC127/26 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllrs Graham and Murtagh had sent apologies – personal reasons – **accepted.**

PC128/26 COUNCILLOR RESIGNATION

Resignation of Cllr Paice was noted. Clerk to update Huntingdonshire District Council.

PC129/26 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST/DISPENSATIONS

Cllrs Ayres and O Leonard declared a non-pecuniary interest in PC146/26.

2 members of the public joined the meeting

PC130/26 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Members of the public spoke on the Elm Road/Ash Road tree felling. An update was provided in regard to the Parish Council's efforts to acquire the land. A request to Huntingdonshire District Council to add Tree Preservation Orders to remaining trees was highlighted and concern raised that the Parish Council had made no statement distancing themselves from the felling of the tree.

The Chairman requested a member of the public moderate their behaviour as becoming disrespectful. As the member of the public continued to be disorderly, the Chairman asked the person to leave the meeting and temporarily closed the meeting at 19:50 until this happened.

2 members of the public left the meeting

The meeting re-opened at 19:51.

Further questions regarding the tree felling were put forward and avenues for consideration regarding the Police and Forestry Commission were highlighted.

3 members of the public left the meeting

PC131/26 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 12 May 2026 were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

PC132/26 REPORTS FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS

Neither County Councillor Bywater or District Councillor Alban were present but both had sent Reports – **acknowledged.**

PC133/26 FINANCIAL REPORT

The Clerk/RFO provided the bank reconciliation for May, June's wage report and Reserves Report. CCLA interest of £334.47 for May was noted. Payment to also be set up for Global Tree Solutions and LW Electricals as already approved works had been completed.

Resolved

PC133/26.1 Cllr Ayres and Arscott confirmed expenditure checked and correct

PC133/26.2 Expenditure for June.

To:	Reason:	Amount:	Authorised Ref:
Staff wages	Salaries, HMRC and pension costs	8,013.42	LGA72,s.112
Octopus Energy	Pavilion gas	121.61	LGA76,s.19
Octopus Energy	Pavilion electricity	38.29	LGA76,s.19
HDC	Parish Room rates	214.00	LGA76, s.19
HDC	Pavilion rates	764.00	LGA76,s.19
EE	Staff mobile - Pavilion	15.42	LGA76,s.19
EON	Parish Room Q1 electricity	84.14	LGA76,s.19
SCAN	Extra page - June26	20.00	LGA76,s.111
Barclays	Account charges	12.10	LGA72,s.151
HDC	Security charges - Pavilion	1,086.00	LGA76,s.19
HDC	Extra bin empty	15.45	LGA72, s.111
HDC	Annual Pest control	392.16	LGA76,s.19
Clearance Van Ltd	Emergency refuse collection	168.00	LGA76,s.19
Parish Council Websites	Gov.uk domain charge (every 2 years)	36.00	LGA72,s.111
Business Waste	Pavilion bin emptying	72.16	LGA76, s.19
RTC Groundacre	Grass cutter service/maintenance	483.00	LGA72,s.111
Fenland Stoneworks	Grave survey and 7 staked memorials	687.60	LGA76, s.19
KT McPartlins	Tank Emptying - Pav	360.00	LGA72, s.111
Julianne Lawrence	NISA - Annual Parish Meeting food	58.55	LGA72, s.111
Dee Darnell	Plants/Compost for village planters	115.22	LGA72, s.111
Victor Marjoram	Fuel for grass cutter	17.73	LGA72, s.111
SPC credit card	Tesco - planner for Pav Administrator	10.00	LGA72, s.111
SPC credit card	Screwfix - tap/Polyfilla	133.77	LGA72, s.111
SPC credit card	Amazon - printer ink	44.88	LGA72, s.111
SPC credit card	NISA - refuse bags	18.90	LGA72, s.111
SPC credit card	Ebay - D1 washing up liquid	17.91	LGA72, s.111
SPC credit card	Pav cleaning supplies/loo roll	210.19	LGA72, s.111
SPC credit card	Monitor and ant killer	127.89	LGA72, s.111
SPC credit card	Gift vouchers for cleaning volunteers	150.00	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:	**13,564.64**	

*** VAT included**

PC134/26 PARISH COUNCILLOR VACANCIES

Applications for 2 of the vacant Parish Councillor positions were considered. The applicants were acknowledged and questions forwarded/received before a vote taken re co-adoption.

Resolved

PC134/26.1 Terri Mitchell and Fiona McCullough were co-opted as Parish Councillors – **unanimous** (Declaration of Acceptance of Office/Acceptance of emails were signed)

PC134/26.2 Cllrs McCullough and Mitchell to join the Amenities Management Committee (Cllr Mitchell joined the Cemetery Working Group and is already on the Green Spaces Working Group, Cllr McCullough to remain on the Cemetery Working Group).

PC135/26 GRANTS

Cllr Arscott as Leader of the Grants Working Group provided information on applications received and council considered both.

Resolved

PC135/26.1 CARESCO – grant application to assist buying of food and mini bus costs – unsure the application aligned with the Supporting the Community Grant Scheme so **not awarded**

PC135/26.2 The Church – application to help to launch a new baby and toddler group – estimated 30 electors at least would benefit from the group. Under s.137, £340 to cover paediatric first aid training for 2 group members was **awarded.**

PC136/26 LAND, ASSETS AND INSURANCE

Resolved

Reviewed/adopted …

- Barn Close Risk Assessment
- Bouncy Castle and Inflatable Risk Assessment
- Caretaker Risk Assessment
- Cemetery Risk Assessment
- Cleaners Risk Assessment
- Community Field Risk Assessment
- Co-option Policy
- Investment Risk Assessment
- Litter bin emptying Risk Assessment
- Parish Council Risk Assessment
- Parish Room Risk Assessment
- Pavilion Risk Assessment
- Pavilion Fire Safety Risk Assessment
- Emergency Fire Evacuation Procedure
- Pavilion Cleaners Risk Assessment
- Pavilion Play Area Risk Assessment
- MVAS Risk Assessment
- New Churchyard and Garden of Remembrance Risk Assessment
- Skate Park Risk Assessment
- Weedkilling Risk Assessment
- Burial Ground Rules and Regulations (deferred).

PC137/26 VILLAGE MAINTENANCE

The Clerk outlined a request from Cambridgeshire County Council for the Parish Council to incorporate a section of Church Close into their grass cutting schedule. Payment for doing so and a quote from Huntingdonshire District Council to carry out 12 cuts per year was detailed.

Resolved

The extra section of Church Close added to the Village Maintenance Schedule for £250 (12 cuts pa). Highways/CCC to contribute an extra £60 to the Parish Council to do (equal to 3 cuts pa).

PC138/26 VILLAGE FEEDBACK

Cllr Ayres reported from village events re concerns/questions raised involving Halls the Chemist with wheelchair access, overgrown bushes in the Cemetery and Pavilion bricks.
Cllr Shailer advised outstanding bricks are progressing.

Resolved

PC138/26.1 Clerk to contact HDC planning department and Halls Head Office to reiterate the ongoing issues for residents who need a lift to access the Pharmacy

PC138/26.2 Caretakers to cut back overgrown bushes in the Cemetery.

PC139/26 ELM ROAD/ASH ROAD TREE

Cllr Ayres provided an update on the recent tree removal and the Clerk informed an Environmental Information Request (EIR) request had been received regarding the felled tree. Following the next Amenities Management Committee meeting where the new tree survey will be evaluated, a Parish Council article regarding subsequent tree works, what to do and what not to do re trees and how to get in contact with the relevant bodies, will be drawn up for publication.

PC140/26 LOCAL COUNCIL AWARDS

Cllr Arscott put forward a proposal to apply for the Silver award (cost: £150).

Resolved

The Silver Award to be applied for - Cllr Arscott and the Clerk to work on the submission (biographies requested from all councillors).

PC141/26 STATEGIC CIL FUNDING 2026

Cllr Ayres drew attention to round 1 of the CIL funding window being open and council discussed any potential needs (2nd funding window opens in September).

Resolved

The Grants Working Group to consider where project funds might be needed and draw up proposals in advance of the September funding round.

PC142/26 PAVILION - REPLACEMEMT INVERTOR

Cllr J Leonard detailed the need for a replacement SolarEdge invertor and presented a quote from LW Electrics to replace it, costing between £415 and £585+VAT.

Resolved

LW Electrics to replace the invertor (budget: £470 in the Pavilion energy EMR. Any additional costs to be taken from Pavilion building maintenance).

PC143/26 CLERK'S REPORT

The Clerk reported on relevant issues including:

- A compensation request for the cancelled Farmers Market (June) – **not approved**
- Request to set up a coffee stall at the Pavilion – **to take place during football matches initially (no charge during 1 month trial period)**
- Clerk leave 22/06/26 – 03/07/26 – **authorised** (Cllr J Leonard to cover Pavilion 'on call' duties during Clerk absence).

PC144/26 CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence addressed included:

- An offer of help with vegetation preparation at Barn Close play area – **to be considered nearer the time of works starting**
- Request from Stilton Heritage regarding non-structural changes (permission to be considered) – **moved to PC145/26**
- Concern regarding overgrown foliage at Oak Farm Close – **Highways to be informed**
- Grass not being cut between Fen Street and Oak Road – **appears to have been sorted**
- Overgrown alleyway left hand side, just up from Halls the Chemist – **to be addressed after nesting season**
- Concern regarding overgrown foliage at Walnut Way – **HDC has addressed as part of village maintenance schedule**
- Pavilion questions **– to be considered by the Pavilion Committee.**

PC145/26 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.

Cllrs Ayres and O Leonard left the meeting, Cllr Arscott took over as Chairman

As the 2-hour time limit was approaching, a 15-minute extension was advised

PC146/26 HERITAGE CENTRE LEASE

The Clerk updated on draft lease negotiations, feedback from Wellers solicitors and subsequent lease amendments recommended. The request from Stilton Heritage regarding non-structural changes was considered.

Resolved

PC146/26.1 The updated 'final' lease to be sent to Stilton Heritage, no changes to be made and a completion date of 01/07/26 aimed for

PC146/26.2 Permission granted for non-structural works (only to take place once the lease has been signed).

As the 2hr15-minute meeting limit was approaching, the Chairman advised a further 15-minutes extension

Cllr S Ayres and O Leonard re-joined the meeting and Cllr Ayres resumed as Chairman

PC147/26 BARN CLOSE PLAY AREA: CONTRACT DECISION

Cllr Ayres presented the evaluation matrix following on from its population by Cllrs Ayres, Murtagh and the Clerk on 27/05/26. Feedback from residents at the Annual Parish Meeting, Cheese Rolling and a Barn Close residents meeting was reported on. The successful contractor and contract value was determined, time frame for works confirmed and publicity of chosen design advised.

Resolved

PC147/26.1 Kompan to refurbish Barn Close Play Area for £31,999.85+VAT (design as specified)

PC147/26.2 Budget: CIL. If the National Lottery grant application for £20,000 is successful then grant and CIL to form the budget

PC147/26.3 Timeframe: anticipated a July start and September 2026 completion

PC147/26.4 Successful design to be published in July's SCAN column/digital newsletter

PC147/26.5 Additional landscaping to be determined at the July Parish Council meeting – Clerk to source quotes.

PC148/26 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: 21:55

Next meeting – Tuesday 14 July 2026 at 7.30pm