Please be aware as this is a public meeting, it may be recorded for either publishing or record keeping purposes

STILTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting that took place on Tuesday 11 August 2026 at the Church Meeting Room, Stilton at 7.30pm.

Present:

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

Clerk: Lawrence

Others: No members of the public were present

PC165/26 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

All members were present.

PC166/26 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST/DISPENSATIONS

Cllrs Ayres and O Leonard declared non-pecuniary interests in PC182/26.

PC167/26 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No members of the public were present.

PC168/26 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 14 July 2026 were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

PC169/26 REPORTS FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS

Neither County Councillor Bywater or District Councillor Alban were present but submitted reports had been received and were acknowledged.

PC170/26 FINANCIAL REPORT

The Clerk/RFO provided the bank reconciliation for July and Reserves Report. CCLA interest of £337.66 for July and a transfer of £20,000 from the precept savings account into the current account were noted.

Resolved

PC170/26.1 Cllr Ayres and Arscott confirmed expenditure checked and correct

PC170/26.2 Expenditure for August.

To:	Reason:	Amount:	Authorised Ref:
Staff wages	Salaries, HMRC and pension costs	7,542.53	LGA72,s.112
Octopus Energy	Pavilion gas	2.69	LGA76,s.19
Octopus Energy	Pavilion electricity	78.46	LGA76,s.19
Octopus Energy	Skate Park (Oct25-Mar26)	326.13	LGA76,s.19
HDC	Parish Room rates	214.00	LGA76, s.19
HDC	Pavilion rates	764.00	LGA76,s.19
SRJ Landscapes	Barn Close Play Area Landscaping (CIL)	3,954.00	LGA76,s.19
Anglian Water	Pavilion - quarterly payment	233.72	LGA76,s.19
EE	Staff mobile - Pavilion	15.42	LGA76,s.19
Barclays	Account charges	8.50	LGA72,s.151

PWLB	Parish Room loan	4,310.12	LGA72,s.133
NBB Recycled Furniture	Apreece Way bench (CIL)	577.80	LGA76,s.19
LW Electrical	Solar Edge invertor replacement	252.00	LGA76,s.19
HDC	Security charges - Pavilion	1,319.00	LGA76,s.19
HDC	Barn Close Play Area clearing	180.00	LGA76,s.19
HDC	Recharge Election costs (Election EMR)	192.58	LGA72,s.111
CAPALC	Canva course - Cllr Murtagh	35.00	LGA72,s.111
CAPALC	Councillor training - Cllrs Graham & McCullough	150.00	LGA72,s.111
Business Waste	Pavilion bin emptying	92.72	LGA76, s.19
KT McPartlins	Tank Emptying - Pav	360.00	LGA72, s.111
Dee Darnell	Planter compost (Pavilion)	11.95	LGA72, s.142
Vicor Marjoram	Gas for welder (Watercourse grant)	13.99	LGA72, s.111
Victor Marjoram	Fuel for grass cutter	19.80	LGA72, s.111
SPC credit card	Screwfix - Rivet Nuts, Carbon Monoxide alarm	92.03	LGA72, s.111
SPC credit card	Screwfix - Reciprocating saw (Watercourse grant)	144.99	LGA72, s.111
SPC credit card	Screwfix - Postcrete, nuts, oil, cleaner	91.08	LGA72, s.111
SPC credit card	Amazon - first aid supplies, pens, bracket, fencing	91.57	LGA72, s.111
SPC credit card	Virtual Landline - Clerk phone	8.75	LGA72,s.111
Wellers Solicitors	Costs for Heritage Centre lease (CIL)	1,800.00	LGA72,s.111
	Monthly total:	**22,882.83**	

*** VAT included**

PC171/26 FINANCE, GENERAL PURPOSE AND COMMUICATION COMMITTEE

Cllr Arscott, as Chairman, provided a report from the meeting on 21/07/26 including:

- Cllr McCullough recorded as a committee member
- A review of the FY26-27 budget position – projected £5,158 year-end deficit
- Insurance policy checked for suitability – subsequent work to be undertaken.

Resolved

Lead Caretaker to have a copy credit card to purchase fuel for the grass cutter/materials.

PC172/26 PAVILION COMMITTEE

Cllr J Leonard, as Chairman, provided a report from the meeting on 04/08/26 including:

- Pavilion Hire report – new process/pricing to be drawn up for larger parties (in progress)
- Repair of the Pavilion Play Park carousel due to maintenance needs
- Plans to visit Connington and Duxford halls to find out more information on air conditioning.

Resolved

PC172/26.1 Request for long term use not deemed suitable

PC172/26.2 As part of Simpler Recycling, HDC bins to be provided 1 x 1100L General waste with weekly collection @ £18.00 per lift, 1 x 660L Recycling with fortnightly collections to start @ £8.80 per lift, 1 x 140L Food waste with fortnightly collections to start with @ £5.90 per lift (predicted saving: £917.28 pa). Standby bin to be in place when Business Waste contract ends

PC172/26.3 All events over 100 people to have access to the football toilets at no charge

PC172/26.4 Emergency Lighting quote from LW Electrical at a cost of £360 and between £500-£800 for a scissor lift or scaffolding to replace at height batteries

PC172/26.5 Annual servicing cost for 2 x boilers, underfloor heating, Aqua Boss system by TF Heating of £695 + VAT and replacement of an expansion vessel for £241.67 + VAT

PC172/26.6 Acceptance of quote from Fenland Leisure of £399 + VAT to fix the Pavilion Play Park carousel (Councillors to be advised when repairs take place to allow attendance).

PC173/26 PAVILION – CCTV/ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

Damage to picnic benches in the Pavilion Play Park on Friday 31 July was highlighted whereby CCTV images are available. Neighbourhood Policing have been informed. Costs for DSSL to reposition the CCTV relays on the replaced street light opposite the Pavilion were outlined.

Resolved

PC173/26.1 Anti-social behaviour with the picnic tables to be reported to the Police

PC173/26.2 DSSL to reposition CCTV relays for a maximum of £1,689.28 (insurance claim to be submitted once invoices are received).

PC174/26 BARN CLOSE PLAY AREA REFURBISHMENT

The Clerk updated on the project and an issue with the brick wall was highlighted. Plans for the re-opening are to be revisited at the September meeting.

Resolved

PC173/26.1 A structural engineer to be asked to quote re advice on the wall issue

PC173/26.2 A quote for turf to be sourced (to enable a quicker opening).

PC175/26 APREECE WAY OPEN LAND/CULVERT

An update was provided on works undertaken for the Watercourse grant from Cambridgeshire County Council and further works needed. A quote addressing the bramble issue at the rear of Apreece Way open land was detailed.

Resolved

PC175/26.1 Huntingdonshire District Council to cut back Elder trees and strim back foliage at the ditch as part of the Watercourse grant for £1,415 + VAT to allow access the grill for staff/contractors

PC175/26.2 Equipment to be purchased (brush cutter/hedge trimmer) from the remaining watercourse grant funds

PC175/26.3 Huntingdonshire District Council to cut back the creeping brambles at the rear of the site for £420 + VAT.

PC176/26 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Cllr Murtagh presented an update on the current position of the plan. A meeting to be arranged as soon as possible with the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group and details put in SCAN. The Green Spaces Working Group to provide help re open spaces.

PC177/26 VILLAGE NEWSLETTER – SUMMER 2026

Cllr Arscott reported the draft newsletter needs finalising. A quote to print 1,300 A4 4-page copies was considered.

Resolved

PC177/26.1 The Editorial Working Group to finalise the newsletter

PC177/26.2 Peterborough Print to print 1,300 full colour copies, folded for £183.05 (£47.58 to be taken from the Editorial EMR).

PC178/26 CLERK'S REPORT

The Clerk reported on relevant issues including:

- Request for a memorial in the Garden of Remembrance (outside of current guidance) - **approved**
- Councillor training for Cllrs Graham and McCullough - £75 each, 24/10/26 in Linton – **approved** (Cllr Mitchell to be added if spaces available)
- Canva training for Cllr Murtagh with CAPALC - £35, 08/10/26/online - **approved**
- HDC Parish Forum invitation - 26/11/26 at Burgess Hill, St Ives.

PC179/26 CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence to be addressed included:

- Removed bin at the bottom of Caldecote Road (HDC owners) – **HDC to be asked to put a new bin in position**

- Walnut Way hedges – **Clerk to contact land owner and Caretakers to cut off briars**
- Invitation to the Chairman or a Councillor to join the visit to St Christol from 3rd – 11th April 2027 – **no Councillors able to attend**
- Music4You outstanding invoices – **£100 deposit and £50 payment to be taken into account then outstanding amount of £168.75 to be written off.**

PC180/26 PARISH COUNCIL NOMINATED TRUSTEES – STILTON HERITAGE

The standing down of Cllr Ayres, as a Parish Council nominated trustee for Stilton Heritage, from September was noted. No councillor wished to be a replacement trustee.

The Chairman reminded Councillors that confidential information discussed in meetings should not be discussed outside of the Parish Council.

PC181/26 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.

PC182/26 STAFFING SUB-COMMITTEE

Cllr Arscott reported on staffing issues/resignation of the Pavilion Administrator (notice period agreed as running to 31/08/26). Staffing Sub-committee meeting to be arranged. Clerk to take annual leave 17-21 August 2026.

Cllrs Ayres and O Leonard left the meeting and Cllr Murtagh took over as Chairman advising there would be a 30-minute meeting extension given the 2 hours meeting limit was approaching.

PC183/26 STILTON HERITAGE – PARISH ROOM USE

Cllr Murtagh provided feedback from the informal meeting with Stilton Heritage representatives on 27/07/26 regarding potential Parish Room use and reported from a meeting with Wellers solicitors where options for use were discussed. Comments from Stilton Heritage were noted.

Resolved

Stilton Heritage to be asked for an agreement in principle to a Licence to Occupy, and to confirm proposals re Parish Room use of 2 days a week, contributing 2/7ths of the costs/utilities and agreement re space usage/storage. Cllr Murtagh and the Clerk to draw up wording. Once confirmed, solicitors to draw up the Licence to Occupy.

PC184/26 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: 22:00

Next meeting – Tuesday 8 September 2026 at 7.30pm