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 8 September 2026 - held at the Church Meeting Room, Church Street, Stilton at 7.30pm.

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

Clerk: Lawrence

Others: 8 members of the public

PC189/26 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllrs Green and Shailer had sent apologies – personal reasons – **accepted.**

PC190/26 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST/DISPENSATIONS

Cllrs Ayres and O Leonard declared an interest in PC196/26. Cllr O Leonard advised she would be applying for a dispensation for PC196/26.

PC191/26 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- Stilton Christmas Lights reported back on last year's Christmas Lights and that fundraising this year was proving to be more challenging (grant application: PC197/26)
- Stilton Heritage provided background information on how the group came into being and outlined a request for an informal meeting

**** Cllr Murtagh requested Cllr O Leonard be able to address the meeting ****

- Cllr O Leonard highlighted further background information on Stilton Heritage and the shared purpose between the Parish Council and Stilton Heritage to provide a Heritage Centre
- A member of the public reported their concern re the new tree that had been planted on Ash Road/Elm Road open land by other members of the public **– the Chairman advised the Parish Council still does not have ownership of the land (ongoing).**

PC192/26 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 11 August 2026 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

PC193/26 REPORTS FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS

County Councillor Bywater reported on the delayed Local Government Reorganisation, new Local Highway Officer being in post (Adam Alexander) and a full District Council meeting on 09/09/26 on the draft Local Plan. District Councillor Alban was not at the meeting but had sent a report.

County Councillor Bywater left the meeting

PC194/26 FINANCIAL REPORT

The Clerk/RFO provided the bank reconciliation for August and Reserves Report. CCLA interest of £339.27 for August was detailed along with a final transfer of £20,000 from precept savings account into the current account (part1). The Local Government Pay Settlement of 3.3% for FY26-27 was noted (back dated to 01/04/26 and on September's wages). A revised cost of £936.67 + VAT = £1,124 for TF Heating from August and £157.50 for St Mary Magdalane Church for both July's and August's meetings in the Church Meeting Room were presented.

Resolved

PC194/26.1 Cllr Ayres and Arscott confirmed expenditure has been checked and correct

PC194/26.2 Expenditure for September

To:	Reason:	Amount:	Authorised Ref:
Staff wages	Salaries, HMRC and pension costs	9,460.57	LGA72,s.112
Octopus Energy	Pavilion gas	22.56	LGA76,s.19
Octopus Energy	Pavilion electricity	77.66	LGA76,s.19
Octopus Energy	Skate Park electricity	32.98	LGA72, s111
EON	Parish Room electricity Q2	76.12	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
Barclays	Account charges	12.10	LGA72,s.151
PKF Littlejohn Ltd	Annual external audit	756.00	LGA76,s.111
Hegaty Solicitors	Professional advice - staffing	540.00	LGA76,s.111
HDC	Security charges - Pavilion (hirers)	1,665.50	LGA76,s.19
HDC	Apreece Way hedge clearing	504.00	LGA76,s.111
HDC	Apreece Way ditch clear (Watercourse grant)	1,698.00	LGA72,s.111
Fensecure	Gate springs (Pavilion play park)	156.00	LGA72,s.111
Business Waste	Pavilion bin emptying	75.52	LGA76, s.19
Victor Marjoram	Fuel for grass cutter	16.73	LGA72, s.111
BJP Insurance	Annual insurance for grass cutter	153.95	LGA72, s.111
KT McPartlins	Tank Emptying - Pav	180.00	LGA72, s.111
SPC credit card	KCS Education - white lining paint (pitches)	158.29	LGA72, s.111
SPC credit card	Screwfix - saw, big bags, gloves, etc	109.86	LGA72, s.111
SPC credit card	KCS Education - Pavilion toilet roll	105.58	LGA72, s.111
SPC credit card	Amazon - Pav cleaning products	69.43	LGA72, s.111
SPC credit card	Screwfix - padlocks (Pav)	41.98	LGA72, s.111
SPC credit card	Qualtex UK (new cable for floor cleaner)	42.48	LGA76, s.19
SPC credit card	Virtual Landline - Clerk phone	8.75	LGA72,s.111
St Mary Magdalane	Venue hire - PC meetings (July)	157.50	LGA72,s.111
	Monthly total:	**17,114.98**	

*** VAT included**

PC195/26 PLANNING

The Planning Working Group provided a report for council to consider their response to:
Ref: 26/00610/TREE - Church of St Mary Magdalene Church Street Stilton - Proposal: A2 Ash Fell, A3 Ash Fell, A9 Ash Fell – **RECOMMEND APPROVAL**
Planning training from Huntingdonshire District Council was highlighted – taking place 21/10/26 14:00 – 15:30 (no charge) – **Cllrs O Leonard and Murtagh to attend (Clerk to circulate invitation).**

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

**** Cllr O Leonard filled out the Dispensation form and council voted in favour or allowing Cllr O Leonard involvement in Stilton Heritage discussions for a period, not exceeding 4 years, due to it being in the interests of the Parish ****

PC196/26 STILTON HERITAGE

The response from Stilton Heritage was detailed following correspondence asking to confirm an agreement in principle to a Licence to Occupy, and the proposal re Parish Room use of 2 days a week, contributing 2/7ths of the costs/utilities and agreement re space usage/storage (PC183/26). Response of: *we are, in principle, ready to consider moving towards a Licence to Occupy to explore in more detail what it might offer.* There was no response to the questions regarding suggested use, costs or space.

- A request from Stilton Heritage for a meeting to discuss further the above was considered.

Resolved

Stilton Heritage's request for an informal meeting to voice, '*concerns and flag up the drawbacks, both to SH and the PC, of a Licence*' (detailed on correspondence from 25/08/26), to take place on 14/09/26 at the Parish Room at 10am. Councillors, the Clerk and Stilton Heritage to attend.

Cllr Ayres rejoined the meeting as Chairman.

PC197/26 GRANTS WORKING GROUP

A recommendation was presented regarding the grant application from Stilton Christmas Lights.

Resolved

£360.60 awarded to Christmas Lights as part of the Supporting the Community Grant Award.

PC198/26 BARN CLOSE PLAY AREA REFURBISHMENT

The Clerk updated on the project and highlighted the Kompan completion and sign off has not taken place (outstanding works due to be completed this week), the brick wall issue – quotes underway and to be reported back when received, grass seeding (to take place once outstanding works completed) and plans for the re-opening to be brought back to the October meeting.

PC199/26 DITCHES

The works undertaken by Huntingdonshire District Council on Apreece Way open land ditch were detailed as were complaints from members of the public (a site meeting with the Parish Council to be arranged). The school to be contacted by the Clerk re Cooper Thornhill ditch works in need of attention on the school side (hedge creepers now over on the footpath).

PC200/26 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Cllr Murtagh updated on plans for a Neighbourhood Plan Working Group meeting in early October (PC176/26) to restart works.

PC201/26 ENERGY

The Clerk presented an Energy Report as Pavilion gas and electricity, Skate Park and Parish Room fixed pricing periods end on 20 October 2026.

Resolved

A 2-year fixed tariff with Octopus energy for Pavilion energy and gas, Skatepark electricity and Parish Room electricity to be taken out.

PC202/26 GREEN SPACES WORKING GROUP

Cllr Ayres, as Leader, reported from the meeting on 23 July 2026. A Green Spaces Working Group meeting to be arranged soon to address plans for planting in Barn Close play area (budget available under the agreed CIL spend) and additional green spaces in the village.

Resolved

Group name changed to Green Spaces & Wildlife Working Group.

PC203/26 PAVILION

Quotes for cess pool servicing are ongoing. A quote was presented for manhole cover replacement with J & S Jetting Ltd. Compensation for the electrical outage on 22/08/26 as a result of UKPN issues was discussed – hirer and caterer requests. Councillor Ayres reported from the Extraordinary Parish Council meeting on 01/09/26 and presented solutions identified, including a Pavilion Working Group.

Resolved

PC203/26.1 J and S Jetting Drainage Services Ltd to supply and fit B125 600 x 600 Manhole Covers + Frame (cast iron – rated 12.5 tonnes) for £850 + VAT

PC203/26.2 No compensation to be offered to the caterer (£2,500 request) following a conversation with Zurich (Parish Council insurers) as contract with the hirer not Parish Council

PC203/26.3 Compensation for hirer on the day of the electrical outage to be given to clear the outstanding amount owed from late arriving charges, bin use, extra security, cleaning charges and 2 x damaged tables

PC203/26.4 Checking the tree growth near electrical cables to be added to the maintenance schedule to enable this to be highlighted to UKPN

PC203/26.5 A meeting of the Pavilion Committee to be brought forward to address comments and concerns from the Extraordinary meeting on 01/09/26. No parties with the finish time past the 24:00 current licence allowance on Saturdays are being taken (01:00 closing to allow for cleaning).

PC204/26 CLERK'S REPORT

The Clerk to reported on relevant issues including:

- Completion of external audit by PKF Littlejohn
- Training – Cllrs Arscott and Ayres plus the Clerk to do 3 x HR sessions with CAPALC (£50 each person, per session)
- Safeguarding Policy - **adopted.**

2 members of the public left the meeting.

PC205/26 CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence addressed included:

- Elm Road/Ash Road tree (replanting following tree removal) **– covered in public participation**
- Caldecote Road bin removal – **temporary bin to be considered by HDC to monitor use**
- Jetty on North Street – Cllr Graham had spoken to Rights of Way **(Clerk to advise on a missing sign and that it is a Right of Way)**
- East of England request for initial meeting re showground development **– no need for meeting**
- Rights of Way Improvement Plan – **Councillors to respond if they wish**
- Dog Control Order **- Councillors to respond if they wish.**

5 members of the public left the meeting.

PC206/26 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.

PC207/26 STAFFING SUB-COMMITTEE

Cllr Arscott reported on staffing issues (Pavilion Administrator position vacant and Clerk covering the role temporarily). Recruitment needs and next steps were discussed.

Resolved

PC207/26.1 A Deputy Clerk to be recruited, 12 hours per week from SCP13 LC1 Above Substantive (3 months probationary)

PC207/26.2 Deputy Clerk and Clerk to work at the Parish Room for those 12 hours pw

PC207/26.3 Staffing Sub committee to have delegated authority to finalise the job description, person specification, application opening/closing dates, position advertising and interviews. (Full council to make appointment decision).

PC208/26 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: 21:19

Next meeting – Tuesday 13 October 2026 at 7.30pm