





Minutes of Little Ponton & Stroxton Parish Council Meeting

Date: Wednesday 19th March 2025

Venue: Stoke Rochford Estate Offices 6-00 p.m.

Councillors present Cllr George McCorquodale
Cllr Simon Allam
Cllr David Skelton
Cllr Gary Mennell
Cllr Adam Madge
Cllr Susie Embley
District Councillors Cllr Ben Green
Cllr David Bellamy
County Councillors Charlotte Vernon
Locum Clerk & RFO Mrs Emma Wilson

Open session

Two members of the public were present. The Chair welcomed all and asked if the parishioners present wished to speak in this session. One parishioner asked for all present at the meeting to introduce themselves, which duly happened. The Chair asked if there were any further comments, as no one spoke the Chair declared the Open session closed at 6-05 pm.

Parish Council Meeting Starts 6-06 pm

1.	Chairman's Welcome Remarks
	In the absence of the Chair, Vice Chair Cllr George McCorquodale confirmed start of the parish council meeting and noted that the members of the public were welcome to stay to observe but that they may not speak on agenda items from this point on.
2.	Apologies
	Received from Cllr Michael Parkin; reasons for absence were noted & accepted.
3.	Disclosure of interest in agenda items
	Nil
4.	To approve Minutes of meeting held on the 15th January 2025
	The draft minutes having been circulated prior to the meeting were agreed and proposed to be a true and accurate record. They were passed as approved by resolution of the Council and signed by the Vice Chairman.
5.	Clerks Report
a.	Precept 2025-26
	Submitted as per requirement. Payment £7250 expected 1st week of April 2025.
b.	Grit Bin
	Both bins reported. Stroxton will be replenished as will Little Ponton, clerk asked that they review and resit the slab on the verge. We can also request additional ones, but they must be 200 m distance from existing bins. Request have been acknowledged, Stroxton will be replenished, and they have confirmed they will investigate issue with setting of Little Ponton regarding the broken slab. Cllr Allam enquired about the grit bin that used to be outside the Whale bone lane bungalows, this was damaged and disappeared approx. 7 yrs ago. Clerk asked for a what 3 words location and then she would follow it up. <i>Action: A councillor to supply location to clerk.</i>
c.	Parish Council Laptop
	Clerk confirmed she would get three options for purchase of parish council laptop, share these with councillors for approval on choice then purchase and be reimbursed by the council. This was agreed by all present and approved by resolution of the Council <i>Action: Clerk to share options, purchase and be reimbursed</i>
d.	Defibrillators
	Clerk confirmed she had asked CHT to come out and help with a site survey of our potential suggested locations in both villages. There was some discussion about potential sites and clerk asked councillors to email suggested What 3 words locations to her. Clerk suggested it might be a good idea to nominate one Cllr to liaise and meet with CHT when a date can be arranged, this will give opportunity for feedback to be given in the next meeting. Clerk has also requested that this be followed up with attendance by CHT at one of the council meetings. Clerk confirmed she had also contacted The Maragaret Brown Trust to enquire if funding is still available so that

	once we know what defibrillator units we need, we can apply; the Trust is administered through Duncan & Toplis. Reply received to say they would be happy to receive an application for funding for both units. Cllr Vernon mentioned that some of her other Parishes have approached local businesses to fund defibrillators. The clerk said that when we get to the stage of deciding on location and units this would be an option for funding to be investigated.
	e. County Combined Mayoral election for Greater Lincolnshire & the Lincolnshire County Council elections
	Voting takes place on 1 May 2025. Posters to be displayed from today in both villages. Cllr Allam offered to make sure notices be put into noticeboards.
6.	The Pond Stroxton
	There was discussion around land sale of Welby estate. After review of possible next steps it was decided by resolution of the council that the Clerk should send the previously agreed letter to Mr Welby but also to send copy of letter to sale agent for information and awareness of the situation and state the parish councils concerns regarding the pond. <i>Action: Clerk to post letter and email agent.</i>
7.	Highways Queries
	Cllr Vernon gave her feedback on the following:- a) Speed restriction signs – Cllr Vernon suggested she facilitate a meeting with Head of Highways, Rowan Smith where some representation from the parish council could be present along with Cllr Vernon. Cllr Mennell added that there is frequent criminal activity, quite recently vehicles coming through the village of Stroxton at extreme high speed (this was reported to the police). There were also issues with hare coursing where vehicles were passing his house at approx. 60 to 70 mph. He suggested that only a physical deterrent may have some effect. He also noted that he could not recall the last time a police presence was seen in the village. Cllr Vernon said she would be happy to raise this with the Police Crime Commissioner regarding lack of local police presence and failure to respond to crime reported locally. Also to enquire about perhaps a local police officer to come to a council meeting. It was also noted that traffic through the villages is seriously impacted when the A1 is closed for maintenance and accidents. Cllr Vernon mentioned the Lorry watch scheme where HGVs can be reported for travelling on inappropriate weight restricted roads to Lincolnshire County Council. Cllr Mennell raised his concerns around procrastination regarding end date and plans for actual closure of all the planned A1 crossings rather than meeting after meeting with Highways England. Cllr Embley wished to record her concerns for traffic issues when the Magnavale store is up and running on the B1174. Cllr Bellamy confirmed planning was approved on submitted plans and County Highways reviewed this and passed it as ok. Cllr Vernon encouraged the parish council highlight all issues at the meeting with Highways. <i>Action: Cllr Vernon to request meeting with Head of Highways, Rowan Smith</i> <i>Action: Cllr Vernon to enquire with Crime Commissioner re police presence locally and also police attending a future parish meeting.</i> b) Ash dieback Cllr Vernon confirmed that Ash dieback is the landowner's responsibility, if it falls on LCC land they will have a tree surgeon come out to assess c) Roadside Tree pruning Trees within the verge, who owns? Cllr Vernon confirmed Highways are responsible for these and need reporting. Clerk asked for location to be supplied to her by Cllrs and she would action this on Fix My Street. <i>Action: Cllr to send locations to clerk who will the report.</i> d) Replacement Missing village sign at Stroxton Cllr Vernon enquired and was told that in Jan 2025 a replacement should have been received. Cllrs confirmed this was not the case and Cllr Vernon said she would follow this up. <i>Action: Cllr Vernon to chase sign replacement</i>
8.	Update Bus shelter demolition – Cllr Skelton
	Cllr Skelton confirmed the shelter had now been demolished.
9.	Correspondence (circulated to all Cllrs as received by Clerk)
	a. Invite to Road Safety on the A1-Lincolnshire County Council on 12th March 2025
	b. Notification of essential maintenance work - A1 between South Witham and Harlaxton in both directions
10.	Accounts for payment – Nil
11.	Report David Bellamy
	This was just to highlight the consultation presentation at Great Ponton 31st March coming up re the Consultation on plans for Canner's Lane Energy Park.

12.	Report Ben Green
	Confirmed that at last the litter is being collected alongside the A1 by District Council, this is being done in conjunction with the lane closures for obvious safety reasons. Local government reorganisation, there is the potential for District and County Councils to be abolished and amalgamated into unitary councils. South Kesteven met yesterday to suggest its proposal, to merge with most of the southern district councils in Lincolnshire including Lincoln city but also Rutland which would have a cost implication as they have a higher tax rate. LCC will do so by the end of this week. Cllr Green said it was great to be here at this revived parish council.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7-15 p.m.

Signed: REDACTED Date: 26/06/2025
Vice Chair/Chairman, Little Ponton & Stroxtan Parish Council