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8	Clerks Report										
a.	End of Year Finance and AGAR										
	Report having been circulated prior to the meeting the clerk summarised the content as below. It was clarified that these figures are what are used for the Annual Governance and Accountability Return but simplified in format for review. They have been approved and Annual Internal Audit Report signed off by internal auditor 25/06/25. There are some points within the audit report that require work and where we were not compliant largely because we are a 'work in progress' and these internal controls have not historically formed part of the parish councils' objectives. They are the following five areas, and the clerk has already corrected 4 out of 5 for the 2025/26 year. • This authority assessed the significant risks to achieving its objectives and reviewed the adequacy of arrangements to manage these. • The precept or rates requirement resulted from an adequate budgetary process; progress against the budget was regularly monitored; and reserves were appropriate. • The authority published the required information on a website/webpage up to date at the time of the internal audit in accordance with the relevant legislation. • In the year covered by this AGAR, the authority correctly provided for a period for the exercise of public rights as required by the Accounts and Audit Regulations (during the 2024-25 AGAR period, were public rights in relation to the 2023-24 AGAR evidenced by a notice on the website and/or authority approved minutes confirming the dates set). • The authority has complied with the publication requirements for 2023/24 AGAR Certificate of Exemption (Income & expenditure below £25k), Annual Governance Statement, Accounting Statement all signed. <table border="1"> <tr> <td>2023/24 Ends on</td><td>£ 432.22</td></tr> <tr> <td>Plus Precept remit came in April for 24/25</td><td>£4,750.00</td></tr> <tr> <td>Plus Total Other income/Grants</td><td>£ 0.00</td></tr> <tr> <td>Minus 2024/25 expenditure</td><td>£5,119.00</td></tr> <tr> <td>Balance to end March 2025</td><td>£ 63.22</td></tr> </table> It was confirmed again by the clerk that the previous 5 years had all been signed off and agreed by PKF Littlejohn, external auditors so this is the first year of accounts being done and submitted on the correct timeline. This year 2024/25 AGAR will be published on the new website from 28th June 2025. Notice of Public Rights and Publication of Annual Governance & Accountability Return for year-end 31st March 2025 are from Monday 30th June 2025 to Friday 8th August 2025.	2023/24 Ends on	£ 432.22	Plus Precept remit came in April for 24/25	£4,750.00	Plus Total Other income/Grants	£ 0.00	Minus 2024/25 expenditure	£5,119.00	Balance to end March 2025	£ 63.22
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b.	Missing Grit Bin										
	Missing grit bin on Whalebone Lane, Little Ponton. Clerk to investigate exact location and then report on Fix My Street										
c.	Tree pruning locations										
	- One Ash tree with dieback and dangerous overhanging limb near Lodge Farm Stroxtan, NG33 5DD, Clerk was given location at the meeting to report on Fix My Street - Overgrown hedge both side of road near Church Farm Cottages Stroxtan, NG33 5DA, Clerk was given location at the meeting to report on Fix My Street - Overgrown hedge on two road corners Stroxtan, Location 1: 52.873791, -0.649930 and Location 2: 52.875213, -0.649867. Clerk was given location at the meeting to report on Fix My Street										
d.	Collapsed Culverts										
	Collapsed Culvert Stroxtan, Location: 52.871785, -0.654470. Clerk was given location at the meeting to report on Fix My Street. <i>Action: Clerk to locate all five issues on What 3 Words and report on Fix My Street.</i>										
9	The Pond Stroxtan										
	The Clerk fed back to the meeting that she contacted Francesca Bell, Senior Environmental Health Officer, South Kesteven District Council to request an inspection. A site visit took place Friday 13th June to review and assess the pond. The feedback was as follows:- "I visited the pond at Stroxtan on Friday 13th June. It was a warm day and around 25 degrees when I attended and so I hope I have visited at a time representative of the odour complained of. Whilst there was a slight odour at the roadside next to the pond, I would not consider this to meet the threshold of statutory nuisance and was in keeping with what I would consider to be 'normal' for a large area of water in warm weather. That said I am happy to attend the properties of those impacted to assess from their home to understand the impact better. When considering nuisance, the council needs to be satisfied that there is a material impact on the use and enjoyment of a person's property, and this is typically a higher threshold than annoyance. As well as the impact we also need to consider how often the issue arises and how easy it would be to control or remedy the issue. At this stage I do not feel there is any enforcement action available". The clerk offered to pass on contact details for Ms Bell to any residents whose properties are impacted directly to allow follow up on an individual basis. Concerns were highlighted again in the meeting about the pond being silted up and therefore during heavy rain it impacts significantly and floods the road, and the wall adjacent appears unstable. Environmental Health said that this issue would not be part of their remit, and it was noted that perhaps this would be a problem for The Environment Agency. The Clerk confirmed that there had been no response from Mr Welby or the Land Sales agent to our letter. One councillor mentioned that they have photographic evidence of the flooding caused on the road and Cllr Vernon for										

	these to be forwarded on to her so that she may investigate getting more support to help solve the problems. It was noted that although it may be anecdotal information there is a possibility of a nearby septic tank that may possibly contribute to the smell, and this may require further investigation.		
10	Defibrillators		
	To summarise the status so far. Cllr George McCorquodale met Ron Simpson 9th May Little Ponton, unfortunately no one was available to do the Stroxtan location survey. Cllr Mennell very kindly emailed over some suggestions and Ron from Community Heartbeat reviewed these. Since Cllr Mennell and Ron have a meeting planned in Stroxtan village to discuss possible locations in person. Clerk has requested draft quotes from CHT for appropriate defibrillators for each site once sites are confirmed. We can apply for funding to see if we can get grants from Margaret Brown Trust.		
11	Report County Councillor C Vernon (to include update on Highways meeting with the Parish Council & the missing Village sign)		
	Councillor Vernon said how delighted she was to be back because obviously this was the first meeting she had done since the election. Cllr Vernon notes as she spoke:- You are probably aware from the reports in the press there has been quite a change, despite these changes please rest assured that doesn't mean that I have any less input on what happens in terms of getting things done for the village. We still have the all the same contacts with county council so please do continue to raise things as required. You'll probably have seen that there is a consultation event next Friday regarding the National Grid at South Witham Village Hall, the route goes between South and North Witham, so doesn't directly affect your parish, but it is worth considering the impact. I would urge you to attend if you do get a chance to, just to view the plans. Local government reorganisation, you'll be aware that prior to the election there was discussion on what happens next in Lincolnshire. The plan at the moment continues as is. It is decided by central government. The District Council and the County Council each have a proposal. Interestingly, these are not the same proposal. Issues specific to this parish, we have discussed previously about having a meeting with the highways manager. Unfortunately, he has been away for a while, but he's now back and I'm meeting with him on Monday 30th June to bring him up to speed on what I'd like support with. I don't have a specific date yet for him to come to meet with you but I will raise that with him at the meeting. I've received correspondence from a parishioner about the street lighting and a 30 mph speed zone. I will bring that up on Monday and see sort of what his view is on that because my understanding of the rules from national highways is that having 30 mph signs doesn't require street lighting. I will be interested to hear the county council's report and whether that is a County Council policy or if it is advisory. To confirm after Monday, I'll come back to the clerk with an update to share and hopefully we can get a date in the diary for perhaps two members of the parish council to meet with the highways manager and take things forward. Cllr Mennell enquired again about the replacement village sign for Stroxtan Village, Cllr Vernon was under the impression this had been resolved and promised to enquire further about this. Council member mentioned that they would very much like something similar to that of the new sign at Great Ponton village sign. <i>Action: Cllr Vernon to update clerk with available dates for meeting with Highways manager</i> <i>Action: Cllr Vernon to investigate way forward and options available to replace Stroxtan Village sign.</i>		
12	Reports District Councillors Ben Green and David Bellamy		
	Cllr Ben Green:- We are currently working on efficiency rather than spending more money on you refuse waggons. This is going to mean ultimately a change for collection dates for bins and this will come into effect in September this year. I don't have specifics about how this will affect this parish because that hasn't been settled yet but the changes revolve around collection days and routes, collection will still be weekly. Everybody should receive a letter to explain what the changes will be. So if that doesn't happen please do get in touch to let me know. This all part of national policy dropping through, and food waste collections will also begin in March 2026, you will be supplied with a small caddy for the kitchens and then a larger caddy which would then be put out in the street for collection. This is national policy so ultimately the District Council and County Council must follow the regime. Cllr Green enquired if the parish council had set their meeting schedule for the rest of the year. The Clerk said this had not all been agreed yet, there will be four meetings a year and dates would be available from Monday 30th June on the parish council website. Some discussion followed about potential venues for meetings and it was noted that there is no other suitable venue in either village to hold meetings, however it was agreed that the council would endeavour to hold the next annual meeting in Little Ponton Church. This would be in the late spring as there is no heating in the church.		
13	Accounts for payment		
	a.	Sal/Tax/NI Apr to June 2025	£1280-00 154
	b.	Exp/Utilities Apr to June 2025	£184-45 155

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7-30 p.m.

Signed: REDACTED Date: 25/09/2025
Chairman, Little Ponton & Stroxtan Parish Council