Parish Clerk – Helen Stewart
3 Orchard Way,
Stretton on Dunsmore,
CV23 9HP
Email: clerk@stretton-on-dunsmore-parishcouncil.gov.uk
Web: https://stretton-on-dunsmore-parishcouncil.gov.uk/

Stretton on Dunsmore
PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING

Name of Meeting	Ordinary Stretton-on-Dunsmore Parish Council Meeting
Date, Time and Venue of Meeting	Monday 12th October 2026 at 7pm in Knightlow School
Meeting Chair	Cllr Paul Gordon (PG)
Minute Taker	Helen Stewart (HS)
Attendees	Cllr Warwick Dipple (WD), Cllr Sarah Gambling (SG), Cllr James Bavington (JB), Cllr Stephen Smyth (SS), Cllr Alan Abbey (AA). 1 member of the public were present.
Apologies from those summoned	Cllr Chris Tickle (CT) and Cllr Gillian Key-Vice (GKV)
Absent	None
Local Authority Representatives	Cllr Jill Simpson-Vince

Public Forum

No items

Agenda Number	Minute	Actioner	Date
1.	**Apologies** Cllr Chris Tickle (CT) and Cllr Gillian Key-Vice (GKV)	No Action	
2.	**Declarations of Interest** No declarations were made on any of the items listed.	No Action	
3.	**Borough and County Councillors Report** Cllr Jill Simpson-Vince was present and gave an update on the following matters: - • Following a pause to the Local Government Review Process the District and Borough Elections will go ahead in May 2026 • Local Plan Examinations Hearing Sessions Start on 17th November and there are three Inspectors looking at the Plan. • On going issue with staff at The Work Services Unit so the bin collections are being affected but the Chief Officer is on site and trying to manage it daily. • Some changes to the National Planning Policy Framework came into effect on 1st October, one of the significant changes means that very few applications will now be brought before a Planning Committee. A written report was received from Cllr Umesh Mistry which included an update on the following matters: - • The retrospective Planning Application for Ryton Heath Farm: the decision is expected imminently. • The retrospective planning application for Field Farm on Plott Lane: Discussions are continuing between Rugby Borough Council and Warwickshire County Council. Environmental Health concerns raised regarding the operation are also being reviewed following the submission of revised information by the applicant. A final planning recommendation will be prepared once these matters are resolved.	No Action	
4.	**Minutes from Meetings** The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 13th July 2026 of the Parish Council were accepted unanimously signed as a true account by Cllr Paul Gordon.	No Action	

	Due to a lack of quorum, the Parish Council did not hold the scheduled ordinary meeting in September 2026.		
5.	**Actions from the minutes** 5a. The painting of the bus shelter mural is being finished for the end of October. The grand opening has not yet taken place, but Cllr Bavington will liaise with the school regarding potential dates for this. The Clerk will then agree a date with the Headteacher. The Clerk will give the Parish Councillors notice of the date and hope that as many as possible can attend for the photograph. The Clerk will invite the press to be present. 5b. PG and WD met with Sarah Redfern of National Highways in June. PG has since followed up on some of the matters discussed: * The flip sign on the A45 westbound exit from the memorial island, which is detached and, in the hedge is being rectified within 5 weeks. * The memorial island has not had the grass cut for several months which is partly due to the long dry summer, but it will be cut and the area tidied ahead of Remembrance Sunday. * The epicormic growth around the base of the Lime trees has increased significantly and this will be addressed by the contractors who cut the grass this month. Notably from this meeting National Highways informed the Parish Council that it is not responsible for litter picking along the A45; this is the responsibility of Rugby Borough Council. 5c. The St John Fisher's Football Team has arranged for E.ON to attend the pavilion on 28th October to install a smart meter and gain access to the electrical panel. The Football Team will arrange for its electrician to be present and to provide a quotation for the installation of an additional consumer unit, which is required to facilitate the installation of the AED. The Football Team has informed the Parish Council that it suspects the pitch has been deliberately damaged through the use of chemicals. In addition, concerns have been raised regarding the frequent presence of dog waste on the pitch, damage to the pavilion guttering, and graffiti that has appeared on the building over the summer months. The Football Team has also reported that it feels a small number of residents have behaved in a hostile manner towards club members. Considering these concerns, the club has indicated that it wishes to pause discussions regarding the renewal of its lease, which is due to expire in May 2027. The Parish Clerk will invite representatives of the Football Team to attend an informal site meeting with Parish Councillors. This meeting will provide an opportunity to hear the club's concerns directly, inspect the reported damage, and discuss potential solutions to the issues raised.	JB Clerk No Action Clerk	31/10/26 31/10/26
6.	**Planning** There were no current planning applications to discuss.	No Action	
7.	**Traffic Surveys** Traffic surveys were commissioned at eight locations across the village over a two-week period. To date, the Parish Clerk has received data covering the first week of the survey. The associated invoice has not yet been received, and no payment has been made. Following receipt of the initial survey data, a number of Parish Councillors worked collaboratively to produce a summary report of the findings. Whilst further work is required on the presentation and formatting of the document, members unanimously agreed that authority to approve and publish the final version should be delegated to the Parish Clerk to ensure the information can be placed in the public domain as soon as possible. This proposal was made by Cllr Gambling and seconded by Cllr Smyth. The Parish Clerk will	Clerk	31/10/26

	continue to work with members via email to finalise the report and prepare it for publication. Analysis of the survey data indicates that Fosse Way is the area most affected by speeding vehicles within the village. In response, the Parish Clerk will contact Warwickshire Police and Cllr Dale Keeling to request that the Mobile Speed Enforcement Van be deployed in the vicinity on a periodic basis to help address the issue.		
8a.	**Village Events** Under delegated powers, the Parish Clerk granted permission for the Scouts to host their annual bonfire event at Fosse Way Playing Field under the same terms as previous years. While a discussion took place regarding the noise level of the fireworks and the concerns about local livestock no objections were raised to the Clerk's decision.	No Action	
8b.	As previously agreed in January, Cllr Bavington will a lay poppy wreath at the War Monument on Remembrance Sunday. The Parish Council has invited Rev. Phil to lead the Act of Remembrance. Veronica Ward and her Crafty Companions are creating a knitted a poppy wreath to lay at the monument and other poppies to decorate the street furniture during the month of November.	No Action	
8c.	A cut Christmas Tree of approximately 10-12ft will be erected outside the Village Hall again this November. This was proposed by Cllr Gambling and seconded by Cllr Smyth. There was a discussion about the health and safety aspect of transporting, decorating and erecting the tree. It was agreed that previous methods could be improved upon to minimise risk. Cllr Abbey will liaise with Cllr Gambling regarding the collection of the tree; they will ensure it is safely transported from the supplier to the Village Hall in an appropriate trailer with strappings. The team on the day of the decorating will be coordinated by Cllr Abbey who will ensure that the lights are hung on the weekend of 21st November, ready for the Christmas Fayre on 28th November.	Clerk AA SG SS JB	21/11/26
9a.	**Open Spaces and Pavilions** During August there was an illegal encampment on Plott Lane Car Park which was there for approximately 4 days. While the locks on the gates to the car park were broken, there was no damage to the Scout Hut during this period. The Parish Council reported the encampment to the Police and Rugby Borough Council. The Police have a record of 3 reports received during this period from Stretton residents, and all calls were responded to within 1 hour. PCSO Parkes attended and did an assessment of the site which includes a welfare check those at the site. In the Clerk's absence Cllr Key-Vice liaised with PC Williams who confirmed that this was a civil matter. She also contacted RBC. There is no record that Martin Rone-Clarke (Traveller Liaison Officer) or anyone from RBC ever visited the site however this was a weekend period. When the camp dispersed there was some litter, which Cllr Paul Gordon collected in black bin bags. During the short period, the Parish Clerk shared a few brief social media posts.	No Action	
9b.	The Playground Inspections have been undertaken for this year and low – medium matters noted. The Clerk has tasked the Handyman with resolving some of the minor items and recording them.	No Action	
9c.	Recent bench inspections have highlighted concerns regarding the uneven surface beneath the Lime Tree on the Village Green. The existing cobbled area is being lifted by the tree roots, creating a potential trip hazard. A local contractor has provided an estimate of £1,900 to remove the existing cobbles and replace them with a gravel surface, edged with larger cobbles that would complement those currently lining the kerb. The Parish Council discussed the proposal and expressed concerns that the suggested design could, create an alternative trip hazard. Given the prominence of this location within the village the fact it is within a conservation area and the tree has a preservation order on it, members	Clerk All Members	09/11/26 11/01/27

	agreed that further consideration should be given to alternative design options before any permanent works are undertaken. Parish Councillors have therefore been asked to share over email design proposals, together with indicative costings, over the coming months. These proposals will be considered and, where appropriate, put forward for decision at an appropriate meeting. In the short term, the Parish Clerk has been instructed to engage a local contractor to lift the most problematic cobbles and backfill the affected areas with gravel in order to remove the immediate trip hazard.		
9d.	The Scout Hut was broken into sometime over the 12th -14th September 2026. The shutters were forced and some items were taken from inside. The shutters need replacing. The Scouts insurance is for contents only – the Parish Council is responsible for the exterior. The excess on the policy is £250. The lowest quote to have the repairs untaken is £495 + VAT. The Parish Council agreed unanimously to continue the with the claim through the insurance company. This was proposed by Cllr Smyth and seconded by Cllr Gordon.	Clerk	31/10/26
9e.	As a result of the new development at Squires Cross, the Parish Council is expected to have access to approximately £118,360 in Section 106 funding. This funding must be used to improve sports, recreation, play space, and other open space facilities in the vicinity of the development. With this in mind, the Parish Council approached the owner of the land locally known as "Little Orchard" to explore the possibility of purchasing the site using the Section 106 funds. It was hoped that acquiring this parcel of land, which was removed from the Green Belt in 2019, would help protect it from future development and potentially provide an extension to the existing recreational facilities at Plott Lane. Cllr Gordon contacted the landowner's agent, who confirmed that the land is not currently for sale and that the owner is not interested in discussing a sale to the Parish Council at this time. As the purchase of Little Orchard is therefore not a viable option, members have been asked to consider alternative projects for the use of the Section 106 funding. Members are requested to develop proposals for improvements they would like to see implemented and present them to the Parish Council for consideration. All proposals should include detailed designs and full costings to enable the Parish Council to make an informed decision.	All members	11/01/26
10a.	**Policies** The updated revision of The Scheme of Delegation was agreed unanimously following a proposal from Cllr Gordon which was seconded by Cllr Gambling.	No Action	
10b	The updated revision of The Communications Policy was agreed unanimously following a proposal from Cllr Gordon which was seconded by Cllr Gambling.	No Action	
11a.	**Finances** The payment list for October 2026 was approved unanimously:- 12/10/2026 VILLAGE HALL – COFFEE MORNING £96.00 12/10/2026 HELEN STEWART £1,168.08	No Action	
11b.	The payments list made under delegated authority was noted:- 20/07/2026 LLOYDS £4.25 28/07/2026 AMAZON - stationary £33.39 03/08/2026 GOOGLE MAIL £63.00 07/08/2026 THE PRINTING WORKS – NP CONSULTATION £430.80 18/08/2026 LLOYDS £4.25 24/08/2026 HELEN STEWART £1,134.63 24/08/2026 HMRC £461.80	No Action	

	24/08/2026	E.ON – VILLAGE GREEN POWER SUPPLY	£35.15		
	24/08/2026	VILLAGE HALL – COFFEE MORNING	£132.00		
	24/08/2026	TREE SAFE - TREEWORKS	£2,520.00		
	24/08/2026	INSPIRED TOUCH – PENDULUM	£555.00		
	24/08/2026	MOORE – EXT AUDITOR	£378.00		
	02/09/2026	GOOGLE MAIL	£63.00		
	08/09/2026	MARK COOPER	£1,261.73		
	08/09/2026	E.ON – NEW LAMP FOSSE WAY	£468.00		
	08/09/2026	HMRC	£558.32		
	08/09/2026	S J DONNELLY – SCOUT HUT REPAIRS	£8,712.00		
	14/09/2026	E.ON - VILLAGE CENTRE POWER SUPPLY	£65.11		
	14/09/2026	VILLAGE HALL – COFFEE MORNING	£108.00		
	14/09/2026	HELEN STEWART	£1,335.76		
			£0.00		
	18/09/2026	PARISH ONLINE – MAPPING TOOL	£86.40		
	21/09/2026	LLOYDS	£4.25		
	28/09/2026	SEAGRAVE – PLAYGROUND INSPECTIONS	£540.00		
	28/09/2026	MARK COOPER	£330.00		
	28/09/2026	KNIGHTLOW PRIMARY – ROOM HIRE	£75.00		
	02/10/2026	GOOGLE MAIL	£63.00		
	02/10/2026	NPOWER - STREETLIGHT ELEC	£2,762.71		
	02/10/2026	E.ON - VILLAGE CENTRE POWER SUPPLY	£32.55		
11c.	Cllr Gambling confirmed that she has undertaken a Bank Reconciliation and found no anomalies.			No Action	
12.	**Correspondence** Resident – AED Battery Life. It was agreed that the Parish Clerk should order a replacement battery for the defibrillator located at Brookside Surgery. Resident – PC response to illegal encampment Resident – Sustainability Consultant			No Action	
13.	**Any Other Business** Streetlight being repaired Bridge is being repaired.				
14.	**Date of Next Meeting** Monday 9th November 2026 - Knightlow School Hall - 7pm (Ordinary Meeting)			No Action	

Meeting closed at 8.45pm