

STETCHWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Mrs. Karen Peck
Email: clerk@stetchworth.org

Minutes

17th June 2025 at The Ellesmere Centre (Gredley Room) at 7pm.

In attendance: Councillor Bell (WB) Chairman, Breen (SB), Puddick (JP), Sharp (AS) and District Councillor Lay (JL)

- 170625/1 Apologies for Absence (Local Government Act. 1972 s.85 (1))**
Apologies were received from Councillor France (AF), Saunders (PS) and Kempton (LK)
- 170625/2 To Receive Declarations of Pecuniary and non-Pecuniary Interest**
None were made.
- 170625/3 Open Forum for Public Participation**
There was no member of the public in attendance.
- 170625/4 To Approve the Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Stetchworth Parish Council held on 20th May 2025**
It was unanimously **RESOLVED** to approve the Annual Parish Council Meeting minutes of 20th May 2025 as a true and accurate record of the meeting. Motion carried. **Proposed WB Seconded SB**
- 170625/5 District & County Councillors' Reports**
County Council Report- Councillor Jonny Edge – attached as Appendix A
- District Councillor Lay – Thanked the Parish Clerk for her support in rolling out the Community Defibrillator events across the Woodditton Ward. 72 people were trained, and an element of those trained will progress to the GoodSam App <https://www.goodsamapp.org>. The initiative is now in the process of being rolled out in other Wards in East Cambs. In conjunction with JL will now be undertaking a review of Defibrillator placement across the Woodditton Ward and working with Parishes to ensure they have the number of units available in the best locations to help save lives.
- District Councillor Sharp – Touched on the Fen Reservoir proposal and the work currently being undertaken to look at water retention within the district.
- Operations and Services are due to meet w/c 23rd June to discuss matters including the proposed Planning Objection Changes.
- Transport – ongoing talks in relation to Tiger 4 service.
- 170625/6 The Ellesmere Centre Report**
The Trustees are due to meet w/c 23rd June 2025. The Squash Court conversion/shop layout/lift is progressing.
- 170625/7 Council Business:**
- 1. VJ Day Request**
The Parish Council had received a request for a donation from The Ellesmere for a joint Stetchworth and Dullingham celebration. The Council discussed the request, and it was unanimously **RESOLVED** to donate £200.00. Motion carried. **Proposed WB Seconded SB**
 - 2. To ratify Play area repairs and maintenance**
The Parish Council ratified all Play area works as a result of the Annual Inspection to the sum of £1260.00 including all materials. Motion carried unanimously. **Proposed WB Seconded SB**
 - 3. Parking on Public Footpaths**
The Parish Council had been contacted regarding parking concerns on High Street. The Parish Council unanimously agreed that parking is a cause for concern in the area but noted they have no powers to act. The Parish Clerk is to contact Cambridgeshire Highways Initiative Team for advice and enquire into the proposed "double yellow lines" requested by the parishioner. To also seek alternative suggestions, if any. AS to contact local PCSO to advise of concerns and seek assistance.
 - 4. Dog Fouling**
The Parish Council had been made aware of increased fouling in and around the Recreation Field. It was noted the suggested location for an additional bin could not be supported by East Cambs District Council as this would not be a viable collection point.
It was agreed to add a section to the next village newsletter reminder all Dog Owners – To please Pick Up After their Dogs. The Parish Council wished to remind all dog owners that leaving dog mess is not only unpleasant for others but also a potential health hazard and warnings, fine and even prosecution can be enforced by the District Council.
 - 5. Management of verges**
SB updated that the verges have now been cut by County Council.
It was noted that the hedge from 5 Coopers Close was overhanging the public footpath. This had been reported to Sanctuary Housing.

170625/8

a) **Finance** - to approve accounts for payment:

| | | |
|--|------|---------|
| HMRC, Wages and Expenses | BACs | £576.22 |
| Fen Farm Supplies – materials play area | BACs | £272.58 |
| RH Landscapes – Grass cutting | BACs | £312.00 |
| TBM – Microsoft 365 and domain | BACs | £33.75 |
| Unity Trust Bank – service charge | BACs | £6.00 |
| The Ellesmere Centre – Hire | BACs | £18.00 |
| SSE – Street Light Energy | BACs | £140.17 |
| MWP – Play area repairs and maintenance | BACs | £987.42 |
| Redshoes Accounting – payroll | BACs | £50.40 |
| K&M Lighting – Street Light Maintenance (Annual) | BACs | £243.43 |

b) To note monies received: None

c) To accept bank reconciliations for 31st May 2025

The bank reconciliation and all payments were **APPROVED** unanimously. Motion carried.

Proposed WB Seconded PS

170625/9

Planning

(a) To receive planning application decisions and tree works: -

25/00020/FUL Newmarket Equine Hospital, Cambridge Road, Newmarket - APPROVED

Extension to equine hospital to accommodate CT Scanner

(b) To consider planning applications received: - **None**

170625/10

Date of Next Meeting & Matters for Future Consideration - 19th August 2025 at 7pm Gredley Room, The Ellesmere Centre

Meeting Closed at 19.56

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K Peck
Clerk and RFO
Stetchworth Parish Council

.....
W Bell
Chairman

Dated signed:

COUNTY COUNCIL ANNUAL MEETING

The County Council held its annual meeting on Tuesday 20 May. Lucy Nethsingha was re-elected as Leader of the Council, and Lorna Dupré is now Deputy Leader of the Council.

The meeting appointed Chairs and Vice Chairs of its committees, and representatives to some of its major partners. I am now Vice Chair of the Council's Children and Young Peoples Committee and will also be sitting on the Highways and Transport Committee. Speaking after the meeting, Cllr Nethsingha drew attention to the 'extraordinary challenges' of the rising number of older people needing social care and of children with special needs and disabilities. She said the new Liberal Democrat administration will 'make sure our council continues to be more caring, better connected and that Cambridgeshire continues to be a wonderful environment for all to thrive'.

ADULTS & HEALTH

Pressures ahead for Integrated Care Boards (ICBs)

NHS England has published what has been described as a 'draft blueprint of the future model of ICBs'. These local boards are responsible for planning, funding, and commissioning NHS services for their local populations.

Spending per head by ICBs, which varies across the country from £49 to just under £21, will be cut to £18.76. Plans on how ICBs will meet this new target should have been submitted by 30 May.

There will also be a shift in the functions of ICBs, including to neighbourhood health providers. Boards were told in March they must cut their running costs by around half by October 2025 and to focus on reducing duplication when making cuts. Health minister Karin Smyth recently revealed that no impact assessment had been conducted of the decision to reduce ICB running costs.

CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE

School funding

The Cambridgeshire Schools Forum received a report on the final closing balance of maintained schools in the county (schools that are not academies).

The number of schools reporting a deficit revenue position at the end of 2024/25 has increased compared to previous years (37, compared to 31 a year earlier). The reasons for deficit budgets vary, but recurring themes include:

- Falling rolls between October 23 and October 24.
- Operation of unsustainable staffing structures compared to overall pupil numbers.
- Increase in staffing costs, not covered by funding uplifts.
- Having to operate additional classes due to infant class size legislation.
- Increasing cost pressures relating to SEND.

Bottisham Village College and many primary schools in the division have communicated with parents to explain that hard decisions are likely to be made over the summer to ensure financial stability. In most cases, schools' valuable support staff are likely to be hit first.

Special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) inspection

National inspectors from Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission (CQC) last month published their report on provision for children and young people with SEND in the county.

The County Council and the NHS are jointly responsible for the planning and commissioning of these services as part of the Cambridgeshire Area SEND Partnership, for children and young people with SEND in Cambridgeshire. The partnership has been given the middle rating of three possible outcomes.

The inspectors highlighted several areas of good practice, including a clear and coherent strategy, the capacity to improve provision, and strong relationships across the partnership. It made five recommendations for improvement:

1. Improved timeliness and quality of Education Health & Care Plans.
2. Improved access and shorter waiting times for specialist mental health pathways and neurodevelopmental assessments.
3. Better opportunities for 'co-production' with children and young people with SEND, so their voices and views are more fully included.
4. Improved support for children and young people with SEND as they prepare for adulthood, especially in mainstream schools.
5. Better communication of the local area partnership's offer, so that schools, services and families know about and understand what the area seeks to provide.

The council has already invested £500,000 to manage the increased demand for Education Health & Care Plans and approved a further £920,000 annual investment in February this year.

The full report is at <https://files.ofsted.gov.uk/v1/file/50276860>

COMMUNITIES, SOCIAL MOBILITY and INCLUSION (COSMIC)

Find your family in the library

Did you know that Cambridgeshire Libraries give you access to Ancestry, the database where you can search millions of historical documents and genealogy resources, including the 1921 census? Ancestry is available at the County Council's 33 libraries and is free to access with your library card.

ENVIRONMENTAL & GREEN INVESTMENT

Disposable vapes ban

From 1 June it will be illegal to sell or supply disposable vapes. The government ban is being introduced to tackle the impact of these items on the environment.

It is also hoped the move will help cut the number of children and young people vaping. Retailers caught breaking the law in England face a minimum £200 fine, with a prison sentence of up to two years for repeat offences. Trading Standards will be able to seize any single-use vapes they find. It is estimated that almost five million single-use vapes a week are either littered or thrown away in general waste in the UK.

Fire service issue battery charging safety reminder

Charging batteries have caused six fires in homes across the county so far this year. Firefighters have been called to fires involving batteries being overcharged, resulting in thermal run-away from the lithium-ion contained in them and causing significant damage to people's homes.

HIGHWAYS & TRANSPORT

Buses

The new Tiger Bus Network services, T4 (Newmarket to Addenbrookes) and T5 (Soham to Cambridge) started to run on 27 May. Residents have already shared concerns with me about these new services related to:

- Impacts of the timing of services reaching end destinations in Cambridge
- Lack of an evening service
- Lack of a Sunday service
- No equivalent services south of Newmarket
- The review period being inadequate (students will be on their summer holidays)

I have written to the Cambridge and Peterborough Combined Authority to share these concerns, but also to ask for an extension to the review period to make sure there is sufficient time for all regular users to have appropriate use of the service before it is reviewed. I will keep you posted on progress.

Capital highway maintenance programme – 2025/26

As part of the councils £59,332,000 Capital maintenance programme for 2025/26, the work scheduled for 2025/26 is shared in a separate document covering work across the whole of the Woodditton division. This will not include specific works to be covered by Local Highways Improvements (LHI) projects. There are also ongoing emergency works that arise with little warning. When they do occur the chair and clerk should also be copied into these notices.

I'll share progress against this work every couple of months and will be looking into how I can influence the priorities for our area in 2026/27. Highways was a significant focus throughout the election, and I remain committed to continuously finding better ways to engage Parish Councils and the wider community in work needing to be done; why some work can't be undertaken, or using expected methods; and on action taken to progress work that is scheduled.

Cllr Jonny Edge, 07974 348141, jonny.edge@cambridgeshire.gov.uk