

Sturton le Steeple Parish Council

www.sturtonlesteeplesparishcouncil.gov.uk

Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting of Sturton le Steeple Parish Council held on May 8th 2024, at 7.00 pm at The Village Hall in Sturton le Steeple

Present Councillors A. Frankish (in the Chair), P. Appleyard, E. Byatt, L. Clapperton & A Bradley

Also Present: Clerk & RFO: Julie Tisi plus Dist Cllr James Naish (in part)

Public: 1

Guests:

The meeting commenced at 7.00 pm

Public Forum Nothing to report

05.24.01 Election of Chairman

It was proposed by Cllr Appleyard and seconded by Cllr Byatt that Cllr Frankish remain as Chair, all members in agreement. Whilst Cllr Frankish is happy to remain as Chair, he is keen to step down and some point soon and so the PC will be looking to fill this position

05.24.02 Election of Vice-Chairman

It was proposed by Cllr Bradley and seconded by Cllr Frankish that Cllr Byatt act as Vice-Chair, all members in agreement. Chair would like to express thanks to Cllr Appleyard for all he has done whilst in post. Cllr Appleyard will work with Cllr Byatt in the short term to hand the role over.

05.24.03 Welcome and Apologies for Absence

Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting, including a member of the public who was in attendance with a view to applying for one of the vacant Cllr seats.

05.24.04 Comments from the Chair

Cllr Frankish would like to make residents aware that further Cllrs are needed to join the PC, we now have 3 vacant seats. If you are interested in becoming a Cllr please contact the Clerk via email clerk@sturtonlesteeplesparishcouncil.gov.uk to find out more, or come along to our next meeting to see what its all about. We are currently running at a very reduced capacity, which means our current Cllrs, all of whom are volunteers are having to take on more responsibilities.

05.24.06 To elect Representatives for: -

- A. Sturton Hall Management Committee – **Cllr Frankish**
- B. Highways – **Clerk**
- C. Lengthsman - **Cllr Appleyard**
- D. The Playing Field - **Cllr Bradley, Cllr Clapperton will take over responsibility for maintenance of reflection garden**
- E. Emergency planning, including winter preparation - **None**
- F. Traffic calming - **Cllr Frankish**
- G. Charities - **Cllr Frankish**

- H. Parish Forum and DCllr / Cllr liaison – **None**
- I. Communication with press / school / website / newsletters – **All Cllrs**
- J. Defib monthly checks and maintenance - **Cllr Appleyard**

Please note that due to reduced number of Cllrs we are unable to elect representative for all areas

05.24.07 Declarations of Interest

To receive disclosures of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests pursuant to section 31 Localism Act 2011 from councillors on matters considered at this meeting.

Cllr Frankish – Village Hall

Cllr Bradley – Quarry, RES and Car Meets

05.24.08 Planning Matters

New Applications

None at time agenda was printed

Applications awaiting decision

Single Storey Rear Extension Crossways Cross Street Sturton Le Steeple Nottinghamshire DN22 9HW

Ref. No: 24/00341/HSE | Received: Fri 22 Mar 2024 | Validated: Wed 27 Mar 2024 | **Status:**
Awaiting decision

Reserved Matters Application Pursuant to Application 22/01123/OUT Landscaping, Layout, Scale and Appearance Land At Roses Farm Station Road Sturton Le Steeple Nottinghamshire

Ref. No: 24/00173/RES | Received: Mon 12 Feb 2024 | Validated: Fri 23 Feb 2024 | **Status:**
Awaiting decision -Update Highways and Conservation England have both objected to this application

Change of Use from Agricultural Land to Domestic Use Including Erection of Stable Block and Exercise Arena (Retrospective)

Manor Farmhouse Three Lays Lane Sturton Le Steeple Retford Nottinghamshire DN22 9HF
Ref. No: 22/01280/COU | Received: Tue 20 Sep 2022 | Validated: Wed 22 Feb 2023 | **Status:**
Awaiting decision

Applications Complete

Retrospective Application for a Rear Conservatory Bluebell Meadow Cross Street Sturton Le Steeple Nottinghamshire DN22 9HW

Ref. No: 24/00242/HSE | Received: Thu 29 Feb 2024 | Validated: Tue 12 Mar 2024 | **Status: Grant**

Erect Front Entrance Wall and Gated Entrance to the Existing Drive Access, Erect Canopy to Front Elevation of Dwelling and Install New French Door Opening to Rear Elevation

Streton House Church Street Sturton Le Steeple Nottinghamshire DN22 9HQ
Ref. No: 24/00183/HSE | Received: Tue 13 Feb 2024 | Validated: Fri 16 Feb 2024 | **Status: Grant**

Other Planning matters

UKAEA STEPS project update

West Burton site is now fully decommissioned and was handed over to Brown & Mason (B&M) on 8 January 2024 for commencement of the demolition programme. Work has commenced on installing separate water main supplies and the installation of an 11kV power supply to the National

Grid sub-station for future use of the site by UKAEA. This is the work you will have seen down Gainsborough Road and Station Road recently. Local people will have noticed that the Welcome sign at the entrance to site has been refreshed and incorporates the EDF, WBE and UKAEA logos.

West Burton Decommissioning

B&M has explained that the demolition timeline at both sites remains the same. They have been asked if details of blowout events (explosions) can be communicated to the wider population as some residents were unaware of the last 'blow down' event at Cottam and were so concerned they raised 999 calls. Unfortunately, using social media could encourage large crowds from outside the local area to come close to the site and cause issues on the local roads, etc. The plan is to inform people via a letter drop the week before the event.

Wood Lane Solar Farm

It has been confirmed that there are significant delays with construction work now not starting until qtr 3, 2026 with a completion date now earlier than qtr 4, 2027. These delays have been caused by the delay in getting a grid connection. I would appear there is a big backlog in getting these connections.

Bole Battery Storage

No update

Upgrade to the National Grid

It has been confirmed via Cllr Appleyard that repair works will take place to verges once the ground has dried out

Village Communication

Awaiting information from Cllr Naish, which he aims to complete this month

05.24.09 Police Report

None received, no items to raise currently

05.24.10 Car Meets

Chris Jewitt has provided the PC with a copy of his event public liability insurance and risk assessments for the Car Meets. The PC are satisfied with measures in place and the field can be used for future meets. There is some concern that the surface of the field may still be soft in places and therefore will ask that any damage caused by vehicles is rectified following the events.

05.24.11 Parish Council Vacancies

Advertised on noticeboards, further requests for Cllrs to be placed on Facebook page and website

05.24.12 Christian Heritage

Cllr Clapperton has made great progress in her investigations and is due to meet with a member of BDC who will assist with funding forms. There is upto £10,000 available and we will apply for the maximum amount. There will be a requirement for the PC to add 10% to the funds from their own reserves. Images from 3 artists/sculptors shared with the Council. Item will be discussed again at the next meeting once funding applications are in place. Cllr Clapperton would also like the PC to consider doing something to celebrate the Villages energy history, this could be via use of the Village Hall. Cllr Frankish will pick up on conversations with EDF regarding previously offered donation of £5000.

Cllr Ogle not in attendance

Dist Cllr James Naish shared the following report:

£20M OF LEVELLING UP PROJECTS AGREED

Work has recently been completed with the UK Government to agree how £20 million of regeneration funding will be invested across Bassetlaw through its Levelling Up Partnership. The local projects given the go-ahead include:

- Streetscape improvements in Retford, Tuxford and Worksop that could include improved shop frontages, access improvements and other public realm improvements.
- The employment of a STEP Skills & Engagement Officer to raise awareness of the opportunities that will be created by the prototype fusion power plant at West Burton.
 - A new banking and community accessible space at Retford Town Hall.

For information on all projects, please visit: <https://www.bassetlaw.gov.uk/media-centre/news/news-archive/march-2024/levelling-up-funding-on-its-way-to-bassetlaw/>. These initiatives will be mobilising over the next few months.

BASSETLAW VOLUNTEER AWARDS

Volunteers play such an important role in our community and their efforts should be acknowledged.

Anyone is welcome to nominate a volunteer in Bassetlaw that has been supporting a voluntary or community group between April 2023 and March 2024.

For information on the awards being run by Bassetlaw Community and Voluntary Service (BCVS), please visit: <https://www.bcvs.org.uk/volunteer-awards-2024>.

COUNCIL AWARDED FOR ITS INDEPENDENT LIVING SCHEMES

In some positive news, Bassetlaw District Council has recently received national recognition for its work modernising independent living schemes for older people.

It was crowned the winner of the 'Neighbourhood Transformation' category at the AICO Community Awards held in Birmingham, having transformed independent living schemes in Worksop and Harworth & Bircotes.

Similar schemes are planned over the next two years at Conway Gardens in Retford and Swallow Court in Misterton as part of a £117m investment in council properties over the next five years to ensure they are safe, comfortable and energy efficient places to live.

EAST MIDLANDS INVESTMENT ZONE FINALISED

Plans to unlock £160 million in government grants have recently been formalised through the creation of the East Midlands Investment Zone (EMIZ) - part of which will be in Bassetlaw.

The EMIZ is intended to act as a catalyst for new investments from existing companies in the region, including Laing O'Rourke in Bassetlaw and Rolls-Royce in Derby.

Together, the three sites involved – including one in Worksop – are intended to support growth in the green industries and advanced manufacturing sectors across the East Midlands as a whole. It's expected they will collectively help to bring in over £380 million in private investment and upwards of 4,000 jobs to the region.

FLASH FLOODING

Although there hasn't been any significant flooding in Bassetlaw since the start of the year, flash flooding caused by storms remains a risk through the spring/summer and residents are encouraged to take their own measures to protect properties wherever they can.

You can find more information about how best to do that here:

<https://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/planning-and-environment/flooding-help-and-advice/during-a-flood>.

The Parish Council is continuing to work hard to push for appropriate investment, especially on our highways (North Street / Cross Street), and I am helping with these efforts where I can.

LOCAL ELECTION RESULTS

On 2nd May, Nottinghamshire voted in two elections: for its Police & Crime Commissioner and for the new mayor for the East Midlands.

The new Police & Crime Commissioner, who is responsible for overseeing the performance of the police on behalf of the public, is an ex-policeman called Gary Godden.

The new mayor for the East Midlands is Claire Ward, Chair at Sherwood Forest Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust. The East Midlands mayor will have powers devolved from Westminster in the areas of transport, housing, skills and adult education, economic development and the environment. We will work especially closely with the new mayor in Sturton Ward due to the size and importance of the STEP project which candidates frequently talked about during the election period. I'm happy to answer any questions about these positions if residents want to get in touch.

RES / PLANNING MATTERS

A small number of residents are in regular contact with me about potential development projects in the area which are causing concern. As a reminder, many of these projects are speculative and haven't been formally submitted yet - including the STEP project which won't formally enter planning until the second half of the decade.

I have requested an update meeting with the RES solar farm developers which will take place in the next 10 days. The Parish Council will be present. There are known constraints on connecting to the National Grid in the area, meaning the timelines for many of the proposed projects are likely to shift even if they get permission. Please call me to discuss any concerns in these areas - I appreciate that they are complex and lots of different organisations are involved.

RURAL ENGLAND PROSPERITY FUND

In September 2022, the Government launched the Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF) prospectus as an addition to the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF). In November 2022, the District Council secured an additional £714,251 of capital funding for Bassetlaw.

There is still a small amount of funding available:

For community groups: £20,597.50. This will focus on “REC2: Funding focus on EV and improved accessibility” and “REC5: Funding focus on maker spaces, galleries and cultural/heritage”.

For businesses: £89,490.00. This will focus on “REB1: Funding (capital grants) for small scale investment in micro and small enterprises in rural areas” and “REB3: Funding focus on trails, tourism and visitor economy”.

Further details on the funding available can be found here:

<https://www.bassetlaw.gov.uk/business-advice/rural-england-prosperity-fund-repf/>. The deadline for applications is 15 May 2024 at 12noon.

WARD BOUNDARY CHANGES

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England is looking at the ward boundaries for Bassetlaw District Council. This is due to population growth since the last boundary review in 2000, meaning some wards are under-represented (e.g. there is one ward in Worksop with around 8,000 people represented by 3 councillors vs. 2,000 per councillor normally). The Commission will produce proposals for consultation by 30 July 2024 but, in the meantime, you can look at the ongoing work here:

<https://www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/bassetlaw>

05.24.14 Traffic Speeding/Calming Measures

Cllr Frankish has had agreement that the traffic camera will be replaced, but not date given

05.24.15 Highways and Public Safety

Traffic lights on Wheatley Road. VIA have confirmed that they are working with Natural England but are unable to touch the site until the 1st of July at the earliest. Information will be shared as and when available

05.24.16 Road Closures

Gainsborough Road to Station Road, one lane closure 13th – 17th May

Freemans Lane, one lane closure 3rd June – 7th June

05.24.17 The Lengthsman

Reflection garden needs to be weeded, however, after discussion it was agreed that Cllr Clapperton would do this alongside some volunteers. The PC agreed to provide £300 for the purchase of bedding plants and weed suppressors.

05.24.18 Minutes from Meeting held on 10th April 2024

It was resolved that the minutes were taken as read, approved and signed by the Chairman as an accurate record of the meeting.

05.24.19 Matters Arising

None

05.24.20 Parish Councillor Email Addresses

Now in use

05.24.21 Flooding

Cllr Appleyard is now awaiting a formal response from Matt Duckworth at VIA, he will also follow up on issues reported by residents at North Street Corner.

05.24.22 Correspondence received at time Agenda was issued

A resident has queried missing bin on Springs Lane, Clerk to follow up with Environmental Health. Cllr Naish informed the PC that some lesser used bins had been removed from the villages.

Resident contacted the PC alongside Dist and County Councils, regarding spatter pollution. Cllr Naish informed the PC that a response has been provided.

05.24.23 Finance

Monthly bank reconciliation

It was resolved that the bank reconciliation was correct and signed accordingly.

To receive the annual Internal Audit Report for 2022-2023 financial year and consider any action required to be taken

Internal audit has now been completed by Glenda James, no action required, accounts have been duly signed as an accurate record of financials for the year ending 30th March 2024

To consider and resolve to approve the Annual Governance Statement for the 2023-2024 financial year.

AGAR forms duly signed by Chair and will now be submitted to PKF Littlejohn by the Clerk

Village Hall Request for £5000 emergency funding donation

To be discussed during item 05.24.25

Concrete pad Village Hall carpark

2 quotes now received for concrete pad for VH carpark, one for £932 and one for £350. The lower quote of £350 will be accepted, all members in agreement. Cllr Appleyard will now ask for work to be carried out

05.24.24 April payments for approval

Voucher	Date	Reason	Payment	Receipt
P9	30-Apr-24	NALC Councillor Training	-£45.00	
P8	30-Apr-24	HMRC Tax	-£7.60	
P7	30-Apr-24	Clerk Salary and Expense April	-£389.95	
P6	30-Apr-24	Darby's Payroll	-£113.40	
R3	24-Apr-24	HMRC VAT Reclaim		£4,749.42
R2	16-Apr-24	St Peter and Pauls Church Grass Cutting		£994.00
R1	12-Apr-24	BDC Precept		£10,388.00
P5	04-Apr-24	Sturton Hall Hire	-£18.00	
P4	04-Apr-24	S137 Sturton Friends	-£30.00	
P3	04-Apr-24	Jack Foster Lengthsman	-£144.00	
P2	02-Apr-24	Clerk Salary and Expense March	-£374.91	
P1	31-Mar-24	Unity Bank Service Charge	-£18.00	
			-£1,140.86	£16,131.42

Resolved that payments are correct; BACS payments will be approved by

05.24.25 Reports from other groups and committees

Playpark safety report

Cllr Bradley informed PC that he is still awaiting quote to have curved bench repaired. Tree branch needs to be cut down and the new benches need to be built and sited. Cllrs Appleyard and Frankish will work alongside Cllr Bradley to build and site.

Quarry Liaison

A presentation will be held in the Village Hall on the 23rd May, further information to follow

Sturton Renewable RES.

Survey has now gone out via social media and mailings will be completed by this week. Fields for Farming have requested a donation from the PC to cover the cost of printing and advertising materials. The PC agreed to a donation of upto £300, Cllr Appleyard to provide clerk with receipts.

Village Hall

Chair would like to extend thanks on behalf of the PC and the VH Trustees to Susan Evans who has now completed her last day of employment with the Trust.

The Village Hall has written to all residents informing of the need to get more trustees and volunteers to assist with the running of the Hall which is facing an uncertain future. The trustees are exploring what options are available to them and will present a business plan to the PC at the next meeting where we will explore the option of the Parish Council becoming the Sole Trustee.

Church Update

Meeting was cancelled so no update available

05.24.26 Village update

Cllr Byatt will pick up the issue of compensation from Morrisons for damage caused during storm Babet;

Monthly defibrillator check has been carried out.

The meeting closed at 9.12 pm

Date of next meeting Wednesday 12th June at 7.00pm

I declare that this is an accurate account of the meeting and agree to accept the minutes as a true account.

Signed:

Chairman Sturton le Steeple Parish Council

Date:

Julie Tisi– Clerk, Tel. 07557 762 012 – clerk@sturtonlesteeplesparishcouncil.gov.uk