

Sturton le Steeple Parish Council

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Wednesday June 14th June 2025 at 6.30pm, Sturton Village Hall.

1. Welcome from the Chairman

The Chair of the Parish Council, Councillor Emily Byatt, opened the meeting with a welcome to councillors.

2. Minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting – 12th June 2024

Minutes were published following the Annual Parish Meeting in 2024 and as such were taken as read and signed by the Chair. There were no matters arising.

3. Village updates

Nothing to report other than what is contained in the reports.

4. Annual Report from the Church Warden

Structure, Governance and Management

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. All Church attendees are encouraged to register on the electoral roll and stand for election to the PCC.

Objectives and Activities

St Peter and St Paul's Parochial church council is part of the United Benefice of the Clays - Retford and is responsible for cooperating with the Rector, The Reverend Mark Cantrill, in promoting with the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, Pastoral, evangelistic, social, and ecumenical. It also has the maintenance responsibility for the grade 2" listed Church and the Church yard at St Peter & St Paul.

Incumbent/Chair:	Rev Mark Cantrill
Churchwarden/vice chair:	Mrs Barbara Bartle
Churchwarden:	Mrs Susan Bartle
Secretary:	Mrs Lesley Warburton
Treasurer:	Mrs Sue Harries
Elected Member:	Mrs Louise Glover
Elected Member:	Mrs Isabel Robinson
Elected Member:	Mr David Moore

There are 21 people on the electoral roll.

Church Wardens Report

During the last year we have hosted 2 weddings, 2 funerals and 9 baptisms. We sadly lost our lovely John, Barbara's husband before Christmas this year, an unimaginable shock. He blessed our church in so many ways. Apart from Holy Communion services we also host our special services, our annual service at Littleborough on the first Sunday in September, Hope and Remembrance on the first Sunday of advent and our crib service on Christmas Eve. Over 200 mums, dads and Grandparents

were in attendance this year, led by Rev. Mark Cantrill. Our barn harvest took place at Sturton High House. This was held in the corn store refreshments were served in the marque, enjoyed by all.

We have always enjoyed strong links with our Church school. The children and parents regularly visit Church for services. Barbara also has individual classes in the Church to do various activities. Mothering Sunday cards, Crosses for Easter, Noah's Ark and Creation.

Sturton Church Playgroup

The Church playgroup is held every fortnight in Church Numbers vary from 6 to 13 children. It is a lovely group of Parents, grandparents and childminders. The children are a delight and so well behaved. The playgroup is organised and run by Barbara with help from Veronica and others. We have been very busy this year, with our social and fundraising events. A support of the church, Jeanette Harris, organised a summer event on the playing field, with games and stalls. It was very successful. Thanks Jeanette, Our Christmas Tree Lighting and annual raffle was again very successful.

Fabric

We work constantly to keep up to date with required on our quinquennial inspection and a strong team of people from the village help to keep the church and grounds tidy, we would like to thank Anders Howard for supplying and fitting led lights in the North aisle and the Chancel, at no cost to us, they make a huge difference and improve our eco credentials.

Finance

Financially we have survived another year. It has been very difficult. Our aim is to plan a fundraising activity for every month which is not easy

Safeguarding

To our knowledge there have been no safeguarding issues in our Church. We will remain vigilant and endeavour to keep all our training current, as per the official guidelines.

Goals for 2025

Generate more funding, improve our hospitality provision (new kitchen units). Attempt to recruit younger people to the PCC

5. Annual Report from the Chair of the Parish Council – Emily Byatt

Reflecting on the accomplishments and challenges over the 2024-25 year, I am proud that our team of dedicated Parish councillors have helped foster a growing culture of togetherness, community and pride in where we live. It is important to recognise the valuable contributions from of a great many councillors and residents who have gifted their time, energy, enthusiasm, talents and hard work to serving our community. Together we are stronger, healthier and happier. Together we are more resilient and able to unite in our plight to be heard during the national transformation in the way we produce sustainable energy.

In many ways, the year has been dominated and overshadowed by the uncertainty, threat and vulnerability of large-scale industrialisation. Understandably, residents have expressed their concerns

around proposed changes alongside the existing projects that are already underway. As a Parish Council, we have endeavoured to be responsive and take timely action. We have continued to collaborate with 'Fields for Farming', a devoted resident's group who are committed to raising public awareness of the potential impact of planned and speculative projects. The campaign has produced posters, banners, leaflets that have been posted to residents and conducted a survey to capture the views of residents. This work is ongoing, and we encourage residents who use social media to follow 'Fields for Farming' on Facebook. We have also worked hard to hold existing projects accountable for their impact. This has included ensuring that they adhere to agreed plans (travel, parking, road cleaning) and repairing damage to verges.

Amidst the backdrop of uncertainty of what the future holds for our small rural community, there has been several successes worth celebrating.

Village Hall

Cllr Frankish has kindly prepared a detailed report regarding the village hall detailing the combined efforts of the volunteers so I will not duplicate information here, however, I would like to acknowledge his dedication to building a sustainable future of our valued village hall. I would like to extend my thanks to Mrs Evans, who recently stepped down from the Parish council, as she has organised several community events that were significant fundraisers for the hall.

Drainage

Following flooding in 2023 which resulted in travel disruption, car and property damage we consulted with VIAs Drainage Manager and Notts County Council to consider future flood prevention. In response, work has been carried out to install a new larger drain near the pond. While this has resulted in some play field subsidence, which will be addressed in the near future, overall, we are very pleased with the outcome and are optimistic that it will prevent future flash flooding. Particular thanks to Cllr Appleyard for facilitating the completion of this project. Communication is ongoing to address concerns raised on North Street and we hope to have a resolution soon.

Village Events

It has been a pleasure to see community events being hosted in the village. This includes Sturton Rocks, the Church Village Fair, the Christmas tree lighting and VE Day Picnic in the Park.

Play Park

We have installed new goal mouths on the playing field football pitch which have been well utilised.

Reflection Garden Sculpture

Cllr Clapperton led a project to create a positive focal point within the reflection garden. She collaborated with stakeholders and secured heritage funding from Bassetlaw Council through a competitive application process as well as a donation to fully fund the project. A local historian presented a 'History of our Village' talk about the Parish at the Village Hall in Autumn 2024. The local artist that we commissioned worked with children at the school to co-produce the sculpture in honour of our Christian Heritage and links to The Pilgrims. The unveiling celebration took place on the 31st of March 2025 and was attended by approximately 50 people. We look forward to welcoming tourists and people on heritage walking trails to our parish in the coming months. Thank you, Cllr Clapperton. I would also like to extend my appreciation to the volunteers who maintain, and have been watering the garden during periods of dry weather.

St. Peter and St. Paul's Church

An enthusiastic team of volunteers comprised of local residents, members of the Church and staff from Aggregate Industries spent time in February cleaning the village and tidying the Church grounds. We thank them for their time and efforts. Additionally, the PC and Church committee have funded the replacement of the church fence after it was installed 35yrs ago.

Looking ahead to the 2025-26 year, we aim to increase public involvement and further improve communication with residents. We plan to use a donation from EDF to commission a bespoke bench in recognition of our significant energy heritage.

As I hope you can hear from my report above, volunteering can be deeply rewarding and meaningful both personally and collectively. Our community thrives when willing volunteers share their time, ideas and work together as a team. I invite anyone who values driven and would like to make a positive difference in our community to consider joining our Parish Council. If you would like to know more about the role or have any questions, please do get in touch. Thanks again to all the Parish Councillors who have served over the past 12months, Julie Tisi (our wonderful Clerk) and the many volunteers who have supported our community.

6. Annual Report from the Chair of the Sturton Hall MC

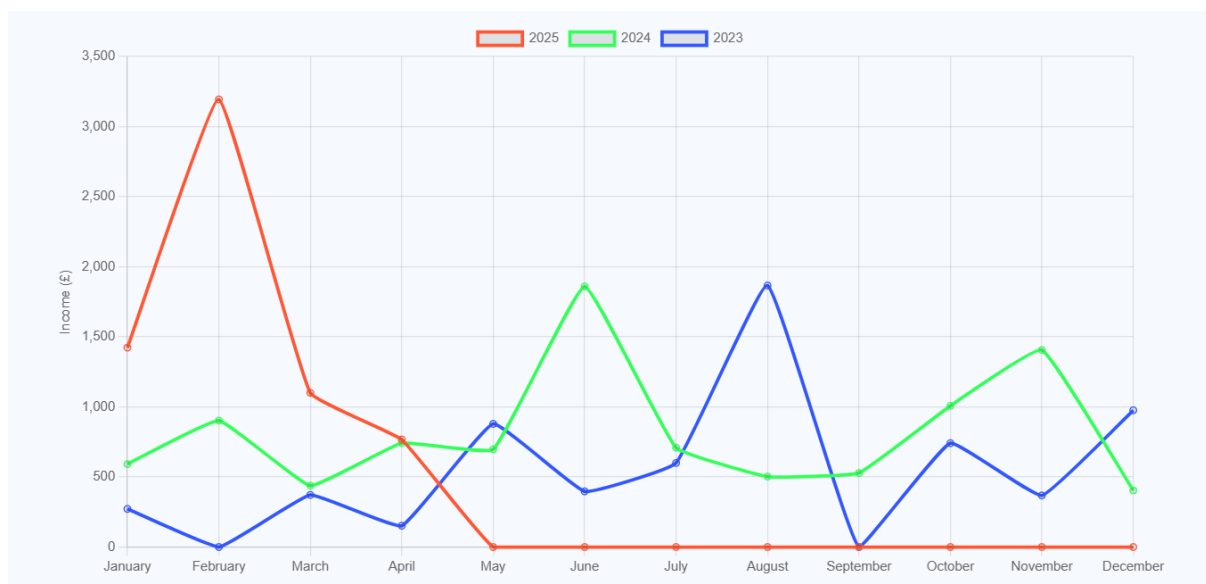
After a challenging year in 2023/2024, the Village Hall has made significant strides toward stabilizing its operations and generating a positive cash flow for the first three months of 2025. Although still delicately balanced, we are optimistic about our financial outlook. For the period from April 2024 to the end of March 2025, we achieved an unaudited income of £24,516. It is essential to highlight that this total was significantly enhanced by a generous community grant of £9,084 from Severn Trent, awarded in October 2024. This grant has been invaluable for helping us cover our running costs over the subsequent 12 months. Without this financial boost, our total income would have been limited to £15,432. In comparison, our total outgoing expenses for the same period were recorded at £14,213, which illustrates a modest surplus. At the time of writing this report, the bank balance stands at [please insert the bank balance here], reflecting our cautious yet hopeful approach to future operations.

Bookings for the Village Hall have steadily improved over the last year, and we are thrilled to announce the addition of several regular clubs utilizing our space. Among these are Yoga and Slimming World, which have both brought vibrant community activities to the Hall. They complement our existing regular bookings, which include a choir, a craft club, various dance classes, and the Sturton Friends, a regular gathering for local residents. In terms of usage, our booking numbers have shown a positive trajectory: in 2024, we recorded a total of 219 bookings, which is an increase from 209 in 2023. For 2025, we have already reached 236 bookings, including forward bookings, and currently have a promising pipeline of £4,177 worth of future reservations at the time of writing this report.

Another significant contributor to increased bookings has been the partnership with the NHS, which has been using the Hall as an outsourced training centre. While this arrangement has provided us with much-needed income, it is important to note that this revenue source cannot be guaranteed for 2026, which makes it imperative for us to continue exploring and securing additional venue rental opportunities.

The Village Hall has consistently received excellent feedback from its users, with a commendable Google rating of 4.4. This positive response not only reflects the quality of our facilities but also underscores our commitment to being one of the best values and most versatile venues in the area. Despite these successes, the Hall relies heavily on the dedication of a small team of volunteers for its operations. Aside from cleaning services, which are contracted to a local company, the majority of the work is carried out by our enthusiastic volunteers. Their unwavering support is crucial to our ongoing success, and as we look to the future, we recognize the pressing need for additional helpers to join our efforts.

We invite anyone in the community who has some time to spare to consider lending a hand. Your involvement can make a meaningful difference in maintaining and enhancing the Village Hall as a vital community asset. Please get in touch with us to learn more about how you can contribute to our mission and help us continue to provide a welcoming and valuable space for all residents. Together, we can ensure that the Village Hall remains a thriving hub for community activities and events for years to come.



7. Report from Sturton le Steeple Charities

THE STURTON CHARITIES

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES TO THE PARISH COUNCIL

The Trustees of the Sturton Charities are pleased to present their report for the year 2024.

The Annual Returns for each of the Charities were lodged, and receipt thereof confirmed by the Charities Commission, on 31 January 2025.

The Charity assets have been continually let and all income duly received. At the end of 2023, the Charities held distributable funds totalling £5,306, having made one grant of £300 during the year to a student who is now attending university.

The objectives of the Charitable Trusts remain the provision of clothing to those in need (which is deemed to include students about to incur sizeable loans) and the support of special education requirements at the village school. Grant applications are welcome from anyone providing they live in the Parish of Sturton-le-Steeple. Any help that Councillors or parishioners can give in nominating potential beneficiaries would be much appreciated.

Margaret Telfer

Other Trustees:

Chair of the Trustees

Mrs E Bradley

Mr M Hodgson

Mr C J Phoenix (Treasurer)

8. Report from the School

Staffing

Headteacher – Mark Elliott

Senior Teacher & LKS2 – Gemma Gibson

EYFS – Devon Newbould

KS1 – Jo Downing

UKS2 – Harriet Parker (maternity cover)

Learning support – Carl Walker, Kelly Daykin, Hannah Bartle and Lucy Spittlehouse.

Office Manager – Vanessa Elliott

Caretaker – Adam Brelsford

Chef – Guy Rogers

From September the structure of school will remain as EYFS (Foundation 1 & 2), Class 1 (KS1), Class 2 (LKS2) and Class 3 (UKS2). We currently have 105 children attending our school with some year groups full.

Governors We currently have a full Governing Body who meet at least three times a term. Mrs. Julie Barlow is the Chair of Governors.

Clubs

So far this year we have had: Striders, Makaton, Sports Club and Bike Handling

Wraparound Provision

This runs from 7.45 – 8.45am and 3.30 – 5.30 each day.

Workshops/Visits/Fixtures/Events

The school have taken part in sporting activities at The Elizabethan Academy. The Y6 will be visiting London in June as a thank you for their time at Sturton. A team entered the Rotary Swimathon and included the winning of two awards. Some year groups have competed in multi-skills festivals throughout the year against other schools. Several visits to Church have taken

place for end of term and Christian festivals. The Egg Drop was a huge success this year. The annual overnight camp will take place in July again. Weekly Merit Assemblies are well-attended by families. Christmas productions were another success, with a packed school hall for all four performances. Children in Class 2 helped work on the Pilgrim Fathers sculpture in the village.

Building & Site

We are currently fund-raising to install an all-weather track around the perimeter of the school field. This will allow the children to opportunity to run/walk distances both in PE lessons but also at break times, therefore promoting more activity.

Admissions

We welcome 11 children to Foundation 2 in September. We say goodbye to 10 Year 6 in July. They are going to The Elizabethan Academy, Tuxford Academy and Queen Elizabeth High School.

Staff development

As part of our ongoing commitment to support staff development we have one member of staff undertaking a Foundation degree to be able to qualify to teach, one member of staff who qualified as a teacher, and one staff member on a National Professional Qualifications (NPQs) in SEND.

PTFA

They also help to provide extras and subsidise some activities that we provide.

Parking

Although parking has always been an issue at Sturton, as it is around many schools, we have increasing numbers of children from out of the village and therefore parking is required. The school would welcome any support and assistance in improving/adding to the availability of parking close to the school. This would also be a community benefit.

Although the budget is increasingly tight due to increased staffing and operational costs, we strive to maintain the high-quality provision in a well-maintained and well-resourced school with experienced staff. The support of the community means a great deal, myself and the staff continue to be proud to work at Sturton Le Steeple C of E Primary School.

9. Police Report

No annual report available

10. Public Forum

3 residents attended the meeting, concern raised over the proposed RES plans and the cumulative impact on the Village of that and all other projects in the area. Whilst there has generally been an acceptance of the STEP project, that alongside the Quarry, Solar Farm, National grid updates and yet submitted plans by RES will have a huge impact on the area. Newly elected Dist Cllr Matt Turner attended the meeting and took on board all concerns raised, over the coming month he will investigate the proposal and is willing to offer support as required.

Other issues raised:

Removal of waste/dog poo bins – Clerk to liaise with Cllr Turner as we have been unable to resolve satisfactorily

Parking by the school – to place on the agenda for June

Meeting closed at 7.02pm