

## **Strensham Parish Council**

**Minutes of the Meeting** of the Parish Council held on 15<sup>th</sup> May 2025 at Strensham Village Hall.

**Present:** Cllr. Guilding (Chair), Cllr. Gribble, Cllr. Clements, Cllr. Potter, Cllr. Hogan, and District Cllr. Middlebrough.

**270/25 Welcome and Apologies:** Cllr. Pedley, Cllr. Gilder, County Cllr. Hardman

**271/25 Declarations of Interest & Dispensation Requests from Councillors:** None.

**272/25 Election of Strensham Parish Council Chair and Vice Chair:** Cllr. Guilding proposed as Chair by Cllr. Gribble, seconded by Cllr. Potter. Approved by unanimous vote.

Cllr. Gribble proposed as Vice Chair by Cllr. Guilding, seconded by Cllr. Clement. Approved by unanimous vote.

**273/25 Minutes:** of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2025 were approved and signed by Cllr. Guilding.

**274/25 Matters Arising and Progress Reports:**

- a) **Rural Fund project for the Village – Playground Project WRF110 / Replacement Swings for Play Area REPF08:** Positive feedback has been received from Parishioners. Contracted project outputs have been accepted by Wychavon District Council. The Project is now complete.
- b) **Lengthsman vacancy:** Steve Baker is now in post and active as Lengthsman.
- c) **Dog fouling in Upper Strensham:** It was agreed that an email would be sent to all residents reminding them of their legal obligation to keep roads and pathways clear of dog excrement. Additional notices are to be requested from Wychavon District council.
- d) **Replacement Parish notice board:** The Parish Noticeboard located at the Village Hall is too small and the internal board is too hard to take pins easily. The Board will be refurbished and relocated to replace the board in Lower Strensham A replacement-Notice Board will cost approximately £2,500. Cllr. Hardman is to be approached to ask whether Worcestershire County Council could assist with funding for a new board.
- e) **CCTV:** There have been two major vehicle thefts in Strensham, and similar crimes within neighbouring parishes, within the past 12 months. The potential benefits and regulations associated with the installation of CCTV cameras were discussed. It was agreed that additional Police surveillance would be more effective. Action: Clerk to email West Mercia Police and raise as a priority for the Parish.
- f) **AGAR Digital and Data Compliance:** The new Small Authorities Proper Practices Panel Practitioners' Guide sets out a new assertion on the AGAR for 2025/26 around Digital and Data Compliance. One of the requirements is that every authority must have a generic email account hosted on an authority owned domain (e.g. ".gov.uk"). The requirements for individual email addresses and a Parish website were discussed. Action: Clerk to research continued availability of Worcestershire County Council "My Parish" facility and email/website supplier costs.

**275/25 Planning**

- a) **Solar Farm and Energy Storage together with associated works on land at Home Farm, Strensham. WR8 9LH (W/23/01011/FUL)/ Parcel 006 Bockeridge Common, Ripple, Gloucestershire (23/00400/FUL) –** Approval by Wychavon District Council will not be made until a Construction Traffic Management Plan has been completed. This will be shared with

those residents who are directly affected by the construction traffic. The possibility for residents to be offered discounted electricity from the Solar Farm was discussed. It was confirmed that no incentive scheme has been offered by the Developer. The site will revert to agricultural land when the Solar Farm is decommissioned at the end of its life (in approximately 40 years). Any subsequent development of this land would be dependent upon planning permission.

W/23/01011/FUL	Land at Home Farm, Strensham. WR8 9LH	Solar Farm and Energy Storage together with associated works	Pending Decision
W/24/023838/FUL	Severn Trent Water Plc Reclamation Works Mill Lane Strensham Worcester WR8 9LB	Installation of a Storage Shelter	Pending Decision
W/25/00645/FUL	M5 Services (South Bound) Hill View Road Strensham Worcester WR8 0BZ	Variation of condition 4 (travel plan) of application W/24/00700/FUL (New McDonalds drive thru.	Pending Decision
W/25/00677/FUL	Severn Trent Water Plc Reclamation Works Mill Lane Strensham Worcester WR8 9LB	Installation of up to four buildings	Pending Decision

#### 276/25 Other Matters

- a) **RoSPA Annual Inspection of Playground Area:** The playground was inspected in March 2025. No high-risk items were reported. Several items requiring routine maintenance were identified.
- b) **Recycling sack pick-up points:** Wychavon District Council are proposing to provide additional recycling sacks for Parishioners to collect from local pick-up points. Further information is awaited from Wychavon District Council.
- c) **Wychavon Parish Games.** The Games will run from the end of June to 5 October 2025. Entrance fee £10 / game is paid by Strensham Parish Council. Residents are to be informed of the Games.

#### 276/25 Highways Matters

- a) **Wychavon District Council - Road Closure 1660413.** Part of C2104 Bourne Road from its junction with A4104 Woodmancote to its junction with U60406 Baughton Lane will be closed for 2 days for Worcestershire County Council to carry out carriageway patching for surface dressing. The closure will be completed by 22nd May 2025.

#### 277/25 Financial Report

- a) **Approval of Annual Governance Statement 2024/25:** Cllr. Guilding proposed that the Annual Governance Statement was accepted. Seconded by Cllr. Hogan. Approved by all Councillors.
- b) **Approval of Accounting Statement 2024/25:** Cllr. Guilding proposed that the Accounting Statement was accepted. Seconded by Cllr. Gribble. Approved by all Councillors.

**a) Payments made:**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Payment to</b>	<b>Reason</b>	<b>Amount</b>
14/03/2025	J. Widdas	Supply & installation replacement swings and rubber surface overlay	£6,774.00
14/03/2025	J. Widdas	Supply & install replacement spring disc tops	£360.00
02/04/2025	HMRC	PAYE Payment for Clerk's Hrs 01/3/25 to 31/3/25	£66.80
04/04/2025	RoSPA Play Safety Ltd	Playground Inspection March 25	£124.80
04/04/2025	J. Knight	Payment for Clerk's Hrs 01/03/25 to 31/3/25	£266.58
04/04/2025	M. Gribble	Refund for printer cartridges	£11.12
06/04/2025	Lloyds Bank Ltd	Account charges for 10 Feb to 09 Mar 2025	£4.75
09/04/2025	Cotswold Drainage Ltd	Strensham Village Hall septic tank work: Remaining payment	£997.50
09/04/2025	M. Gribble	Refund for Easter Eggs bought to thank litter pickers	£45.00
25/04/2025	L.A. Garden Services	Mowing / Strimming March/April 2025	£225.00
25/04/2025	Worcestershire CALC	CALC Service Charge / NALC Affiliation fee	£281.71
06/05/2025	Lloyds Bank Ltd	Account charges for 10 Mar to 09 April 2025	£7.75
<b>Total</b>			<b>£9,165.01</b>

**b) Payments Received**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Payment to</b>	<b>Reason</b>	<b>Amount</b>
15/03/2025	Wychavon District Council	Award towards VE day celebrations	£250.00
25/03/2025	HMRC	Refund of VAT paid 01 April 2021 to 31 January 2025	£5,343.44
26/04/2025	Wychavon District Council	Grant 1	£154.00
26/04/2025	Wychavon District Council	Precept 1	£2,950.00
<b>Total</b>			<b>£8,697.44</b>

**c) Bank Balances**

<b>Current Account</b>	To 15 May 2025	<b>£8,841.55</b>
<b>Savings Account</b>	To 15 May 2025	<b>£1,996.99</b>

**278/25 Correspondence.**

- a) **Elan City Radar Speed Signs:** The warranty on one of the radar speed signs expires on 29<sup>th</sup> September 2025. Elan City have offered an opportunity to extend the warranty for a further three years. Cllr. Guldin proposed that the warranty be extended. Seconded by Cllr. Hogan. Approved by all Councillors.

**279/25 Cllrs. Reports & Items for Future Agenda**

- a) **District Councillor Middlebrough** offered apologies on behalf of County Councillor Hardman and confirmed that Cllr. Hardman was delighted to have been re-elected at the May 2025 County Council Elections. Following the elections the Reform Party are the largest party at County Hall. Wychavon awaits to find out how the council will be controlled. Cllr. Middlebrough advised that with immediate effect he will no longer be responsible for planning and instead will be working with Council leaders on the transition to the new Authority, the elections for which will take place in May 2027. Parish Council elections will also take place in May 2027.

**280/25 Topics Raised by Cllrs, Committee, Clerk and Parishioners:** None raised.

The meeting ended at 9.00pm.

Date of next meeting: Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2025.