

## **STERT PARISH COUNCIL**

### **Minutes of a meeting held at St James Church on Monday 2 June 2025 at 6.30pm**

**Present:** Chris Lawrence (chairman)(CL), Lucy Barker (LB), Alec Edwards (AE), , David Bromhead (DB), Jay Brown (clerk) (JB),

**Attendess:** Anne Harris (AH), Lewis Cowen (LC).

#### **1. Apologies: None**

#### **2. Declarations of interest: None**

**3. Minutes of previous meeting:** Minutes of a meeting held on Monday 3 March were accepted as an accurate record.

**4. Church Matters.** Clive Boyes, churchwarden together with Alex Cooper and David Stephenson gave a brief presentation about the condition of Stert church, especially the roof, and the state of the PCC finances. Various future scenarios were discussed.

The PCC wanted to address the village as a whole on these via the PC. It was agreed that the PCC could use the July Village Party as a platform

#### **5. Treasurer's report:**

- LB reported that the PC bank balance stands at £5,675.57. (Verified by CL).  
This includes the precept for 2025/6 of £2,000. It also includes a reserve of £350 for phone box renovation.
- Since our last meeting the PC has incurred the following expenses:  
Bank charges. £12.75  
Use of church £50.00
- Wordpress website £43.20 (reimbursement to W Howkins)
- WALC £86.51
- Parish Insurance £164.23 (payment to Community First) this was the last of a 3 year deal
- LB reported that the accounts have been audited and approved.
- LB requested authority to spend £100 on an amazon voucher as a gift for Neville Burrell, the PC auditor. This was approved.

#### **6 Exemption from external audit.**

LB presented the audited parish accounts for 2024/5 which showed that the income for the year was £1,500 and expenditure was £1,585.74. It was therefore agreed that the certificate of exemption from an external audit should be signed and approved. (Authorities where both the income and expenditure are below £25,000 are exempt from external audit).

#### **7 Annual governance statement 2024/5**

CL read out each item from the statement, confirming the PC has a sound system of internal financial control. The statement was then signed by CL.

### **8 PC Accounts for 2024/5**

LB circulated copies of the spreadsheet itemizing the income and expenditure for 2024/5. This spreadsheet had already been approved by Neville Burrell. The Accounting statement for 2024/5 was approved and signed by CL.

### **9 Stert PC website & emails**

It was decided that nothing needed to be done immediately as cost would probably fall in the coming months.

### **10 New Councillors.**

AH and LC were not re-nominated for their council positions owing to discrepancies in the paperwork. It was unanimously agreed they should be co-opted back on.

Proposed LB and seconded AE

LB reported that Frances Greenburgh from Mill Cottage had expressed an interest. Agreed that this should be pursued.

**11 Footpaths/ROWS** DB said that Sue Bromhead has agreed to take on this responsibility.

LB reported that the footpath crossing the railway line from Ruddleback Hanging may be closed for up to a month from July 7 while much needed repairs are carried out to the steps etc.

It had been reported that a gate on a public footpath near to Crookwood Mill had been locked. AE said he would talk to the Butchers who own the land (situation was rectified the next day)

### **12 Parish Steward**

David Bromhead said he had established a good relationship with the Parish Steward and was now aware of the extent of the Parish Steward's remit and capabilities.

**13 Summer Party.** Andy and David from Danesfield have kindly agreed to host a summer tea party on Sunday July 27th. Agreed that Stert PC should contribute up to £250.

### **14 Village Speed Limit**

No further response following the Wiltshire Council acknowledgement that they had received the request.

### **15 Defibrillators**

No individuals have stepped forward to form a team to install/maintain a defibrillator. The PC will not discuss this matter until such a team is formed.

### **16 AOB**

**17. Date of next meeting:** The date of the next meeting was set for Monday 15 September 2025 at 6.30pm in the church.