

## MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF STERT PARISH COUNCIL

At St James Church, Stert, on Monday 8 June 2026

**Present:** Chris Lawrence (CL) chairman, Alec Edwards (AE) vice chairman, Lucy Barker (LB) treasurer, David Bromhead (DB) parish clerk, Ann Harris (AH), Frances Greenburgh (FG), Lewis Cowen (LC). Two members of the public attended.

1. **Apologies:** There were none.
2. **Chairman's report:** The purpose of the Chairmans report is to let residents know what we have been doing for the last year and how their money has been spent. The main expenditure as usual has been on the village parties. Lat year there was no Christmas Party because we could not find a suitable venue. However, we did have a summer party last year which was hosted by Andy and David from Danesfield. This year's summer party was a combined PC and Church fund raiser hosted by Hilary and Keith Hawkins. Both were a great success. I would very much like to thank Andy, David, Hilary and Keith for their considerable efforts along with the many other people who helped. Other Parish business has been the routine dealing of planning applications, village maintenance and general domestic issues. The issue with the biggest cost outlay (about £600) is the attempt by the PC to get the speed limit in the village reduced to 20mph. Sadly, our internal auditor Neville Burrell has recently died. He did the job efficiently and considerately for many years. We are extremely grateful to Hilary Hawkins for taking on the job at short notice and doing it so efficiently. On council member matters Jay Brown has been replaced as Clerk by David Bromhead. I would like to thank David very much for stepping up and doing such a good job. We also welcome a new councillor in Frances Greenburgh who is a great addition to the team. Lucy Barker continues to do her job as Treasurer faultlessly and Lewis Cowen continues to do the minutes of these meetings with commendable promptness and accuracy. I would like to take this opportunity of thanking all the other Parish Councillors for their valuable contributions and time over the year.
3. **Financial report:** LB explained how all the PC's financial documents are kept in a dedicated file, including minutes, bank statements, budgets. Invoices for every payment are also kept there except for payments to the PCC for hire of the church for meetings. These appear in the bank statements. LB presented a set of accounts which showed a precept of £2,000 and outgoings of £1,670.97, leaving a surplus of £329.03.
4. **Governance Statement:** The chairman completed the statement in front of the meeting, answering all questions in the affirmative. It was then signed by the chairman and the parish clerk.

5. **Exemption from external audit:** As the PC's financial income and expenditure is below the threshold of £25,000 , it qualifies for exemption from an external audit. The necessary form was therefore completed for submission by LB to the external auditors, PKF Littlejohn.
6. **Accounting statements for 2025/6.** These were formally approved and signed.
7. **Election of chairman and vice chairman:** CL was re-elected as chairman and AE as vice chairman as no other nominations were made.
8. **Questions from members of the public:** There were none.