

Minutes of the Stratton Strawless Annual Parish Assembly held
on Monday 12th May 2025 at 7:15pm in Burroughes Hall, Parish Road.

In attendance: Parish Councillors Mr Levi Drake (Chair), Mr Martin Howard, Ms Diane Farrow, Mr Allan Johns, Ms Ros Cook & 1 more members of the public.

Minutes: Miss L Dawson, Parish Clerk.

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING MINUTES

1. Welcome & Apologies

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and Parish Cllr Lee Stefan-Drake & Wayne Farrow sent his apologies.

2. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 13th May 2024

The minutes of the annual parish meeting held on 13th May 2024 were AGREED and signed by the Chair.

3. To receive an annual report from the Chairman of the Parish Council

This year has gone incredibly fast, we now have a full team of Councillors with no vacancies, thanks to Councillor Ros Cook and Allan Johns being co-opted to the Council.

The Council have managed to close Barclays Bank account with help from Allan Johns, and all funds are now with unity bank account.

The Mansom plantation planning appeal is still open, and there is hope this will be resolved soon. The Council thank Lolly for doing a wonderful job as Clerk. The Council is looking to do some repairs sweet chestnut tree on Serpentine Lane and put up signs for no fly-tipping, Thanks for County and District Councillors for their reports at each meeting.

4. To receive an annual financial report from the Parish Clerk to the Parish Council

STRATTON STRAWLESS PARISH COUNCIL - BUDGET EXPENDITURE REVIEW 2024/2025

COST CODE	APPROVED BUDGET 2024/2025	FINAL CASHBOOK TOTALS	Difference
INCOME			
PRECEPT	£ 8,714.00	£ 8,714.00	£ -
OTHER	£ -	£ 868.15	£ 868.15
TOTAL INCOME	£ 8,714.00	£ 9,582.15	£ 868.15
EXPENDITURE			
Clerks Salary	£ 3,766.88	£ 3,454.55	£ 312.33
HMRC	£ 941.72	£ 919.00	£ 22.72
Bottle Bank	£ -	£ -	£ -
Microsoft	£ 150.00	£ 123.60	£ 26.40
Subscriptions	£ 600.00	£ 574.50	£ 25.50
Audit	£ 125.00	£ 120.00	£ 5.00
Church Grass	£ 500.00	£ 500.00	£ -
Bus Shelter cleaning	£ 100.00	£ 160.00	£ -60.00
Insurance	£ 500.00	£ 439.67	£ 60.33
Village Hall		£ -	£ -
Post/Stationary	£ 50.00	£ 40.48	£ 9.52
Travel Expenses	£ 40.00	£ -	£ 40.00
Chairmans Allowance	£ 40.00	£ -	£ 40.00
Cllrs stationery allowance	£ -	£ -	£ -
Bank Charges	£ -	£ 53.40	£ -53.40
Donations	£ 500.00	£ 420.00	£ 80.00
Training	£ 150.00	£ -	£ 150.00
s137		£ -	£ -
Village Maintenance	£ 550.00	£ 213.91	£ 336.09
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	£ 8,013.60	£ 7,019.11	£ 994.49

5. To receive a report from the Police representative

Not in attendance.

6. A report from the District Councillor

Not in attendance.

7. A report from the County Councillor Dan Roper

Starting off with apology, speed limit change has still not been implemented, on Cromer Road, so this project is still on-going. General report, in the middle of reorganisation, submissions in March of what the shape should be, county council and district councils cannot agree whether it should be 1,2 or 3 councils. September 2025 will be the final submission to central governments. Council short of money with funding adults with needs and children with special needs education requirements, Council tax will therefore continue to increase. Wester link is on hold, application withdrawn, this is relating to bat licenses, council is lobbying government to change the rules, secondly, looking into alternative route, if it does not go ahead, central government will not be requesting a refund of money given so far. Extra hazardous waste day this year.

8. Report from any local groups or individuals

8.1. A report from Stratton Strawless Village Hall was read by Lolly Dawson.

Stratton Strawless Village Hall Chair's Report for the Parish Council AGM – 12th May 2025

It gives me great pleasure to give this Chair's Report of events and activities that have taken place at Stratton Strawless Village Hall.

I was elected to the position of Chair after Christine Clark stepped down last May. Christine continues to provide invaluable support to the Village Hall as part of the committee.

The members of the committee continue to provide unwavering support to the local community through the running of the Village Hall and have helped me to settle in as Chair.

Belinda Hannant has joined the committee in April 2025, welcome Belinda.

In September the committee reviewed the way forward for Stratton Strawless Village Hall as a community resource, with some blue sky thinking regarding events, taking part and making things happen. It was agreed to look to the future and plan events for the whole community. Engaging with people in all areas of the village was identified as important, namely: around Parish Road; Woodland View; and Shortthorn Road and to specifically encourage people in all those areas to be aware of the Village Hall as their community asset and to feel welcome there.

Advertising events was identified as a priority, to extend to include as many local groups as possible in all areas of the locality with greater emphasis on use of email and social media to support reaching people and advertising events. An email address for the village hall has been created:

strattonstrawlessvillagehall@gmail.com A Facebook page was created for the village hall: Stratton Strawless village hall. The use of email and social media are areas we want to expand on to reach people and share community focused news and events.

A programme of renovation to the hall was agreed in order to optimise the hall and make it bright and welcoming. Identified areas include:

- New tables and more comfortable chairs were purchased for the hall.
- New outside lights were installed to improve visibility entering and exiting the building and car park.
- The outside of the building is to be upgraded by repairs and painting and decorating. Peter Cook is carrying out the decorating in May 2025.

- China tea sets that had kindly been donated to the hall by the Drake family have been cleaned and stored and are to be used for specific events such as an afternoon tea.
- Bunting was made by committee members to brighten up the hall.
- A new clock was purchased for the hall.
- Commemorative photographs and plaques were moved and re-positioned to ensure their historical significance is clearly visible to visitors whilst freeing up much valued wall space
- The health of trees in and around the car park and playground were reviewed by a tree surgeon and they were pruned accordingly, ensuring improved health and safety of people using the hall and increased capacity of the car park

A Programme of Events for 2025 has begun with some new items being included as well as continuing some old favourites:

- January – A Coffee Morning and Seed Swap
- February – An Afternoon Tea
- March – A Craft Fair
- April – Dawn Chorus Walk and Breakfast
- May – A Coffee Morning and Plant Sale
- June – Afternoon Tea and Bingo
- July – An Art Exhibition
- September – Flower and Produce Show
- October – Quiz
- November – Winter fair
- December – to be decided

Finally, thanks go to everyone who uses the Village Hall, our regular user groups such as The Parish Council, Dog Training, Line Dancing, Yarmouth Greyhounds, Wellbeing Walking Group and the numerous individuals that use it for private hire. Please continue to enjoy the hall and encourage others to use this marvellous space.

Thank you

Meeting Closed: 7:30pm

Signed:

Dated: