

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Stockton Parish held on Monday 18th May 2026 in Stockton Village Hall at 7.00pm

Those Present:

Parish Councillors: H.Collerson; C.Millidge, J.Emberton, W.Rumsey, R.Rumsey, T.Warner and the Clerk

District Councillor: Cllr.A.Crump

County Councillor: Cllr.A.Crump

General Public: 6 members of the public

Apologies:-

Parish Councillors: Cllr,H,Kittendorf

District Councillor:

County Councillor:

General Public:

Introduction

The Chairman of the Parish Council Cllr.H.Collerson, welcomed all attendees to the Annual Parish Meeting and outlined the format that the meeting would take.

Villager of the Year

The Chairman noted that there have been four nominations this year for the award and pointed out that the winners were Stockton Village Hall Committee, and that they are very worthy winners of the award. The Chairman noted that as an award the Village Hall Committee requested a sign that would show the location of the Village Hall and the Parish Council was happy to accede to this request. The Chairman then presented the award to the Village Hall Committee.

The Chair then invited County and District Councillor Andy Crump to address the meeting. Cllr.Crump reported to the meeting that since his re-election as WCC Cllr for Southam, Stockton and Napton he has:-

- 1) Helped chase a Road Safety Feasibility Study for Stockton Crossroads
- 2) Liaised with Stockton Road Safety Group
- 3) Helped get grants for some Stockton organisations
- 4) Successfully Completed Benefits/Attendance Forms for some Stockton Residents
- 5) Attended the vast majority of Stockton PC meetings, providing updates and answering questions.
- 6) Comprehensive weekly update on several Stockton Facebook pages (answering other queries in between too) and to Clerk
- 7) Long-running column in Stockton News (since 2017)
- 8) Working with PC and many residents to object to the Richborough application
- 9) Support and advice to organisations regarding leases etc
- 10) Various potholes and Highways works
- 11) Grasscrete

- 12) Schoolplaces, parking, refuse issues etc...
- 13) Updates on Local Govt re-organisation, 5 year housing land supply, South Warwickshire Local Plan (SWLP) etc.
- 14) Most importantly he has managed to get £1.5m in the capital budget for potential improvements at Stockton Crossroads (lots of hoops to jump through still)

Minutes of the Last Meeting

The minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting having been previously distributed, with no comment from the meeting, it was agreed that they were a true record of events.

Financial Report

The Clerk of the Parish Council then delivered the annual financial statement for the year ending 31st March 2026, and outlined the differences in the accounts from last year and reasons for the variations. There was one question from a resident who asked why the income from the sports club was considerably less than the previous year. The Clerk explained that due to the latest money laundering legislation, the owner of the sports field Cemex and their agent Fisher German Ltd were unhappy that while the Parish Council had a formal lease on the field with Cemex it then subleased the field to the sports club. Given that the sports club was not a legal entity the owners and their agent indicated that this arrangement cannot be lawful, therefore the sports club changed its constitution to become a legal entity and when the Parish Council lawfully surrendered the lease the sports club has entered into a formal lease with Cemex. Given that the lease was surrendered half way through the year and that the Parish Council has no longer any involvement with Cemex, the lease, or the sports club, the income from the sports club was halved and there will be no further involvement with either the sports club or Cemex. After this explanation it was agreed that the financial report was approved.

Parish Council Chairman's report

The Chairman then gave his report to the Annual Parish Meeting

The dominant feature of the last year has been the planning application from Richborough for an estate of 75 houses accessed off Sycamore Close. This application is very similar to a previous application on the same site in 2014 that was turned down by Stratford Planning Committee. However, the planning situation is very different now following the government's changes to planning rules that mean that if a planning authority has less than 5 years future land supply of houses, then the balance of factors for and against a development is very much skewed in favour of the developer. Almost every aspect of the proposed development is unacceptable to the parish - location on a site dominating the village, highway issues, environmental damage, lack of school places, etc. but these are could well be swept aside. There have been objections from our ward councillor, the parish council and more than 125 parishioners, as well as Cemex and Warwickshire County Council in relation to the impact on quarrying on the adjacent site. The parish council is currently considering employing a transport consultant to carry out an independent assessment of the developer's findings and also to cover access problems not so far taken into account.

Another site has been given approval under these new rules and this is on land off Napton Road opposite the junction with Station Road for nine homes.

However, all is not doom and gloom. There have been some important achievements with village organisations. Stockton Football and Cricket Club have now agreed a direct lease with Cemex that removes the old relationship of the main lease being granted to the parish council and with a sub-lease between the council and the club, making a more efficient arrangement. Also the Village Hall Trustees continue to bring improvements to the hall with a high-speed broadband connection for all users, solar panels to reduce heating costs, replacement of the wooden flooring that was becoming unsafe and an new audio system.

On the wider front there are two potential changes. The South Warwickshire Local Plan and the government's initiative to reduce the number of tiers in local government to establish Unitary Authorities. In the case of the first of these, the Local Plan, has been through several consultation stages with the "Publication Version" being considered by a joint committee from both councils on 28 May, that if approved will be put to the government at the end of 2026.

Basically the plan goes away from the current plan of dispersing developments among all of the larger villages to a new plan of concentrating new development in specific larger settlements with better transport connections. All of this information is available on the SWLP website.

The second issue of Unitary Authorities would mean the merging of the responsibilities of the district and county councils into a new Unitary Authority. Two models have been suggested - one is to have a South Warwickshire Unitary combining Stratford and Warwick Districts and a North Warwickshire combining Nuneaton and Bedworth, North Warwickshire and Rugby Districts. The second model is to have a single Unitary covering the whole of Warwickshire. The parish council favours the two Unitary model as there is so much difference between the urban north and rural south of the County and that might lead to resources possibly being skewed towards the north because of higher levels of deprivation. Nationally some of the new Unitaries have been decided but it is likely that we will have to wait at least into next year before Warwickshire is considered.

This year there were four nominations for Villager of the Year and the parish council decided to give the award to the Village Hall Committee whose achievements have already been outlined above. Well done to a hardworking committee and also to the other people who were nominated this year.

Each year I also refer to the parish council's precept. This is the amount of money that Stratford collects on our behalf through the Council Tax and is in essence our budget for the year. For this financial year the parish council decided to hold the precept at the same amount as the year just finishing at £31,000 in view of the problems of increasing inflation that families have to deal with. This is equivalent to a Band D property in Stockton of £55.38. This compares across all towns and villages in the Stratford district of £84.13, and nationally about £100. Other local figures are £132.12 for Long Itchington, £84.76 for Napton, £129.49 for Harbury and £122.69 for Southam.

Finally I would like to thank the parish clerk and my fellow councillors for their support over the past year and our Ward Councillor, Andy Crump, for all the hard work he does on our behalf, including funding the verge treatment in George Street and getting capital funding for improving Stockton crossroads into the County Council's capital budget.

This concluded the Chairman's report which will be placed in the magazine.

Open Forum

There were no issues raised

There being no further business under the Open Forum the Chairman thanked those present for their attendance, and closed the Annual Parish meeting at 7.40pm.

Stockton Parish Council
Income & Expenditure
Year ending 31st March 2025

Income	
Precept	31000.00
Burial fees	500.00
Sports field	1400.00
Fair	40.00
Grants	11781.00
Refunds	1.00
CIL	4069.00

Total 48791.00

Expenditure	
Annual Subs	622.00
P.Field	13011.00
Sports Field	1950.00
Street L maint.	
Street L Repair	1090.00
Street lighting	2161.00
Insurance	1439.00
Admin	3605.00
Office Exp.	1890.00
Village hall	2662.00
Cemetery	2013.00
V.Mowing	6580.00
Audit	515.00
Bank S/C	6.00
Training	

Stockton Parish Council
Income & Expenditure
Year ending 31st March 2026

Income	
Precept	31000.00
Burial fees	225.00
Sports field	700.00
Fair	80.00
S.News	596.00
Refunds	574.00
VAT	17069.00

Total 50244.00

Expenditure	
Annual Subs	725.00
P.Field	1.00
Sports Field	2801.00
Street L maint.	965.00
Street L Repair	445.00
Street lighting	3596.00
Insurance	1462.00
Admin	3605.00
Office Exp.	1595.00
Village hall	3564.00
Cemetery	95.00
V.Mowing	6526.00
Audit	460.00
Gen.Admin	
Con/Trg	700.00

PCC	248.00
Defib	135.00
Gen repairs	2378.00
Grant	
VoY	172.00
Mem.Field	
VAT	5272.00
Total Exp	45749.00

PCC	453.00
Defib	135.00
Gen repairs	4580.00
Grant	
B.Charges	73.00
VOY	220.00
VAT	4043.00
Total Exp	36044.00