Stroud Parish Council

Minutes
Stroud Parish Council Meeting
Tuesday 27 January at 7.30pm

Present: Councillors Tom North (Acting Chair), Andrew Snow, Charlotte Burdock
County Councillor Oppenheimer
Parish Clerk Sam Marchant and 1 member of the public.

1. **Apologies for Absence:**
   Apologies were received from Cllr Mikaela Jackson, Cllr Mark Rowden and District Cllr Robert Mocatta.

2. **Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests**
   No declarations were made.

3. **Approval of Minutes**
   a) To approve the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 16 September 2025
   Councillors who had attended the Parish Council meeting, held on 16 September agreed that the minutes were a true record. The minutes were unanimously approved and signed.

   b) To approve the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 18 November 2025
   Due to only one Councillor being present who had also been present at the Parish Council meeting, held on 18 November the approval of the minutes were delayed to the March meeting.

   c) To approve the minutes of the Extra Ordinary Planning Meeting held on 14 January 2026
   Councillors who had attended the Extra Ordinary Planning meeting, held on 14 January agreed that the minutes were a true record. The minutes were unanimously approved and signed.

4. **Acknowledgement of Rachel Butlins resignation**
   The resignation of Rachel Butlin was noted, and thanks were given for her contribution to the Parish Council.

5. **Co-option of Cllr Vacancy**
   It was noted that the Parish Council is able to co-opt a new Councillor to fill the vacancy.

6. **Cllr Responsibilities:** to appoint
   Once a new Councillor has been appointed Councillor responsibilities would be appointed.

7. **Public question time**
   Discussion points:
   Increased traffic along Ramsdean Road and possibility of more speed signs.
   TN had received correspondence Hampshire Highways; initial response had been unhelpful, followed by a small concession of installation of 30mph repeater signs at the school warning points, these had not yet been implemented.

RO mentioned the Community Funding Initiative, which could provide more signage and pinch points at an estimated cost of £20,000.
Noted that schools can obtain 20mph flashing signs without a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) for £10,000, intended to be active only during drop-off and pick-up times.
Other villages on the A272 in West Sussex, such as Rogate and South Harting, have implemented 20mph limits.

Actions:
TN to follow up with HCC/HH regarding repeater signs (TN)
CB to approach the school to gather comment on safety improvements (CB)
TN to include issue in the Parish Priority Statement (TN)

8. Report from District Councillor

Cllr Mocatta's EHDC report would be available on the Parish Council website.

9. Report from County Councillor

Cllr Oppenheimer's Hampshire County Council report would be available on the Parish Council website.
Discussion points:
Road conditions: Acknowledged poor state due to heavy rain and freezing temperatures; making temporary repairs had been challenging due to road surface temperature.
AS suggested highlighting the potholes to increase visibility.
RO agreed and emphasised the danger.
Local Government reorganised (LGR), expected to be delayed to 2029.

10. Finance and admin

a) Finance report Budget vs Actuals including receipts and payments 11 November 2025 – 19 January 2026

The finance report covering budget versus actuals, including receipts and payments from 11 November 2025 to 19 January 2026 was approved.

b) Notice of End of Service – Internal Audit Services Lightatouch

Letter of end of service was noted.

c) Internal Audit Services 2026/27 quotation: to approve

Approved unanimously.

d) IT Policy: to adopt

Adopted unanimously.

11. Correspondence

a) Landscaping works at North Stroud Lane Farm

Discussion points:
Non-native tree/hedging species identified however this was not considered a planning issue.

Actions:
Langrish Parish Council would be addressing the matter.

b) Additional Speed Indicator Device request

Discussion points:

Quotations would be required for approval.

Intent to purchase one more device and three solar panels, considering adjustable angle intervals.

Actions:

Obtain quotations for approval at the March meeting (SM)

Approach both RO and RM for grant funding (SM)

12. Matters Arising

a) Litter Pick (TN)

Date proposed: 11 April 2026

Pickers and Hi-Vis jackets would be available, Norse to collect rubbish after the event.

Actions:

TN to advertise via all methods (TN)

b) Fixed Yellow Speed Camera funding

Agreed to pursue with the three SID units doe to cost effectiveness.

13. Report and updates

a) Parish Priority Statement: to include public consultation dates (TN)

Discussion points:

Public Consultation Dates: Friday 6th and Saturday 7th of February at the Village Hall.

Displays to be available for public consultation, survey questions also available online.

To be published on the website, Facebook and WhatsApp for sharing; newsletter to include information.

All submissions would be collated in April.

b) Speed Signage Ramsdean Road (TN)

This item had been discussed in the Public Comment section.

c) Roads and Traffic

Discussed under reports from District and County Councillor items.

d) Light Pollution in the area

Action:

To be monitored; Cllr responsibility to be assigned at a later date.

e) New bus shelter: (MR)

Discussion points:

AS had emailed contact at HCC to explore possibilities of carrying out works from the field behind the site rather than roadside.

Designs to presented for approval at the next meeting.

Actions:

Put together designs for approval at the April meeting (MR/AS)

f) Current Bus Shelters (MR)
Bus shelters were noted as satisfactory.

g) Footpaths and hedges (MR/AS)
No significant issues.
Entrance to the field on Ridge Common Lane was noted as untidy.

Action:
AS to speak to landowner (AS)

h) Lengthsman (MR)
Actions:
Chase the cleaning of the village gates.

i) Recreation Ground and Playground (TN)
Action:
To be included in the Parish Priority Statement; potential new locations as part of new developments to be considered.

14. Newsletter & social media: to agree items to be published.
Items agreed for publication included:
Parish Priority Statement Consultation dates
Litter Pick date
New Cllr vacancy
Proposal of purchase of another SID and 3 solar panels

15. Date of the next meeting
The next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday 17 March 2025.

The meeting closed at 20:35pm

Signed: (Chairman)
Date: