Minutes
Stroud Parish Council Meeting
Tuesday 17 March at 7.30pm

Present: Councillors Mark Rowden (Chair) Tom North (Vice Chair), Andrew Snow, Charlotte Burdock, Mikeala Jackson
District Councillor Robert Mocatta
Parish Clerk Sam Marchant and 3 members of the public.

1. **Apologies for Absence:**
   Apologies were received from County Councillor Oppenheimer

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 18 November 2025
   Councillors who had attended the Parish Council meeting, held on 18 November 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 27 January 2026
   Councillors who had attended the Parish Council meeting, held on 27 January agreed that the minutes were a true record. The minutes were unanimously approved and signed.

   c) To approve the minutes of the Extra Ordinary Planning Meeting held on 17 February 2026
   Councillors who had attended the Extra Ordinary Planning meeting, held on 17 February agreed that the minutes were a true record. The minutes were unanimously approved and signed.

4. **Co-option of Cllr Vacancy**
   One interest was noted, postponed until the next PC meeting in May.

5. **Cllr Responsibilities:** to appoint
   Appointment postponed until new Councillor co-opted.

6. **Public question time**
   Discussion points:
   Planning Enforcement at the Land next to the Seven Starts Pub.
   A Stop Notice has been issued following recent works of excavation of a road. This stated that the landowner had been given one month to put back the land to its original state.
   Details on how to contact Planning Enforcement had been made available to the public.
   Since the Stop Notice had been issued a caravan had also been added to the site, this had been reported to the Planning Enforcement.
   Concerns on what process follows once the Stop Notice expires were raised.

References were made to a similar case where court enforcement removed travellers from another site.

Actions:
Continue pressure on EHDC Planning Enforcement team. (All)
Cllr Mocatta to liaise with EHDC as support. (RM)
Cllr Mocatta to investigate and report back
Share any response received with residents through local groups. (TN)
Cllr North to collate Local Plan responses and present an update (TN)
Land allocated by SDNPA for possible planning opportunity due to go through the consultation process, Cllr north to ready a response for submission on the back of collated responses to the Local Plan. (TN)

7. Report from District Councillor

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

8. Report from County Councillor

Cllr Oppenheimer's Hampshire County Council report would be available on the Parish Council website.

9. Finance and admin

a) Finance report Budget vs Actuals including receipts and payments 20 January – 9 March 2026

The finance report covering budget versus actuals, including receipts and payments from 20 January – 9 March 2026 was approved.

b) PC Risk Assessment: to review & approve

The PC Risk Assessment was review and approved.

c) Asset Register: to review & approve

The Asset Register was reviewed and the removal of kissing gates was noted, once these changes were made it was approved.

d) Standing Orders: to review & approve

The Standing Orders were reviewed and approved.

e) Financial Regulations: to review & approve

The Financial Regulations were reviewed and approved.

10. Matters Arising

a) Proposed additional Speed Indicator Device and Solar Panels: to receive quotation & approve

Discussion points:
Proposal to purchase one additional SID and 2 solar panels.
Plan to apply for £1000 grant from EHDC in April/May.
Reducing speed through the village was considered be one of the main priorities.

Action:
Apply for £1000 Cllr Grant in April/May (SM)
Purchase one SID unit and two solar panels (SM)

b) CAB Grant request
Discussion points:
Grant of £300 was approved with the budget for 2027-28 to reflect increase.

Action:
Raise grant payment to CAB for £300 (SM)

c) APM Speaker: to approve cost
Discussion points:
Proposed speakers were Will and Oliver Atkinson from Meonside Farm with the subject of their beaver project and Hampshire Countryside services ranger James Donnelly.
Both were agreed and associated costs approved.
Local police representative to be invited to come along.
Stroud Village Hall trustees to give a presentation.

Action:
Confirm and invite speakers (SM)
Publicise APM (SM)
Invite local police representative (SM)

11. Report and updates

a) Parish Priority Statement (TN)
Discussion points:
Two consultation routes had been used, online and village hall sessions.
A draft statement would be circulated to the PC and resent at the APM.
Consideration for further consultation if required.
Document referenced 2013 maps and social history.
It was considered to have received good community engagement for a small village.

Action:
Cllr North to circulate draft Parish Priority Statement to councillors for comment. (TN)
Present at APA (TN)
Consider at the May PC meeting whether further consultation required (TN/SM)

b) Speed Signage Ramsdean Road (TN)
30 repeaters signs; due to one lamppost along the Ramsdean Road it was considered unnecessary to have repeater signs.
School engagement recommended (pupils/school council to write/attend HCC meeting as suggested by Cllr Mocatta.

Action
Cllr Mocatta to find out how to book a school delegation to HCC (10am Thursday slot referenced) (RM)
Cllr Burdock to liaise with the school (CB)

c) Roads and Traffic

Councillors grateful for recent resurfacing completed prior to wet weather.
No further specific actions recorded.

d) Light Pollution in the area

Nothing to report.

e) New bus shelter: (MR)

Discussion points:
Cllr Rowden had located potential suppliers; standard sizes similar to existing; discussion of a larger design (3.6m x 2.5m) prioritising safety and capacity and blending with surroundings.
Investigate insurance cover for works.
Cost estimate: shelter £8,000 + VAT plus removal of old shelter and new concrete pad £3,000 - £4,000.

Actions:
Clerk to investigate insurance cover for installation works (SM)
Cllr Snow to liaise with HCC regarding size of available area and permissions (AS)
Cllr Rowden to put together questions for Clerk to forward to HCC for clarification (MR/SM)

f) Current Bus Shelters (MR)

Bus shelters were noted as satisfactory.
Flooding at Finch Mead bus stop, suggestion to drill drainage holes in the back panel to release standing water.

Action:
Implement drainage solution for Finch Mead bus stop (MR/Lengthsman)

g) Footpaths and hedges (MR/AS)

Resident expressed thanks for new bridge and kissing gates on a well-used footpath. Some stile areas had become very muddy and impassable, request for surfaces to be re-laid such as chalk.

Action:
Identify problem stiles/sections and propose remedial works (materials and cost) (MR/AS)

h) Lengthsman (MR)

Actions:
Continue to request cleaning of the white entrance gates (MR)

i) Recreation Ground and Playground (TN)

Action:
Ongoing maintenance and hedge cutting required.
Arrange for Simon Marden to cut the Millenium hedge. (MR)
Monitoring of open times to begin once evenings become lighter (TN)

12. Newsletter & social media: to agree items to be published.

Items agreed for publication included:
APA date, speakers
SID and solar panel purchases
New speed repeater update
New bus shelter plans and priorities, capacity and safety
Parish Priority Statement consultation update

13. Date of the next meeting

The next meeting was scheduled for APA 28 April 2026 at 7:30pm.
EOM Planning meeting to scheduled asap.

The meeting closed at 20:50pm

Signed: (Chairman)
Date: