Minutes
Stroud Parish Council Annual General Meeting
Tuesday 19 May 2026 at 7.30pm

Present: Tom North (Chair), Charlotte Burdock and Mikaela Jackson
County Councillor Nick Drew and David Podger
Parish Clerk Sam Marchant
1 member of the public.

1. **Apologies for Absence:**
   Apologies were received from Cllr Rowden, Cllr Snow and District Cllr Mocatta.

2. **Election of Chair**
   Cllr Rowden had offered to continue as Chair, Cllr North proposed, and Cllr Burdock seconded.

3. **Election of Vice Chair**
   Cllr North offered himself for Vice Chair, Cllr Jackson proposed, and Cllr Burdock seconded.

4. **Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests**
   None were declared.

5. **Approval of Minutes**
   a) The Chair asked Councillors that were in attendance of the meeting held on 17 March to consider whether they felt the minutes were a true record. Councillors who had attended the meeting confirmed that they were, and they were approved as read and signed by the Chair.

   b) The Chair asked Councillors that were in attendance of the meeting held on 26 March to consider whether they felt the minutes were a true record. Councillors who had attended the meeting confirmed that they were, and they were approved as read and signed by the Chair.

   c) The Chair asked Councillors to consider whether they felt the minutes of the Annual Parish meeting held on 28 April were a true record. Councillors who had attended the meeting confirmed that they were, and they were approved in principle as read.

6. **Co-option of new Councillor**
   No candidates had come forward at this time.

7. **Appointment of Councillor Roles & Responsibilities**
   It was agreed to continue with current roles at this time.

8. **Agree dates of meeting for 2027**
   The proposed dates were approved by Councillors.

9. Public question time

Discussion points:

Ongoing correspondence and planning enforcement activity relating to the land next to the Seven Stars pub:

An enforcement notice was currently in place with response and appeal timescale noted as 28 days.

Key points raised included residential development pressures, written complaints submitted by residents and argument against the new track recently installed.

An appeal position was referenced as retrospective and the argument raised that the access track could be justified as agricultural access. PC response was that the track was not necessary for the use of the land as agricultural.

Alleged history regarding land ownership and eviction issues.

Electricity vans on site had been noted with a suggestion that services may have been installed.

A question about comparable enforcement arguments used in West Sussex was raised.

County Councillor Nick Drew offered to assist the PC.

Action:

ND to assist with pressure on Planning Enforcement.

PC to ensure enforcement communications and case updates are shared promptly.

10. Report from District Councillor

No report available for May.

11. Report from County Councillor

Nick Drew thanked residents for their support and gave an explanation of differing workloads between District and County roles.

The question of the Broadband pole which had been raised by a resident outside of the meeting was discussed as to why the infrastructure could not be installed underground; this was thought to be due to cost implications and residents had been asked to consider a contribution to these costs.

Grants and funding applications were encouraged and suggestion of possible bodies such as SDNPA and highways related options.

There had been a delay in pothole repairs; issues reported had been widespread; targets and reporting via OurHants app was encouraged. Cllr Drew asked that the PC collate data of pothole reports for him to ensure timelines were being met.

Concerns about speeding and road safety were considered a priority by Cllr Drew, he asked that residents and Councillors write to him with specific locations and that his approach would look at slowing the “journey” rather than isolated interventions. Some options for speed reduction and pedestrian safety such as pelican crossings, 20mph limits and an extension to the average speed cameras along the A272 were discussed as ideas going forward.

A question was raised about the narrow pavement near the school; Cllr Drew offered his assistance with a contact to raise this.

Actions:

PC to collate pothole reports and send to ND for support.

ND to assist with review school related safety and narrow pavement concerns.

12. Financial and admin

a) Audit Documents 1 April 2025 – 31 March 2026

i. Internal Audit Report

The RFO reported that the Annual Internal Audit report had been completed by Tim Light, Lightatouch, and would be made available on the Parish Council website.

ii. Exemption Certificate

The RFO reported that due to being a smaller authority where the gross income and expenditure did not exceed £25,000 that it had been decided to certify Stroud Parish Council exempt from a limited assurance review under Section 9 of the Local Audit (Smaller Authority Regulations 2015). The certificate was unanimously approved and signed by the Chair and RFO.

iii. AGAR Governance Statement (Section 1)

Councillors considered and approved items 1-8 to ticked 'Yes' and item 9 to be ticked 'N/A' on the Annual Governance Statement, this was then dated and signed by both the RFO and the Chair.

iv. AGAR Accounts Statement (Section 2)

Councillors approved the Annual Accounting Statement, and this was then signed by the Chair.

v. Notice of Exercise of Public Rights & Publication

The RFO gave Notice for the Exercise of Public Rights to commence on Wednesday 3rd June and ending on Tuesday 14 July 2026.

vi. Conflict of Interest with BDO (External Auditor)

Councillors confirmed that there were no conflicts of interest with BDO to report, and the form was completed and signed by the Chair and RFO.

b) Financial report Actuals vs Budget including receipts and payments 1 April – 12 May 2026

The RFO presented her report on Actuals vs Budget and all payments and receipts between the dates of 1 April to the 12 May 2026. Councillors unanimously approved these. (Appendix A)

Cllr North asked that comparison figures be included in the report going forward.

c) Insurance Renewal: to approve

The proposed renewal was approved unanimously.

13. Planning: Land East of Seven Stars public house: to receive an update

Previously discussed earlier in the meeting, reports can be sent directly to Planning Enforcement.

The West Sussex case was noted for information.

14. Matters arising

a) **HomeStart Butser grant request:** to approve
Decision: Agreed to support £200
Action: Clerk to process grant payment.

b) **SDNPA Local Plan final consultation:** to agree response
Discussion points:
EHDC had halted their local plan; debate about timing, development area and costs.
Stroud allocation of land discussion included:
Land North of A272 had been included in the assessment and put forward in the SDNPA Local Plan draft of allocated potential development land.
Access onto the A272 and the solar allocation were discussed. It was felt these two project would be better suited the other way around.
It was felt that a housing development on the North side of the A272 would be the "wrong side of the road" and split the village in two. With all local amenities being on the South side of the road.
Suggested approach: base response on legal grounds; encourage residents to comment; possibility of meeting with SDNPA head of planning as well as submitting comment for the consultation.
Positioning rather than a "no to development" approach suggested.
Proposal:
Maintain a constructive stance focused on priority statement alignment and legal/planning considerations, potentially without rejecting all development.

Actions:
ND to assist in setting a meeting with SDNPA head of planning.
Councillors to draft a response focusing on legal/planning grounds and residents' views.

15. Report and updates

a) Parish Priority Statement (TN)
Discussion points:
A revised draft had been effectively drafted; updated for additional detail.
Future support for renewable energy had now been included.
To be published and uploaded to the SDNPA portal following final review.

Actions:
TN to provide final reviewed version and it is submitted via the SDNPA portal.
Clerk to publish on Parish Council website.

b) Roads and Traffic
i. Speed Signage Ramsdean Road (TN)
Repeaters to be installed on Ramsdean Road and additional ones on the A272.

Actions:
TN to coordinate follow up and confirmation of installation.

ii. New SID and Solar Panels (SM)
Discussion points:
Lengthsman to fit and grant application to be submitted.
Second SID and pole was now in position.
Charging to continue until solar panels arrive.

Actions:
Clerk to instruct Lengthsman once SID received.

c) Bus Shelters (MR/AS)

i. New Bus Shelter: to review design/size
No new information to report.

Action:
Clerk to chase questions sent to Hampshire Highways for clarification on access to site and insurance, and to copy Cllr Drew in email.

ii. Bus Shelters (Current) (MR)
No report received.

d) Footpaths and Hedges (MR/AS)

No report received.

e) Lengthsman (MR)

Discussion points:
Entrance gates had been cleaned, and it was thought they did look better.
Councillors were asked to send a photo of any jobs needing doing.
Priority noted: to stay on top of the narrowing footpath.
The ditch running alongside the A272 was discussed as further dangerous flooding had been reported to Hampshire Highways and had required emergency clearing and fixing the pipe underneath the road.

Actions:
Cllrs to send photos of any jobs for the Lengthsman to the Clerk/MR

f) Recreation Ground/Playground (TN)

Cllr North reported back following discussion with landowner in regard to the future of the playground on the Recreation Ground. It was looking unlikely there would be future renewal of the tenancy agreement which was due to come to an end in 2029, although we will continue to try to influence for a different outcome.
A planning group needs to be started to ensure play facilities remain at the heart of the village. Suggestion to include play facilities within any future housing development to fill gap left by loss of current.
Councillors to continue to monitor any antisocial behaviour and agreed to intervene if any incidents were reported. There was one report last year.
The school leadership have been consulted and will stay as a close stakeholder moving forward.

Explanation of end of the tenancy agreement to be explained to residents in due course, working with the landowner to ensure consistent messaging.
Actions:
TN to coordinate working group.
TN and working group to obtain quotations and compile options.

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

The following would appear in the Newsletter:
Report from the APA held in April.
Councillor position vacancy
SDNPA Local Plan Consultation for residents input and comments
Pothole reporting details for the Ourhants app.
Playground closing times
Public consultation on Green Spaces in Petersfield recreational

17. Items for the next agenda

Cllr Burdock confirmed that she had been considering resignation, and Councillors were asked to look for new candidates.

Date of the next meeting – Tuesday 21 July 2026

The meeting closed at 20:40pm

Signed: **(Chairman)**
Date:

Appendix A

Financial Report 13 May 2026

Below is the summary of Actual v Budget up to 13 May 2026 for Payments & Receipts

Summary of Cost Centres - Payments

	Actual	**Budget**	**Variance**
Administration	444	3164.4	2720.4
Staff Costs	1122.9	7049.4	5926.5
Training	0	300	300
IT/Website/Email	44.6	550	505.4
Equipment & Repairs	10	5850	5840
Donations	0	500	500
Projects	0	3000	3000
Village Hall Precept Grant	0	2000	2000
Total	**1621.5**	**22413.8**	**20792.3**
VAT	8.92		

Summary of Cost Centres - Receipts

	Actual	**Budget**	**Variance**
Precept	9639	19278	9639
Grants	0	0	0
Bank Interest	0	0	0
Total	**9639**	**19278**	**-9639**
VAT	1321.31		

Payments from 1 April - 13 May 2026

Date Paid	**Payee**	**Description**	**Net**	**VAT**	**Total payable**	**Scrib No:**
01.04.2026	Sam Marchant	Clerk Salary	£442.00	£0.00	£442.00	
01.04.2026	HMRC	PAYE	£104.00	£0.00	£104.00	
01.04.2026	HMRC	Emploers NI	£15.45	£0.00	£15.45	
01.04.2026	R.M Winscom	Playground Rent	£10.00	£0.00	£10.00	
01.04.2026	Stroud Village Hall	Hall Hire	£18.00	£0.00	£18.00	
09.04.2026	John Finch Computers	Microsoft Monthly	£44.60	£8.92	£53.52	
14.04.2026	ID Mobile	Mobile	£8.00	£0.00	£8.00	
30.04.2026	Unity Trust Bank	Bank Maintenance Charge	£7.00	£0.00	£7.00	
06.05.2026	Sam Marchant	Clerk Salary	£442.00	£0.00	£442.00	
06.05.2026	HMRC	PAYE	£104.00	£0.00	£104.00	
06.05.2026	HMRC	Emploers NI	£15.45	£0.00	£15.45	
06.05.2026	Meonside Farm Limited	APA Speaker	£150.00	£0.00	£150.00	
06.05.2026	HALC	Subscription	£261.00	£0.00	£261.00	
07.05.2026	John Finch Computers	Microsoft Monthly	£44.60	£8.92	£53.52	
13.05.2026	ID Mobile	Mobile	£8.00	£0.00	£8.00	
		Total	**£1,674.10**	**£17.84**	**£1,691.94**	

Appendix A

Receipts from 1 April - 13 May 2026

Date Received	Company	Description	Total	Scribe No:
15.04.2026	HMRC	VAT Reclaim	1321.31	1
27.04.2026	EHDC	Precept	9639	2
		Total	**10960.31**	

Bank Balance 13 May 2026 **£42,674.23**