Minutes
Stroud Parish Council Meeting
Tuesday 22 September 2026 at 7.30pm

Present: Councillors Mark Rowden (Chair), Tom North, Mikaela Jackson and Andy Snow
District Councillor Rob Mocatta
County Councillor Nick Drew
Parish Clerk Sam Marchant
6 members of the public.

1. **Apologies for Absence:**
   No apologies were received

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

3. **Approval of Minutes**
   The Chair asked Councillors that were in attendance of the Annual General Meeting held on 19 May 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.

4. **Councillor Resignation:** to receive the resignation of Charlotte Burdoch
   The resignation of Charlotte Burdoch was received.
   Councillors expressed their thanks for all her work as a Councillor.

5. **Co-option of Second Cllr vacancy:** to note the PC are free to co-opt for second vacancy
   It was noted that the Council were free to co-opt for both Councillor vacancies.

6. **Co-option for two Cllr vacancies**
   Councillors thanked all three applicants for coming forward and asked each in turn to express their interest and skills that they could bring to the Council.

   After discussion Councillors welcomed Sam Howe and Rupert Howell.
   Councillors thanked the third candidate for applying.

7. **Appointment of Councillor Responsibilities**
   Agreed as follows:
   Cllr Jackson – School liaison
   Cllr Howell - Roads & Traffic including Speed monitoring
   Cllrs North & Howe - Newsletter
   To appoint other responsibilities at the November meeting.

   Actions:
   Clerk to circulate list of responsibilities for the November meeting.

8. **Appointment of Tree Warden**
   Cllr Snow to speak resident interested in the role.

9. **Public question time**
   Discussion points:
   VH trustees thanked the Council for the financial support this year, enabling community events and noted that upcoming on 6 October, the community café would be returning on Tuesdays.
   Councillor liaison was invited to attend the Trustee meetings to link together effectively
   Brambles were reported to be encroaching on the footpath (past the garage and terraces) and suggested report to HCC or add to the Lengthsman job sheet.
   North Stroud Farm planning enforcement was queried. It was reported that no breach had been found to date however a DMMO request had been made regarding footpath access to the woods. TN supplied contact email for residents to report anything.

   Action
   TN to supply contact for residents to report any planning issues directly.
   Clerk to report brambles to HCC and add to the Lengthsman work sheet.

10. **Report from District Councillor**
    Cllr Mocatta's EHDC report had been circulated prior to the meeting and is available on the PC website.
    Weekly food collections starting 5 October
    The government reorganisation had temporarily halted progress.
    Community Climate Fund available until 5 October.
    East Hants has become more proactive at stopping illegal development with better engagement with emergency contacts over bank holidays and ongoing communication with District Cllr Rob Mocatta.

11. **Report from County Councillor**
    Cllr Drew's HCC report had been circulated prior to the meeting and is available on the PC website.
    Key points
    Green projects for schools and libraries: 80% is ahead of England and Wales; to lessen too much power on the grid.

    Solar parts for speed cameras or batteries: use Cllr grants from both HCC and EHDC.

    Donna Jones: What can she do—resources available including speeding penalties.
    Main request from Councillors and residents was an extension to the average speed scheme and the need to slow the journey overall.
    Cllr Drew asked all to report near misses or small incidents to the Highways team and police as this helped to collect data and evidence.

    Cllr Drew asked Councillors and residents to provide him with job numbers when reporting potholes so that he could track repairs.

    Ramsdean Road had present major cracks and subsidence caused by clay and elements.

Cllr North asked how to request for something like that to be looked at. Cllr Drew advised for this to be reported to HCC and the job number to be emailed to him for support in scheduling maintenance.

Report potholes on the Ourhants app for all surface damage.

Power cuts, there had been a marked increase and SSEN had cited reasons such as tree branches touching wires, part of the network not being maintained correctly, and software safety features.
Cllr Drew and Cllr Damian Hinds had directly raised the issue with the electrical company, Cllr Drew encouraged Councillors and residents to share any issues or vulnerable person information to himself to push for action.

It was highlighted that the West Sussex Traffic policy differs compared with Hampshire in regard to 20mph areas, the disparity was considered hugely frustrating.
Cllr Drew informed that the primary reason for this was cited as the cost to speed limit changes and that an extensive evidence base was required along with local support. Estimated cost for 20mph areas were thought to be in the region of £30k–£50k.

12. Planning: SDNP/26/00037/ENNOT Appeal against Land East of Seven Stars Winchester Road, Stroud, Hampshire
The Council would be keeping a close eye and gave a big thank you to residents for their engagement. There had been a large number of individual submissions, objection comments, and good community engagement.
There were 3 live cases connected via back history: change of use, erection of stable. Appeals included removal of the track and caravan removal. All were now closed for comments; final comments had been issued from the Council.
The Local Planning Authority had been supportive of the Council's position, with points explained in the position response received.
The application for permanent caravan had now closed and the decision awaited; consistent with comments throughout, with good resident representation. Positive that the planning authority would be linking the applications.

13. Financial and admin
a) Financial report Actuals vs Budget including receipts and payments 13 May – 14 September 2026
The RFO presented her report on Actuals vs Budget and all payments and receipts between the dates of 13 May – 14 September 2026. Councillors unanimously approved these.
(Appendix A)

b) Budget 2027/28: to ask Cllrs to think about potential projects to include for November
Discussion points:
Clerk asked Councillors to put forward project plans and expected costs for 2027-28 to be included in the budget which would be approved at the November meeting.

Action:
All Cllrs to provide costs and projects.

14. Matters arising

a) Meeting with PCC Donna Jones re speeding and traffic: to update

Discussion points:

The Council looked to invite Donna Jones to a Council meeting in the new year.

Action:

Clerk to contact.

b) Ridge Common Lane ditch: to agree action

Discussion points:

Ask the landowners to keep brambles cut back as far as possible and investigate ownership of the pipe underneath the road.

Action:

AS to speak with landowner

c) PTC Ground Services: to include bin emptying and Lengthsman

Discussion points:

PTC has ceased to offer the services, suggestion to approach QLS for quotation.

Action:

Clerk to contact QLS for quotation.

d) Footpath signage: to agree action

Discussion points:

"Pick up after you dog" signs were deemed necessary along the footpath near the school after many reports from residents.

Action:

TN to organise signage.

15. Report and updates

a) Parish Priority Statement (TN)

Discussion points:

The Councils submission was now live on the SDNPA website.

Document considered helpful when constructing responses for planning and development proposals.

Actions:

Clerk to remove item from agenda.

b) SDNPA Local Plan Consultation: to report submission of comments (TN)

Discussion points:

Now closed and could be viewed on the SDNPA website when complete.

Actions:

None.

c) Roads and Traffic including speed calming measures

Discussion points:
An inventory list of equipment and positions was needed.
Date should be regularly downloaded for evidence to support speed sign project.

Actions:
RH to put together inventory of equipment.

d) New Bus Shelter (MR)

Discussion points:
Cllr Rowden had been trying to arrange a site meeting with HCC to obtain quotes for the works as they could not delegate to the Councils own contractors.
A need to keep SDNPA informed regarding funding was highlighted.

Actions:
MR to organise on site meeting with HCC
Clerk to inform SDNPA of progress.

e) Current Bus Shelters (MR)

Discussion points:
Nothing to report however drainage was to be monitored in the wooden shelter.

Actions:
None

f) Footpaths and Hedges (MR/AS)

Discussion points:
As discussed earlier in the meeting.

Actions:
As above.

g) Lengthsman (MR)

Discussion points:
Confirmation needed for arrangement with PTC.

Actions:
Clerk to investigate.

h) Recreation Ground/Playground (TN)

Discussion points:
The broken swing had been fixed however there had been reports of a wasp next near the equipment.

Actions:
Clerk to organise removal of wasp nest.

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

Promotion of Community Café
Welcome for the new Councillors Sam Howe and Rupert Howell
Reporting instruction for road issues such as potholes and Ramsdean Rd subsidence.

17. Items for the next agenda

As above.

Date of the next meeting – Tuesday 17 November 2026

The meeting closed at 21:10pm

Signed: **(Chairman)**
Date:

Appendix A

Financial Report September 2026

Below is the summary of Actual v Budget up to 14 September 2026 for Payments & Receipts

Summary of Cost Centres - Payments

	Actual	Budget	Variance	2025-26 Comparison
Administration	1824.92	3164.4	1339.48	1624.91
Staff Costs	3368.7	7049.4	3680.7	2807.25
Training	175	300	125	0
IT/Website/Email	297.6	550	252.4	327.6
Equipment & Repairs	3656.45	5850	2193.55	4156.03
Donations	200	500	300	1025
Projects	0	3000	3000	0
Village Hall Precept Grant	2000	2000	0	0
Total	**11522.67**	**22413.8**	**10891.13**	**9940.79**
VAT	788.81			47.68

Summary of Cost Centres - Receipts

	Actual	Budget	Variance	2025-26 Comparison
Precept	9639	19278	9639	9639
Grants	1000	0	1000	310
Bank Interest	130.94	0	130.94	355.48
Insurance	250	0	250	0
Total	**11019.94**	**19278**	**-8258.06**	**10304.48**
VAT	1321.31			822.34

Payments from 14 May - 14 September 2026

Date Paid	Payee	Description	Net	VAT	Total payable	Scribe No:
31.05.2026	Unity Trust Bank	Bank Maintenance Charge	£7.00	£0.00	£7.00	14
01.06.2026	Lightatouch	Intrnal Audit	£245.00	£0.00	£245.00	23
01.06.2026	Clerk	APA Expenses	£24.04	£0.00	£24.04	22
01.06.2026	Stroud Village Hall	Hall Hire	£32.40	£0.00	£32.40	21
01.06.2026	Stroud Village Hall	Precept Grant	£1,000.00	£0.00	£1,000.00	20
01.06.2026	HMRC	PAYE	£119.45	£0.00	£119.45	19
01.06.2026	Clerk	Salary	£442.00	£0.00	£442.00	18
01.06.2026	RJ Playgrounds	Swing Repair	£90.00	£18.00	£108.00	17
01.06.2026	EMPC	CiLCA	£175.00	£0.00	£175.00	16

Appendix A

01.06.2026	Hiscox	Insurance	£865.68	£0.00	£865.68	15
05.06.2026	John Finch Computers	Microsoft Monthly	£44.60	£8.92	£53.52	24
12.06.2026	ID Mobile	Mobile	£8.00	£0.00	£8.00	30
29.06.2026	Petersfield Town Council	Bin / Ground Services	£94.24	£18.85	£113.09	27
29.06.2026	John Finch Computers	Microsoft Monthly	£44.60	£8.92	£53.52	12
29.06.2026	Parish Council Websites	Website Domain 2Yrs	£30.00	£6.00	£36.00	26
29.06.2026	Home Start Butser	Donation	£200.00	£0.00	£200.00	25
30.06.2026	Unity Trust Bank	Bank Maintenance Charge	£7.00	£0.00	£7.00	31
30.06.2026	HMRC	PAYE	£119.45	£0.00	£119.45	29
30.06.2026	Clerk	Salary	£442.00	£0.00	£442.00	28
08.07.2026	Elan City	SED & Solar	£3,141.91	£628.38	£3,770.29	37
08.07.2026	Stroud Village Hall	Hall Hire	£32.40	£0.00	£32.40	36
08.07.2026	Stroud Village Hall	Hall Hire	£32.40	£0.00	£32.40	35
08.07.2026	Stroud Village Hall	Hall Hire	£48.60	£0.00	£48.60	34
08.07.2026	Stroud Village Hall	Hall Hire	£32.40	£0.00	£32.40	33
08.07.2026	John Finch Computers	Microsoft Monthly	£44.60	£8.92	£53.52	32
15.07.2026	ID Mobile	Mobile	£8.00	£0.00	£8.00	39
31.07.2026	Unity Trust Bank	Bank Maintenance Charge	£7.00	£0.00	£7.00	40
04.08.2026	Meon Cleaning Services	Bus Stop Cleaning	£70.00	£14.00	£84.00	38
04.08.2026	Clerk	Salary	£442.00	£0.00	£442.00	41
04.08.2026	HMRC	PAYE	£119.45	£0.00	£119.45	42
05.08.2026	John Finch Computers	Microsoft Monthly	£44.60	£8.92	£53.52	43
12.08.2026	ID Mobile	Mobile	£8.00	£0.00	£8.00	44
31.08.2026	Unity Trust Bank	Bank Maintenance Charge	£7.00	£0.00	£7.00	45
07.09.2026	John Finch Computers	Microsoft Monthly	£44.60	£8.92	£53.52	46
08.09.2026	Clerk	Salary	£442.00	£0.00	£442.00	47
08.09.2026	Petersfield Town Council	Grounds Maintenance	£250.30	£50.06	£300.36	50
08.09.2026	HMRC	PAYE	£119.45	£0.00	£119.45	48
08.09.2026	Stroud Village Hall	Precept Grant	£1,000.00	£0.00	£1,000.00	49
14.09.2026	ID Mobile	Mobile	£8.00	£0.00	£8.00	51
		Total	**£9,893.17**	**£779.89**	**£10,673.06**	

Receipts from 14 May - 14 September 2026

Appendix A

Date Received	Company	Description	Total	Scribe No:
01.06.2026	Hiscox	Insurance	250	3
30.06.2026	Unity Trust Bank	Interest	130.94	4
20.07.2026	EHDC	Cllr Grant - SID	1000	5
		Total	**1380.94**	

Bank Balance 14 Sep 2026 **33435.63**

Comparison 9 Sep 2025 **27902.07**