

STUKELEY PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes Monday 6th July 2026

Stukeley Parish Council's Parish Meeting was held on Monday 6th July 2026 at 19.15pm at Little Stukeley Village Hall.

Present – Cllr T Pinner (Chair), Cllr T Close (Vice Chair), Cllr P Tuck, Cllr P Pearce, Cllr SJ Gaule, Cllr G Evans, DCllr T Sanderson, DCllr A Blackwell & one member of the public.

Emily Pacey – Clerk and RFO

The Chairman delivered a tribute to former Councillor Shaun Burton and expressed the Council's deep sadness at his passing. Shaun was a valued and dedicated member of the Parish Council whose commitment to the community was unwavering.

He served the Parish with exceptional dedication, giving countless hours of his time, energy and expertise to support local initiatives, most notably leading the team that enabled the Council to produce its Neighbourhood Plan. He invested an extraordinary amount of effort into shaping a long-term vision for the Parish, always striving to ensure that residents' voices were heard and their interests protected.

Shaun was a well-liked and active member of both village communities, a keen gardener, allotment holder and beekeeper. Transport was his passion, and he was always willing to help others. A one-minute silence was held in his memory.

Full Council Meeting

01/07/2026 Public Participation.

No public participated in the meeting.

02/07/2026 Reports from County and District Councillors.

DCllr T Sanderson reported the following –

An Extraordinary Meeting of the District Council will be held in September to agree the process for the final consultation on the Local Plan. He advised that the Government has increased housing targets, and the Local Plan will need to demonstrate how these will be met.

The Mayor, Paul Bristow, is exploring the possibility of introducing free car parking after 4.00pm. However, further consideration is required regarding how this would operate, and agreement will be needed. Concerns were raised that free parking from 4.00pm may offer limited benefit, as many residents complete their shopping earlier in the afternoon. It was

suggested that a start time of 2.00pm or 3.00pm would be more effective, but funding is not available to support this. The proposal would apply Monday to Friday only, with HDC part-funding the initiative.

He further reported that the budget process cannot progress until the Local Government Reorganisation has taken place.

Regarding the Local Highways Initiative, the Scoring Panel will be held in the coming weeks. The feasibility report has been delayed.

03/07/2026 Update from Urban and Civic.

No update received.

04/07/2026 To receive declarations of interest.

Cllr P Pearce – Huntingdon District Council Town Council.

05/07/2026 To receive and approve apologies for absence.

No apologies were received.

06/07/2026 To receive and approve the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 1st June 2026.

It was agreed to approve the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 1st June 2026, Cllr T Close proposed, Cllr SJ Gaule seconded and all were in favour.

07/07/2026 Finance.

7.1 It was agreed to approve the Financial Officers Report, Cllr T Close proposed, Cllr P Tuck seconded and all were in favour.

(1) Financial Statement

Appended is a statement for the Revenue including half the Councils precept account £32,063 as at 01/07/2026 showing an expenditure of £27,371.27 and an income of £34,322.99 along with a budget control, bank statements and a bank reconciliation statement.

(2) Bank Reconciliation

Balances B/Fwd at 31st March 2026

Current Account	£86,463.67
CIL	£718,812.92
Nationwide	£93,666.71
Cambridge Bank	£89,468.79
Less unrepresented cheques	
	0.00

	Less unpresented payments	-330.64	-330.64	
	Add outstanding credits	16,605.80	16,605.80	
			1,004,687.25	
				1,004,687.25
Balances as of 01/07/2027				
	Current Account		£103,812.48	
	CIL		£730,261.98	
	Nationwide		£93,666.71	
	Cambridge Bank		£89,468.79	
	Less unpresented payments	-6,968.71		
	Plus outstanding credits	1,397.72		
		-5,570.99		
			-5,570.99	
			1,011,638.97	
				1,011,638.97
Movement				-6,951.72
Cash Book				
	Expenditure	(Excl investments)	-27,371.27	
	Income	(Excl investments)	34,322.99	6,951.72
				0.00

7.2 – It was agreed to approve the schedule of payments for July 2026, Cllr G Evans proposed, Cllr P Pearce seconded and all were in favour.

<u>PAYEE</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Method</u>	<u>Powers</u>
<u>Expenditure</u>	-	-	-	-
E Pacey	Payroll	£800.12	S/O	LGHA 1989 s7
HMRC	Employee Deductions	£199.80	Bacs	LGHA 1989 s7
HMRC	Employer NI Deductions	£87.44	Bacs	LGHA 1989 s7
Peterborough Print	July magazine	£681.00	Bacs	LGA 1972,s 133
Beam	Grass Cutting Order 6 &7	£2,400.00	Bacs	Highways Act 1980,s.301
K&M Lighting	Replace LED Lamp PC02 Low Road	£96.00	Bacs	Highways Act 1980,s.301
BCA Design	Consultancy Services	£2,400.00	Bacs	CIL
Microsoft	Annual Membership	£84.99	Card	LGA 1972
Great Stukeley Village Hall	Room hire - Meeting 11th May	£20.00	Bacs	LGA 1972
	Total	£6,769.35		
<u>Income</u>				
Cambridgeshire CC	Grass Cutting Contribution	£1,015.99	BACS	
	Total	£1,015.99		

08/07/2026 Planning / Tree Works Applications Update.

- 26/00692/FUL - 85 Ermine Street Little Stukeley Huntingdon - Erection of a self-build bungalow including formation of a new vehicular access
Refused

<https://publicaccess.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/online-applications/>

09/07/2026 To consider updates and reports on current and upcoming issues.

9.1 Play Areas risk Assessment – Nothing to report.

9.2 Defibrillators – Urban & Civic are seeking permission from Morris Homes for the defibrillator purchased by the Parish Council to be installed on the side of their building near the SEN school.

9.3 Street Lighting – Nothing to report

9.4 Stukeleys Parish Magazine Update – Due to the increasing number of residents now living in Alconbury Weald, the number of Parish Magazine copies has been increased by 400.

9.5 Allotments - It was noted that the Allotment Competition will be held next year. Cllr T Close confirmed that the Alconbury Weald Allotments wish to participate. Each site will have its own winner, who will receive a smaller trophy, and an overall winner will be awarded a larger trophy dedicated to former Cllr Shaun Burton.

Cllr G Evans reported that the hedges at the allotments are significantly overgrown and that sections of the boundary fence require repair due to age and deterioration.

9.6 Trees & Footpaths Maintenance – T&S Gardening has trimmed the overhanging branches near the speed signs.

10/07/2026 North Huntingdon Cumulative Impacts Group Update.

It was noted that Cllr T Close will attend the first full meeting of the North Huntingdon Cumulative Impacts Group, scheduled to take place on Thursday 9th July 2026 at 7.00 pm in the Civic Suite, Pathfinder House, Huntingdon. The meeting is open to all parish councils, town councils and community groups.

Cllr SJ Gaule raised concern regarding recent press coverage relating to the “Pause the Plan” campaign. She noted that the publicity suggested Stukeley Parish Council was supportive of the campaign due to its attendance at the North Huntingdon Cumulative Impacts Group. She emphasised that these two groups are entirely separate.

Stukeley Parish Council does **not** support pausing the Local Plan and wishes for the Local Plan process to continue in order to move the District out of tilted balance.

11/07/2026 Alconbury Weald Hardship Fund Grant Application.

A grant application for £2,000 from the *Alconbury Weald Hardship Fund* was received. The organisation advised that the funding is intended to support residents who have been referred by a social prescriber. They reported that they are in urgent need of financial support to continue assisting residents and have had to pause applications until further funding is secured. All applications are assessed with empathy and care, and support is provided to anyone in genuine need.

The Clerk confirmed that she had invited representatives of the Charity to attend the meeting to answer any questions Councillors may have. It was agreed that Cllr P Tuck will compile a list of questions on behalf of the Parish Council, and the grant application will be added to the September agenda for further consideration.

12/07/2026 Christmas Lights 2026.

Cllr T Close reported that Urban & Civic have confirmed they are happy with the proposed Christmas lights around the street lights along the Boulevard. Cllr S J Gaule advised that she will carry out a walk-around to determine how many street lights will require Christmas lights.

13/07/2026 Planters - Entrance of Great Stukeley and Little Stukeley Village.

This will be added to September’s agenda.

14/07/2026 Adoption of National Scheme of Delegation of Decisions on Planning Applications.

The Council received a report from the Head of Planning, Infrastructure & Public Protection outlining statutory changes to the planning system arising from the Planning and Infrastructure Act 2025 and the 2026 Regulations, which introduce a National Scheme of Delegation (NSoD) and new limits on Planning Committee size.

The report explains that the Council’s current arrangements—specifically a 16-member Development Management Committee (DMC) and the 2019 Scheme of Delegation—must be updated to comply with national legislation. As stated in the report, “*Regulation 7 provides for the number of members on a planning committee... to be no more than 13*” and “*the scheme removes existing local practices such as councillor ‘call-ins’ or automatic committee referrals based on objection numbers.*”

Under the NSoD, most planning decisions must be delegated to officers, with committees focusing only on significant or sensitive cases. Schedule 1 applications (e.g., householder, minor developments, routine matters) must always be officer-determined, while Schedule 2 applications may only be referred to committee where statutory criteria are met and both a

senior officer and the DMC Chair agree. The report notes that *“referrals to planning committee should be exceptional, with a strong presumption in favour of officer delegation.”* The changes are expected to reduce the number of applications going to DMC by approximately 33%, improving efficiency and enabling timely decision-making. Failure to adopt the statutory scheme could expose the Council to legal risks, including judicial review, appeals for non-determination, and cost awards.

The report also highlights alignment with the 2024 Planning Peer Review, which found the existing local Scheme of Delegation to be overly complex and recommended raising thresholds so that DMC focuses on *“larger, controversial and complex planning proposals.”*

Decisions / Recommendations

Corporate Governance Committee is asked to:

- Endorse the variation to Part 3 of the Constitution to reduce DMC membership from 16 to 13.
- Endorse delegated authority for the Monitoring Officer to update the Constitution to reflect the NSoD.
- Endorse delegation of future amendments required under the Planning and Infrastructure Act 2025 to the Head of Planning, Infrastructure & Public Protection, in consultation with the Monitoring Officer, DMC Chair and Portfolio Holder for Planning.
- Note the wider direction of travel in national planning reform, Peer Review recommendations, and Local Government Reorganisation, and consider further constitutional updates relating to planning.

Council is asked to:

- Approve the reduction of DMC membership from 16 to 13.
 - Approve delegated authority for future amendments required under the Act.
- Implementation is expected by 31 October 2026.

Stukeley Parish Council noted that, following review of the Adoption of the National Scheme of Delegation of Decisions on Planning Applications, they wish Planning Officers to exercise greater vigilance when determining applications and to give increased attention to the policies and requirements set out in the Stukeleys Neighbourhood Plan.

15/07/2026 Alconbury Weald - Cricket Club Grant Update.

The Council received an update from the Chairman of Sawtry & Alconbury Weald Cricket Club, regarding grant funding for the proposed installation of a new two-lane, 33-metre enclosed all-weather cricket practice facility.

The total project cost is £46,228. The Club has already secured £10,000 from The Stukeleys Parish Council and has submitted an application to the Thalia WB Community Fund for the remaining £36,228.

As part of the Landfill Communities Fund process, an 11% Contributing Third Party payment is required to unlock the Thalia grant. The amount required is £3,985.08, based on the value of the grant being requested. The Club has asked whether the Parish Council would be willing to support the project further by contributing £2,000 towards this third-party payment. This contribution would enable the Club to meet the funding requirement without placing strain on club finances and would allow the wider grant application to proceed. Without the 11% contribution, the Club would be unable to access the £36,228 Thalia grant, placing the overall project at risk.

The contribution would be required once the Thalia application is approved and before the grant can be released. The Club's project timetable anticipates a start date of September 2026, with completion by January 2027, subject to Thalia's approval process.

The project aims to deliver the area's first dedicated enclosed all-weather cricket practice facility within a 10-mile radius, providing a safe, accessible and high-quality sports resource

for junior and senior players, women and girls, local schools and wider community users. The Club currently supports around 60 junior players across multiple age groups, runs ECB All Stars, and is developing senior, women's and girls' cricket. Current practice provision is limited and restricts growth and community access.

The new facility will be available to the public during daylight hours, seven days a week, supporting school use, holiday coaching, beginner sessions, inclusive cricket activity and wider community participation. Local schools, Urban & Civic and The Stukeleys Parish Council have all provided letters of support for the project.

In summary, the requested £2,000 contribution would help unlock a £36,228 grant and enable delivery of a £46,228 community sports facility benefiting children, families, schools, women and girls, disabled participants and residents across Alconbury Weald, Sawtry and surrounding villages.

It was proposed by Cllr P Pearce that the Parish Council grant the full 11% third-party contribution (£3,985.08), on the basis that the Cricket Club promotes its activities to all young people across the Parish, including Great and Little Stukeley, and not solely Alconbury Weald.

16/07/2026 Great Stukeley Park Update.

It was noted that the dead trees at Great Stukeley Park will be replaced in the autumn. It was agreed to contact Whiting's to confirm their watering regime for this year, as the hot weather may result in further tree losses if watering is not carried out. Clarification will also be sought regarding the watering arrangements for the replacement trees due to be planted in the autumn.

It was further noted that the play area works will commence in early August and the play park at Great Stukeley Playing Field will be closed during the works. Access to the MUGA will remain available. The Clerk advised that she has chased Whiting's for the schedule of works to confirm the expected duration.

17/07/2026 Correspondence and Communications.

- Huntingdon to Alconbury Weald Active Travel Update.
Ermine Street (South Section) Temporary traffic signals remain in place.
Works this week included removal of old kerbs, installation of the new kerblines, tactile paving, gullies and connections, laying of binder course, and installation of ducting for the new crossing point. It was reported that this section is expected to be completed next week, after which the team will continue progressing southwards.
The section around Mill Road and Church Road will undergo full carriageway resurfacing once the footway works have been completed.
Alconbury Weald End Works continued with edging installation, excavation for widening, and placement of sub-base. Cadent Gas attended site to repair a gas leak (unrelated to the scheme), which required temporary traffic signals. The repair was expected to be completed by the end of the day.
Next week, binder course and surface course will be laid on the new footway section at the Alconbury Weald end, before works move south towards Swynford Road.
Church Way Junction Following concerns raised by residents
The Project Manager met with the Safety Audit Team and scheme designers. It was confirmed that the blockwork within the junction will be removed and cyclist priority will be withdrawn, bringing the junction layout in line with others along the route.
- Spittals Interchange - Upcoming closure of the A1307 – 20th July 2026
The Council received notification of an upcoming road closure at the A1307 Spittals Interchange. The under-bridge will be closed for eight weeks from 20 July 2026 to allow full encapsulation of the substructure and the completion of protective painting works.

During the closure, a short diversion will be in place directing traffic off the slip road, over the roundabout, and back onto the opposite carriageway. For context, Hinchingsbrooke North (1993) and Hinchingsbrooke South (1992) are overbridges forming part of the grade-separated roundabout interchange, carrying the A141 over the A1307. These structures were transferred to Cambridgeshire County Council for ownership and maintenance in February 2024. Recent Principal and General Inspection reports, along with a Coating Condition Survey undertaken in September 2025, rated the existing protective paint coating to the structural steelwork as Category IV, indicating that major maintenance is required. The forthcoming works are intended to address this condition.

18/07/2026 Items for next agenda.

Planters - Entrance of Great Stukeley and Little Stukeley Village
Christmas Lights Update
Solar Powered Bus Timetable Displays
Alconbury Weald Hardship Fund Grant Application

19/07/2026 Date and Venue for 2025 PC Meetings.

7th September 2026 – Great Stukeley Village Hall.
5th October 2026 – The Club 4 Meeting Room, Second Floor, Alconbury Weald.
2nd November 2026 - Little Stukeley Village Hall.
7th December 2026 - Great Stukeley Village Hall.

CLOSE OF MEETING – 20:15