

All Stretton Flood Forum

Minutes of meeting Wednesday 9th July 2025 3.00pm at Hurst Wood, All Stretton.

Present: Andy Munro (Mayor), Mike Goode (Chair), Steve Burrows (Treasurer), Janet Ferguson, Kate Hunter.

1. Welcome & apologies.

Mike Goode thanked Andy & Vicky Munro for kindly hosting the meeting. Apologies received from Abbi Langley, Caroline Crump, Mark Morris, Dominic Bowyer, Chris Naylor, Simon Barber.

2. Finance Update.

Steve Burrows provided financial updates and funding progress for the Flood Forum group, which currently has £3,600 pledged but still needs additional funds to meet the £4,500 target.

Still awaiting monies pledged from Welford Healthcare and Little Stretton. Mike agreed to follow up. Financial/practical help from Amco Giffin has been put on hold for now.

3. Progress with Survey Details.

It was agreed for Andy to ask the Town Council to issue a purchase order for the survey by 30th July. The group agreed to seek Town Council backing for the survey, with a pledge of £2,200 from the group and additional support from the Council to cover costs up to £5,000. The aim is to get results this year and develop an action plan based on the findings.

4. All Stretton Stream Clearance.

Mike reports that the Council says it is not responsible for the water draining from the road into the stream, and the drainage system design is poor. A working party of about eight volunteers is planned for July 20th to clear foliage along the stream, starting from Fairmead's garden. Mike is seeking permission from the nursing home to create an access point from their car park, for further clearance and potentially allow a mini digger to work upstream. The long-term plan includes removing stones from the streambed and felling three trees at the end, with potential help from the National Trust.

Andy expresses concern about the lack of proper permissions and insurance for the planned stream clearing work. He emphasizes the need for licenses and insurance coverage, especially when using equipment like chainsaws. The group discusses the limitations of what they can safely do without proper authorization and decides to stick to using loppers and hand saws for now. They also mention the need to follow up on permissions and consider obtaining risk assessment templates from the town council. The conversation touches on the complexities of waste management regulations and the challenges of removing materials from the stream.

5. All Stretton Flood Forum Website.

Helen Stowell is building a website for the flood forum with three separate sections, using a standalone system provided by Tim. The website will include financial information, National Flood data, and various resources. Mike plans to review the website with Helen when it's ready and estimates about £100 will be needed for domain names, licenses, and plugins. The group discusses potentially using some of the donated funds to support the website development. The website aims to provide easily accessible information for the community, including links to relevant organizations and councils. Once the website live it will be updated and maintained by flood forum members.

6. All Stretton Bridge Clearance.

Shropshire Council are due to clear stone and silt from the bridge area in September. A temporary fence has been erected by the council in place of the collapsed wall.

Kate Hunter will contact John Bellis and Peter Gould after July 20th regarding stream clearance progress and press for a start date.

7. Any Other Business.

Tree Removal Near Conservation Area.

The group discusses the removal of trees near the lower east end of the stream, which are on the edge of a conservation area. They agree that Patrick should assess the situation on-site and that they need to check if planning permission is required. Mike suggests applying for permission now, even if tree removal is the last task. The group plans to clear the stream of foliage first, then have Patrick examine the trees and discuss insurance coverage with Dominic (National Trust). They consider using the tree trunks for constructing leaky dams elsewhere upstream if removed. The exact location of the trees was clarified, and the justification for removal is to allow the watercourse to run freely.

Date of next meeting.

Tuesday 16th September 2025 venue to be confirmed.