



History of the Parish Council

A Parish Council has served Stratton St Margaret as part of The Local Government Act 1894 which introduced elected councils at district and parish level. Original meetings were held in local schools. The present Parish Council dates from 1973 following The Local Government Act 1972 the first clerk being John Elwyn Thomas and meetings are now held in Councils own centres.

Items from Parish Council Records: -

1895 – 28 March - FIRST FORMAL MEETING (CHAIR Mr T Arkell)

-07-11-1895, Issues with footpath to Coate with Swindon Borough Council waiting response.

Precept of £50 was issued. Two cheques were issued, Mr Wheeler £5 16s & Mr Iles £18 14s for building Upper Stratton footpaths. *Swindon Advertiser 16-11-1895.*

-10 Dec Ordinary Meeting. The other members present were Messrs W. Jakes (vice chairman), J. Usher, F. Ashe, J.K. Coleing, C. Hollick, S. Harris, T. Grey, W.J. Roberts, with the clerk, Mr S. Colborne. – The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. – With reference to the question of drainage for the parish, it was decided on the motion of Mr Ashe, seconded by Mr Grey, to defer the matter until the appointment of the District Surveyor. – The clerk reported that he hoped to pay in the amount of the precept, £30, shortly *Swindon Advertiser 14-12-1895.*

1896 – 25 March - ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The formal Annual Parish Meeting was held on Wednesday at Lower Stratton Infant school when the audience was composed of parish councillors and several ratepayers. The chairman of the Parish Council (Mr T Arkell) presided, and stated the meeting was called in accordance with the requirements of The Local Government Act and was open to discussion of matters affecting the interests of the parish. – The Clerk [Mr S. Colborne] read the notice covering the meeting and minutes of two previous parish meetings which were unanimously confirmed. – A reference was made to the drainage scheme of the parish, in a conversational manner, when the chairman reported that the matter was now receiving the attention of the District Council, which had decided to advertise for plans and schemes for sewerage disposal. – The Chairman referred to the question of allotments, which had received considerable attention from the Parish Council and incidentally mentioned that he had given notice to quit their allotments at Michaelmas next, as, owing to bad debts and unlet land he was unable to obtain reasonable financial return. He should, however, be prepared to treat with a syndicate or the Parish Council, and liberally offered the existing allotments near the Crown at a rental of £2 per acre. As no opinion was expressed by the attendance of allotment holders, the question of the provision of allotments was only discussed in a conversational way, but doubtless the matter will be considered by the holders in question, who may possibly refer the matter to the Parish Council. – The meeting, which was of a formal nature throughout, terminated with a vote of thanks to the Chairman, which was unanimously accorded, on the proposition of Mr E. Hoddinott, seconded by Mr Hy. Looker. *Swindon Advertiser 28-03-1896.*

- Meeting 03-10-1896 – Held at Upper Stratton Girls School, Mr F. Ashe chairman. District Council to be asked for update on the Drainage Plan. A precept of £35 was agreed. It was agreed to write to Police Superintendent asking why both local policemen had been totally taken up with investigating a suicide at the workhouse for the last six weeks. *Swindon Advertiser 10-10-1896.*

1901 – 9th Jan – Mr T G Hood chairman, Mr W Jukes clerk.

Held at Infants school, Lower Stratton. Letter to District Surveyor over state of bridge near the Green and the church path behind Mr H Iles's. Agreed to survey current state of stiles. *Swindon Advertiser 17-01-1902.*

-28th Feb- Mr T Arkell chairman.

Held at Girls' school, Upper Stratton. Path by The Green to be repaired. *Swindon Advertiser 01-03-1901.*

-Annual Assembly- Mr Hoddinott took the chair. Election of councillors took place, there were 18 nominations for 15 places. Elected T Arkell, J Titley, Henry Dyke, S Harris, H Wildern, T G Hood, T S Westmacott, T Brown, F Reeves, F Blake, W H Hill, William Radway, G Kempster, G Hale, and G Romans. Mr T Arkell then took the chair. In response to comments it was said Fire Brigade had only had a couple of practices due to lack of water. It was confirmed that Herring Trust was still being correctly run. The question of amalgamation with Swindon was then discussed, It was finally agreed that a formal deputation to forward discussions with Swindon Council. *Swindon Advertiser 08-03-1901.*

-25th April meeting, Chair Mr T Arkell, held in Girls' school.

Election of Chairman, committees and overseers took place. Still waiting to see plans for new drainage system from Swindon Council. A couple of new styles at Churchway had not been finished off properly. *Swindon Advertiser 26-04-1901.*

-Meeting 14th May, Mr T G Hood, chairman.

Held at Infants' school, Lower Stratton. Work on Upper Stratton Footpath was outstanding. *Swindon Advertiser 17-05-1901.*

-Meeting 24th Oct, Mr P G Hood in chair

Held at Girls School, Upper Stratton. W H Jukes, clerk. District Council reply stating they were not aware of any encroachments, council agreed to set up committee to action this further. Letter of condolence to be sent to Mrs Hale. Upper Stratton footpath to be repaired. Letter to be sent to Postmaster asking for improvements to services. *Swindon Advertiser 25-10-1901.*

-Meeting 28 Nov, Mr T Arkell chairman.

Held at the Infants' School, Lower Stratton. Still concerns over issues of encroachment at The Green. Mr W Baughn was elected to replace the late Mr E Hale. Letter to be sent to District Council over state of footpaths in Lower Stratton. *Swindon Advertiser 29-11-1901.*

-Meeting 19th Dec, Mr T. G. Hood chairman.

Held at Girls School, Upper Stratton. W H Jukes, clerk. District council had acknowledged work required on footpath in Ermin Street. Letter to be sent regarding state of stone bridge over brook at the Common, also regarding the poor state of Church Path. Mr W Baughn replaced Mr G Hale who had died. *Swindon Advertiser 20-12-1901.*

1902 – 20th March Meeting, Mr T G Hood, chair.

Held at Lower Stratton Infants. Messrs J E TITLEY & H DYKE had resigned from council.

Council to arrange joint meeting with schools to organise Coronation celebrations. Retaining fee to be paid for use of Swindon Fire Engine. A gratuity of £5 to be paid to assistant overseer Mr W Harris for his work or the special sanitary rates. Letter to District Council over poor state of the road repairs at Kingsdown. Agreed to levy 1/2d rate for Kingsdown path repairs. *Swindon Advertiser 28-03-1902.*

-16th Oct – Monthly Meeting (CHAIR Mr T. G. Hood)

Held at Girls School, Upper Stratton. W H Jukes, clerk. Letter received confirming The Street path on hold until sewerage work complete. Station Road footpath had been given go ahead. Materials had been received for Upper Stratton footpath. Changes at Stratton Cross Roads had been declined. The council was requesting permission of District Council to replace the willow tree, to be paid for by Mr T Arkell, as a memento to Kings Coronation. It was also requested that the 7.30 time for letters be changed to a more convenient time. Clerk to write to the owners of the stiles leading to the Clay's be repaired. Precept was issued on the Overseers for a ½d rate. *Swindon Advertiser 24-10-1902.*

1903 -Meeting 22 Jan, Mr G Hood chairman.

After letter from South Marston Parish it was decided to do a review on state of styles, and repair, as necessary. Upper Stratton footpath repairs were complete. *Swindon Advertiser* 23-01-1902.

-Swindon agree to give Stratton a Drinking Water supply. *Swindon Advertiser* 06-03-1903.

-Meeting 26 Mar, at Lower Infants. Mr G Reynolds resigned, and Mr E J Stratford took his place. *Swindon Advertiser* 27-03-1903.

-Annual Assembly on 31st March at Girls' School Upper Stratton. Reported that Swindon had declined amalgamation with Stratton without a substantial rate increase, so it had been dropped. Herring Trust still showed a small balance. Council to meet with Postmaster over postal improvements. County Council to be asked to increase road width near Lower Stratton Brewery. It was agreed to pursue the state of paths after the new sewers were in place. *Swindon Advertiser* 10-04-1903.

-Meeting 20 Aug, Mr. W. Baughn (chairman) and Mr. W. H. Jukes (clerk.)

Letter from G.P.O. agreeing to improved postal service. Letter to be sent to District Council asking for canal to be fenced by mill. The parish agreed to go into an agreement with Swindon Borough for supply of fire services. Proposal to widen road between Star Brewery and Stratton Green. *Swindon Advertiser* 28-08-1903.

Meeting on 22 Oct, Mr. W. Baughn (chairman) and Mr. W. H. Jukes (clerk.)

Letter from Merton College agreeing to giving up a portion of land by Star Brewery to enable the road to be widened. There was continued discussion over possible merging with Swindon. Although the parish could stop Sunday trading a decision was deferred. The clerk was asked to write to landowners over repair of several styles. *Swindon Advertiser* 23-10-1903.

Meeting 10-12-1903, Mr. W. Baughn (chairman) and Mr. W. H. Jukes (clerk.) at Girls School,

Upper Stratton. Meeting to consider adoption of Lighting & Watching Act. 40 members of the public also attended. The Swindon Water scheme was also discussed and adopted. A further meeting took place on 14th Dec with 50 ratepayers present. It was decided to take a poll on the new powers. *Swindon Advertiser* 25-12-1903.

1904 –28th April, Annual Meeting at Upper Stratton Girls' School.

Mr Westmacott elected as chairman. Messrs Hollick, Hill, Williams & Stratford were elected as Overseers. Messrs Usher & Westmacott to School Board. Precept set at £12 equivalent to 1/4d rate. Committee members were then selected. *Swindon Advertiser* 29-04-1904.

-22nd June, Meeting. Held at Girls school, Upper Stratton, Mr. T S Westmacott in the chair. It was decided to raise a petition for a siding at Stratton Green Halt. A decision on whether the Parish should buy land for allotments was adjourned. *Swindon Advertiser* 24-06-1904.

- 8th July, Special Meeting to endorse Highworth RDC amendment to GWR widening act so that footbridge is put across widened line. *Swindon Advertiser* 08-07-1904.

- 18th August, letter to be sent to GWR asking for siding at Stratton Green. Letter from Lamb Brewery saying defective fence at Clay pits, Stratton Green had been fixed. Council still looking for land for allotments. There was discussion over required improvements to Fire Service. There was also issues with the state of the roads. *Swindon Advertiser* 26-08-1904.

-16th Sept, Reported the Highworth RDC had agreed to installation of telegraph lines between Stratton and Blunsdon. GWR had responded to request for accommodation on main line station, saying it would be reviewed. £5 was to be spent on Fire equipment. Quotes to be obtained for Allotment land in Upper Stratton. Request to Postmaster General for Telegraph Office for Upper Stratton. Request to improve fencing around clay pits at Stratton Green. Borough to be contacted over state of some roads and paths. *Swindon Advertiser* 23-09-1904.

- 20th October, Mr Hoddinott had agreed to some of his land being used as an allotment. A committee to be set up for Parish to gain Urban Powers. *Swindon Advertiser* 28-10-1904.

-Stratton Drainage, work completed by Mr W B Winchcombe at cost of £500. *Swindon*

- 1905 -Annual Parish Assembly on 9th at Girls' School, Upper Stratton, Mr T S Westmacott chairman. Parish looking at supplying allotments if enough demand. Parish to buy a new Fire Engine up to maximum of £200. *Swindon Advertiser 17-03-1905.*
- Annual Parish Meeting. Mr Stratford elected as chairman. Overseers elected, Messrs Blake, Williams, Cook, Westmacott. Members were elected to committees. Mr Franklin was elected as replacement councillor. 3 applications received so far for allotments. Acknowledgement received from Shand, Mason & Co. for the new fire engine, South Marston have asked to retrain use of the engine, also interest from Wanborough & Rodbourne Cheney. Defective stiles on Marston footpath to be reported to owners. Precept set at £50. 'V' style stile to be installed on Churchway footpath. Repairs required to Upper Stratton footpath. *Swindon Advertiser 28-04-1905.*
- Meeting 18 May at Infants' School, Upper Stratton. County Council asked for list of suitable locations for inquests, following list submitted, Primitive Methodists, Lower Stratton, Baptist Chapel, The Green, Mission Room, Kingsdown, & Wesleyan Chapel, Upper Stratton. Annual audit of Overseers and Parish Council had been taken and found to be OK. Issue with smell coming from Workhouse pig sties. Parish to request stile at Upper Stratton, Headlands, be altered to stop the illegal use of footpath by cyclists. *Swindon Advertiser 26-05-1905.*
- Meeting 24 Aug. Clerk thanked for his presentation at the recent Urban Powers Enquiry. Letter to Rural Council over state of bridge over clay pits and the approach path stiles, the Gipsy camp on the Green. And the pile of stones left by the willow to be removed. *Swindon Advertiser 25-08-1905.*
- 1906 - Hydrant Indicator boards to be fitted. *Swindon Advertiser 12-01-1906.*
- 1907 – John Cox becomes clerk
- 13th November, plan submitted for Sewerage system for Stratton, estimated cost £700, to be funded by Local Government Loan. *Swindon Advertiser 13-11-1897.*
- 1908 - 26 Mar Meeting at Infants' School, Lower Stratton. Letter from County explaining move of control from local School Board to County Education Committee. There was concern over the costs incurred in fighting a hay rick fire at Parsonage farm, 11s 8d insurance had been received. Mr Russell had been contacted over state of Church path by the vicarage, but nothing had been done yet. Fire cart to receive attention and be painted in their colours. The school drains had been checked and were not the cause of the latest outbreak of scarlet fever. *Swindon Advertiser 27-03-1908.*
- Sturrey Field was sold by Mr L L Morse for £50, to be used for road improvements. *Swindon Advertiser 24-07-1908.*
- Oct 22 Meeting, Mr H E Wildern chairman. Consideration of Parish claiming Urban Status was deferred for 6 months to allow further information to be gathered. *Swindon Advertiser 23-10-1908.*
- 1909 – Oct 28 meeting. Letter from South Marston objecting to a clause in the Fire Brigade agreement, clerk to follow-up. Mr Wildern asked for another ratepayer to take over housing the Fire Engine, he had looked after it for two years. *Swindon Advertiser 29-10-1909.*
- 1910 - Letter from Thames Conservancy Board reporting samples of water from Sewage Works were bad. The caretaker was leaving sluice gate open when there was heavy rain forecast, this is to be discontinued. Road repairs will cost £300 and improvements a further £30. *Swindon Advertiser 04-02-1910.*
- 1914 – 16 March ASSEMBLY (CHAIR Mr W Thorne)
- Question of adopting Burials Act first discussed.
- Lighting Act** first raised. Estimated cost £500 at 10p rate
- Complaint to GWR over service.

Complaint to Post Office over service.

First mention of Herrings Trust being allocated as prizes for school children.

1915 – 29 March ASSEMBLY (CHAIR Mr T G Hood)

Offer of ¼ acre adjoining St. Philip's church by Merton College accepted.

1916 – ASSEMBLY (CHAIR Mr F Hammond)

1917 – 26 March ASSEMBLY (CHAIR Mr F A Blake)

Rural District Council task to raise War Funds - £136 raised by December.

National Service Posters to be put up around Parish.

Boys school attendance award set up to improve attendance

11 June SPECIAL MEETING

Adoption of land for 1908 Board of Agriculture Act

Pinnock's Piece, L.L.Morses land, 14yr lease at £3 per annum.

3 December SPECIAL MEETING

Ryal Lane impassable, contact District Council

Purchase of seed potatoes for Upper Stratton Girls School discussed.

1917 – 11 June (Chair Mr George Loveday)

1917 – 3 December (Chair Mr George Loveday)

Purchase of seed potatoes for the upper Stratton Girls School agreed.

1918 - 31 January SPECIAL MEETING (Chair Mr George Loveday)

Allotment plots allocated.

1918 - 25 March ASSEMBLY (CHAIR Mr George Loveday)

Allotments, latest costs £2/10s per acre

GWR asked to lower bridge parapet due to road safety issues.

Floods by Engineers Arms, Gypsy Lane, request to County council to repair ditch and raise footpath.

1919 31 March ASSEMBLY (CHAIR Mr H E Wildern)

War Memorial Fund of £500 to be raised. Believed to have been 60 fallen locals.

Decided to adopt Burials Act

Decided to adopt Public Improvements Act

Rejected adoption of Lighting & Watching Act

Sanitary improvements to be enforced on Van Dwellers at The Green.

1920 27 March ASSEMBLY (CHAIR Mr F A Blake)

Request for Recreation Ground first mentioned

Request to District Council for improved level of Education, Accommodation and Health.

A reception to be organised for returned soldiers.

Peace Celebration Tea for children, War Widows and Elderly residents.

Memorials to Upper & Lower Stratton churches.

Complaint about lack of road paving in occupied streets.

Formal adoption of Burials Act. 3 June 1920.

County Council refusing to release land for Cemetery extension.

14 June SPECIAL MEETING

Agreed to buy land at Kingsdown for Recreation Ground for £800

1921 – 14 March SPECIAL MEETING

1 acre next to church purchased for new cemetery plus land adjoining existing cemetery

At Upper Stratton.

31 March ASSEMBLY (CHAIR Mr A Keen)

6 October SPECIAL MEETING

Agreed to a parish rate of 1/6d to cover costs to buy Upper & Lower Stratton Burial Grounds.

This equated to 8,944 pounds.

1922 – 13 March – ASSEMBLY

Annual Assembly now becomes Statutory Requirement.

Decision not to extend Upper Stratton Cemetery.

1923 – 26 March ASSEMBLY (CHAIR Mr H E Wildern)

Canal Path not closed by Act of Parliament, parish to request path to be maintained for pedestrians.

District Council to improve Church Path due to flooding issues at Stratton Green.

Hedge marking Wanborough Lane removed without permission.

Still flooding issues along Gypsy Lane.

1924 - 31 March ASSEMBLY (CHAIR Mr H E Wildern)

The installation of Public Telephone Call Office agreed at Upper Stratton.

The issue of poor state of footpaths raised again. Although county Surveyor stated that this was in hand.

Provision of motor signs to Upper Stratton School discussed.

Rubbish – looking for appropriate Tip Site.

First request for Gas Installation. Letter sent to Swindon Gas Supply asking for the same Price as charged for Swindon.

1925 – 16 March STATUTORY PARISH MEETING (Chair Mr Arthur William Sellers)

Lighting and Watching Act (1833) adopted. 41 For and 20 Against.

1925 - Lily Alice Iles elected as first woman Councillor.

1926 - 25 March ASSEMBLY (CHAIR Mr A G Keene)

(CLERK Mr John Cox)

INCLUSION OF STRATTON IN THE BOROUGH OF SWINDON. Parish voted to oppose.

Discussed with R.D.C.

Lighting – awaiting on SBC Town Scheme.

1927 - 24 March ASSEMBLY (CHAIR Mr J Rowley)

(CLERK Mr John Cox)

Footpath - 1924 request for footpath from Dockle to old Engineers Arms.

Lighting - recommendation to provide 12 Blanchard Oil Lamps at a cost of 150 pounds,

Flooding - Tilley's Pond. Referred to D.C.

" - Gypsy Lane. Ditch had been cleaned but still flooding issue and at Crowdys Hill.

1927 - 28 September SPECIAL PARISH MEETING

BOUNDARIES. Agreed that the Stratton Parish Council send a letter to R.D.C. protesting

to the reduced area from Powder Works to Crowdys Hill without consulting residents.

1928 - 12 March STATUTORY PARISH MEETING (CHAIR Mr J Rowley)

1928 - Swindon Borough boundary was formally acknowledged to cover extension to take in western side of Cricklade Road to build Pinehurst housing estate.

FOOTPATHS – District Council was again asked for footpath from Dockle to old Engineers Arms round to West End Road. Issues with Dores Road and Swindon Road footpaths.

1929 - 16 January SPECIAL PARISH MEETING

It was decided to canvas residents regarding public Electric Lighting.

25 March ASSEMBLY (CHAIR Mr W E Franklin)

(CLERK Mr John Cox)

Recreation grounds at Upper and Lower Stratton to proceed.

Seats – half a dozen seats to be obtained for O.A. P's.

Footpaths- the usual complaint about the state of the footpaths again.

1930 - 31 March ASSEMBLY (CHAIR Mr W E Franklin)

(CLERK Mr John Cox)

Swindon Electric Company to spend 25,000 pounds laying cables. Should reach Upper Stratton in October. Lower Stratton to follow. The cost will be 25% more for Stratton residents (was going to be 33.33%).

Swindon Road only 12' wide and request to widen it turned down by County Council.

Recreation Ground – Mr Harris assured that this would not be used as a building site.

Sparkes Corner – District Council be asked to fund a whiter line at Sparkes corner.

1931 - 9 March STATUTORY PARISH MEETING (CHAIR Mr W G Muller)

HADOW REPORT – Parish councillors opposed the suggestion of the County council Education Committee proposal to transfer 67 Lower Stratton scholars to Upper Stratton.

- 9th April SPECIAL PARISH MEETING

Agreed amount of money to be spent on Public Lighting of 320.00 pounds.

1932 - 21 March ANNUAL PARISH MEETING (CHAIR Mr F A Blake)

Lighting – granted 950 pounds for street lighting.

Spent 660 pounds on 6 arc Lamps and 38 Street Lamps.

Agreed to ask corporation to extend cabling to Cross Roads.

Allotments - Received applications for 3 acres so far.

Signs - County Council asked to supply 'DANGER' signs at Cross Roads.

1933 - 21 March ASSEMBLY (CHAIR Mr W Branwell Hill)

Footpaths - It was proposed to make up footpaths from Oxford Road to Ermin Street, and from Dockle to Upper Stratton.

Conveyance of children - (Hadow Report) - Following County decision, provision was requested for conveyance of children from Lower Stratton to Upper Stratton School.

Bus Terminus - Request for Bus Terminus at Pike House.

1934 - ASSEMBLY 5th March (CHAIR Mr W Branwell Hill)

Collection of rubbish - District Council asked to improve the rubbish collection in the Parish.

Parish Pump - the possible removal of the Parish Pump was rejected.

SCHOOL AT KINGSDOWN - County Council has approved purchase of land at a public meeting for the erection of a school on March 2nd, 1934.

Press Representation - press representation motion was defeated.

-MONTHLY MEETING 11th May, (Chair Mr. C T Maslin.)

Electric Lighting – Mr. A Nicklin of Swindon Corporation Electricity attended to answer questions on high costs of the new system. It was also agreed to turn off lighting between 16th May & 16th August to save costs. *North Wilts Herald 11-05-1934.*

1935 - 26 March ASSEMBLY (CHAIR Mr C J Maslin)

Public Lighting - The Precept for lighting was 350 pounds.

SILVER JUBILEE KING GEORGE V - It was agreed that 2d in the pound to pay for King George V celebrations. Therefore, a subscription should be opened. This to include Tea for the children.

Ryal Farm Footpath - Question over District Council allowing a house to be built over Ryal footpath. Further action to be taken.

- 13 May - SPECIAL PARISH MEETING

Came to blows between Mr Bourton and Mr Attwood. Agreed to submit additional Council Information to the District Council to retain Ryal path but not maintain the stiles.

GPO - request to GPO for later collection of letters in Upper Stratton.

Gypsy Lane - request to Corporation for reconstruction of Lane.

School - Looking to extend back of Lower Stratton Infants School.

1936 - 24 March ASSEMBLY (CHAIR Mr C J Maslin)

General Expenses – Precept now set at 450 pounds to cover Lighting and expense in the layout of the Recreation Ground.

Public Lighting - It had been noted that the Gas Lamps were superior to the Electric Lamps. Further Lamps to be provided at the Poor Law Institution, Highworth Road, Isles Houses Oxford Road, and Greenbridge Oxford Road.

Recreation Ground Layout

Bowling Green

Cricket Pitch and Tennis Courts

By Loan of 1200 pounds

Parish Hall - request from both Conservative and Labour Parties for Village Hall To be erected. Parish Council asked for it to be deferred to another meeting.

Registrar - It was decided to ask for a resident Registrar in Stratton.

Women Electors - In 1936 the first mention of Women Electors.

1936 - 5 May SPECIAL MEETING

Meeting to discuss construction of **proposed Aerodrome (250 acres)** of Ryal Farm and adjoining. Town Clerk confirmed that Air Ministry had approved the proposed Aerodrome at Stratton St Margaret. The Parish formerly resented the fact that the Corporation had taken steps to establish an Aerodrome in Stratton without advising the Parish Council and residents. Also, that District Councillors and Parish Councillors offered a Resistance to this proposal. Request was made for a formal public enquiry.

1937 - 16 March ASSEMBLY (CHAIR Mr F E Smith)

Coronation Celebrations - It was agreed that 2 Reading Rooms to be supplied.

Public Lighting Gas v Electricity - Corporation and Gas Company be asked to reduce

their charges to same as Borough. Also, competitive prices for Electric Lamps.

Stamp Machine - request for provision of stamp machine at Upper Stratton Post Office.

1938 - 28 March ASSEMBLY (CHAIR Mr C J Maslen)

Annual Precept

Now 900 pounds

General Expenses 400 pounds

Public Lighting 350 pounds

Burial Grounds 150 pounds

900 pounds

Gypsy Lane 1938

Construction of gypsy Lane Bridge.

Gate – The Ley and Infant School, Kingsdown Road, Upper Stratton to be enhanced.

1939 – 20 March ASSEMBLY (CHAIR: Mr CT Maslen)

450 pounds to be spent on Public Lighting.

Continued attempts to get same gas and electricity prices as Swindon.

A request for District council to take over responsibility for Bradley Estate roads.

A permanent Groundsman had been appointed for the Recreation Ground.

Request to District Council for public conveniences to be installed in the Parish.

1940 - 28 March ASSEMBLY (CHAIR: Mr V J Webb)

Recreation Ground closed for use by War Effort.

School pupils to collect waste paper as part of the War Effort.

A request to put allotment number plates at White Hart.

Kingsdown Road and Oxford Road had a lot of loose stones.

Request to go out for volunteers for Fire Service for Stratton.

Issue with people setting chimney fires rather than having them swept.

- Sep 1940 – Parish issue circular to residents reminding them that gardening is important, the average family would need 6cwt of potatoes, 80lbs of onions, carrots and beetroot, 300 cabbages, broccoli or cauliflower.

North Wilts Herald 13-09-1940.

1941 – 24 March ASSEMBLY (CHAIR: Mr S C Casson)

Precept of £650 agreed, a reduction of 2d to 8d in the pound. (*reported in North Wilts Herald 28-03-1941*)

Request for repair of Churchway Path.

1942 – 17 March ASSEMBLY (CHAIR: Mr F J Bowerman)

Complaint over state of Gypsy Lane near rail bridge.

Still issues with roadways on Bradley Estate.

Part of the recreation ground to be ploughed for War Effort.

1943 – 22 March ASSEMBLY (CHAIR: Mr J W Birds)

Upper Stratton allotments damaged.

Original request for air Raid Shelters had been declined. It was decided to appeal this decision and ask for shelters for schools and Stratton Hospital.

Metal seats in Recreation Ground to be given over for War Effort.

Still concern over state of local roads.

1944 – 14 March ASSEMBLY (CHAIR; Mr J W Birds)

Continuing concern over state of roads.

1945 – 27 March ASSEMBLY (CHAIR: Mr W Townsend)

360 pounds be allocated to public lighting.

Request to contact schools over decision to stop dances. Schools were having

Issue of damage to floors and furniture not being replaced.

Waiting for return of recreation ground from Army.

District Council asking for housing applications to be forwarded for inclusion in their Plan.

1946 – 11 March ASSEMBLY (CHAIR: Mr W Townsend)

Director of Education receives supporting school Managers decision on dances.

400 pounds to spent on Public lighting.

It was agreed that Victory Celebrations on June 8.

1947 – 11 March ASSEMBLY (CHAIR; MR S C Casson)

Parish Lighting 350 pounds.

Parish Hall put on hold.

A resolution to purchase Stratton park was defeated.

A request for additional lights at Stratton Crossroads was made to County Council.

Also make up Gypsy Lane.

1948 - 16 March ASSEMBLY (CHAIR: Mr W J Hathaway)

Public Lighting cost 250 pounds.

Village Hall Committee set up.

WAR MEMORIAL 230 pounds to be raised by public subscription.

Recreation to be restored for public use.

County Council to be requested to improve footpath around bus stop at Bakers Arms.

Stratton has become two ecclesiastical parishes.

29 June SPECIAL MEETING

Proposed development of Swindon Borough Council, Proposal that

“Stratton St Margaret parish Council support Highworth District Council

in its opposition to the Borough Council extending its boundaries to include Highworth and District Parishes’.

1949 - 29 March ASSEMBLY (CHAIR; Mr W J Hathaway)

Footpath Bakers Arms to MAP Estate complete.

350 pounds to be spent on Public Lighting.

650 pounds to be spent on general expenses.

Complaint about Cycling on footpaths.

Formal vote of thanks to Clerk Mr John Cox for 42 years of service. New Clerk Mr Mountford.

Mrs O Nicholas (Labour) 5th women elected to council. *Wiltshire Gazette & Herald* 21-05-1949.

- 1950 - 30 March ASSEMBLY (CHAIR: Mr S C Casson)
 400 pounds to be spent on Public Lighting.
 600 pounds on general expenses.
 Housing – 40 of the 1949 allocation still to be built.
 Festival of Britain – suggested trees be planted as a suitable commemoration.
 28 November Special Meeting
 Resolution from meeting to accept adoption of Penhill into Swindon but object to
 Incorporation of Upper Stratton in support of RDC position.
- 1951 - 28 March ASSEMBLY CHAIR; Mr S C Casson)
 600 pounds to public lighting
 600 pounds to general expenses.
 Request to Southern Electricity Board for maintenance of lamps.
 Halt sign at Kingsdown Corner was a potential danger.
- 1951 - Swindon Corporation acquired 250 acres for a housing estate by the purchase of PENHILL
 Farm, fields which lay in Stratton St. Margaret just outside the borough boundary. After a draft bill was put
 through parliament the following year the boundary was extended northwards to bring all the land acquired
 within the borough.
- 1952 - 25 March ASSEMBLY (CHAIR: Mr S C Casson)
 500 pounds to public lighting.
 700 pounds to general expenses.
 200 pounds to burial expenses.
 210 pounds allocated for provision of bus shelters.
 OTHER BUSINESS
 Renumbering of streets
 Footpaths in Highworth Road
 Greenland Road Street light required
 Merton Avenue road safety measures
- 1952 - 8 October SPECIAL MEETING
 Meeting to discuss celebrations for **Coronation of Queen Elizabeth 2nd**. Agreed to levy 4d
 Rate and other money raising events and a Committee was set up.
- 1953 - 24 March ASSEMBLY (CHAIR Mr W J Hathaway)
 Public Lighting equivalent to 4d rate. 750 pounds for general expenses and
 150 pounds for burials was agreed.
 1000 pounds to be used for Lighting for the new Meadowcroft Estate.
 Under County planning Act need to provide new Burial Grounds.
Annual Report – erection of bus shelters at both upper and Lower Stratton.
 Making up of footpaths in Highworth Road, Cricklade Road
 Meadowcroft planned for this year.
 Plan for bus service to Meadowcroft Estate.
 Plan for Library in Upper Stratton.
 Issues of renaming streets in Stratton by Borough Council.
- 1954 - 23 March ASSEMBLY (CHAIR Mr W J Hathaway)

A one shilling Precept was approved.
Final Precept 1.5d to cover Coronation expenses.

**PLESSEY CO. HAVE APPLIED TO PURCHASE KINGSDOWN RECREATION SITE
6 and a half ACRES.**

9 November SPECIAL MEETING

Decision to purchase 1-acre full burial ground to existing Church grounds.

1955 - 29 March ASSEMBLY (Mr P Hackett)

Total Precept for the year 1,890 pounds.

During the year Highworth Road had been widened.

Highworth RDC ruling Council House accepting tenants/lodgers should pay increased Rents.

- Parish agree to build new recreation ground at Meadowcroft.

1956 - 13 March ASSEMBLY (CHAIR Mr H J Smith)

Precept 2,236 pounds.

Existing gas lighting to be replaced by electric lighting when gas fails.

Need to install tap water to Lower Stratton Cemetery for Grave flowers.

Request to reinstate Feast Day by local vicars.

Request to Chief Sanitary Inspector to inspect smells from disused Hay Ricks.

1957 - 12 March ASSEMBLY (CHAIR Henry J Smith)

Provision of Litter Bins.

School Crossing Patrol at Upper Stratton.

Precept 2,315 pounds.

Request for Allotments for the new Recreation Ground.

Land for Lower Stratton Recreation Ground to be bought at 90 pounds an acre.

Request for a Youth Centre at Kingsdown.

1958 - 11 March ASSEMBLY (CHAIR Mr H J Smith)

Precept 3,569 pounds.

Complaints over disturbances from new Factories in Swindon Road working
Through the night.

1959 - 10 MARCH ASSEMBLY (Chair Mr H J Smith)

Review of Rights of Way.

County Council suggested deletions from 3 locations in Ermin Street should be opposed.

Precept 3,945 pounds.

National Playing Fields Association Grant of 40 pounds towards a whirling platform at
Meadowcroft Recreation ground granted.

Concern over increase in child population and slow School building programme.

Swindon Corporation to acquire land at Kingsdown House for a Crematorium.

1960 - 8 March ASSEMBLY (Chair Mr H J Smith)

Precept 4,275 pounds.

Youth Centre cost 12K. Parish to contribute 4K. Approach Wiltshire County
Council to organise.

Complaints over poor public transport in the Parish.
Problems with smells coming from the Industrial Hostel in Swindon Road.
Currently 70 outstanding applications for Council Housing within the Parish.

1961 - 14 March ASSEMBLY (Chair Mr |H J Smith)

Allotments at Upper Stratton and Wildern Square are occupied. One vacant plot
At Cross Roads.

Green Road Footpath to be resurfaced.

Additional Street Lighting still being added across the Parish.

Precept 5,340 pounds.

Traffic Lights installed at Greenbridge and Kingsdown Crossroads.

Request to British Railways to erect Footbridge from Oxford Road to Ermin Street.

1962 - 13 March (ASSEMBLY (CHAIR Mr H J Smith)

The NSPCC gave a presentation.

EXPANSION OF SWINDON -

HRDC aware that any information had to be divulged in a closed meeting.

1963 - 12 March ASSEMBLY (Chair Mr H J Smith)

Telephone Kiosk on junction of Swindon road/Ermin street was constantly out of order.

No light in Kiosk near Hostel in Swindon Road.

1964 - 17 March ASSEMBLY (CHAIR Mr H J Smith)

Allotments now have a Waiting List.

Lower Stratton Recreation Ground purchase almost complete.

Meadowcroft Recreation Ground Pavilion with toilets to be provided.

Precept 10,500 pounds.

CLERKS' SALARIES – 425 pounds.

Proposal for erection of a Mental Hostel in Meadowcroft area to be opposed.

Upgrading of Street Lighting continues.

Request for effect of discontinuance of the 11 plus examination.

1965 - 16 March ASSEMBLY (CHAIR Mr H J Smith)

Footpath from Parsonage Road to Ruskin Avenue resurfaced. Awaiting Lighting.

Precept 15,320 pounds.

HERRING TRUST – three of the seven acres have been sold for development.

Application approved by Wiltshire County Council for Petrol Station in Cricklade Road.

Concern over road traffic speed on Oxford Road.

Request for Tree Planting on Oxford Road.

Discussions over local Government boundaries changes were discussed.

Discussion took place over the proposed NYTHE Estate.

17 August SPECIAL MEETING

Presentation from Boundaries Commission on new PROPSOED BOROUGH OF
SWINDON.

After discussions, the following Proposal was made:

The Rate payers of Stratton St. Margaret support the counter observations of
Highworth RDC but also instructs the Parish Council to oppose any transfer of any
part of the Parish to Borough of Swindon.

- 1973 – Current Council set up from 1972 Local Government Act now part of Thamesdown. Clerk John Elwyn Thomas
- 1985 – 3rd September – Meadowcroft Community Centre, Architects Eric Cole & Partners, Swindon, was opened by Chair of Parish Council, Mrs U A Owen & Mayor of Swindon, P L Jefferies.
- 2014 – Parish offices moved to Grange and Upper Stratton Baptists take over running of Meadowcroft.
- 2015 – New Parish boundaries come into operation, Business area around Sainsbury's becomes part of South Marston, Nythe Estate becomes its own Parish and all of Stratton wood is now in Stratton.
- 2017 – Took over responsibility for local services from Borough Council including Open Spaces, Hedges, litter and Beechcroft Library.
- 2019 – Grange Leisure centre handed over to Management Agency, Council offices moved back to Meadowcroft.