

The Minutes of the Meeting of Stockbury Parish Council
held by Zoom on the 17th February 2021 at 7:30 PM.

***Councillor's present: Bingham
Cathcart
Southern
Woods***

Also, present: Parish Clerk, Mrs S Babington, MBC Councillor Garten, KCC Councillor Prendergast and members of public.

The meeting was chaired by Parish Cllr Woods.

1. Apologies.

Apologies were received and reasons for absence accepted from Cllrs Mace, Tomsett, and Brown.

2. Declaration of Interest.

No interests were declared.

3. Minutes of the previous Meeting.

The Minutes of the previous meeting were circulated to all present. These were proposed by Cllr Southern as a true record, this was seconded by Cllr Cathcart and agreed by all present.

The Minutes were then signed and dated by the Chairman of the meeting.

4. Matters Arising.

Printer – Cllr Southern reported that the Stockbury Observer had been published in January and this had been well received by members of the public. She thanked Fiona and Geoff Moody for their work on producing this.

She reported that a meeting had been arranged to discuss the printer and the invoicing rates etc.

Chalky Road -The Clerk confirmed that this had been reported to KCC as agreed.

Foxwood lights – The Clerk stated that she had sent a letter to the resident as agreed.

5. Notice of reports from external meetings.

No matters were reported.

6. Consultation on the meeting agenda by members of the public.

No matters were raised.

7. Highways Matters.

a. General Highway Matters.

It was reported that there was flooding at Plumtree and South Green Lane.

Action: Clerk to report to Kent Highways.

Councillor Prendergast urged members to report potholes online and follow these up with Sue Laporte if necessary.

The Chairman asked the Clerk to liaise with KCC to seek an introduction with the new Highways Steward covering Stockbury.

Action: Clerk to action.

b. M2 Junction 5 Improvements.

No matters were raised.

8. Planning Matters:

a. Applications for consideration.

Applications Received

21/500291/FULL Poppy View Yelsted Road Yelsted Sittingbourne Kent
Annexe accommodation above the three-bay garage to be "used ancillary to the main dwelling (Retrospective).

21/500394/LBC Cherry Orchard Cottage Yelsted Lane Sittingbourne Kent
Listed Building Consent for erection of gates to driveway and erection of garden building for use as a gym and study ancillary to the enjoyment of the dwelling.
(Part retrospective)

21/500393/FULL Cherry Orchard Cottage Yelsted Lane Sittingbourne Kent
Consent for erection of gates to driveway and erection of garden building for use as a gym and study ancillary to the enjoyment of the dwelling. (Part retrospective)

Objection on grounds of height, members agreed that they did not wish to have the application called into Committee.

Action: Clerk to action.

21/500185/FULL Merriefields Hill Green Road Stockbury Sittingbourne
Demolition of an existing garage building and the erection of a new building to provide a gym with studio area.

Application Decisions by MBC

20/506085/FULL

Three Greens Chalky Road Stockbury Sittingbourne Kent ME9 7QR

Erection of infill extensions to front with creation of a first floor to provide additional living accommodation. Demolition of existing lean to 3 bay garage and erection of new three bay garage with office and above, including dormers (revised scheme to 20/503322/FULL).

Application Permitted

21/500115/SUB

Alternative Reference Not Available

Court Farm Yelsted Lane Sittingbourne ME9 7UT

Submission of details to discharge Condition 3 (Parking and turning details) of planning permission

20/502289/FULL.

Application Permitted

b. Enforcement Matters.

Members noted that an Appeal had been lodged for Seaview.

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Cllr Cathcart reported that he had attended the Kent Agricultural Society AGM. He stated that there was a revised planning application due to be submitted for Bimbury Park.

This was discussed by members and MBC Councillor Garten stated that Planning Officers were not in support of development in an AONB.

9. Financial Matters:

a. Statement of Accounts & Cheques for signature.

The financial statement was approved by members. (Woods/Southern).

10. External Reports:

a. Parish Councillors.

No matters were reported.

b. KCC Councillor.

KCC Councillor Prendergast gave her report to the meeting.

She reported on the following:

- The Brexit transition and how this had worked well with traffic in the area.
- The KCC budget, a 3% increase for adult care and a 1.99% increase for Council Tax.
- KCC had been allocated a 10 million Covid Fund to assist people on low incomes and struggling businesses. Digital poverty was also due to be addressed.
- A further 6 million would also be made available to assist with council tax payment for struggling people.
- KCC were heavily involved with surge testing in Maidstone, and she was pleased that the numbers had come down in the last two weeks, this was positive news.
- Kent Together was still active and giving support, as necessary.

Cllr Woods stated that the Kent Resilience Forum had done an excellent job, he stated that he would send a letter of thanks from the PC.

Action: Cllr Woods to action.

Cllr Southern reported that the Stockbury Support Group was still operating in the area to support local residents.

c. MBC Councillor.

MBC Councillor Garten gave his report to the meeting.

He reported on the following:

- COVID testing in the Borough and stated that these were running efficiently.
- ANOB Management Plan for the Kent Downs had now been drafted and was ready for approval.
- Discretionary Bus Grants were available, the deadline for applications was Tuesday 15th February 2021.
- All electric vehicles would qualify for free parking in the Borough.

A general discussion took place regarding the AONB Unit and MBC matters.

Cllr Southern spoke regarding the Dark Skies Policy and asked Cllr Garten why MBC had not signed up to this.

Councillor Garten stated that he would continue to support the Dark Skies Policy and push for this to be adopted by MBC.

008/2020

11. Correspondence Report.

The correspondence report was noted by members.

12. Stockbury Bus.

Cllr Southern suggested that a Bus Committee meeting should be arranged to discuss this at some point in the future.

This was agreed.

13. Parish Council Policy Review.

The Clerk reported that the Parish Council policies had been circulated for review.

It was agreed that these would be adopted in block and then individual policies would be reviewed, as necessary. All policies were therefore approved. (Woods/Southern)

It was agreed that the Equal Opportunities Policy would be placed on the next agenda for a detailed review.

Action: Clerk to progress.

14. Any Other Business:

a. Raised by Public.

Geoff and Fiona Moody spoke regarding the Stockbury Observer and stated that there was a need for more content. This was discussed by all present.

b. Raised by Parish Councillors.

No matters were raised.

15. Date of next Meeting – 17th March 2021.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was closed to the press and public at 9.10pm.

Signed: _____

Dated: _____