

The Minutes of the Meeting of Stockbury Parish Council
held in Stockbury Village Hall on the 21st of December 2022 at 7:30PM.

Councillors present: Moody
Sumner
Woods

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

The meeting was chaired by Parish Cllr Woods.

1. Apologies.

Apologies were received from Parish Councillors Cathcart, Tomsett and Southern end KCC Councillor Prendergast.

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 Moody as a true record, these were seconded by Cllr Woods and agreed by all present.

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

4. Matters Arising.

Overgrown vegetation on motorway bridge – It was reported that no action had been taken by KCC regarding the overgrown vegetation in the motorway bridge. The Clerk stated that she would follow this up with KCC Highways.

Action: Clerk to action.

5. Notice of reports from external meetings.

Cllr Moody – Meeting with Helen Whately MP.

6. Public Comments and Observations.

No matters were raised.

7. Highways Matters.

a. General Highway Matters.

Salt Bins – It was reported that following the snowy weather all bins now needed to be refilled and two had gone missing.

Cllr Moody confirmed that these have been reported to KCC.

It was reported that there were numerous potholes in the parish and the corner of Hill Green Road and Yelsted Road had been damaged by lorries.

Cllr Moody reported that an accident had happened in Pett Road, and there are two further accidents at Rumstead Road during the snowy weather.

b. Highways Improvement Plan.

Cllr Moody updated members on a meeting regarding the HIP and reported on the items that had been implemented by KCC.

c. M2 Junction 5 Improvements.

Cllr Woods updated members on the meeting with Helen Whately MP and National Highways at the end of November. He stated that there was no real movement to report regarding rat running traffic. There had been a suggestion that National Highways could fund the repairs to potholes in the parish and they had agreed to do this jointly with KCC.

The bridge was discussed, and value for money in context with the whole scheme had been considered and they would not fund this. He reported that Helen Whately MP was to broker a meeting with the Roads Minister in the New Year to see if they could get some movement.

He reported that it was a cooperative meeting with National Highways and spoke regarding 2023 plans and road closures.

Cllr Moody updated the meeting on the new arrangements when the slip road was reopened. He reported that there had been a 10 day delay in opening this, and it was now due to be reopened on the 23rd of January 2023.

8. Planning Matters:

a. Applications for consideration.

22/505232/FULL Ashdown Cottage Pett Road Stockbury Kent ME9 7RJ
Section 73 Application for removal of Condition 3 (Agricultural Occupancy) pursuant to MA/92/0347 for - Proposed agricultural bungalow (as validated and amended by site plan and drawing no. MB:01A received 19.10.92).
Objection – Agricultural ties should remain.

22/505188/FULL Cam Hill South Lees Lane South Green Sittingbourne
Change of use of land from agricultural land to residential to facilitate the installation of a proposed swimming pool and erection of an outbuilding pool house.
Objection – Unsustainable development.

b. Appeals and Decisions.

22/504343/FULL
10 Northdown Stockbury Sittingbourne Kent ME9 7UL
Erection of a single storey rear extension and front porch.
Application Permitted

Land at Bull Lane planning application – it was reported that this application had been rejected by Maidstone Borough Council as it would do harm to the AONB and in an unsustainable location. This was noted by members.

c. Enforcement Matters.

No matters were raised.

9. Financial Matters:

a. Statement of Accounts & Cheques for signature.

The financial statement was presented to members.

Members were asked to approve an additional cheque payable to the Village Hall for £67.50, cheque number 100253. This was approved by members.

The financial statement was approved by members. (Moody/Sumner).

b. 2023/2024 Budget and Precept.

It was agreed that this would be discussed and agreed at the January PC meeting, when the Tax Band rates had been issued by MBC.

10. External Reports:

a. Parish Councillors.

No matters were reported.

b. KCC Councillor.

KCC Councillor Prendergast gave her apologies to the meeting.

c. MBC Councillor.

MBC Councillor Garten gave his report to the meeting.

He reported on the following.

- Rural bus Service withdrawal
- MBC Budget
- Bin collections
- Electoral Reform, Boundary Commission final decision

11. Correspondence Report.

The correspondence report was noted by members.

Members discussed the KALC Community Award, it was agreed that this should be an agenda item for the January PC meeting as the PC may wish to put forward a nomination.

Action: Clerk to place item to my next agenda.

12. Stockbury Bus.

Cllr Moody reported on the bus.

He stated that the bus was attracting private hires and needed 40 hires a month to breakeven. He reported that the fees for 2023 were currently under review.

He stated that an engine warning light has come on on the bus and it needed to go back to Ford for further investigation in January.

13. Stockbury Orchard.

It was reported that Cllr Tomsett was progressing the grant application as discussed and agreed at the previous meeting.

14. Stockbury Observer.

Cllr Moody updated members on the progress of the Stockbury Observer.
He reported that there would be no publication in December.

15. Any Other Business:

a. Raised by Public.

No matters were raised.

b. Raised by Parish Councillors.

no matters were raised.

16. Date of next Meeting – 18th January 2023.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was closed to the press and public at 9.00pm.

Signed: _____

Dated: _____