

STOCKTON PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT Minutes of meeting on 24th November 2025 at Stockton Cricket Pavillion

Present: Sammy Langford-Holt, Charlie Beales, Adrian Leng
Apologies: Zoe Hallett
3 Villagers

- 1) Villager E: Asked why we did not have a Clerk. We said we had only just been made aware we needed one and would look into this. He also raised issues about Almshouse Lane
 - a) He was worried that a Fire Engine would not be able to get up the lane. It was raised in discussion later in the meeting that Wiltshire Council's huge rubbish collection lorries manage to go up the lane each week without any issue that we are aware of so presumably a Fire Engine could do the same as they are probably similar sized vehicles.
 - b) Parking on the road around the junction. No. 16-17 have since been asked to kindly not park their pick-up truck directly outside their house which they have agreed to do.
 - c) Delivery vans reversing back down the lane on to the village road. In discussion it was viewed that this not ideal but why are the vans doing this when they could easily turn around doing a 2 point turn in the tarmac lane that leads to The Willows etc, and then drive out on to the village road face first. Reversing down the lane sounds like bad driving rather than a problem with the lane itself and how could this be policed anyway? There is no obvious turning point at the Almshouses as so many of the people living there now have cars of their own which are parked in the small car park area and also by the Almshouses themselves.
 - d) A reminder that Denise Nott of Wiltshire Council Highways came out to inspect the lane in 2018 and later confirmed in writing that "*I maintain that with the 30mph speed limit in place and by exiting the junction with caution this junction is not different to many others within the county and is not an exceptional risk.*"
 - e) Villager E was asked if he wanted to join the Parish Council but he refused.
- 2) Villager J asked about the Carriers Pub. We all agreed that it is very sad that the Pub is not really open & functioning properly and hasn't for sometime. It has been listed as an Asset of Community Value and so, as we understand it, when the current Landlord decides to sell, the Community Group that listed it will get notified by Wiltshire Council and will have 6 weeks to decide if they in principle do want to have a go at making an offer.
- 3) Villager C asked if the Parish Council would be prepared to buy some dog poo bags to place in the dispenser by the steps leading to the footpath off Almshouse Lane. In discussion it was felt it should really be for dog owners to buy their own poo bags and for them to dispose of them responsibly. They are not expensive. Also someone/people sporadically leave "full" used poo bags around the village which is gross.
- 4) Minutes of the previous meeting were agreed.

- 5) Rubbish Bins. There is no rubbish bin in the village (there was one but it was vandalised/set on fire some years ago and as such Wiltshire Council will not replace it) and whilst it is possible to purchase a new bin it is proving extremely difficult to find any company that is prepared to take on the regular emptying of it. It was decided that to have a bin full up (& overflowing with rubbish no doubt) and never emptied would be worse than having no bin at all, so probably best to leave until the collection situation changes. It was mentioned that generally the village does not have a bad rubbish problem and people have been seen kindly picking up litter they find on the road and putting it in their bin. Also people that drive through the village and throw rubbish out of the window would not use a bin anyway. It was suggested that if/when big shows take place on the cricket pitch field to ask the organisers if they could perhaps provide a temporary bin at the point the footpath meets the village road (by Stockton House) and then empty/remove the bin when the show is finished.
- 6) Footpaths: Progress hopefully. Ben Braine of Wiltshire Council emailed to say he has been out to look at STOC1 and STOC2 with a view to cutting back asap.
- 7) Tractors: Muted if they might be able to travel during harvest time not accessing the village road but this is unlikely due to existing crops in fields. It was also mentioned that the harvest is only for a relatively short period.
- 8) Traffic Survey: Wiltshire Council states that a Speed Limit Assessment costs £3100 of which The Parish Council would need to make a 50% contribution to = £1550 (as of today's date). If 20 Mph limit was introduced there would be even more expense for the village for the new signs etc although not sure what this cost would at this stage. Wiltshire Council also stated in writing that if you believe there is a speeding problem lowering a speed limit does not address that problem as those that speed will almost certainly speed whatever the speed limit. What do people in the village really think about 20 Mph?
- 9) Website & Email: Have applied via Hugo Fox Website Services for a new domain name "stocktonparishcouncil.gov.uk". They will notify us when confirmed and set up. We hope this will be easier for people to find. We will need to confirm the number of new email addresses the Parish Council wants / needs - probably initially 5 (as the next bundle is 10).
- 10) Messenger: It was suggested that a note be put in The Messenger Magazine to politely ask people to please park considerately, ensure hedges were cut back and not to leave dog poo bags in bushes / fields.
- 11) Clerk: Resolution was passed to get a Clerk. This will cost The Parish Council so we will need to reflect this in the Precept.
- 12) Precept: It was agreed to apply for £4000 Precept for 2026-2027 to cover the (estimated) cost of a Clerk and also if need be a Traffic Survey. If not used then a reduced Precept would be required next year.

Date of Next Meeting TBC