

The Minutes of the Meeting of Stockbury Parish Council
held in Stockbury Village Hall on the 16th October 2019 at 7:30 PM.

Councillors present: *Bingham*
Brown
Mace
Southern
Tomsett
Woods

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

The meeting was chaired by Parish Cllr Woods.

1. Apologies.

Apologies were received from Cllr Cathcart, KCC Councillor Shellina Prendergast and the Police.

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 Tomsett and agreed by all present.

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

4. Matters Arising.

Cllr Tomsett spoke regarding the Stockbury Bus and stated that he was still progressing this matter.

5. Notice of Reports from External Meetings.

Cllr Woods- Kent Resilience Plan for a no deal Brexit - report under Planning Matters.

6. Consultation on the Meeting Agenda.

A resident asked to speak regarding highway matters.

7. Highways Matters.

a. General Matters.

Cllr Woods reported that potholes in the parish had now been filled in.

Members discussed Chalky Road and the temporary barrier erected halfway up, it was reported that this was attracting flytipping.

The Chairman stated that the Parish Council had asked for this to be officially closed, however no action had been taken by KCC.

Cllr Southern stated that she would like to see this closed and a permanent barrier erected at the site.

Cllr Tomsett suggested that as there was no need for a passing place on this lane, that posts could be used to close off the area.

This was discussed and it was agreed that as KCC did not have the resources to action this, that the Parish Council would support action to install posts to close the road.

One tonne salt bag -the Clerk was asked to request a salt bag for MB Farms and one for Norton Green Farm.

Action: Clerk to action.

b. Highways Improvement Plan.

The Highways Improvement Plan (HIP) completed by resident David Miller was circulated to all members for their consideration.

The Chairman spoke regarding the HIP and raised his concerns that this included the recommendations of 5 residents when there were 500 people living in Stockbury. He spoke regarding the recommendations and stated that some appeared impractical.

Mr Miller spoke regarding the recommendations and spoke regarding the reasons behind this.

The Chairman spoke regarding the speeding in the parish and the suggestion to reduce the speed limit to 30mph. He stated that he felt the way to reduce speeding was from enforcement by the police.

He suggested that the PC should press to have all lanes reduced to 30mph rather than selected lanes in the parish. He stated that it was the Parish Councils responsibility to submit the approved HIP to KCC, and he asked members for their comments.

The HIP was discussed by all present and it was agreed that the Parish Council would be content to include all lanes on the HIP and seek a blanket 30mph speed limit.

Mr Miller stated that KCC Officer Jennie Watson had agreed to attend a PC meeting to discuss the HIP following approval by the Parish Council.

It was therefore agreed that Mr Miller would amend the HIP and liaise with Cllr Southern, when approved by the Parish Council this would then be submitted to KCC for their consideration, KCC Officer Jennie Watson would then be invited to attend a future meeting to discuss this further.

Action: Cllr Southern and Mr Miller to progress.

c. Junction 5 improvements

Cllr Woods updated the meeting on the current position regarding the M2 J5 Improvements.

He stated that the Public Inquiry was due to take place on 11th February 2020 and last for 4 days. He confirmed that the Parish Council had taken advice regarding their presentation to the Public Inquiry.

He reported that KCC were looking for funding for a bridge for Stockbury, but this would be a separate project to the M2 J5 Improvements. The Parish Councils view was that they should both be undertaken in parallel.

He stated that the PC had been unable to establish how KCC would present to the Inquiry as little information had been forthcoming.

He suggested that he liaise with KCC Councillor Prendergast regarding this matter and he asked for members agreement to do this and submit a FOI request if necessary.

This was agreed by members.

Action: Cllr Woods to action.

Cllr Woods reported that an email had been received from Highways England seeking to hold a meeting with the Parish Council to try to remove the Parish Councils objections as it now appeared that the PC was the only authority to have objections to the Scheme.

Cllr Garten spoke regarding this matter and confirmed that Maidstone Borough Council had now officially withdrawn their objections to the Scheme, as they would wish to see the work undertaken rather than no Scheme at all. He stated that this had been undertaken by MBC Officer Rob Jarman as Head of Strategic Planning.

He confirmed that he was unable to call this decision in for review, however he intended to raise this as a question to the next Full Council meeting at MBC, he confirmed that the indication was that KCC had also withdrawn their objections.

The Chairman stated that the Parish Council was unsure of the KCC position, but the indication was that they were no longer objecting. He stated that he would contact Helen Whateley MP regarding this matter.

He asked members views as to whether they wished to be the only Statutory Authority objecting to the Scheme.

This was discussed and agreed by all present.

8. Planning Matters.

a. Planning Applications.

Applications Received

17/504923/FULL Longton Wood Stockbury Valley Stockbury Kent ME9 7QP
Retrospective application for change of use of woodland to airsoft activity centre and erection of associated structures, camping, filming, re-enacting, woodcraft, Duke of Edinburgh and life skills.
PC objections still stand.

19/504917/FULL Beech Tree Cottage South Lees Lane South Green
Demolition of existing conservatory and erection of a two-storey side extension including a first-floor balcony, single storey rear extension, enlarged dormer to front "elevation, porch/canopy to side elevation and changes to fenestration. Driveway improvements enlarge front parking area and associated earthworks to level garden area. (Resubmission to 19/502825/FULL).
No objections.

19/504848/FULL Bimbury Cottage Bimbury Lane Stockbury Maidstone
Single storey rear extension and two storey side extension.
Objections based on previous submission.

b. Binbury Park

No matters were raised.

c. Appeals and Decisions.

19/503798/SUB

The Coppice Stockbury Valley Stockbury Sittingbourne Kent ME9 7QN
Submission of details pursuant to Condition 3 Part i (Site Development Scheme) Subject to Appeal
Application Permitted

19/503106/FULL

Hazel Street Cottage Hazel Street Stockbury Sittingbourne Kent ME9 7SB
Creation of a new vehicular access with associated entrance walls and gate.
Application Permitted

19/502794/SUB

Land Adjacent to Five Kilns Stockbury Valley Stockbury Sittingbourne Kent ME9 7QN

Submission of details pursuant to condition 4 (Site Development Scheme) for planning application 19/500476/FULL.

Application Permitted

d. Enforcement Matters.

No matters were raised.

e. MBC Local Plan Review.

The Chairman spoke regarding the confidential Call for Sites information released to Parish Councils ahead of the public release on 4th November.

He stated that the Parish Council had sought advice regarding this matter and whether it had to remain confidential and he circulated that to all members. This outlined the criteria used to determine which information was exempt from publication as set out in Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

Following the consideration by members it was agreed that the information contained in the Call for Sites met the criteria for exemption under Schedule 12A of the LGA 1972 and therefore members agreed that they were not able to discuss this during the public meeting.

9. Financial Matters.

a. Statement of Accounts and cheques for payment.

The Financial Statement was circulated and approved by all present. (Brown/Southern).

Members approved an additional cheque for £100 payable to the RBL for the PC Poppy Wreath.

Bank Balances October 2019

Opening Balance on Current Account	£41004.41
Add deposits	£0.00
Less Account for payment	£884.10
Closing Balance on Current Account	£40120.31

Notice Boards - Cllr Tomsett spoke regarding the Parish Councils notice boards and stated that the PC had approved two new boards at a meeting some time ago, he stated that he would follow this up.

Adult Outdoor Gyms -Cllr Tomsett suggested that the Parish Council may wish to consider the installation of outdoor gym equipment in the parish, he stated that funding was available for such projects.

This was discussed and it was agreed that this should be explored further by the PC.

b. 2020/2021 Budget.

The Clerk stated that she would circulate the draft budget for members consideration at the next meeting.

10. External Reports.

a. Parish Councillors.

Cllr Woods stated that he had attended a meeting at Maidstone Borough Council offices to discuss Brexit Planning and the issues for Parishes regarding a no deal Brexit.

He spoke regarding the implications of this regarding Operation Brock and the purpose of the meeting was to plan for communities affected by Brexit.

He stated that there may be issues with traffic in Parishes, and Stockbury and Detling had expressed concerns that in such circumstances access for emergency services may be restricted.

He stated that the A249 was a major diversion route for the area.

He stated that the traffic flows were crucial in the area and Stockbury needed to be aware of the potential issues that could arise if the area was gridlocked.

He spoke regarding the issues that were discussed at the meeting and the areas that MBC would assist with. He stated that he did not feel that there was very much the Parish Council could do in the way of advance planning at this stage.

Members discussed the potential issues and how these could be addressed, they stated that there was a need for a point of contact to be established in the village and contact could be achieved by Facebook, social media and residents living in the parish.

b. Kent County Councillor.

KCC Councillor Shellina Prendergast gave her apologies to the meeting.

c. Maidstone Borough Councillor.

MBC Councillor Garten gave his report to the meeting.

d. Police Report.

Apologies were received from the police and a written report was noted in their absence.

It was reported that the current PCSO was leaving his position in Stockbury and a new PCSO would be appointed in due course.

11. Correspondence Report.

The Correspondence Report was noted by members.

12. Stockbury Bus.

Cllr Tomsett stated that he was still progressing this matter.

Action: Cllr Tomsett to Action.

13. A249 Action Group and JPG.

No matters were reported.

14. Any Other Business.

a. Members of the Public.

No matters were raised.

b. Parish Councillors.

Cllr Bingham spoke regarding the properties in Bull Lane and stated that the residents had received a letter stating that the houses were being transferred to another Housing Society. He stated that he would keep the PC updated on the situation.

15. Date of next meeting.

20th November 2019.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was closed to the press and public at 9.30pm.

Signed: _____

Dated: _____