

**The Minutes of the Annual Statutory Meeting of Stockbury Parish Council
held in Stockbury Village Hall on the 17th May 2017 at 7:30 PM.**

***Councillors present: Bingham
Cathcart
Mace
Tomsett
Woods***

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

The meeting was chaired by Parish Cllr Tomsett.

1. To elect a Chairman.

It was proposed by Cllr Woods to elect Cllr Tomsett as Chairman. This was seconded by Cllr Mace and agreed by all present.

Cllr Tomsett accepted this role and took the Chair.

2. To receive the Chairman's Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

Cllr Tomsett signed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

3. Apologies.

No apologies were received.

4. To elect a Vice Chairman.

It was proposed by Cllr Southern to elect Cllr Woods as Vice Chairman, this was seconded by Cllr Mace and agreed by all present.

Cllr Woods accepted this role.

5. To agree the appointment of Committees, Representatives to Outside bodies and other external appointments.

The following appointment were agreed by members.

Planning

Cllr. Mace

Cllr. Southern & Brown

Cllr. Woods

Cllr. Cathcart

Finance

Parish Clerk

Representatives for Outside Bodies

Footpaths - Mr J Davey & Cllr Brown.

Village Hall - Cllr Bingham.

Stockbury Church - Cllr Mace.

Police Liaison - Cllr Tomsett & Cathcart.

Tree Warden - Mr N Pearson.

A249 Action Group - Cllr Cathcart, Tomsett and Woods.

Highways/Parish Roads - Cllr Brown & Mace.

KALC - Cllr Woods.
ACRK - All Councillors.
Kent Downs - Cllr Cathcart
MBC Liaison (Forums etc.) - Cllr Woods.
Tri Parish Meetings - Cllr Cathcart , Tomsett and Brown.
Village Website - Cllr Woods & Brown.
Stockbury Observer - Cllr Woods & Brown.
Village Green and Village Sign - Cllr Tomsett & Bingham.
Broadband - Cllr Tomsett & Southern.
Village Housing - Cllr Tomsett & Brown.
Tourism & Publicity - Cllr Woods & Brown.
Community Bus - Cllr Tomsett & Mrs Moody.
Cherry Orchard - Cllr Tomsett .
Village Playing Fields - Cllr Bingham.
Village Clubs and Associations - Cllr Bingham.
Grants - Cllr Southern.
Environmental Matters - Cllr Mace.
Village Sponsorship - Cllr Tomsett
AONB & SSI - Cllr Southern & Brown.
Nature Reserves - Cllr Southern & Brown.
Parish Plan - All Councillors.
Gypsy Sites - Cllr Mace & Woods.
JPG - Cllr Cathcart & Woods.
MP, KCC & MBC - Cllrs Cllr Tomsett and Parish Clerk.

Parish Areas & Hamlets

Stockbury Village - Cllr Bingham.
Stockbury Valley - Cllr Tomsett.
Church Farm Ind Estate - Cllr Tomsett.
Cowstead - Cllr Bingham.
South Street - Cllr Southern.
Beaux Aires - Cllr Southern.
Hill Green - Cllr Woods & Brown.
Plum Tree - Cllr Woods & Brown.
Queen Down Warren - Cllr Woods & Brown.
Yelsted - Cllr Woods.
Bimbury Lane - Cllr Cathcart.
Detling Aerodrome Ind Estate - Cllr Cathcart.
Kent County Showground - Cllr Cathcart.
Pett Lane - Cllr Mace
Norton Green - Cllr Mace
South Green - Cllr Mace & Bingham.
Hazel Street - Cllr Mace
Three Squirrels PH - Cllr Tomsett

Appointment of:-

Internal Auditor – Martin Thomas & Co
Bankers – Natwest & Coop
External Auditors – Little John

6. Declaration of Interest.

No interests were declared.

7. Minutes of the previous Meeting.

The Minutes of the previous meeting were circulated to all present. These were proposed by Cllr Woods as a true record, subject to an agreed alteration, this was seconded by Cllr Mace and agreed by all present.

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

8. Matters Arising.

Neighbourhood Watch – Cllr Bingham stated that he had placed an article in the Stockbury Observer regarding the reporting of litter.

He said that he had received two complaints from residents stating that they were receiving too much information from NHW.

Thin planning application consultation - MBC Cllr Garten spoke regarding the MBC planning consultation. He confirmed that the Parish Councils would continue to receive paper plans but not the supporting documentation.

9. Notice of Reports from External Meetings.

No matters were raised.

10. Consultation on the Meeting Agenda.

a. Members of the Public.

A Member of the public spoke regarding the Village Gate features as discussed at the previous meeting and stated that he would email a design and costs to the Chairman.

b. Parish Councillors.

No matters were raised.

11. Police Report.

The Police gave their apologies to the meeting and a crime report was circulated in their absence.

Cllr Cathcart stated that other parish councils seemed to have their PCSO's attendance at their meetings and he asked the Clerk to liaise with PCSO Rowley to see whether he would attend PC meetings on a quarterly basis.

Action: Clerk to progress.

12. Highways Matters.

Cllr Cathcart stated that he had written to former KCC Councillor Jenny Whittle about the A249 Action Group and he was now awaiting the new elected member before calling a meeting of the A249 Action Group.

He stated that a Tri Parish Group meeting would also be arranged with Detling and Thurnham.

KCC Councillor Shellina Prendergast suggested that she holds an informal meeting with Councillors so that they could brief her on the concerns of the parish.

Cllr Cathcart stated that he would arrange a date with her for this meeting.

13. Planning Matters.

a. Planning Applications.

17/502172/FULL

Glebe House Hill Green Road Stockbury Sittingbourne Kent

Enlargement of existing porch with new canopy and alterations to garage roof.

No objections.

b. Appeals and Decisions.

Cllr Woods spoke regarding the Yelsted Dog Training business and stated that this matter had been raised again by residents, he stated that a noise abatement notice had been served last year.

c. War Games, Squirrel Woods.

Cllr Cathcart raised concerns that this business was currently operating without planning permission and the Borough Council did not seem reluctant to take enforcement action. He stated that Thurnham Parish Council had written to the Chief Executive regarding this and MBC had clarified that enforcement action would be taken.

Councillor Garten suggested that the Parish Council query the response to Thurnham with Alison Broom and seek an update on action taken to date.

Action: Clerk to action.

d. Longton Woods.

Cllr Cathcart stated that an enforcement notice was issued on 13 April 2017 however the applicant had appealed and therefore enforcement action could not be progressed until this had been dealt with. He raised concerns that a mobile home had now appeared at the site and the land owner had completely ignored the enforcement action.

He reported that the adjacent landowner had received an order to replant the trees.

Councillor Garten stated that he was not able to speak about this matter as it was still part of an ongoing investigation.

e. Binbury Park.

No matters were raised.

f. MBC Local Plan.

Cllr Cathcart stated that the Local Plan covered the business development areas in Maidstone and there was nothing to do with the Stockbury area in this.

14. Financial Matters.

a. Statement of Accounts.

The Financial Statement was circulated and approved by all present.

Bank Balances - June 2017

Nat West Current Account

Opening Balance on Current Account	£500.00
Add deposits	£0.00
Less Account for payment	£1129.49
Add transfers from Business Reserves Account	£1129.49
Closing Balance on Current Account	£500.00

Nat West Business Reserve Account

Opening Balance on Business Reserve Account	£28791.10
Add deposits	£14020.00
Less transfers to Current Account	£1129.49

Closing Balance on Business Reserve Account **£41681.61**

Total of all Bank Accounts **£42181.61**

b. Cheques for Payment.

The cheques for payment were authorised by members. These were then signed by two authorised signatories. (Mace/Woods)

The Chairman reported that the Parish Council had now successfully opened a bank account with the Coop Bank and therefore the Parish Council had to agree how to transfer the funds over from the NatWest to the Coop account.

He stated that the Clerk had written a letter of authority for the Chairman to request an electronic transfer by the NatWest.

The letter was signed by the Chairman, Vice Chairman and Cllr Cathcart to authorise the transfer of funds.

Action: Chairman to action.

c. 2016/2017 Annual Accounts and Audit Return.

The 2016/17 Accounts and Annual Return were circulated to all members. It was proposed by Cllr Woods to accept these, this was seconded by Cllr Tomsett to agreed by all present.

The Chairman signed the approved Accounts and Annual Return.

15. External Reports.

a. Parish Councillors.

Cllr Bingham reported that he had met with the Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator and it had been agreed that he would receive relevant NHW reports from neighbouring towns.

b. Kent County Councillor.

KCC Councillor Shellina Prendergast attended the meeting to introduce herself to members and to give a report.

She stated that she would try to attend as many meetings as possible and would circulate her email address to members.

c. Maidstone Borough Councillor.

MBC Councillor Garten gave his report to the meeting.

He spoke regarding the Local Plan and the application and appeal for Woodcut Farm.

Councillor Garten spoke regarding the use of CCTV for litter enforcement in the parish. He stated that a mobile CCTV system was available but they needed to be fitted to a lamp post.

He suggested that signage may be a deterrent and stated that he would look into obtaining some signs for the PC.

Councillor Garten stated that a remotely operated CCTV camera system was available but signage did need to be erected to inform people that they were in operation.

16. Correspondence Report.

The Correspondence Report was noted by members.

17. The Harrow.

No matters were raised.

18. Neighbourhood Watch Scheme.

No matters were raised.

19. Stockbury Orchard.

Cllr Tomsett reported on the progress of the Orchard.

20. Stockbury Community Bus.

Cllr Tomsett gave a report on the progress of the Stockbury Bus.

21. Parish Website.

The Chairman reported that the website was being progressed.

22. Footpaths and Bridleways.

No matters were reported.

23. Parish Plan.

No matters were reported.

24. Any Other Business.

a. Members of the Public.

A resident asked about the mowing of the verges in the parish, he stated that these had recently been cut and had destroyed the wild orchids which should have been left uncut as these areas were adopted by the Kent Wildlife Trust.

The Chairman clarified that these areas had been cut by KCC.

KCC Councillor Shellina Prendergast stated that she would follow this up with KCC if the details were emailed to her. The Chairman stated that he would do this.

b. Parish Councillors.

Cllr Tomsett thanked Councillors for their work during the past year.

He spoke regarding the affordable housing in the parish and suggested that an article should be placed in the Observer to remind residents of the process they needed to follow to register for one of the houses.

It was agreed to place an article in the Observer.

Cllr Tomsett spoke regarding the A249 and stated that he felt that average speed cameras were needed as they would slow the traffic down. He suggested that this was a matter for discussion by the A249 Action Group.

25. Date of next meeting.

21st June 2017.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was closed to the press and public at 8.45pm.

Signed: _____

Dated: _____