

The Minutes of the Meeting of Stockbury Parish Council
held in Stockbury Village Hall on the 15th of March 2023 at 7:30PM.

Councillors present: Azad
Cathcart
Moody
Southern
Sumner
Tomsett

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

The meeting was chaired by Parish Cllr Southern.

1. Apologies.

Apologies were received from Parish Councillor Woods, MBC Councillor Garten and 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, subject to an agreed alteration, these were 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.

There were no matters arising.

5. Notice of reports from external meetings.

No matters were raised.

6. Public Comments and Observations.

A resident raised concerns regarding the amount of mud and debris on the passing bays from Bull Lane towards the M2.

Cllr Moody stated that KCC would not resurface passing bays and any issues should be reported to KCC.

It was reported that there was fly tipping on the Hartlip side of the motorway bridge.

It was advised that if this was on private land then it was the responsibility of the landowner to have it removed.

7. Highways Matters.

a. General Highway Matters.

It was reported that there was a bag of rubbish in the road from the junction from the A249.

Cllr Tomsett stated that this was from a litter pick and needed to be reported to MBC for collection.

Cllr Moody informed members that sacks of straw and dog food had been dumped on Church Hill. There had been previous dumpings of this type of rubbish in Cowsted Lane and this was being investigated as an environmental crime.

b. Highways Improvement Plan.

Cllr Moody suggested that the Parish Council consider its priorities for the 2023/24 submission. He stated that the verges on Binbury Lane, Chalky Lane and South Green Lane were all damaged and he suggested that these should be added to the HIP. He stated that he would complete and circulate to all members for approval.

c. M2 Junction 5 Improvements.

Cllr Moody reported that the crossover at Oad Street would be closed during April and would remain permanently closed. He stated that this would increase the traffic on Church Hill. The bus service at chestnut Street would finish completely, the Arriva service would continue up the A249 and stop at Rumstead. The Parish Council was due compensation for the shelter that were knocked down.

8. Planning Matters:

a. Applications for consideration.

23/500541/FULL - Wildwinds Pett Road Stockbury Sittingbourne Kent
Stationing of residential mobile home for rural worker with access and residential garden (Re-submission of Previous Scheme Ref: 21/505277/FULL

Cllr Moody declared an interest in this matter and withdrew from discussions.

Members noted that the previous planning application had been refused by MBC. The PC objected to this, and it was agreed that the PC previous objections would be submitted.

Action: Clerk to action

b. Appeals and Decisions.

No decisions were reported.

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 for £112.86. This was approved.

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

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 apologies to the meeting.

11. Correspondence Report.

The correspondence report was noted by members.

12. Stockbury Bus.

Residents in attendance spoke regarding the 332 bus service that had been discontinued on 12th February 23 leaving a number of children in Stockbury unable to travel to school.

Parents had formed the School Transport Club in order to seek funding from KCC to set up a private bus for the children of Stockbury. This was a formally constituted group.

The School Transport Club submitted a grant application to KCC, however this had been refused as KCC had indicated that they did not recognise the group as a formal entity, and they would only pay the grant to the Parish Council as they should run the bus service.

They briefed members on the current situation and asked the PC for their support in taking this up with KCC.

This was discussed and it was agreed that the PC was not able to apply for the funding or run the service, however the PC would write to KCC to support the Club, and urge KCC to award the funding. It was also agreed that Cllr Moody would liaise with KCC.

Action: Clerk to draft letter for approval and submit to KCC.

13. Stockbury Orchard.

Cllr Tomsett reported on the Orchard and the work that had been undertaken in accordance with the grant funding. It was reported that the first claim was due to be submitted for reimbursement.

Members agreed that a litter bin outside of the orchard would assist with the litter issues and the Clerk was asked to liaise with MBC regarding this.

Action: Clerk to action.

14. Stockbury Observer.

Cllr Moody updated members on the progress of the Stockbury Observer.

15. Kings Coronation.

Cllr Southern reported on the arrangements for the Kings Coronation. Members approved a £1500 budget for the celebrations. (Tomsett/Moody)

It was also agreed that the Village Green could be used for the event.

Cllr Southern stated that she would also apply to the National Lottery for a grant towards the celebrations.

16. Any Other Business:

a. Raised by Public.

Parish website – Clerk to seek a quotation for an SSL Certificate for the website.

Action: Clerk to progress.

b. Raised by Parish Councillors.

No matters were raised.

17. Date of next Meeting – 19th April 2023.

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

Signed: _____

Dated: _____