

The Minutes of the Annual Statutory Meeting of Stockbury Parish Council  
held in Stockbury Village Hall on the 15<sup>th</sup> of May 2024 at 7:30PM.

Councillors present: Azad  
Cathcart  
Moody  
Southern  
Sumner

Also, present: Parish Clerk.

The meeting was chaired by Parish Cllr Southern.

1. To receive the Declaration of Acceptance of Office for Elected Councillors.

All elected councillors signed their Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

2. To elect a chairman.

It was proposed by Cllr Sumner to elect Cllr Southern as chairman, this was seconded by Cllr Moody and agreed by all present.

Cllr Southern accepted this position and took the chair.

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

Cllr Southern signed her Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

4. Apologies.

Apologies were received from Ward Councillors Thompson, Jones and KCC Councillor Prendergast.

5. To elect a Vice-Chairman.

It was proposed by Cllr Southern to elect Cllr Moody as vice chairman, this was seconded by Cllr Sumner and agreed by all present.

6. Parish Councillor Vacancies.

7. To appoint Committees, representatives to outside bodies and other appointments.

It was agreed that this item would be deferred until the next PC meeting.

8. Declaration of Interest.

*To receive Declarations of Interest in respect of matters contained in this agenda, in accordance with the provisions of the Localism Act 2011 in respect of members and in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 1972 in respect of officers.*

No interests were declared.

*To consider any Dispensation requests received by the Parish Clerk and not previously considered.*

No Dispensation requests were considered.

9. 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 Cathcart and agreed by all present.

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

**10. Matters Arising.**

Cllr Southern reported that the D-Day celebrations planned for the 6th of June 2024 were in hand and a timetable would be published in the Observer in the next month.

**11. Notice of reports from external meetings.**

J5/KCC Meeting – To be reported under Highways Matters.

**12. Public Comments and Observations.**

A resident attended the meeting to speak regarding the orchard and the grant work that have been undertaken to date.

He reported that he had secured grant funding for hedging which would be undertaken in January/February of next year, this would be undertaken professionally and there would be an opportunity to teach the community and local schools this task.

He confirmed that Kent Downs were going to sponsor the information board for the Orchard, and he would draft this He stated that this was a grant that would be reimbursed after the purchase been made.

He reported that the hedge in the north side of the orchard was incomplete at present but would be completed in the winter.

He asked members to consider 'No Mow May' next year as this would encourage wildlife in the Orchard.

A discussion took place regarding the sheep grazing in the Orchard, the timescales for this and whether the sheep should be limited to accept period throughout the year. It was agreed that as this was a Community Orchard there was a need for balance regarding the sheep in the Orchard and the Parish Council would look into this.

**13. Highways Matters.**

a. General Highway Matters.

Cllr Moody updated members on highway matters. He stated that KCC had been out and marked up the potholes in Rumstead Lane and Hazel Street.

He reported that meeting between National Highways and KCC had taken place regarding South Green and additional signage would now be installed.

b. Highways Improvement Plan.

Cllr Moody stated that the HIP had now been submitted to KCC with supporting photos and the Parish Council was awaiting a response in due course.

c. M2 Junction 5 Improvements.

Cllr Moody reported that the slip road off the coast bound motorway would be closed this weekend until the 10th of June for a period of three weeks.

**14. Planning Matters:**

a. Applications Received

24/501407/FULL - Volente Hazel Street Stockbury Sittingbourne Kent ME9

Stationing of residential mobile home for rural worker (retrospective).

**No objections.**

24/501543/FULL - Foxwood Chalky Road Stockbury Kent ME9 7QR

Retrospective application for erection of a replacement summer house for use as ancillary accommodation to the main dwellinghouse, and erection of a wooden walkway to existing pond.

**PC Objections.**

24/501650/FULL - M. B. Farms Parsonage Farm South Street Road Stockbury

Erection of a single storey agricultural building to support storage of agricultural equipment (Part Retrospective).

**No objections.**

24/501236/FULL - Cherry Tree Stables West Wood Road Stockbury Kent

Siting of 6no. additional mobile homes within existing Gypsy/Traveller site (part retrospective).

**PC Objections.**

24/501648/FULL - Parsonage Farm South Street Road Stockbury

Erection of a single storey detached outbuilding to provide a domestic swimming pool with associated accommodation and external works.

**No objections.**

b. Application Decisions by MBC

24/500946/LDCEX

Vale House Stockbury Valley Stockbury Sittingbourne Kent ME9 7QD

Lawful Development Certificate (existing) for the continued use of the former stables as an independent dwellinghouse (C3)

Application Permitted

24/500387/LAWPRO

Guildstead Lodge Yelsted Lane Sittingbourne Kent ME9 7UT

Lawful Development Certificate for proposed siting of 1no. mobile home for use as ancillary accommodation.

Application Withdrawn

24/500779/SUB

Cobnut Farm Pett Road Stockbury Kent ME9 7RP

Submission of Details pursuant to conditions 3 (External Lighting Details) and 4 (Sewage Disposal Details) of application 22/503879/FULL.

Split - Part Allowed/Part Refused

Following consideration of your application the Local Planning Authority under the Town and Country Planning Act, has APPROVED PART A and REFUSED PART B.

Part A - Approved with Condition(s):

(1) The decision approves details relating to the following conditions:

Condition 4 (Sewage Disposal Details)

Part B - Refused for the following reason(s):

(1) This decision refuses details relating to the following conditions for the following reasons:

Condition 3 (External Lighting Details) - The details submitted does not include the luminaire type/style, mounting height and images of the lighting fixtures, and the number of lighting proposed is excessive, as such, the details submitted are considered insufficient and unsatisfactory.

24/500890/FULL

Volente Hazel Street Stockbury Kent ME9 7SB

Retrospective application for the change of use of part of the existing equestrian facilities to use as a dog boarding kennel.

Application Permitted

The Council hereby GRANTS permission/consent for the proposal referred to above subject to the following Condition(s):

(1) The development shall be carried out in accordance with the following approved plans and documents.

23.031-10 Existing Block Plan, Floor Plan and Elevations

23.031-11 Proposed Block Plan, Floor Plan and Elevations

23.031-12 Location Plan

Planning Statement

Reason: To ensure the development is carried out to an acceptable visual standard.

(2) Any external lighting installed on the site (whether permanent or temporary) shall be in accordance with details that have previously been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The submitted details shall be in accordance with the Institute of Lighting Engineers Guidance Notes for the Reduction of Obtrusive Lighting, GN01, dated 2011 (and any subsequent revisions) and follow the recommendations within Bat Conservation Trust's 'Guidance Note 8 Bats and Artificial Lighting', and shall include a layout plan with beam orientation and a schedule of light equipment proposed (luminaire type; mounting height; aiming angles and luminaire profiles) and an ISO lux plan showing light spill. The development shall thereafter be carried out in accordance with the subsequently approved details and maintained as such thereafter.

Reason: To safeguard the character and appearance of the countryside and in the interests of residential amenity and wildlife.

The Council's approach to this application:

In accordance with paragraph 38 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), July 2021 the Council takes a positive and proactive approach to development proposals focused on solutions. We work with applicants/agents in a positive and creative way by offering a preapplication advice service, where possible, suggesting solutions to secure a successful outcome and as appropriate, updating applicants / agents of any issues that may arise in the processing of their application.

c. Appeals

No matters to report.

d. Other Planning Matters

It was reported that a house had been built without permission at Yelsted Farm, an illegal entrance and double gates had also been erected at the site. The Clerk was asked to report this Planning Enforcement.

**Action: Clerk to progress.**

**15. Financial Matters:**

a. Statement of Accounts & Cheques for signature.

*To consider the Financial Statement circulated with meeting papers.*

b. 2023/2024 Accounts, Internal Controls and AGAR.

*To receive and agree the 2023/2024 Accounts, Internal Controls and AGAR.*

i. *To approve the Annual Governance Statement for 2023/24, Section 1 of the Annual Return for the year ending 31 March 2024. The Chair of the meeting and the Clerk to sign.*

ii. *To approve the Statement of Internal Control in support of the Annual Governance Statement and Accounting Statements for 2023/24, Section 2 of the Annual Return for the year ending 31 March 2024 and the supporting Bank Reconciliation as of 31 March 2024 and if necessary, the explanation of the significant variations from last year (2022/23) to this year (2023/24) and the explanation of any difference between Box 7 and Box 8 on Section 2 to be sent to the External Auditor. The Chair of the meeting to sign.*

The Clerk reported that the accounts were currently with the internal auditor and would therefore be presented to the next meeting for formal approval.

**16. External Reports:**

a. Parish Councillors.

Cllr Moody spoke regarding the meeting with MBC to discuss planning inconsistencies. He stated that a follow-up meeting would now be arranged.

b. KCC Councillor.

KCC Councillor Prendergast gave her apologies to the meeting.

c. MBC Councillor.

MBC Councillors Thompson and Jones gave their apologies to the meeting. A written report was noted by members.

**17. Correspondence Report.**

The correspondence report was noted by members.

MAIDSTONE'S CIVIC PARADE AND SERVICE

SATURDAY, 18 MAY 2024

*Maidstone's Civic parade and service will be held on Saturday 18 May. The parade will provide the opportunity to welcome the mayor-elect into office and for 36 Engineer Regiment to exercise their Honorary Freedom of the Borough by marching through the town with bayonets fixed. The parade will pass the Town Hall at 11.30 on its way to All Saints Church for the civic service, which commences at 12.00.*

*The mayor-elect is pleased to invite your Parish Chairman to attend the civic service and join him for refreshments in the Holy Named Chapel following the service.*

**18. Stockbury Bus**

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

He confirmed that the phone bill for the bus account had been reimbursed to Dave Thompson for the sum of £703.63. This was approved to the previous meeting.

**19. Stockbury Orchard.**

No further matters were discussed.

**20. Stockbury Observer.**

Cllr Moody gave an update on the Stockbury Observer.

**21. Any Other Business:**

a. Raised by Public.

No matters were raised.

b. Raised by Parish Councillors.

Cllr Southern presented the KALC Community Award to Fiona Moody for her work in the parish over many years.

**22. Date of next Meeting.**

19<sup>th</sup> June 2024.

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

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_