

**The Minutes of the meeting of Stockbury Parish Council
held in Stockbury Village Hall on the 26th April 2017 at 7:30 PM.**

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

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

The meeting was chaired by Parish Cllr Tomsett.

1. Apologies.

Apologies were received from KCC Councillor Whittle, MBC Councillor Garten, 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 Cathcart 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.

4. Matters Arising.

Neighbourhood Watch – Cllr Bingham stated that litter reporting had been incorrectly reported in the Stockbury Observer and people were now reporting this to Neighbourhood Watch.

He stated that he would liaise with the Stockbury Observer to correct this for the next edition.

Action: Councillor Bingham to action.

Village Green – The Chairman stated that the repairs to the Village Green had now been completed.

5. Notice of Reports from External Meetings.

No matters were raised.

6. Consultation on the Meeting Agenda.

a. Members of the Public.

A Member of the public asked if the Parish Council was going to progress the Village Gate features as discussed at the previous meeting.

The Chairman stated that resident Keith Rich had been asked to draw up a plan for this project to present to the Parish Council and he asked the resident to liaise with him.

b. Parish Councillors.

No matters were raised.

7. Police Report.

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

Cllr Woods spoke regarding an incident in the village where police attendance was delayed due to the crime of being reported by a third party. He urged people to report incidents to the police themselves on the 101 number.

8. Highways Matters.

Cllr Cathcart referred to an article published in the Hartlip and Stockbury Forum regarding the proposed development in Hartlip and the implications that this would have on Stockbury. He stated that a letter had now been received from Highways England stating that they would consult with the Parish Council in the autumn.

He spoke regarding the recent A249 works and the request for a feedback from the contractor. It was agreed that the Parish Council would respond positively stating that there were no problems with the traffic, but noting that the litter was now collecting again and asking if this could be undertaken on a regular basis.

Action: Clerk to progress.

Cllr Southern stated that the rubbish in the village seemed to increase following the rubbish collection. She was advised to seek evidence to support this before the Parish Council could take this matter up with the authorities.

9. Planning Matters.

a. Planning Applications.

No applications were received during the month.

b. Appeals and Decisions.

No matters were raised.

c. War Games, Squirrel Woods.

No matters were discussed.

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.

Cllr Mace reported on incident with illegal dumping in the area.

Cllr Cathcart advised members to take a note of the registration numbers of the vehicles accessing the land. He stated that there was only one caravan on site at present and that the enforcement action would run its course through the system.

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.

10. Financial Matters.

a. Statement of Accounts.

The Financial Statement was circulated and approved by all present.

Bank Balances - April 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 Chairman asked for members permission to raise an additional cheque for £150 for the Village Green repairs, this was approved by members.

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.

This was discussed and it was agreed that the Clerk would write a letter of authority for the Chairman to request an electronic transfer by the NatWest.

Action: Clerk and Chairman to action.

c. 2016/2017 Annual Accounts and Audit Return.

The Clerk informed members that the accounts would be drawn up during the month and submitted for Audit.

Action: Clerk to progress.

The Parish Services Grant Annual Return was circulated to all members and approved.

Action: Clerk to submit to MBC.

11. External Reports.**a. Parish Councillors.**

CLlr Tomsett reported that the website has now been built and the meeting had been arranged with the Web Designer and CLlr Brown to finalise the details.

b. Kent County Councillor.

KCC Councillor Jenny Whittle gave her apologies to the meeting.

c. Maidstone Borough Councillor.

MBC Councillor Garten gave his apologies to the meeting.

A written report was noted in his absence.

12. Correspondence Report.

The Correspondence Report was noted and approved by members.

**MAIDSTONE'S CIVIC AND FREEDOM PARADE AND CIVIC SERVICE
SATURDAY, 20 MAY 2017**

Maidstone's Civic and Freedom Parade and Civic Service will be held on Saturday 20 May. The parade will provide the opportunity to welcome our new Mayor, Cllr Malcolm Greer, to 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 11.35 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 to attend the Civic Service. If your Parish would like to be represented at the service I would be grateful if you would reply by 11 May so that tickets for seating in the Church can be posted out to you.

Maidstone Council - Parish 'Thin Applications' Consultation

Following the meeting of Strategic Planning Sustainability & Transportation Committee, where the issue of hardcopies of planning applications was discussed, please find a link below to the consultation on providing 'thin applications' to parishes. Namely, copies of planning applications that include plans only (all plans, including A4, A3 and largescale – A0, A1, A2).

The purpose of the consultation is to understand what issues, if any, the introduction of thin applications would cause you and to gather any other comments you may have. The consultation is therefore straightforward, consisting of 2 open questions, and can be completed here:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/ParishThinApplications>

Please note: we only require one collective response per Parish.

If you require a paper copy please let us know and we will send these out to you. Any queries about the survey or additional comments should be sent to Consultation@maidstone.gov.uk

The consultation period will run for 6 weeks from the date of this email, in accordance with the parish charter. The survey will close on 5 June 2017.

I look forward to hearing from you, and thank you in advance for completing the consultation.

It was agreed that the Clerk would complete the questionnaire on behalf of the Parish Council.

Action: Clerk to progress.

Regulation 19 (3) (c) of the Community Infrastructure Levy Regulations 2010 (as amended)

Further to your representations on the Draft Charging Schedule last year, we are writing to give notice that the Draft Charging Schedule has now been submitted for examination.

Please see the website for further details, including copies of the Draft Charging Schedule and other submission documents, and the places where hard copies of the submission documents can be inspected:

<http://www.maidstone.gov.uk/residents/planning/local-plan/community-infrastructure-levy>

The time and place of the examination hasn't been finalised yet. Details will be published, and relevant notifications sent, when this is confirmed.

13. Stockbury Observer.

The Chairman stated that this was now progressing well and the item could be removed from the next agenda.

Action: Clerk to progress.

Cllr Cathcart stated that the Neighbourhood Watch details needed to be updated in the Hartlip Forum. Cllr Bingham stated that he would action this.

Action: Cllr Bingham to progress.

14. The Harrow.

Cllr Southern reported that the purchase of The Harrow would be completed at the end of May 17 and a full refurbishment would take place in June with a planned reopening at the beginning of July 2017. She reported that a Fun Day at the pub had been arranged for Monday, 1 May 2017.

Cllr Woods reported that the purchase plans were progressing well and the Committee were currently advertising for new tenants and seeking grants.

15. Neighbourhood Watch Scheme.

No matters were raised.

16. Stockbury Orchard.

Cllr Tomsett reported on the progress of the Orchard.

He reported that the toilets had now been removed from the Orchard and a clean-up would be undertaken in the next two weeks to remove the bonfire debris.

He stated that the spraying of the weeds and the fence would be undertaken after the clean-up.

17. Stockbury Bus.

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

18. Footpaths and Bridleways.

No matters were reported.

19. Parish Plan.

No matters were reported.

20. Annual Meeting of the Parish.

It was agreed that the Annual Meeting of the Parish would be held at 7 PM, prior to the Statutory Annual Meeting on 17th May 2017.

21. Any Other Business.

a. Members of the Public.

A resident reported that all of the new trees planted in the Orchard seem to have taken, she spoke regarding two trees at the entrance of the Playing Field that had died.

Cllr Bingham stated that this was the responsibility of the Village Hall Committee and he would inspect this area and progress through the Hall Committee.

Action: Cllr Bingham to action.

A resident reported potholes on Church Lane, Church Hill, and Honey Crock Hill. The Chairman advised residents to report potholes on the Kent County Council website.

He stated that any damage to vehicles should be taken up with Kent County Council.

b. Parish Councillors.

Cllr Southern reported that a meeting had been arranged in the Village Hall on Tuesday, 2 May to discuss the refurbishment of the Community Pub.

22. Date of next meeting.

17th May 2017.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was closed to the press and public at 8.15pm.

Signed: _____

Dated: _____