

The Minutes of the Meeting of Stockbury Parish Council
held in Stockbury Village Hall on the 20th November 2019 at 7:30 PM.

***Councillors present: Bingham
Cathcart
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 Cllrs Southern, Tomsett, Mace, and Brown, and KCC Councillor Shellina Prendergast and the Police.

2. Declaration of Interest.

Cllr Cathcart – Binbury Park.

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, this was seconded by Cllr Bingham and agreed by all present.

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

4. Matters Arising.

No matters were raised.

5. Notice of Reports from External Meetings.

Cllr Cathcart – JPG Meeting,

6. Consultation on the Meeting Agenda.

No matters were raised.

7. Highways Matters.

a. General Matters.

Cllr Woods reported that the salt bins in the parish had now been filled and the bulk salt bags had been delivered.

b. Highways Improvement Plan.

The Highways Improvement Plan (HIP) completed by resident David Miller was circulated to all members and it was agreed that would be discussed at the December PC meeting.

c. Junction 5 improvements

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

He stated that Highways England had an outline plan of a bridge to see if it met the Parish Council's requirements, however there was not a commitment to take responsibility to build this, only to cost it.

He reported on the date of the Public Inquiry and stated that the Parish Council was the only Statutory Authority objecting to the proposals. The Parish Council had made it clear that it would only withdraw its objections if the bridge was an intricate part of their scheme.

Cllr Woods stated that he would correspond with Maidstone Borough Council to establish why they withdrew their objections. It appeared that the withdrawal of the objections had been undertaken by offices without consultation with members.

Councillor Garten stated that he would ask the same question at the next full council meeting.

Cllr Woods stated that KCC had not submitted an objection and he had requested a meeting with KCC Cllr Michael Payne to discuss this, Councillor Prendergast was also requesting a meeting to seek their views on the Parish Council objections.

He referred to an article that appeared in the Downs Mail and stated that this was the first part of the media campaign by the Parish Council.

He suggested that the village needed to submit a Freedom of Information request to the Department of Transport to establish the correspondence between Highways England and Atkins, the Consultant, regarding Stockbury Parish Council.

He confirmed that the village was actively campaigning to get a bridge built by Highways England as part of the scheme, and the Parish Council would attend the Public Inquiry and represent itself.

8. Planning Matters.

a. Planning Applications.

Applications Received

19/505261/FULL Norton Green House Pett Road Stockbury Sittingbourne Kent
Demolition and rebuilding of existing barn to provide a residential annexe with new detached garage (previously approved under 14/500937/FULL).

No objections.

b. Binbury Park

Cllr Cathcart reported that the Binbury Park site had been put forward for the Call for Sites. He stated that this had now been published and was due to be considered by MBC.

MBC Councillor Garten spoke regarding the number of sites put forward and stated that there were a number of councillors at MBC that favoured a Garden Village, such as Lenham Heath, as this would ensure that the infrastructure was in place before the development.

He stated that the Binbury Park site was in an AONB.

c. Appeals and Decisions.

Cllr Woods stated that the Binbury Cottage application was due to be heard by the MBC Planning Committee with a recommendation to approve.

MBC Cllr Garten stated that as the PC had requested this, a member should attend to speak regarding this application.

Cllr Woods stated that no one was able to attend.

d. Enforcement Matters.

No matters were raised.

9. Financial Matters.

a. Statement of Accounts and cheques for payment.

The Financial Statement was circulated and approved by all present. (Cathcart/Woods).

The Clerk was asked to look into the BT payment as this had increased.

Bank Balances November 2019

Opening Balance on Current Account	£40955.31
Add deposits	£0.00
Less Account for payment	£909.94
Closing Balance on Current Account	£40045.37

b. 2020/2021 Budget.

The Clerk circulated the draft budget and report to members consideration at the next meeting.

10. External Reports.

a. Parish Councillors.

Cllr Cathcart reported that he had attended a meeting of the Joint Parish Group.

He stated that the meeting was attended by 20 representatives and there was a lot of criticism of Maidstone Parish Council.

The conclusion of the meeting was that Parishes should make representations to MBC when they had determined the sites.

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 and referred to his newsletter.

He reported on the MBC Budget and stated that this was likely to be increased by 1.99%.

d. Police Report.

It was reported that the new PCSO for Stockbury was Matt Adlington.

Cllr Cathcart stated that he would make contact with the PCSO to discuss Parish matters.

11. Correspondence Report.

The Correspondence Report was noted by members.

12. Stockbury Bus.

Cllr Woods stated that Cllr Tomsett had stated that he would cover the Stockbury Bus from January 2020, to ensure that the service was continued in Stockbury.

13. A249 Action Group and JPG.

Cllr Cathcart suggested that Stockbury PC liaise with neighbouring Parishes regarding the Call for Sites at some point in the future.

He stated that Bearsted and Boxley Parish Councils had formed a Joint Working Group to look at local infrastructure and they had produced a report with recommendations.

14. Any Other Business.

a. Members of the Public.

A resident raised concerns regarding the number of vehicles parked outside of a Golding Homes home destroying the bank.

It was agreed that the Clerk would report this to Golding Homes.

Action: Clerk to action.

It was reported that the cladding of the houses in Buxton Close were in need of cleaning.

The Clerk was asked to report this to the Housing Association.

Action: Clerk to action.

b. Parish Councillors.

Members discussed a request from MBC to confirm the correct spelling of South Lees Lane and whether this was two words or one word. This was discussed and members agreed that they would investigate this and let the Clerk know.

15. Date of next meeting.

18th December 2019.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was closed to the press and public at 8.35pm.

Signed: _____

Dated: _____