

**The Minutes of the Meeting of Stockbury Parish Council
held in Stockbury Village Hall on the 20th April 2022 at 7:30 PM.**

***Councillor's present: Azad
Cathcart
Moody
Southern
Summer
Woods***

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

The meeting was chaired by Parish Cllr Woods.

1. Apologies.

Apologies were received from Cllrs Tomsett 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 Cathcart as a true record, these were seconded by Cllr Moody and agreed by all present.

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

4. Matters Arising.

Signpost quotation – Cllr Tomsett progressing.

5. Notice of reports from external meetings.

M2 J5 to be discussed under Highway Matters.

Cllr Azad spoke regarding the MBC housing list process, she stated that she had met with MBC regarding this matter, and had offered to assist them where possible, in putting together a user-friendly procedure for them to use.

6. Public Comments and Observations.

No matters were raised.

7. Highways Matters.

a. General Highway Matters.

Village Green Finger Post – Clerk to check progress of this report on the KCC portal.

Cllr Moody reported several footpath issues in the parish and stated that he would look into these.

Fly Tipping – it was reported that there was fly tipping along Chalky Lane. Cllr Southern stated that she had reported this to MBC. She suggested that CCTV may assist with this issue.

This was discussed and it was agreed that the PC would ask if CCTV could be considered for this area.

Action: Clerk to action.

Cllr Woods raised concerns regarding the poor condition of the roads in the parish. He stated that he had emailed the Highway's Steward, Rob Sparrow, and asked if he would drive around the parish to undertake a check on the roads. He stated that he would chase this.

b. M2 Junction 5 Improvements.

Cllr Woods stated that he had met with National Highways, and he reported on this.

He reported that the east bound dedicated strip on the north carriageway had now been permanently closed.

Cllr Moody reported that a litter pick of Church Hill had been carried out by National Highways.

8. Planning Matters:

a. Applications for consideration.

22/501014/FULL 8 The Street Stockbury Sittingbourne Kent ME9 7UE
Demolition of side garage. Erection of front porch, single storey side and single storey rear extensions with "external alterations, including render to side and rear.

b. Appeals and Decisions.

21/503063/FULL

The Dreys Squirrel Woods Rumstead Lane Stockbury Kent ME9 7RT
Retrospective application for change of use of land and field shelter to provide events venue, including erection of covered seating areas to rear and sides of field shelter, erection of woodcutters' cabin to be used in conjunction with events venue, and use of mobile facilities including 2no. storerooms, 2no. marquees, 3no. toilet blocks, 1no. disabled WC, 2no. shepherds huts, 4no. shipping containers, with associated car parking and woodland walkway.
Application Permitted

c. Enforcement Matters.

Fox Wood – the clerk was asked to seek an update from Planning Enforcement, as work was still continuing on site.

9. Financial Matters:

Statement of Accounts & Cheques for signature.

The financial statement was approved by members. (Cathcart/Southern).

The Clerk reported on an issue with the Cultural Fund Bank Account as it had been frozen as it had not been used for a long period of time.

It was agreed that Cllr Cathcart would contact the bank to sort this out.

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 report to the meeting.

11. Correspondence Report.

The correspondence report was noted by members.

12. Jubilee Celebrations.

Cllr Southern reported on the Jubilee celebrations planned for Stockbury.

Cllr Moody reported that the Hartlip Forum was producing a joint publication for Hartlip and Stockbury, and he asked if the PC would be willing to make a financial contribution toward this.

This was discussed and it was proposed by Cllr Woods to make a donation of £100, this was seconded by Cllr Summer and agreed by all present.

Action: Financial donation of £100 agreed.

13. Stockbury Bus.

Cllr Moody reported that the bus.

He stated that this was currently running at 50% capacity, undertaking 15 passenger journeys a month. The bank account was healthy, however if the usage stays the same next year, then it would run at a loss. He stated that break even point was 40 passenger journeys a month. Two years ago, the bus was doing 50 to 60 passenger journeys a month.

This was discussed by members, and it was agreed that more day trips should be organised during 2022 to try to increase passenger use, and members would review it again in 2023.

14. Stockbury Orchard.

No matters were raised.

15. Stockbury Observer.

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

16. Annual Meeting of the Parish.

The Chairman reported that the Annual Meeting of the Parish would take place at 7pm on 18th May 2022, prior to the main PC meeting.

17. Any Other Business:

a. Raised by Public.

Mr Rich attended the meeting to speak regarding the Village Green maintenance, he stated that the payment for this was currently £400 per annum, and this had been the case for a number of years. He spoke regarding the increase in costs and asked the PC to consider increasing the payment to £500 per annum.

This was discussed and agreed by members (Southern/Woods)

b. Raised by Parish Councillors.

No matters were raised.

18. Date of next Meeting – 18th May 2022.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was closed to the press and public at 8.55pm.

Signed: _____

Dated: _____