

The Minutes of the Meeting of Stockbury Parish Council
held by Zoom on the 21st April 2021 at 7:30 PM.

***Councillor's present: Bingham
Cathcart
Southern
Tomsett
Woods***

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

The meeting was chaired by Parish Cllr Woods.

1. Apologies.

Apologies were received and reasons for absence accepted from Cllrs Mace and Brown.

2. Declaration of Interest.

Cllr Cathcart declared an interest in the planning application for Binbury Park.

3. Minutes of the previous Meeting.

The Minutes of the previous meeting were circulated to all present. These were proposed by Cllr Southern as a true record, this was 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.

A249 Cleansing – Cllr Garten reported on his response from MBC regarding the A249 cleansing. He stated that a Cleansing Programme was in place and a litter pick would be undertaken in early June.

Chickenstock Festival – Cllr Garten informed members that he had contacted MBC regarding the event, and he confirmed that an Events Licence had been issued in 2015, he explained the details to members. He confirmed that a Safety Plan had been submitted to MBC and he was awaiting a copy.

Cllr Tomsett stated that he was concerned about the social distancing at the event and compliance with the Covid Regulations.

A resident in attendance at the meeting spoke regarding the noise concerns, traffic and parking issues along the narrow Lane accessing the site. He stated that the last event was held for three days in 2019 and was limited to 500 people, the forthcoming event was to be held over four days with an increased attendance. He questioned who would police the event regarding the attendance and parking of vehicles.

Members noted that the event was being widely publicised in the press and on local radio which would attract more people. They questioned whether there was a limit on the number of attendees and what action would be taken to control the crowds.

This was discussed further, and it was agreed that the Clerk would write to MBC to seek clarification on the concerns raised.

Action: Clerk to write to MBC.

5. Notice of reports from external meetings.

No matters were reported.

6. Consultation on the meeting agenda by members of the public.

Fiona and Geoff Moody asked to speak regarding the Stockbury Observer.

7. Highways Matters.**a. General Highway Matters.**

Chalky Lane flooding – Cllr Southern reported that the road was now closed for the work to be undertaken by KCC.

Potholes – Cllr Cathcart reported that the potholes had been repaired at the Aerodrome Approach Road.

Signage A249 – A resident spoke regarding the temporary Operation Brock signage that was still to be removed from along the A249. It was agreed that the Clerk should liaise with KCC to request that these were removed.

Action: Clerk to report to KCC.

b. M2 Junction 5 Improvements.

The Chairman reported that the Junction 5 Public Inquiry results were due to be published on 18th May 2021 at the earliest, and therefore this would be discussed at the next meeting.

8. Planning Matters:**a. Applications for consideration.****Applications Received**

18/504836/EIOUT Binbury Park Bimbury Lane Detling Maidstone Kent
Outline application (with all matters reserved apart from access) for the Erection of up to 1,750 dwellings including affordable housing, 46,000 sq.m of Commercial space, a hotel, a local centre, a new primary school, a park, and ride facility.....

PC Objections – Clerk to submit objection letter to MBC.

21/501185/FULL Cherry Trees The Street Stockbury Sittingbourne Kent
Erection of single storey side/rear extension to garage (alterations to previously approved 20/503413/FULL).

21/501187/LBC Cherry Trees The Street Stockbury Sittingbourne Kent
Erection of single storey side/rear extension to garage (alterations to previously approved 20/503413/FULL).

Application Decisions by MBC

21/500394/LBC

Cherry Orchard Cottage Yelsted Lane Sittingbourne Kent ME9 7UT

Listed Building Consent for erection of gates to driveway and erection of garden building for use as a gym and study ancillary to the enjoyment of the dwelling. (Part retrospective)

Application Withdrawn

21/500393/FULL

Cherry Orchard Cottage Yelsted Lane Sittingbourne Kent ME9 7UT

Erection of gates to driveway and erection of garden building for use as a gym and study ancillary to the enjoyment of the dwelling. (Part retrospective)

Application Withdrawn

21/500841/NMAMD

Court Farm Yelsted Lane Sittingbourne ME9 7UT

Non-material amendment: the installation of two dormer windows (relates to original application ref: 20/502289/FULL).

Application Permitted

21/500185/FULL

Merriefields Hill Green Road Stockbury Sittingbourne Kent ME9 7UN

Demolition of an existing garage building and the erection of a new building to provide a gym with studio area.

Application Refused – decision notice circulated.

20/503940/FULL

Amberlea South Green Sittingbourne Maidstone Kent ME9 7RR

Demolition of existing barn and erection of a building to be used for classes in sushi making and the Japanese tea ceremony. Erection of a single storey side extension to the existing coach house and change of use to an artist's studio/workshop. Creation of new driveway and parking area.

Application Permitted

b. Enforcement Matters.

No matters were raised.

9. Financial Matters:

a. Statement of Accounts & Cheques for signature.

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

The Clerk informed members that the Parish Council was due to receive a CIL payment from MBC. This was discussed and noted by members.

10. External Reports:

a. Parish Councillors.

No matters were reported.

b. KCC Councillor.

KCC Councillor Prendergast gave her report to the meeting.

- Covid symptom free testing, Sessions House is now the main testing centre.
- 10 million budget approved for a Scheme called Reconnect, designed with young people. To assist with the reconnection to education, wellbeing, and mental health.

c. MBC Councillor.

MBC Councillor Garten gave his report to the meeting.

- Newsletter circulated.
- Swale BC Regulation 19 Local Plan.
- Temporary injunction served on a site in Bodley regarding unlawful dumping of waste.

11. Correspondence Report.

The correspondence report was noted by members.

12. Stockbury Bus.

Cllr Southern reported that a Bus Committee meeting had taken place to discuss the future running and operation of the bus.

She stated that a volunteer was needed to undertake the admin for the bus and additional drivers were also needed.

A further meeting would be arranged in the forthcoming weeks.

13. Stockbury Observer.

Fiona Moody spoke regarding the Stockbury Observer, she stated that the invoices had been sent out with the increased advertising rates.

14. Equal Opportunities Policy Review.

The Clerk circulated a draft policy to all members for review.

It was proposed to accept and adopt this by Cllr Southern, this was seconded by Cllr Tomsett and agreed by all present.

15. Parish Council Elections.

The Chairman reported that the Stockbury election was uncontested with two vacancies remaining.

He spoke regarding the three councillors standing down and thanked them for their work for the Parish Council during their time as parish councillors.

He stated that Councillor Mace had served over 30 years on the Parish Council and thanks him for his dedication over the years.

16. Any Other Business:

a. Raised by Public.

A member of the public spoke regarding a drone that had been flown over properties in the area, he asked if there had been an issue locally.

Cllr Tomsett stated that drones needed to be licensed in order to operate legally.

b. Raised by Parish Councillors.

Cllr Cathcart spoke regarding the Kent Downs Management Plan and an article in the Downs Mail, he asked Cllr Garten if this would have a bearing on planning matters.

Cllr Garten stated that the AONB Management Plan did have weight when making planning decisions and he spoke on this matter.

17. Date of next Meeting – May 2021.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was closed to the press and public at 9.25pm.

Signed: _____

Dated: _____