

**The Minutes of the meeting of Stockbury Parish Council
held in Stockbury Village Hall on the 15th March 2017 at 7:30 PM.**

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

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

The meeting was chaired by Parish Cllr Tomsett.

1. Apologies.

Apologies were received from KCC Councillor Whittle and the police.

2. Declaration of Interest.

Cllr Tomsett declared an interest in the Binbury Park proposals.

3. Minutes of the previous Meeting.

The Minutes of the previous meeting were circulated to all present. These were proposed by Cllr Woods as a true record, subject to an agreed alteration, 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.

Neighbourhood Watch – Cllr Bingham stated that the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme was now running well.

Development at the Aerodrome – The Clerk confirmed that she had spoken with the Chairman regarding the JPG defending development at the Detling Aerodrome and he had acknowledged this.

5. Notice of Reports from External Meetings.

No matters were raised.

6. Consultation on the Meeting Agenda.

a. Members of the Public.

Members of the public asked to speak on the litter in the parish and the activities at Longton Woods.

This was agreed by the Chairman.

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 Cathcart reported that Travellers had moved into the KIMS site at Bearsted.

8. Highways Matters.

Cllr Cathcart reported on an article published in the Hartlip and Stockbury Forum and raised questions regarding the proposed development in Hartlip and the implications that this would have on Stockbury.

He stated that improvements were due to be undertaken to the Stockbury Roundabout in 2021. He suggested that Stockbury PC seek clarification of the access arrangements for Stockbury when the work was undertaken and suggested that these enquiries were put to KCC Councillor Jenny Whittle. This was agreed.

Action: Clerk to liaise with Councillor Whittle.

Cllr Cathcart informed Councillor Garten that HGV's were still parking on the Aerodrome Approach Road. He stated that he had raised this with MBC and they had stated that no additional signage was needed to enforce the illegal parking as long as the double yellow lines were visible.

The Chairman reported that the M2 along with the A249 would be subject to road closures over the next month and diversions would be in place.

9. Planning Matters.

a. Planning Applications.

17/500819/FULL Mobile Home At Catharos Lithos Yelsted Road Yelsted
Detached double garage with pitched roof and storage in the loft space.

Cllr Woods stated that the Parish Council did not object to the original application to build a house on the site as it was within the footprint of the existing property. However the new application for the double garage was outside of this footprint.

This was discussed further by members and it was agreed that the Parish Council would raise objections to this planning application as they felt that it would result in the over development of the site.

Action: Clerk to forward objections to MBC.

b. Appeals and Decisions.

16/501692/FULL

Stubsfield House South Lees Lane South Green Kent ME9 7RY

Single storey side extension, front and rear dormers (4 no.) to annexe building, proposed garage located on existing parking area, re-location/direction of rural footpath.

Application Permitted

c. War Games, Squirrel Woods.

No matters were discussed.

d. Longton Woods.

MBC Councillor Garten stated that there were a number of agencies involved with the enforcement of this site.

Cllr Mace stated that illegal dumping was still being undertaken at this site.

Cllr Cathcart reported that Thurnham Parish Council has written to MBC regarding the enforcement of this site.

Councillor Garten reported that all that he could do at present was to seek regular updates of the enforcement action taken for the site as it was an ongoing investigation.

e. Binbury Park.

No matters were raised.

f. MBC Local Plan.

Councillor Garten reported that MBC would undertake a further Public Consultation in the forthcoming weeks.

10. Financial Matters.

a. Statement of Accounts.

The Financial Statement was circulated and approved by all present.

Bank Balances - March 2017

Nat West Current Account

Opening Balance on Current Account	£500.00
Add deposits	£0.00
Less Account for payment	£1078.16
Add transfers from Business Reserves Account	£1078.16
Closing Balance on Current Account	£500.00

Nat West Business Reserve Account

Opening Balance on Business Reserve Account	£29784.73
Add deposits	£0.00
Less transfers to Current Account	£1078.16
Closing Balance on Business Reserve Account	£28,706.57

Total of all Bank Accounts **£29,206.57**

b. Cheques for Payment.

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 liaise with the Chairman to establish the best way to do the transfer.

The Chairman suggested that the NatWest account was kept open and renamed the Stockbury Orchard Account. This was agreed by members. (Mace/Cathcart).

Action: Clerk and Chairman to action.

11. External Reports.

a. Parish Councillors.

No matters were raised.

b. Kent County Councillor.

KCC Councillor Jenny Whittle gave her apologies to the meeting.

c. Maidstone Borough Councillor.

MBC Councillor Garten gave his report to the meeting.

He reported on the progress of MBC and the current problems with the MBC Planning Department and their Planning Enforcement Team.

12. Correspondence Report.

The Correspondence Report was noted and approved by members.

13. Stockbury Observer.

Stockbury Observer Editor, Fiona Moody reported on the progress of the publication.

The Clerk reported that the invoices had been sent out to all advertiser as agreed at the previous meeting.

14. The Harrow.

Cllr Southern reported that adequate investors had now been found to progress with the purchase of The Harrow.

She reported that the Steering Group was currently opening a bank account.

Cllr Woods reported that the purchase plans were progressing well.

15. Neighbourhood Watch Scheme.

Cllr Bingham reported that the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme.

He stated that this was progressing well and there had been an increase in the messages received from the Maidstone Coordinator.

He reported that he was due to attend a meeting with the Police Liaison Officer to see if the information from the police could be increased.

Members thanked Cllr Bingham for his work on this project.

16. Stockbury Orchard.

Cllr Tomsett reported on the progress of the Orchard.

He reported that a decision had been made by the Events Committee not to run a Firework Display this year as the event had become too big. He stated that by not running it for a year, it was hoped that the numbers would naturally decrease.

He informed members that in 2018 Stockbury would be part of the 100-year Beacon Event and this would involve a public firework event with beacons in the village.

It was reported that a tree planting event was held at the Orchard and this was attended by over 12 people.

Cllr Tomsett reported that there was currently sheep in the Orchard and new fencing would be installed in the future.

17. Stockbury Bus.

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

18. Footpaths and Bridleways.

Green Lane Footpath – Cllr Bingham reported that this footpath was now passable.

19. Parish Plan.

The Chairman reported that this matter was ongoing.

20. Any Other Business.

a. Members of the Public.

It was reported that the grass had now been cut in the Village Green.

A resident asked when the damaged posts on the Village green would be repaired. The Chairman stated that he was in the process of arranging for these to be replaced.

A resident raised concerns about the litter in the parish, members agreed that they had noticed an increase in this.

A discussion took place and members agreed that an article should be placed in the Stockbury Observer to ask residents to report any offenders as this may deter the problem.

Action: Cllr Southern to progress.

Councillor Garten stated that MBC may be willing to place a CCTV camera in the village to assist with the problem. He stated that he would look into this.

Action: Councillor Garten to liaise with MBC.

b. Parish Councillors.

Cllr Bingham reported that he was due to meet with a resident from Yelsted regarding fly tipping as he had stated that he may be able to assist with deterring this.

21. Date of next meeting.

26th April 2017.

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

Signed: _____

Dated: _____