

**The Minutes of the meeting of Stockbury Parish Council
held in Stockbury Village Hall on the 15th February 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 and 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, 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 up operating within the Parish but there was due to be a change in the original system in the near future.

5. Notice of Reports from External Meetings.

Police Liaison Meeting - Cllr Bingham reported that he had been due to attend this meeting, however he had been unable to gain access to the meeting. He stated that as a result of lack of coordination it did not go ahead and this matter was being taken up with the police.

6. Consultation on the Meeting Agenda.

a. Members of the Public.

Members of the public asked to speak on the the proposals for Bimbury Park and the Harrow Public House.

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.

The Chairman reported that the vehicles had been removed from parking on the bridge.

8. Highways Matters.

CLlr Cathcart reported that the Aerodrome Approach Road was due to be closed for BT works in March. He stated that he had been in contact with KCC to establish the access arrangements for the businesses and residents in the area during this period.

CLlr Southern stated that she was still chasing KCC Highways regarding the potholes on Chalky Lane. She stated that she would also raise this with KCC Councillor Whittle.

9. Planning Matters.

a. Planning Applications.

No applications were considered this month.

b. Appeals and Decisions.

16/503789/FULL

Hallwood Chalky Road Stockbury Kent ME9 7QP

Change of use from a grass paddock to a 20 x 40 metre outdoor riding arena for private use

Application Refused = Notice attached.

15/504654/ENVSCR

Cobtree Lodge Chalky Road Stockbury Kent ME9 7QP

EIA Screening Opinion - retrospective planning permission for two existing greenhouses, together with solar panel array to the roof of an existing stable building, proposed erection of garden studio (15/504648 refers)

No Further Action Required

15/502643/ENVSCR

Three Squirrels Stockbury Valley Stockbury Kent ME9 7QN

EIA Screening Opinion for the erection of 2 four block stables.

No Further Action Required

14/505256/ENVSCR

Hinecon South Green Sittingbourne Kent ME9 7QD

EIA screening opinion - Extension to and change of use of building from a mixed use as a dwelling and for the training of dogs to a use as a single dwelling. (14/504672 refers)

No Further Action Required

16/507942/FULL

The Old Forge The Street Stockbury Kent ME9 7UD

Conversion of existing annex back to double garage and conversion of treble garage into annex with ground floor side extension, including roof alterations and addition of one roof dormer into new annex.

Application Permitted

c. War Games, Squirrel Woods.

No matters were discussed.

d. Longton Woods.

CLlr Cathcart stated that he had spoken with the Planning Officer and the adjacent land owner regarding the site at Longton Woods.

He stated that the planning documents contained a letter from the adjacent landowners agent that covered all of the concerns raised by the Parish Council.

He suggested that a meeting should be set up with MBC Chief Executive, Alison Broom to seek answers to all matter raised in this letter.

Councillor Garten stated that he would raise this with MBC, however there were a number of other agencies looking into this matter at present and Thai was therefore an ongoing investigation.

Cllr Cathcart raised concerns that there was a lack of coordination from all agencies involved in this case.

He confirmed that there was currently an application logged with MBC for the change of use of the site.

Action: Letter to MBC re meeting with Alison Broom.

e. Binbury Park.

It was reported that Quinn Estates were now expected to submit a formal planning application in the spring.

f. MBC Local Plan.

Councillor Garten spoke regarding the Local Plan and the Planning Inspectors Interim Report. He stated that in his opinion it was unlikely that the planning application for Bimbury Park would be given any consideration by the Borough Council.

He said the Inspector had stated that the housing numbers in the Local Plan had to be reduced by 900 homes.

Cllr Cathcart spoke regarding the Governments White Paper and its reference to housing in the Green Belt that was progressing at Government level at present.

Councillor Garten spoke regarding MBC and the political makeup of this. He stated that he felt that the Borough Council now had a robust Local Plan.

Cllr Cathcart spoke regarding the Maidstone Joint Parish Group of which Stockbury was a member. He stated that they had objected to development at Junction 8 and was currently defending development at Woodcut Farm as a Rule 6 Party at the Public Inquiry.

He suggested that the Parish Council writes to the JPG to seek their reassurances that they would defend development at the Detling Aerodrome as robustly when a planning application was formally submitted to MBC.

This was agreed.

Action: Clerk to action.

10. Financial Matters.

a. Statement of Accounts.

The Financial Statement was circulated and approved by all present.

Bank Balances - February 2017

Nat West Current Account

Opening Balance on Current Account	£500.00
Add deposits	£0.00
Less Account for payment	£842.95
Add transfers from Business Reserves Account	£842.95

Closing Balance on Current Account	£500.00
Nat West Business Reserve Account	
Opening Balance on Business Reserve Account	£30627.13
Add deposits	£0.00
Less transfers to Current Account	£842.95
Closing Balance on Business Reserve Account	£29,784.18
Total of all Bank Accounts	£30,284.18

b. Cheques for Payment.

The cheques for payment were authorised by members. These were then signed by two authorised signatories. (Mace/Woods)

Parish Council Website.

The Chairman reported that the Parish Council had been given notice that the current website developer would only be able to continue to maintain the PC Website for another month and therefore someone new needed to be found to take over this role.

This was discussed and it was agreed that the PC would prefer someone with local knowledge to take this over.

Cllr Woods stated that he was aware of a local resident that may be willing to undertake this project.

This was discussed and it was agreed that Cllr Brown would liaise with the resident to see whether he was willing to progress this for the Parish Council.

Action: Cllr Brown 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 increase in Council Tax for the forthcoming financial year and the breakdown of this.

He spoke regarding the increase in Parish Council precepts and stated that the average increase was 11.2% this year.

He reported on the staffing structure for Planning Enforcement at the Borough Council and referred to the query raised by members at the previous meeting regarding a database of conditions for Permitted Development applications. He confirmed that the Borough Council did not hold such a database and would not enforce these conditions. He stated that this was being pursued by Councillors.

Litter on the A249 – Councillor Garten stated that litter on the A249 was the responsibility of MBC and a road closure was required to undertake this work, therefore MBC usually worked with KCC to undertake a litter-pick when the road was closed by KCC.

He stated that the next litter-pick would be undertaken in the last week in March due to the Great British Spring Clean event.

Cllr Southern raised concerns about the amount of litter on the A249 and stated that more coordination was needed between the Borough and County Councils.

A general discussion took place and it was agreed that the PC would undertake a litter-pick and this would be coordinated by Cllr Woods and Tomsett.

Cllr Cathcart raised concerns that MBC would be reviewing sending paper planning applications to Parish Councils. Councillor Garten stated that he would monitor this matter.

12. Correspondence Report.

The Correspondence Report was noted and approved by members.

13. Stockbury Observer.

Cllr Tomsett spoke regarding the Stockbury Observer and stated that the first issue had now been published under the new Editor, he stated that positive feedback had been received.

14. The Harrow.

Cllr Woods reported that over a hundred potential share holders had now come forward raising £163000, he stated that it was hoped the remaining £140000 short fall would be made up of loans and grants.

Cllr Southern stated that the Chairman of the Committee had been due to attend the meeting to see whether the PC would be willing to give a contribution towards some costs associated with the Harrow.

She asked if the Parish Council would be willing to consider this further.

The Clerk advised members on the process of seeking grants from the Parish Council.

It was reported that the majority of Councillors were now potential share holders in the Harrow.

The Clerk advised members on the process of applying for Dispensation and handed them information on this.

15. Neighbourhood Watch Scheme.

Cllr Bingham reported that the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme.

16. Stockbury Orchard.

Cllr Tomsett reported on the progress of the Orchard.

17. Stockbury Bus.

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

18. Footpaths and Bridleways.

Green Lane Footpath – it was reported that this footpath was over grown.

Cllr Brown asked if landowners were allowed to undertake maintenance of the footpaths and the Chairman clarified that they could at their own cost.

19. Parish Plan.

The Chairman reported that this matter was ongoing.

20. Any Other Business.

a. Members of the Public.

A resident raised concerns about the increase in lorries parking on the slip road at Binbury Lane. Councillor Garten stated that he would take this up with MBC Parking Services.

Cllr Woods stated that HGV's travelling long Binbury Lane had damaged the verges in the Parish. He stated that it appeared that the lorries were not taking notice of the HGV signage placed at the access points of the lanes.

b. Parish Councillors.

Cllr Brown stated that she had received reports of people living above The Harrow and stated that she had been in contact with the Brewery who were looking into this.

21. Date of next meeting.

15th March 2017.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was closed to the press and public at 8.39PM.

Signed: _____

Dated: _____