

The Minutes of the Meeting of Stockbury Parish Council  
held in Stockbury Village Hall on the 18<sup>th</sup> January 2023 at 7:30PM.

Councillors present: Azad  
Cathcart  
Moody  
Sumner  
Tomsett  
Woods

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

The meeting was chaired by Parish Cllr Woods.

1. **Apologies.**

Apologies were received from Parish Councillor Southern, MBC Councillor Garten 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 Moody as a true record, subject to an agreed alteration, these were seconded by Cllr Woods and agreed by all present.

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

4. **Matters Arising.**

Overgrown vegetation on motorway bridge – It was reported that this work has now been actioned by KCC.

5. **Notice of reports from external meetings.**

No matters were raised.

6. **Public Comments and Observations.**

No matters were raised.

7. **Highways Matters.**

a. **General Highway Matters.**

The Chairman reported that there were multiple potholes in Church Lane and Yelsted Road, all had been reported on the KCC website.

He stated that Rob Sparrow, Highway Steward had confirmed that work would be undertaken on Yelsted Road next month.

b. **Highways Improvement Plan.**

Cllr Moody reported that there was no update on the Highways Improvement Plan. He suggested that the Parish Council consider its priorities for the 2023/24 submission.

c. M2 Junction 5 Improvements.

Cllr Woods reported that there had been a delay in opening the slip road until the 30th of January 2023. He reported that the bollards along with the road edges had been cleaned. Rat run traffic was still an issue in the Parish.

8. Planning Matters:

a. Applications for consideration.

No applications to consider.

b. Appeals and Decisions.

**22/504726/FULL**

Land Off Bull Lane Stockbury Kent ME9 7UB

Erection of a detached dwelling with associated garden, access, parking and landscaping and biodiversity enhancements.

Application Refused

The Council hereby REFUSES Planning Permission for the above for the following Reason(s):

(1) The proposed 3 bedroom house, together with the change of use of agricultural land to domestic garden land, would have a detrimental urbanising impact on the existing intrinsic character of the countryside consisting of an open rural landscape. The proposal fails to contribute positively to the conservation and enhancement of this nationally important protected landscape with the harm increased by the formation of the new access through the existing vegetated front boundary and domestic paraphernalia in this countryside location in the Kent Downs AONB, and the proposal is contrary to policies SS1, SP17, DM1, DM30 and DM33 of the Maidstone Borough Local Plan (2017), and the Kent Downs AONB Management Plan and the National Planning Policy Framework (2021).

(2) The proposed 3 bedroom house is located in an unsustainable location where future occupiers would be heavily reliant on the private motor vehicle to travel for their day to day needs. This would be contrary to the aims of sustainable development as set out in Policies SS1, SP17, and DM1 of the Maidstone Borough Local Plan (2017), and the National Planning Policy Framework (2021).

**22/504129/SUB**

Amberley South Green Sittingbourne ME9 7RR

Submission of details pursuant to Condition 7 (Materials Schedule) of application 20/503940/FULL.

Application Refused

The Council hereby REFUSES the detail(s) reserved by the Condition(s) as listed above for the following Reason(s):

(1) The materials proposed would result in a building that would have a significantly incongruous appearance and is a significant decrease in quality compared to the permitted proposal. The development would not be in accordance with planning policies SP17, DM1 and DM30 of the Maidstone Borough Local Plan (2017) or paragraph 135 of the National Planning Policy Framework (2021). Condition 7 cannot be discharged.

**22/503584/FULL**

Cherry Tree Farm Pett Road Stockbury Kent ME9 7RL

Change of use of an existing poultry shed into 2no. four bedroom and 2no. three-bedroom holiday cottages, including associated landscaping and associated parking.

Application Permitted

c. Enforcement Matters.

Foxwood – The Chairman spoke regarding the response from the MBC Enforcement Officer with regards to the report concerning Foxwood. He stated that the email received from the officer was unprofessional and he and Ward Councillor Garten would be taking this up with MBC.

**9. Financial Matters:**

a. Statement of Accounts & Cheques for signature.

The financial statement was presented to members.

Members were asked to approve an additional cheque for the orchard for £3264.37, cheque number 100256. This was approved.

The financial statement was approved by members. (Moody/Sumner).

b. 2023/2024 Budget and Precept.

The draft 2023/24 budget and report was circulated to members for their consideration. The draft budget was based on a 0% increase to Council Tax Band D, with a precept of £15,972.

Members considered the budget, and it was proposed by Cllr Tomsett to set the precept with 0% increase to Band D at £15,972. This was seconded by Councillor Moody and agreed by all present.

***Action: Precept set at £15,972, Clerk to submit precept form to MBC.***

**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 apologies to the meeting.

**11. Correspondence Report.**

The correspondence report was noted by members.

**12. Stockbury Bus.**

Cllr Moody reported on the bus.

He stated that the bus was currently with Fords for the diagnosis of a fault and they were awaiting further details.

Cllr Moody stated that the bus was averaging 32 to 35 passenger journeys a month and was currently running at a loss of between £50 and £75 per month. He stated that a review of the costs have been considered and it had been suggested that these were increased to £6 per journey.

**13. Stockbury Orchard.**

Cllr Tomsett stated that the grant application for the Orchard has been approved, and work has started in accordance with the grant funding.

**14. Stockbury Observer.**

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

**15. KALC Community Award.**

Members discussed the KALC Community Award and agreed to submit a nomination on behalf of the Parish Council.

**16. Any Other Business:**

a. Raised by Public.

No matters were raised.

b. Raised by Parish Councillors.

Cllr Moody reported that the Village Green that had been damaged by vehicles and one of the posts had been dislodged. It was agreed that this should be reported to the PCSO.

Cllr Moody reported he was due to attend a Teams meeting with residents to discuss possible funding for the school bus. Whilst he was aware this was not a Parish Council issue he stated that he would attend and assist where necessary.

**17. Date of next Meeting – 15<sup>th</sup> February 2023.**

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was closed to the press and public at 8.10pm.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_