

**The Minutes of the Meeting of Stockbury Parish Council  
held in Stockbury Village Hall on the 20<sup>th</sup> March 2019 at 7:30 PM.**

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

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

***The meeting was chaired by Parish Cllr Woods.***

**1. Apologies.**

Apologies were received from Cllrs Brown and Mace and KCC Councillor Shellina Prendergast.

**2. Declaration of Interest.**

Cllr Cathcart – Binbury Park application.

**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, this was seconded by Cllr Southern and agreed by all present.

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

**4. Matters Arising.**

Bench at Church – MBC cannot assist and therefore it was agreed that the PC would purchase a replacement bench.

**5. Notice of Reports from External Meetings.**

Cllr Cathcart – MBC Local Plan Meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> March 19 – report under Correspondence.

Cllr Woods – Flytipping Meeting with MBC Waste Crime Manager – report under External Reports.

**6. Consultation on the Meeting Agenda.**

**a. Members of the Public.**

No matters were raised.

**b. Parish Councillors.**

No matters were raised.

**7. Highways Matters.**

**a. General Matters.**

Stepps Hill Lane – Cllr Woods reported that KCC had confirmed that Stepps Hill Lane was closed with no plans to reopen it due to the flytipping issue. He stated that KCC Councillor Prendergast was looking into what would be done to it.

He stated that closing it would require an official closure.

Cllr Cathcart reported that there were several trees down along Binbury Lane and landowners seemed reluctant to clear these.

He suggested that an article was placed in the Stockbury Observer to advise land owners of their responsibilities.

Cllr Cathcart spoke regarding Operation Stack and the issue with HGV's parking along side roads and lay-bys. It was noted that this was due to an issue in France.

This was discussed and it was agreed that action was needed as this was causing issues with parking on the Aerodrome Approach Road.

Cllr Garten spoke regarding this issue and spoke in defence of the HGV drivers, he suggested that a letter was written to Helen Whateley MP as this was a national problem not just a local issue.

This was discussed further, and it was agreed that a letter would be written to MBC.

***Action: Clerk to write letter to MBC***

b. Junction 5 improvements

Cllr Woods reported that there was no update, however surveyors had been seen working in Church Hill and Honey Crock Hill.

**8. Planning Matters.**

a. Planning Applications.

17/504923/FULL Longton Wood Stockbury Valley Stockbury Kent ME9 7QP

Retrospective application for change of use of woodland to airsoft activity centre and erection of associated structures, camping, filming, re-enacting, woodcraft, Duke of Edinburgh and life skills.

Members discussed this application and raised concerns that this business had been operating illegally for the past four years with a total disregard to planning laws.

Cllr Garten stated that the neighbouring residents were in support of the facility as they were using environmentally friendly materials. He stated that he had visited the site two years ago when they first submitted a planning application and he was disappointed that they had taken so long to submit the relevant plans.

Members raised concerns regarding the Public Right of Way that crossed the site and the restrictions that the application had placed on this by obstructing the access.

Following a discussion, it was agreed that the PC would raise objections to the application and request that it was determined by the MBC Planning Committee.

***Action: Clerk to submit PC objections to MBC.***

19/500991/FULL Hinecon South Green Sittingbourne Kent ME9 7QD

Erection of a single storey annex ancillary to the principal dwelling house.  
No Objections.

b. Binbury Park

No matters were raised.

c. Appeals and Decisions.

18/505661/FULL

Amberley South Green Sittingbourne Maidstone Kent ME9 7RR

Demolition of existing stable building 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 existing coach house and change of use to an artists' studio/workshop.

Application Refused

9/500115/FULL

The Bungalow Norton Green Farm Norton Green Stockbury Sittingbourne Kent ME9 7RN  
Erection of two storey rear extension.  
Application Refused

**d. Enforcement Matters.**

**Appsmoor Farm Light pollution**

The Chairman stated that the PC had raised the issue of light pollution at Appsmoor Farm and Planning Enforcement had stated that there was no breach.

Following a discussion at the last meeting the PC had challenged this, and once again MBC had stated that this was not a planning breach.

The letter from MBC was circulated to all present.

Cllr Garten spoke regarding the technical guidance regarding an AONB that he had circulated, he stated that he felt that the Parish Council should challenge the decision by MBC and file an official complaint.

This was discussed and it was agreed that the planning application and approval for the site should be inspected and a complaint registered with MBC.

Cllr Southern stated that she would action this and draft a letter to MBC.

**Action: Cllr Southern to progress.**

**9. Financial Matters.**

**a. Statement of Accounts and cheques for payment.**

The Financial Statement was circulated and approved by all present.

**Bank Balances March 2019**

<b>Opening Balance on Current Account</b>	<b>£34126.47</b>
Add deposits	£0
Less Account for payment	£774.48
<b>Closing Balance on Current Account</b>	<b>£33351.99</b>

**b. Parish Services Grant.**

The Clerk circulated a report on the balance of the Parish Services Grant.

It was agreed that the balance would be used to purchase a new bench next to the Church.

Cllr Tomsett stated that he would action this.

**Action: Cllr Tomsett to progress.**

**10. External Reports.**

**a. Parish Councillors.**

Cllr Woods reported that he had attended a meeting with the Manager of the MBC Waste Crime Team. He stated that this was a positive meeting and an action had been agreed with MBC that he hoped would deter fly tipping in the parish.

He confirmed that Parish Councils could install their own CCTV cameras and the footage could be used as evidence, as long as it was supported by a witness statement, he stated that CCTV signs also needed to be installed in the area.

He suggested that he draft a plan and circulate to members for their consideration. This was agreed.

**b. Kent County Councillor.**

KCC Councillor Shellina Prendergast gave her apologies to the meeting.

**c. Maidstone Borough Councillor.**

MBC Councillor Garten gave his report to the meeting.

He stated that he had a Members grant of £1000, and he would welcome an application from Stockbury.

He spoke regarding the Judicial Review between MBC and KCC and stated that this had now been dropped following an Extraordinary Meeting arranged by the Conservative Party.

He stated that Purdah was due to start shortly until the elections on 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2019.

**d. Police Report.**

No matters were reported.

**11. Correspondence Report.**

The Correspondence Report was noted by members.

**12. Tri Parish Group/A249 Action Group and JPG.**

No matters were reported.

**13. Any Other Business.**

**a. Members of the Public.**

A resident asked what the Parish Council intended to do with the bus shelters on the A249 now that these were no longer being used.

This was discussed and it was agreed that this would be considered by the PC.

The Clerk was asked to consider this matter when the insurance cover was reviewed.

***Action: Clerk to action.***

**b. Parish Councillors.**

Cllr Bingham reported that the flytipping had been cleared at Honeycrook Hill and unfortunately Kent Wildlife Trust vehicles had now damaged the verges whilst working in the area.

Cllr Tomsett asked Cllr Garten about the MBC property review and the sites in Stockbury. Cllr Garten stated that MBC Officers were due to undertake a site inspection at some point in the future.

Cllr Southern reported that past Parish Councillor Terry Brown had recently passed away.

Cllr Woods suggested that the PC should mark this and proposed that the new Church Bench should be in the memory of him, this was seconded by Cllr Southern and agreed by all present.

**14. Date of next meeting.**

24<sup>th</sup> April 2019.

*There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was closed to the press and public at 8.42pm.*

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

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