

The Minutes of the Meeting of Stockbury Parish Council
held in Stockbury Village Hall on the 13th of December 2023 at 7:30PM.

Councillors present: Cathcart
Moody
Southern
Sumner

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

The meeting was chaired by Parish Cllr Southern.

1. Apologies.

Apologies were received and accepted from Parish Councillor Azad, Tomsett, Woods, 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, these were 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.

There were no matters arising.

5. Notice of reports from external meetings.

No matters were reported.

6. Public Comments and Observations.

No matters were raised.

7. Highways Matters.

a. General Highway Matters.

Cllr Moody reported that he had met with KCC Officer Sue Laporte regarding the flooding at both ends of Chalky Road. He stated that he would continue the dialogue with her regarding this matter to try to find a solution.

A discussion took place regarding accidents in the village due to ice. Cllr Moody suggested that people should be encouraged to report accidents to the police so that they are then included on the KCC Crash Map.

It was agreed that an item would be placed in the Observer to remind residents to use the salt bins and also to report accidents to the police.

b. Highways Improvement Plan.

No matters were reported.

c. M2 Junction 5 Improvements.

Cllr Moody updated the meeting on the progress of the work and road closures for J5.

He reported that the Church Hill crossover was to reopen in the next week, and there was no work planned from 22nd December to 4th January.

Signage was discussed and it was suggested that there was a need for signage to indicate the right hand turn for Stockbury.

Cllr Moody stated that he would liaise with the contractor regarding signage.

Action: Cllr Moody to action.

8. Planning Matters:

a. Applications Received

23/504711/FULL - Erection of single storey carriage/garage barn.
Serenity South Street Road Stockbury Sittingbourne Kent.

23/504990/FULL - Vale House Stockbury Valley Stockbury Sittingbourne.

Retrospective application for change of use from horse stables to 1 bed studio.

b. Application Decisions by MBC

23/504607/LAWPRO

Cherry Tree Farm Pett Road Stockbury Kent ME9 7RL

Lawful Development Certificate for the Proposed siting of a mobile home within the garden on a hard surface.

Application Refused

The Council hereby REFUSES to grant your application dated 13.10.2023 for a certificate of lawful use or development for operations or matters described above in the First Schedule in respect of the land specified in the Second Schedule.

The grounds for refusal are:

(1) The submitted plans show the caravan sited outside the residential curtilage of the property known as Cherry Tree Farm. As such full planning permission would be required. Therefore, for the purposes of S192 (1)(a), the proposal is not lawful within the meaning of S191(2) of the Town and Country Planning Act as amended.

23/504296/FULL

Land Adjoining on The East Side of Pelistry Hill Green Road Stockbury Sittingbourne Kent

Change of use of land from paddock to equestrian land including the erection of a field shelter for storage of large equipment and to keep Alpaca for private and leisure purposes (Retrospective).

Application Permitted

c. Appeals

It was noted that the Foxwoods appeal had been refused, therefore Planning Enforcement should now take action. It was agreed that Cllr Southern would draft an enquiry to MBC.

Action: Letter to Planning Enforcement.

d. Other Planning Matters

No matters to report.

9. Financial Matters:

a. Statement of Accounts & Cheques for signature.

To consider the Financial Statement circulated with meeting papers.

It was proposed to accept the financial statement as presented, this was proposed by Cllr Moody, seconded by Cllr Cathcart, and agreed by all present.

b. 2024/2025 Budget and Precept.

To consider the 2024/2025 Budget and agree the Precept.

MBC do not publish the Band D guidance until the end of December; therefore, the budget and precept should be formally considered at the January 2024 PC Meeting when the Band D calculations are available.

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 report to the meeting.

He reported on the Cabinet System in operation at MBC, the budget, and the street Sleeper Count being undertaken by MBC.

11. Correspondence Report.

The correspondence report was noted by members.

Kent Local Flood Risk Management Strategy 2024-2034: Consultation information

KCC, as Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA), has an overview role for local flood, which is flooding that arises from surface runoff, ordinary watercourses, and groundwater. As LLFA, we have a duty to produce a Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (Local Strategy) that sets out how local flood risks will be managed in the county.

The current Local Strategy (2017-2023) needs to be replaced and we have drafted a new Local Strategy, which we are planning to consult the public and stakeholder organisations on. We are proposing that the next strategy will cover a 10-year period with a review after the first 5 years.

The draft Local Strategy builds upon lessons learnt from the previous strategy. Through it, we aim to improve the safety and wellbeing of Kent's residents and the economy of Kent with appropriate flood risk management. We will do this by working with communities and partners, adapting to climate change, and utilising natural processes to provide multiple benefits, where possible.

The draft Local Strategy retains the objectives of the previous strategy, which are 'Understanding flood risk', 'Reduce the risk of flooding', 'Resilient planning', and 'Resilient communities. The actions proposed to achieve the objectives have been updated.

The draft local strategy was discussed at the Kent Flood Risk and Water Management committee meeting on the 14th of November 2023, the papers and webcast can be seen here.

The consultation on the draft Local Strategy will open on the 22nd of November 2023 and run until the 30th of January 2024. The consultation can be found at www.kent.gov.uk/localfloodrisk, where you can let us know your views by completing the online questionnaire.

If you have any questions or queries relating to the Local Strategy or the consultation you can email us at flood@kent.gov.uk.

12. Stockbury Bus

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

He stated that the wing mirror needed to be replaced, and trip numbers were down on last month.

13. Stockbury Orchard.

No matters were raised.

14. Stockbury Observer.

Cllr Moody updated members on the progress of the Stockbury Observer. He reminded members that there would be no issue published in December.

15. KALC Community Award.

We are delighted to announce that we have now launched the 2024 KALC Community Awards Scheme, with support from Kent County Council, the High Sheriff of Kent, and the Mayor of Medway. This follows a very successful 2023 Awards Scheme, which was adopted by 79 member Councils.

The Award Winners receive a Framed Certificate. The Council can decide whether to present something extra to their winner.

The Council would then need to submit its Nomination to manager@kentalc.gov.uk by Friday 2nd February 2024.

This was noted by members.

16. Any Other Business:

a. Raised by Public.

No matters were raised.

b. Raised by Parish Councillors.

No matters were raised.

17. Date of next Meeting.

17th January 2024.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was closed to the press and public at 8.40pm.

Signed: _____

Dated: _____