

The Minutes of the Meeting of Stockbury Parish Council
held in Stockbury Village Hall on the 18th October 2017 at 7:30 PM.

Councillors present: *Bingham*
Mace
Southern
Tomsett
Woods

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

The meeting was chaired by Parish Cllr Tomsett.

1. Apologies.

Apologies were received from Parish Councillors Brown, Cathcart, KCC Councillor Shellina Prendergast and the police.

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 Woods 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.

No matters were raised.

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 regarding Honeycrock Bus Stops, Antisocial behaviour at Bimbury Lane, CPRE Quiet Lanes Scheme and Flytipping.

The Chairman stated that these items would be discussed under Highways Matters.

b. Parish Councillors.

Cllr Mace – Highways Matters.

7. Police Report.

The Police gave their apologies to the meeting.

Cllr Bingham reported on the Police meeting that he had attended on 20th September 2017.

He reported on changes to the police coverage and stated that PCSO's would no longer attend all Parish Council meetings, only for special circumstances.

He spoke regarding the new pressures placed on the police by the Home Office.

He stated that the PCSO coverage for parishes was currently unknown and PCSO Dave Rowley had now moved on.

Cllr Bingham stated that he now had the contact details for the new Seargent.

Councillor Garten suggested that the Parish Council could write to the Police and Crime Commissioner regarding the police coverage for the parish and invite him to attend a future PC meeting.

This was agreed.

Action: Clerk to action.

The Chairman reported that a vehicle had been set alight outside of the Harrow, he stated that this had been reported to the police, however they did not attend or investigate this matter. He raised concerns that the people in the village needed the reassurances of the police following the incident and this had not happened.

Cllr Bingham stated that he felt that police coverage was being focused on towns rather than rural communities.

8. Highways Matters.

a. General Highways Matters.

M2 Junction 5 Consultation – The Chairman reported that the consultation had now finished and the Parish Council had submitted its views on the proposals, as had residents, neighbouring parish Councils, MBC and Helen Whateley MP.

Councillor Garten stated that a large number of objections had been submitted.

Cllr Southern stated that she had complained to KCC via their Website about the poor condition of the centre of the roads. Councillor Garten stated that MBC were responsible for sweeping the roads and he would take this up with them.

Cllr Southern raised concerns that lorries were now parking at the bottom of Chalky Lane and they were leaving large amounts of rubbish, double parking and reversing out onto the A249.

The Chairman stated that the registration plates of the vehicles should be recorded.

Councillor Garten stated that MBC found it difficult to enforce such parking and this was a matter being taken up by Helen Whateley MP.

The Chairman stated that a 'not suitable for HGV's' Signs was due to be erected on this road.

It was reported that a drain cover was missing at the bottom of Whipstake Hill, at the junction of the A249 and Pett Lane.

Action: Clerk to report to KCC.

A resident in attendance at the meeting spoke regarding the Quiet Lanes Scheme supported by CPRE. He stated that the scheme was successful in Gurnsey and the objective was to enable joint use of rural Lanes by vehicles and walkers.

He stated that Pett Lane was used by cyclists, horses, walkers and joggers and he felt that the Quiet Lanes Scheme may improve this area.

Members discussed the Scheme and it was agreed that the Clerk would download the details and circulate to members.

Action: Clerk to progress.

Action: Clerk to place item on next agenda.

A resident attended the meeting to raise concerns the the Arriva bus driver had stated that the bus would no longer be able to stop at the bus stop near to the Stockbury Roundabout and she raised concerns that no alternative arrangement had been made.

The Chairman stated that he had telephoned Arriva to establish the current situation and this was not the case.

The resident stated that she had been informed that a Risk Assessment was being undertaken in November to determine whether they would stop there.

Councillor Garten stated that he would liaise with Arriva to establish the current situation.

b. A249 Action Group.

No matters were raised.

9. Planning Matters.

a. Planning Applications.

No matters were reported.

b. Appeals and Decisions.

The decisions by MBC were noted by members.

c. War Games, Squirrel Woods.

No matters were raised.

d. Longton Woods.

Cllr Tomsett stated that he had planned to attend the Thurnham PC Meeting to ask them to support the PC's objection to the appeal for Longton Woods, however he was unable to at the last minute.

He reported that this matter had been discussed at their meeting and they had written a letter of objection to the Planning Inspector, he read this to members.

This was discussed and it was agreed that Stockbury PC would also send a letter of objection to the Planning Inspector.

Action: Clerk to progress.

e. Binbury Park.

No matters were raised.

f. MBC Local Plan.

Councillor Garten reported that the Full Council Meeting to approve the Local Plan would take place at MBC on 25th October, he stated that he was now unable to attend this meeting.

He spoke regarding his concerns about the Local Plan.

10. Financial Matters.

a. Statement of Accounts.

The Financial Statement was circulated and approved by all present.

Bank Balances - October 2017

Opening Balance on Current Account	£33411.87
Add deposits	£0
Less Account for payment	£823.50

Closing Balance on Current Account

£32588.37

b. Cheques for Payment.

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

Members noted the audit conclusion certificate that was circulated and the comments made regarding this. The Clerk stated that the audit notice would be displayed on the PC Notice board in line with the Audit Regulations.

c. 2018/2019 Budget.

The Clerk informed members that the draft budget would be circulated at the next meeting and the Precept needed to be approved by January 2018.

11. External Reports.

a. Parish Councillors.

No matters were reported.

b. Kent County Councillor.

KCC Councillor Shellina Prendergast gave her apologies to the meeting.

c. Maidstone Borough Councillor.

Councillor Garten gave his report to the meeting.

12. Correspondence Report.

The Correspondence Report was noted by members.

1. DCLG Consultation - Planning for the right homes in the right places

At the end of last week, the Department for Communities and Local Government issued a 6-week consultation on "Planning for the right homes in the right places". The following weblink is to the DCLG press release <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-planning-approach-to-speed-up-delivering-homes>. The actual consultation document can be accessed via the following link (<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/planning-for-the-right-homes-in-the-right-places-consultation-proposals>). The deadline for responses to the consultation is 11.45pm on 9 November.

According to the DCLG website, the consultation proposals include:

a standard method for calculating local authorities' housing need

how neighbourhood planning groups can have greater certainty on the level of housing need to plan for

a statement of common ground to improve how local authorities work together to meet housing and other needs across boundaries

making the use of viability assessments simpler, quicker and more transparent

increased planning application fees in those areas where local planning authorities are delivering the homes their communities need

Included in the supporting papers is a "Housing Need Consultation Data Table" spreadsheet that sets out the application of the proposed formula for assessing housing need at district level.

We will be responding to the consultation and will be considering the proposals in more detail during October. If your Council responds to the consultation, please send us a copy so that we can consider it as we draft the KALC response.

13. Tri Parish Group.

No matters were raised.

14. Stockbury Orchard.

Cllr Tomsett reported on the progress of the Orchard.

He informed members that the Shepperdesses looking after the Orchard were due to leave in November 2017. He stated that new people would take over from them on 1st January 2018 at no cost to the Parish.

He confirmed that there would not be a Halloween event this year.

15. Stockbury Community Bus.

No matters were reported.

16. Footpaths and Bridleways.

No matters were reported.

17. Any Other Business.

a. Members of the Public.

A resident reported that there had been problems of antisocial behaviour involving a 4x4 vehicle driving around firing a gun.

It was agreed that this should be raised with the police.

A resident raised concerns about flytipping on Honeycrook Hill, she stated that this had been reported to MBC a number of times and had still not been removed.

Councillor Garten stated that flytipping was a national problem and he suggested a meeting with the MBC Contractor to discuss this.

b. Parish Councillors.

Cllr Bingham raised concerns about vehicles speeding through the parish, he stated that he had looked at the possibility of having a Speedwatch Scheme in Stockbury, however he now felt that this would not work in the village.

The Clerk was asked to arrange for a bulk salt bag to be delivered to the Village Hall.

Action: Clerk to progress.

18. Date of next meeting.

15th November 2017.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was closed to the press and public at 8.52pm.

Signed: _____

Dated: _____