

The Minutes of the Meeting of Stockbury Parish Council  
held in Stockbury Village Hall on the 20<sup>th</sup> of July 2022 at 7:30PM.

Councillors present: Azad  
Cathcart  
Moody  
Southern  
Sumner  
Woods

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

The meeting was chaired by Parish Cllr Woods.

1. Apologies.

Apologies were received from Cllrs Tomsett, KCC Councillor Prendergast and MBC Councillor Garten.

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, 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.

There were no matters arising.

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 the potholes along Pett Road has now been filled and Oad Street reopened.

It was reported that the excessive use of Binbury Lane had cause the edges of the road to fall away. The Chairman stated that an on-site meeting with Rob Sparrow and Sue Laporte would be arranged to look at the excessive use of the rural lanes in the Parish.

b. Highways Improvement Plan.

Cllr Moody reported that the Highways Improvement Plan (HIP) had been submitted to Kent County Council, this was circulated to all present for information.

He explained the issues raised in the HIP, and stated that a number of these were maintenance and he had been in contact with KCC regarding these.

He stated the traffic count data had been passed to the Parish Council, and this would enable the PC to see the peak traffic and speed times. A further meeting would then be arranged with Kent County Council to discuss the data.

A resident spoke regarding the potholes that he had reported to KCC, and stated that these had been marked for repair, however the paint had now worn away. The Chairman stated that this matter would be raised with KCC during the meeting, at present the Parish Council was in constant contact with KCC.

c. M2 Junction 5 Improvements.

The M2 J5 improvements were discussed.

The Chairman stated that the Parish Council had met with communications people for National Highways, there was currently a dispute between them and KCC regarding the responsibility of the south side of the roundabout.

He stated that random closures were due to take place on the A249, but timescales were unknown. He said that the Parish Council was appalled that it was not being given a Schedule of Works by National Highways.

A discussion took place regarding the issue with lorries turning across Church Lane. The Chairman stated that National Highways had promised to advise their employees and contractors against this. He stated that a letter was being drafted by Cllr Moody to send to the Project Manager.

8. Planning Matters:

a. Applications for consideration.

22/503174/LBC Parsonage Farm South Street Road Stockbury Kent ME9  
Listed Building Consent for erection of a single storey pitched roof porch (works started).

22/503173/FULL Parsonage Farm South Street Road Stockbury Kent ME9  
Consent for erection of a single storey pitched roof porch (works started).

22/503316/FULL Foxwood Chalky Road Stockbury Kent ME9 7QR  
Change of use of residential curtilage to hardstanding for business and personal vehicles and detached double garage (retrospective).

This application was discussed by the Parish Council, and it was noted that there was some inaccuracies between the application and planning statement. It was agreed that the PC would submit a letter of objection to Maidstone Borough Council regarding this application and Cllr Southern would draft this.  
**Action: Cllr Southern to action**

A resident attended the meeting to speak regarding an application that he was due to submit to Maidstone Borough Council. He gave a presentation to members and briefed them on his plans. The Chairman thanked the residents for his time and stated that the Parish Council would make comments on the application when it was formally consulted by the Borough Council.

b. Appeals and Decisions.

22/502315/SUB

Cobnut Farm Pett Road Stockbury Kent ME9 7RP

Submission of details pursuant to conditions: 2 (existing and proposed site levels/slab levels); and 3 (materials) of application 21/503471/FULL.

Split - Part Allowed/Part Refused

Following consideration of your application the Local Planning Authority under the Town and Country Planning Act, has APPROVED PART A and REFUSED PART B.

Part A - Approved with Condition(s):

(1) This decision approves details relating to the following condition:

Condition 2

Part B - Refused for the following reason(s):

(2) This decision refuses details relating to the following condition for the following reason:  
Condition 3: the submitted details would not safeguard the character and appearance of the countryside hereabouts that falls within the Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. As such, the details pursuant to this condition cannot be approved.

- c. Enforcement Matters.  
No matters were raised.

**9. Financial Matters:**

- a. Statement of Accounts & Cheques for signature.  
The financial statement was presented to members.  
This was approved by members. (Cathcart/Southern).

**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. Ward Boundary Review.**

Members considered the recommendations from the Ward Boundary Review and the implications that this would have on Stockbury Parish.

Members agreed that a letter should be submitted to the Boundary Commission on behalf of the Parish Council, to seek to have Stockbury placed in a more rural Ward rather than an urban Ward.

**Action: Clerk to draft letter and circulate to members.**

**12. Correspondence Report.**

The correspondence report was noted by members.

**13. Stockbury Bus.**

Cllr Moody reported on the bus.

He informed members that the monthly trip has been cancelled due to Covid concerns, this trip would now run in September.

He reported that the bus was involved in a minor accident, and a light needed to be replaced at the cost of £400 plus labour costs.

**14. Stockbury Orchard.**

A resident asked if the display board for the Orchard could be placed outside of the Orchard as it was not in a good position at present.

The Chairman stated that he would liaise with Cllr Tomsett regarding this matter

**Action: Chairman to progress.**

**15. Stockbury Observer.**

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

**16. Any Other Business:**

a. Raised by Public.

A resident attended the meeting to speak regarding the school bus.

The Chairman stated that KCC had stopped funding for the bus which was used by 16 to 17 children in the Parish on a regular basis. He stated that 6 would still receive transport, but the remaining children would have to make their own arrangements to get to school.

He explained the implications of the withdrawal of the service to the children of Stockbury, he stated that alternative options were being considered, but had not yet been confirmed, and KCC Councillor Prendergast was looking into this.

It was agreed that the Parish Chairman would liaise with KCC Councillor Prendergast regarding this matter, and the Parish Council would make representations to KCC if necessary.

A resident attended the meeting to raise concerns regarding the poor condition of Stockbury Churchyard. She stated that this was overgrown, and she asked if the Parish Council could do something about this.

The Chairman confirmed that this was a matter for the Parochial Church Council, not the Parish Council. Cllr Southern stated that she would raise this with the Church PCC.

**Action: Cllr Southern to progress.**

A resident raised the issue a fly tipping in the Parish and stated that he had made 200 reports since mid March. He stated that action had been taken promptly by most authorities, however Swale Council had not taken any action.

He advised members that the most effective way of reporting fly tipping was through the Country Eye App.

This was discussed by members, and it was agreed that the resident would write an article for the Stockbury Observer to advise residents on the most effective way to report fly tipping.

b. Raised by Parish Councillors.

no matters were raised.

**17. Date of next Meeting – 21<sup>st</sup> September 2022.**

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was closed to the press and public at 8.48pm.

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

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