

The Minutes of the Meeting of Stockbury Parish Council
held in Stockbury Village Hall on the 20th February 2019 at 7:30 PM.

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

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

The meeting was chaired by Parish Cllr Woods.

1. Apologies.

Apologies were received from Cllrs Tomsett and Mace.

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 Southern as a true record, this was 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.

Stepps Hill Lane - Discuss under Highway Matters.
Bench at Church – No response from MBC, Clerk to follow up.
Neighbourhood Watch – Maidstone Coordinator post still vacant.

5. Notice of Reports from External Meetings.

No matters were raised.

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 there were no homes along this road, and it was not a through road.

Cllr Southern suggested that if it was shut permanently then it should be closed properly.

It was agreed that the Clerk would liaise with KCC Cllr Prendergast regarding this matter.

Action: Clerk to liaise with KCC Cllr Prendergast.

Cllr Brown reported a problem with a vehicle parking on the pavement in The Street, blocking access for pedestrians.

This matter was referred to the PCSO who was in attendance at the meeting for action.

b. Junction 5 improvements

Cllr Woods reported that the planned meeting with Swale BC and Highways England had been cancelled due to issues with the funding of the Scheme.

He stated that he hoped that this would mean that the proposals were being reconsidered.

He stated that they did impress that they were working to tight deadlines and he stated that he was concerned that the meeting had been cancelled and he hoped that Stockbury were still consulted on the proposals.

Cllr Prendergast stated that she had written to Helen Whateley MP regarding this matter and she would be speaking to her about this. She stated that she felt that the meeting with KCC and Highways England had been very productive.

Cllr Cathcart reported that he had attended a meeting at MBC regarding Junction 5, and he stated that he would circulate the notes from this meeting to all members.

8. Planning Matters.

a. Planning Applications.

19/500149/FULL Cherry Tree Farm West Wood Road Stockbury Kent
Siting of 2.no additional mobile homes for residential use by Gypsy & Traveller family.

Objections

The Chairman stated that due to time scales the PC objections had already been submitted to MBC.

A discussion took place regarding this application and whether the PC should request the application was called into the MBC Planning Committee for determination.

Cllr Woods questioned whether this would be beneficial to the Parish as MBC Committee members rarely took the views of the PC

Cllr Garten spoke in favour of the Parish Council attending a Planning Committee Meeting.

Following a further discussion Cllr Woods stated that he would be willing to attend the meeting if the PC requested that it was called into Committee. This was agreed.

Action: Clerk to request application to be determined by MBC Planning Committee.

19/500115/FULL The Bungalow Norton Green Farm Norton Green
Erection of two storey rear extension.

No Objections

19/500476/FULL Land Adjacent to Five Kilns Stockbury Valley Stockbury
Application for 2no mobile homes for residential use by Gypsy & Traveller family.

No Objections

Cllr Brown spoke regarding the history of the site. This was discussed and it was agreed that the proposals were not intrusive and could not be seen, therefore no objections were raised by members.

Cllr Garten stated that he had concerns regarding the utilities for the building. He stated that this had been discussed by MBC and guidance had been given to the Chair of MBC Planning Committee. He confirmed that MBC Planning members were now better briefed on the issue of utility buildings. Cllr Prendergast asked Cllr Garten if he could forward this guidance onto her.

b. Binbury Park

No matters were raised.

c. Appeals and Decisions.

18/506501/FULL

7 Bimbury Lane Stockbury Maidstone Kent ME14 3HX

Erection of new front boundary wall, gates and native hedgerow (part retrospective).

Application Refused

18/506547/FULL

2 Harrow Court Stockbury Sittingbourne Kent ME9 7UQ

Rear Extension - erection of a single storey rear extension to replace sun lounge.

Application Permitted

18/506362/LBC

Penny Cottage Yelsted Road Yelsted Sittingbourne Kent ME9 7UT

Listed Building Consent for demolition of existing garage

Application Permitted

18/506030/LDCEX

Wheatsheaf Farm Hazel Street Stockbury Sittingbourne Kent ME9 7SA

Lawful Development Certificate (Existing) to establish the lawful commencement of planning permission MA/09/0408, for conversion of redundant agricultural building to two holiday lets, within the relevant time period.

Application Permitted

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.

Cllr Garten spoke regarding this matter, he stated that he had now asked MBC for further details and was seeking guidance from the AONB Unit.

He confirmed that he would pursue the issue of light pollution with MBC.

Cllr Southern stated that there was guidance regarding light pollution, and she suggested that the Parish Council challenge MBC Enforcement on this matter.

She stated that she had drafted a letter to MBC for members consideration and she would circulate this for approval.

Cllr Prendergast stated that light pollution was a planning consideration and suggested that the CPRE may be able to assist with this matter.

This was discussed further, and it was agreed that when approved the Clerk should submit the letter drafted by Cllr Southern to MBC.

Action: Clerk 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 January 2019

Opening Balance on Current Account	£35016.47
Add deposits	£0
Less Account for payment	£890.00
Closing Balance on Current Account	£34126.47

b. Parish Services Grant.

The Clerk briefed members on the balance of the Parish Services Grant and stated that she would circulate a detailed breakdown to the next meeting.

Action: Clerk to place item on next agenda.

10. External Reports.

a. Parish Councillors.

No matters were raised.

b. Kent County Councillor.

KCC Councillor Shellina Prendergast gave her report to the meeting.

She reported that the KCC budget would be increased by 4.99%, 2.99% plus 2% increase for Adult Social Care.

She stated that the Young Persons Bus Pass would be increase from £290 to £350 a year.

She reported that KCC was investing 96 million on highways and were employing more Highways Officers, Drainage Engineers and contractors to repair potholes.

Cllr Southern asked about KCCs decision to charge for domestic refuse at their tips.

Cllr Prendergast stated that their decision had been made and suggested that other authorities were already charging for this service.

Cllr Woods stated that he felt that this charge would increase flytipping.

Cllr Prendergast stated that other local authorities had reported no increase in flytipping since introducing a charge, she did have her own concerns regarding this, but the decision had been made by KCC.

Members voiced their concerns about this decision and the impact it would have on flytipping in the parish.

c. Maidstone Borough Councillor.

MBC Councillor Garten gave his report to the meeting.

He spoke regarding his concerns about charging for waste disposal at KCC tips. He stated that the Waste Enforcement Team at MBC were very proactive, and prosecutions had been made.

He reported that the Asset Property Review by MBC had identified two traveller sites in Stockbury that were owned by MBC, these being Westwood Road and Plum Tree. He stated that the land was let at a nil rent and he had asked MBC to investigate this as the sites were occupied.

He reported that the MBC Budget was anticipated to increase by 2.99%, although in his view this was not necessary.

d. Police Report.

The PCSO attended the meeting, he stated that he had emailed the PC to see if they had any concerns relating to Brexit and the affects on the area.

Members agreed that their concerns were traffic and enforcement.

He asked members how often they would like him to attend the meeting. This was discussed and it was agreed that the PCSO would attend every three months if possible.

11. Correspondence Report.

The Correspondence Report was noted by members.

Parishes in Bloom – It was agreed that this correspondence would be forwarded onto a group in the parish.

Community Pay Back Scheme – Members agreed that litter picks of rural lanes should be put forward as a potential project.

Action: Clerk to respond to email.

Correspondence regarding the Orchard – the Chairman briefed members on correspondence received regarding the Orchard and members asked the Clerk to forward this onto the Orchard Committee.

Action: Clerk to Action.

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 the Parish Council if there were any rules regarding a dog breeding business within the parish.

Cllr Garten responded to this matter and advised the resident on the regulations concerning kennels and dog breeding.

Action: Clerk to action.

b. Parish Councillors.

Cllr Bingham stated that he used to attend a regular Police Liaison Meeting, however he had not been informed of any dates for some time. The Clerk was asked to establish the current situation with the Chairman.

Action: Clerk to action.

Local Plan Review Briefing with MBC – Cllr Cathcart stated that he was due to attend this event at Lenham Community Centre in March.

Flytipping – Cllr Woods stated that flytipping was an issue in the parish and he suggested that the PC needed to get creative when dealing with this and think of ways to deter it in Stockbury.

He asked members to consider whether the PC should invest in a mobile CCTV System.

Cllr Garten stated that MBC had a Mobile CCTV System and he offered to arrange a meeting between MBC and the LC to discuss this further. This was agreed.

Action: Cllr Garten to arrange a meeting between MBC and the PC to discuss flytipping.

14. Date of next meeting.

20th March 2019.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was closed to the press and public at 9.12pm.

Signed: _____

Dated: _____