

**The Minutes of the Meeting of Stockbury Parish Council
held by Zoom on the 20th October 2021 at 7:30 PM.**

***Councillor's present: Azad
Cathcart
Moody
Southern
Summer
Woods***

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

The meeting was chaired by Parish Cllr Woods.

1. Apologies.

Apologies were received from Cllr Tomsett and KCC Councillor Prendergast.

2. Declaration of Interest.

Cllr Moody and Cathcart declared an interest in planning matters and applications that were due to be considered at the meeting.

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, 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.

Cllr Azad informed members that she had placed the sign outside of the village hall before the meeting and would continue to do so for future meetings.

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.

Cllr Woods reported that he had met with the new Highways Steward, Rob Sparrow, and emergency repairs had been undertaken to Hill Green Road. He stated that the drainage team had also been asked to investigate the flooding issues.

Plum Tree flooding – It was confirmed that this issue had been reported to KCC.

Chalky Road Potholes – It was reported that these had been filled, but there were still some towards the bottom of the hill and these had been reported to KCC.

Cllr Moody reported that there was fly tipping on Kent Wildlife Trust land on Honey Crock Hill and MBC would not clear this as it was on private land. The Clerk was asked to report this to KWT.

Action: Clerk to progress.

Concerns were raised regarding the regular dumping on Honey Crock Hill, the Chairman stated that the PC may have to consider placing a camera in this location, as it was due to be closed and may become a target for fly tipping. It was agreed that the PC would monitor the situation when the road was closed.

Cllr Cathcart stated that he had received a complaint regarding the central reservation on the A249 at Aerodrome Approach as it was dangerous at the crossover due to the sight lines.

Action: Clerk to report to KCC.

Cllr Moody spoke regarding the speed limits for the roads in the village and asked if they could be reduced to decrease return traffic. A discussion took place regarding rat run traffic and the issues with this.

b. M2 Junction 5 Improvements.

Cllr Woods reported that regular meetings were taking place with Highways England and the Contractors. He spoke regarding the work and the programme for this.

He stated that the PC had asked for a dedicated person and telephone number so that they could contact someone immediately should an issue arise.

He said that the PC had been reassured by the Traffic Management Consultant that the works at the new Stockbury Interchange would not make traffic worst. He stated that closing lanes to cut trees down had not been included in the Traffic Management Plan.

Members discussed the issue of rat-run traffic and how this could be prevented from entering the village. It was agreed that this would be monitored, and the issues discussed with KCC if necessary.

Cllr Moody reported that he had been in contact with the Project Manager regarding an article for the Stockbury Observer.

Cllr Woods reported that an Exhibition for the M2 J5 project was due to be held in Stockbury on 29th October 21. It was agreed that there was a need for a weekend/evening exhibition, he stated that he would liaise with Highways England regarding this.

8. Planning Matters:

a. Applications for consideration.

21/505029/FULL Land at White House Stockbury Valley Stockbury
Demolition of existing industrial buildings, structures, "external storage areas and hardstanding surfaces and "erection of 7no. dwellings together with parking and "associated infrastructure.

No objections.

18/504836/EIOOUT Binbury Park Bimbury Lane Detling Maidstone Kent
Outline application (with all matters reserved apart from access) for the
Erection of up to 1,750 dwellings including affordable housing, 46,000 sq.m

of Commercial space, a hotel, a local centre, a new primary school, a park and ride facility.....

PC Objections still stands.

21/505277/FULL Wildwinds Pett Road Stockbury Sittingbourne Kent ME9
Stationing of residential mobile home for rural worker "with access and residential garden.
PC to request agricultural tie placed on conditions of approval if MBC minded to approve application.

Bimbury Lodge Planning application – Cllr Moody confirmed that he would join the MBC Planning Meeting on Thursday evening to represent the PC regarding its objections to this application.

b. MBC Planning Decisions.

21/504035/FULL

The Harrow Inn The Street Stockbury Sittingbourne Kent ME9 7UH
Conversion of the barn/store to a bar.
Application Permitted

21/504275/FULL

Foxwood Chalky Road Stockbury Sittingbourne Kent ME9 7QR
Change of use from residential to residential and B8 storage and distribution. Existing rear hardstanding to continue to be used as parking and storage of vans/equipment for screeding business (Retrospective).
Application Withdrawn

21/503774/FULL

Cocketts Bimbury Lane Stockbury Sittingbourne Kent ME9 7QX
Demolition of existing dwelling and outbuildings and erection of 1no detached dwelling.
Application Refused

c. Enforcement Matters.

Foxwood – Members noted that the application had been withdrawn by the applicant and therefore asked the Clerk to raise this with Planning Enforcement.

Action: Clerk to action.

9. Financial Matters:

a. Statement of Accounts & Cheques for signature.

The financial statement was approved by members. (Cathcart/Southern).

10. External Reports:

a. Parish Councillors.

No matters were raised.

b. KCC Councillor.

KCC Councillor Prendergast gave her apologies to the meeting.

c. MBC Councillor.

MBC Councillor Garten gave his report to the meeting:

- The proposal for four yearly elections at MBC was not passed.
- Implications of this decision on Ward Boundary Review.
- Executive Committee System at MBC approved.
- Local Plan Review to move to Regulation 19 Consultation.
- Controversial developments at Lidsing and Lenham Heath in Local Plan.

Cllr Garten reported on the political voting on the Local Plan, he stated that Binbury Park had not been included in the plan.

Chicken Stock Festival – Cllr Garten reported that a licence had been granted to cover the Annual 4-day Festival, unfortunately there was no opportunity to object to this, significant evidence was needed to call for a review of a granted licence.

Cllr Moody stated that he was putting together a report on the issues relating to the festival, and he would circulate this to all Members.

11. Correspondence Report.

The correspondence report was noted by members.

12. Stockbury Bus.

Cllr Moody reported that the bus and stated that two trips had been planned for this year.

13. Stockbury Observer.

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

He reported that two new advertisers were using the publication.

Cllr Summer raised concerns regarding an advertisement in the Observer from a controversial business in the parish, she questioned whether the Observer should be accepting adverts from such businesses. This was discussed by members, and it was agreed that the Stockbury Observer could not vet each advertisement, but it did include a disclaimer to cover the Editorial Team.

Cllr Woods stated that the Parish Council did not interfere with the Editorial Policy of the Observer.

14. Social Media.

Members discussed whether having social media would be beneficial to the Parish Council.

It was agreed that this subject would need an in-depth discussion, and an item should be placed further up the agenda for discussion at the next meeting.

Action: Clerk to recirculate the example Social Media Policy for information.

15. Any Other Business:

a. Raised by Public.

No matters were raised.

b. Raised by Parish Councillors.

No matters were raised.

16. Date of next Meeting – 17th November 2021.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was closed to the press and public at 9.15pm.

Signed: _____ Dated: _____