

The Minutes of the Meeting of Stockbury Parish Council
held in Stockbury Village Hall on the 15th of November 2023 at 7:30PM.

Councillors present: Cathcart
Moody
Southern
Sumner
Tomsett
Woods

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, 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 Woods 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.**

Fourayes Presentation meeting – Cllr Moody reported that he had attended a meeting at Fourayes with other residents from South Green.

A presentation was given, and they confirmed that there were no immediate plans to expand the site for buildings or staff. However, they were looking to formalise the hours of operation to permit night working for cleaning. Currently this was a breach of their planning permission.

He stated that residents were not satisfied with their approach.

They also planned to replace the external lighting.

He reported that there were currently 12 HGVs in and out of the site daily and this was not likely to change in the next year.

The company was currently investing in the replacement of the existing equipment to make it more efficient.

Fourayes were going to set up regular community engagement with residents locally.

6. **Public Comments and Observations.**

Residents attended the meeting to speak regarding the Operator's Licence at MB Farms.

It was reported that the application had now been withdrawn, however it appeared that there were still operations at the site.

The antisocial behaviour in the Parish was discussed and concerns were raised regarding this. Cllr Southern outlined the actions of the parish regarding this matter.

7. Highways Matters.

a. General Highway Matters.

It was reported that potholes in the parish had been identified for repair by KCC.

A large pothole in Chalky Road had been reported to KCC.

Cllr Moody reported that salt bins had been replenished in the parish.

He stated that the bulk salt bag had not yet been delivered to Norton Green Farm, and the. Leek was asked to chase this with KCC.

Action: Clerk to progress.

b. Highways Improvement Plan.

No matters were reported.

c. M2 Junction 5 Improvements.

Cllr Moody updated the meeting on road closures.

He spoke regarding the event at the Showground and stated that this would put pressure on the A249 and the U-turn at Rumstead. The Showground was to advise visitors of the official diversion.

He reported that Church Hill was due to be reopened at the end of November/beginning of December.

Cllr Southern reported that there was flooding at the bottom of Chalky Road and Plum Tree Lane. The Clerk was asked to report these to KCC.

Action: Clerk to action.

8. Planning Matters:

a. Applications Received

23/504779/FULL - Cocketts Bimbury Lane Stockbury Sittingbourne Kent

Demolition of existing dwelling and outbuildings and erection of 1no detached dwelling (Resubmission 23/500613/FULL).

23/504946/FULL - Merriefields Hill Green Road Stockbury Kent ME9 7UN

Demolition of existing double garage and store. Erection of a new detached four bay Garage together with alterations to the two existing vehicle access points and erection of a new front boundary wall.

b. Application Decisions by MBC

23/504085/FULL

2 Harrow Court Stockbury Sittingbourne Kent ME9 7UQ

Erection of shed over pond filter bay.

Application Permitted

23/503870/FULL

Land North of Wildwinds Norton Green Farm Pett Road Stockbury Kent ME9 7RL

Stationing of residential mobile home for rural worker with access and residential garden (Resubmission of Previous Scheme Ref: 23/500541/FULL).

Application Permitted

23/503534/SUB

Amberley South Green Sittingbourne Maidstone Kent ME9 7RR

Submission of details to discharge condition 7 - Materials Schedule, Subject to 20/503940/FULL
Application Permitted

23/502979/TPOA

Springfield The Street Stockbury Kent ME9 7UD

TPO application to dismantle one Ash tree in sections to the height of the surrounding hedge (Approximately 2m from ground level).

Application Refused

Following consideration of your application the Local Planning Authority has REFUSED CONSENT under Tree Preservation Order Number for the tree work referred to above. The grounds for such refusal are:

(1) The Council considers that the Ash tree (listed as T1 in the application) makes a positive contribution to local landscape/sylvan quality and amenity of the area. The proposed felling works would be to the detriment of those attributes. At the time of inspection by the Council's Arboricultural Officer on 10/10/2023, the Ash did not display any significant symptoms of Ash Dieback in accordance with current guidelines to suggest that the tree presents a current, identifiable hazard or that it is reasonable to fell trees of perceived amenity on the grounds stated in the application.

Therefore, the Council does not consider that the reasons and supporting evidence for the proposed works are sufficiently robust to outweigh the loss of amenity that would result, which would be to the detriment of the sylvan character and amenity of the area and would therefore be contrary to policies intended to confer protection to trees and trees cover, specifically Maidstone Borough Local Plan October 2017 - Policy DM 3, Local Plan Review, draft plan for submission (Regulation 22) dated October 2021, Maidstone Landscape Character Assessment (March 2012 amended 19 July 2013) and Supplement (2012- Saved Sections of the Landscape Character Assessment and Landscape Guidelines 2000) together with Government Policy: Planning Practice Guidance; Tree Preservation Orders and trees in conservation areas

c. Appeals

No matters to report.

d. Other Planning Matters

Cllr Southern briefed the meeting on the action taken by the Parish Council regarding the Operators Licence application at MB Farms site.

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 Woods, seconded by Cllr Cathcart and greed 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.

This was agreed.

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 Rural Recovery Fund.

11. Correspondence Report.

The correspondence report was noted by members.

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 first step is for the Council to agree to adopt the Scheme. The Council would then need to submit its Nomination to manager@kentalc.gov.uk by Friday 2nd February 2024.

It was agreed that the PC would submit a nomination for the Award.

12. Stockbury Bus

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

13. Stockbury Orchard.

No matters were raised.

14. Stockbury Observer.

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

15. Any Other Business:

a. Raised by Public.

No matters were raised.

b. Raised by Parish Councillors.

Cllr Moody reported that next year's budget had now been set for the school bus, in the meantime KCC were still finding this on a monthly basis. The parent group were currently in discussions with KCC regarding the funding for 24/25.

Members noted that the Parish Council elections would be held in May 2024.

16. Date of next Meeting.

Members agreed that the next meeting would be held on Wednesday 13th December 2023 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was closed to the press and public at 8.50pm.

Signed: _____

Dated: _____