

The Minutes of the Meeting of Stockbury Parish Council  
held in Stockbury Village Hall on the 17<sup>th</sup> of July 2024 at 7:30PM.

Councillors present: Azad  
Cathcart  
Moody  
Pilcher  
Southern  
Sumner

Also, present: Parish Clerk and Ward Councillor Vanessa Jones.

The meeting was chaired by Parish Cllr Moody.

**1. Apologies.**

*Members who cannot attend a meeting shall tender their apologies to the Parish Clerk prior to the meetings, under Section 85(1) of the Local Government Act 1972, the members present must decide whether the reason(s) for a member's absence shall be accepted.*

Apologies were received from Ward Councillors Thompson, Jones and KCC Councillor Prendergast.

**2. Parish Councillor Vacancies.**

The Parish Council considered an application from Joanne Pilcher, who attended the meeting and shared her interest in joining the Parish Council.

Cllr Southern proposed to co-opt Ms Pilcher onto the Parish Council, Cllr Moody seconded this motion, and this was agreed by all present.

Joanne Pilcher signed her Declaration of Acceptance, officially joining the Parish Council.

**3. To appoint Committees, representatives to outside bodies and other appointments.**

The following Committee, representative to outside bodies and other appointments were agreed, proposed by Cllr Southern, seconded by Cllr Moody and agreed by all present.

Representatives for Outside Bodies

Footpaths	Cllr Moody
Stockbury Church	Cllr Southern
Police Liaison	Cllr Sumner
Tree Warden	Cllr Sumner
A249 Action Group	Cllr Cathcart
Highways/Parish Roads	Cllr Moody
KALC	Chair/Vice Chair
Kent Downs	Cllr Cathcart
MBC Liaison (Forums etc.)	Chair/Vice Chair
Tri Parish Meetings	Cllr Cathcart
Village Website	Parish Clerk
Stockbury Observer	Fiona Moody
Village Green and Village Sign	All Councillors
Broadband	Cllr Southern
Village Housing	Cllr Sumner
Tourism & Publicity	Fiona Moody
Community Bus	Cllr Moody, Southern

Cherry Orchard	Cllr Sumner
Village Playing Fields	VHMC
Grants	Cllr Southern
Community Pub	Cllr Southern
Village Sponsorship	All Councillors
AONB & SSI	Cllr Southern
Nature Reserves	Cllr Southern
Parish Plan	All Councillors
Gypsy Sites	Cllr Sumner
JPG	Cllr Cathcart
MP, KCC & MBC Cllrs	Chair/Vice Chair and Parish Clerk

Parish Areas & Hamlets

Stockbury Village	All Councillors
Stockbury Valley	All Councillors
Church Farm Ind Estate	All Councillors
Cowstead	All Councillors
South Street	Cllr Southern
Beaux Aires	Cllr Southern
Hill Green	Cllr Sumner
Plum Tree	Cllr Sumner
Queen Down Warren	Cllr Sumner
Yelsted	Cllr Sumner
Bimbury Lane	Cllr Cathcart
Detling Aerodrome Ind Estate	Cllr Cathcart
Kent County Showground	Cllr Cathcart
Pett Lane	Cllr Moody
Norton Green	Cllr Moody
South Green	Cllr Moody
Hazel Street	Cllr Moody

Appointment of:

Internal Auditor – Martin Thomas & Co  
Bankers – Cooperative  
External Auditors – Mazars  
KALC Membership  
CPRE Membership

**4. Declaration of Interest.**

*To receive Declarations of Interest in respect of matters contained in this agenda, in accordance with the provisions of the Localism Act 2011 in respect of members and in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 1972 in respect of officers.*

No interests were declared.

*To consider any Dispensation requests received by the Parish Clerk and not previously considered.*

No Dispensation requests were considered.

**5. 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 Sumner and agreed by all present.

The Minutes were then signed and dated by the Chairman of the meeting.

**6. Matters Arising.**

There were no matters arising.

**7. Notice of reports from external meetings.**

J5/KCC Meeting – To be reported under Highways Matters.

**8. Public Comments and Observations.**

A resident attended the meeting on behalf of the Hartlip and Stockbury Forum, raising questions about the Forum's future and its use in Stockbury. He asked whether Stockbury used the Forum and if it is delivered to their village.

Cllr Southern explained that Stockbury has its own publication, the Stockbury Observer that was distributed to the whole parish. Cllr Moody added that the Forum was a subscription-based publication, while the Observer was self-funded and served as the primary publication in the village.

The resident discussed possible joint funding models for the Forum's future, and it was agreed that the Parish Council would consider the options presented and gather residents' views.

A resident spoke regarding the Orchard, confirming that he had submitted a grant application in relation to the orchard. He reported that some vandalism had occurred, with all the newly planted trees being snapped, he stated that he had pruned the damaged trees and hoped that they would survive.

He reminded members that the hedge laying would take place in the winter, to be carried out by representatives from the Duke of Norfolk's Estate.

He reported that there were leftover posts and caging from the tree planting and suggested selling these to raise funds for the Orchard. He offered to provide potential costs for the Parish Council to include in an advertisement, should they decide to proceed with the sale.

The Chairman thanked the residents for attending the meeting.

**9. Highways Matters.**

**a. General Highway Matters.**

Cllr Moody reported on highways matters, stating that he was following up on the need for signage at South Green after a major accident at the crossroads. KCC were amenable to repainting the Give Way signs in the area. He stated that pothole repairs over the Give Way signs had strengthened the case for replacing these.

**b. Highways Improvement Plan.**

Cllr Moody stated that the HIP had now been submitted to KCC and he would seek an update in the coming weeks.

**c. M2 Junction 5 Improvements.**

Cllr Moody gave an update on the advisory 7.5-ton limit signs had been installed at the A249 junction, he stated that Highways would not take further action until the M2 Junction 5 works were completed.

Cllr Moody spoke regarding the replacement of a brown sign for the pub on the A249, stating that National Highways were unwilling to install a sign, despite a similar one being installed for a pub outside Stockbury. It was agreed that Cllr Southern would submit a Freedom of Information request regarding this.

Cllr Moody proposed creating a flyer for village Facebook advertising, and Cllr Southern proposed allocating a £200 budget for this, this was seconded by Cllr Moody and agreed by all present

## **10. Planning Matters:**

### **a. Applications Received**

24/502372/FULL - Windyridge Hill Green Road Stockbury Sittingbourne

Section 73 Application for Variation of condition 4 (amend the wording to Only one static caravan may be located on the land. The caravan shall only be used for holiday purposes for a maximum of 10 months of each calendar year, 1st March to 31st December. Reason: To prevent the permanent use of the caravan pursuant to application 24/500368/FULL for Change of Use of agricultural land for stationing of one static caravan for use as a holiday home.

24/502428/FULL - Icknor House Old Forge Lane Stockbury Sittingbourne

Erection of a storage shed and extension to an existing outbuilding to create a home gym.

### **b. Application Decisions by MBC**

24/501979/FULL

Cherry Tree Farm Pett Road Stockbury Sittingbourne Kent ME9 7RL

Retrospective application for the change of use from a poultry building to gym with associated parking.

Application Refused

The Council hereby REFUSES Planning Permission for the above for the following Reason(s):

(1) The planning application fails to demonstrate the acceptability of the development in relation to highway safety, contrary to the aims of policy SP15 of the Maidstone Local Plan Review (2024); and paragraph 115 of the National Planning Policy Framework (2023).

(2) The application site in the countryside and outside a settlement (as defined by the Local Plan Review 2024) and the application for a use that generates a high volume of vehicle trips in this location are contrary to the Council's Spatial Strategy. The site location, far removed from other uses that could provide linked trips and from public transport, results in a high volume of traffic locally on rural roads. This reliance on the private motor vehicle would be contrary to the aims of sustainable development as set out in policy LPRSS1 of the Maidstone Local Plan Review (2024), and the aims of the National Planning Policy Framework (2023).

24/501197/FULL

Land At Pett Farm Pett Road Stockbury Sittingbourne Kent ME9 7RJ

Retrospective application for the change of use of land for the exercising of dogs, construction of a parking area, erection of a small field shelter and the placing of dog exercise apparatus on the land.

Application Permitted

It was noted that the planning conditions referred to Stockbury as a settlement and this was contrary to the advice received from Rob Jarman, therefore the Clerk was asked to clarify this with MBC.

**Action: Clerk to liaise with MBC.**

c. Appeals

No matters to report.

d. Other Planning Matters

No matters to report.

**11. Financial Matters:**

a. Statement of Accounts & Cheques for signature.

To consider the Financial Statement circulated with meeting papers.

The financial statement was proposed by Cllr Southern and seconded Cllr Moody and agreed by all present.

**12. 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 Thompson gave his apologies to the meeting. A written report was noted by members.

MBC Councillor Jones gave her apologies to the meeting.

**13. Correspondence Report.**

The correspondence report was noted by members.

*Thank you for your email with comments from Stockbury Parish Council.*

*These have been considered by me and a colleague and we were wondering if a representative of the Parish Council would be willing to attend a site visit with ourselves (KCC), other interested parties and potentially the landowner, to discuss the Parish Council's concerns, the proposal and the current situation.*

*As I'm sure you appreciate, due to the different parties involved this will take some logistical planning, as such for now can I ask if this is something the Parish Council would be happy to do and if so, are there any preferred dates.*

*Kind Regards*

*William Barfoot | Definitive Map Officer*

It was agreed that representative for the PC would attend the site meeting when the date was set.

**14. Stockbury Bus**

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

He stated that the PC may have to consider a new location to store the bus, and he would follow this up with the landowner.

**15. Stockbury Orchard.**

The Clerk was asked to liaise with MBC John Edwards regarding the additional bin for the orchard.

**Action: Clerk to action.**

**16. Stockbury Observer.**

Cllr Moody gave an update on the Stockbury Observer.

Cllr Azad spoke regarding having a Stockbury Observer Facebook page and placing this on the website. The Clerk confirmed that it was already uploaded onto the website.

**17. Any Other Business:**

a. Raised by Public.

No matters were raised.

b. Raised by Parish Councillors.

Cllr Southern spoke regarding a request to have the Cherry tree trimmed on the Green. This was discussed and it was agreed that Cllr Sumner would seek advice regarding this and report back to a future meeting.

**18. Date of next Meeting.**

It was agreed that the next meeting would be held on 18<sup>th</sup> September 2024.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was closed to the press and public at 9.20pm.

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

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