

The Minutes of the Meeting of Stockbury Parish Council  
held in Stockbury Village Hall on the 11<sup>th</sup> of December 2024 at 7:30PM.

Councillors present: Azad  
Tingey  
Southern  
Sumner

Also, present: Parish Clerk and members of the public.

The meeting was chaired by Parish Cllr Southern.

**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 Parish Councillors Cathcart and Moody, Ward Councillors Thompson, Jones and KCC Councillor Prendergast.

**2. Parish Councillor Vacancy.**

No applications were received.

**3. 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.

**4. Minutes of the previous Meeting.**

The Minutes of the previous meeting were circulated to all present.

These were proposed by Cllr Tingey 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.

**5. Matters Arising.**

Cllr Southern spoke regarding the Gypsy and Traveller Consultation and urged councillors to take a look and make comment if relevant.

She spoke regarding the Policy for Gypsy and Travellers in the document. She stated that Cllr Cathcart had suggested seeking the official numbers on the sites within the Parish and it was agreed that the Clerk would follow this up with Maidstone Borough Council.

*Action: Clerk to progress.*

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

There were no external reports.

**7. Public Comments and Observations.**

Mr Ascot attended the meeting to provide an update on the Orchard. He outlined issues in recruiting volunteers to assist with work in the Orchard and informed the PC that they had approached the Ministry of Justice to provide a team to carry out the necessary tasks. He requested Parish Council approval for this and detailed the safeguards that would be in place while the team was working in the Orchard. He confirmed that hedgerow planting would be undertaken.

This was approved by the PC.

He spoke regarding the creation of an Arboretum within the Orchard, stating that an expert had offered to assist with this project.

**8. Police Matters.**

No matters were reported.

**9. Highways Matters.**

**a. General Highway Matters.**

In his absence Cllr Moody circulated an update report to all members, this was noted.

**b. Highways Improvement Plan.**

Members noted the update from Cllr Moody.

**c. M2 Junction 5 Improvements.**

Members noted the report circulated by Cllr Moody and discussed the paved area before the junction to Church Hill.

**10. Planning Matters:**

**a. Applications Received**

24/504604/FULL - Hillside Farm Stockbury Valley Stockbury Kent ME9 7QH

Change of use of former agricultural, farm shop, office and furniture removal/ storage business barns to light industrial (E(g), general industrial (B2) and storage and distribution (B8) uses including repairs and changes to fenestration (Barn 1) and provision of 9 car, and 4 light goods vehicle parking spaces and 8 cycle stands.

**b. Application Decisions by MBC**

24/503843/FULL

2 Northdown Stockbury Kent ME9 7UL

Erection of a single storey front porch.

Application Permitted

24/503735/FULL

Pelistry Hill Green Road Stockbury Sittingbourne Kent ME9 7UP

Erection of a replacement front boundary wall with electric sliding gate access (part retrospective).

Application Permitted

c. Appeals

No matters were raised.

d. Other Planning Matters

24/500597/CRVNP1 Cocketts Bimbury Lane Stockbury Kent

The last update we have on the case was the TSN was served and has now lapsed in November. Due to MBC Staffing levels and caseloads no other work has been done on the case.

Members noted the above update from MBC.

**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 Sumner and agreed by all present.

b. 2025/2026 Budget.

The draft budget to be circulated when MBC have released their Band D figures in late December. The Precept figure will need to be approved by the end of January 2025.

**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 Councillors Jones and Thompson gave their apologies to the meeting.

A written report was noted by Councillor Thompson.

**13. Correspondence Report.**

The correspondence report was noted by members.

**KALC Community Awards Scheme 2025**

We are delighted to announce that we have now launched the 2025 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 2024 Awards Scheme, which was adopted by 85 member Councils.

The Award Winners receive a Framed Certificate. The Council can decide whether to present something extra to their winner.

Please find attached the following documents:

- An outline of the 2025 Awards Scheme.
- A Nomination Form for member Councils to complete and send to KALC
- A Nomination Form for residents to send to the Council, if the Council decides to seek nominations from the local community.

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](mailto:manager@kentalc.gov.uk) by Friday 7th February 2025.

*It was agreed that the PC would consider this and agreed a recipient in January 2025.*

**14. Stockbury Bus**

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

Members agreed to no fare increases in 2025.

**15. Stockbury Orchard.**

No matters were raised.

**16. Stockbury Observer.**

Cllr Southern spoke regarding the Observer and stated that there would be no issue in January.

**17. Any Other Business:**

a. Raised by Public.

No matters were raised.

b. Raised by Parish Councillors.

Cllr Southern spoke regarding a funding request from the Village Hall for a contribution towards a CCTV system.

The Clerk advised that the VHMC should write to the PC formally and an item would then be placed on the agenda.

Cllr Southern reported that three volunteers had now come forward for NHW.

**18. Date of next Meeting.**

It was agreed that the next meeting would be held on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2025.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was closed to the press and public at 8.15pm.

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

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