

**The Minutes of the meeting of Stockbury Parish Council
held in Stockbury Village Hall on the 24th February 2015 at 7:30 PM.**

***Councillors present: Adams
Cathcart
Cockett
Mace
Porter
Tomsett
Woods***

Also present: Parish Clerk, Mrs S Babington and members of the press and public.

The meeting was chaired by Parish Cllr Tomsett.

1. Apologies.

Apologies were received from the police, MBC Councillor Daphne Parvin and KCC Councillor Jenny Whittle.

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 Cathcart as a true record, this was seconded by Cllr Porter and agreed by all present.

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

4. Matters arising from the Minutes.

Downs Mail distribution – Cllr Cathcart stated that the new arrangements for their distribution of the Downs Mail were working well within the parish.

A249 Crash Data – The Clerk informed the meeting that this had been requested from KCC and would be available in April 2015.

5. Notice of Reports from External Meetings.

Cllr Porter – Stockbury Bus.

6. Consultation on the Meeting Agenda.

a. Members of the Public.

No matters were raised.

b. Parish Councillors.

No matters were raised.

7. Police Report.

Apologies were received from PCSO Ryan Waring and a crime report was noted in their absence.

8. Highways Matters.

Cllr Cathcart reported that he was disappointed at the response received from Kent County Council with regards to the NO HGV signs that have been requested for the parish. He stated that at present the signs would not be installed due to cost implications.

This was discussed and it was agreed that as the cost of having the HGV signs was too high for KCC, Cllr Cathcart would enquire whether the Parish Council could put these up along the rural lanes leading from the A249.

Action: Cllr Cathcart to progress.

Cllr Cockett spoke regarding the potholes that had been marked in South Street and the way in which they had been repaired by Kent County Council.

It was agreed that Cllr Porter would place an item in the Stockbury Observer to remind residents how potholes and road repairs could be reported on the KCC website.

Action: Cllr Porter to progress.

Cllr Woods spoke regarding the Plum Tree Lane drainage repairs and informed members that this was working well at present.

He stated that the engineer undertaking the work had stated that the road needed to be swept regularly to avoid further flooding.

It was agreed that a letter should be sent to Maidstone Borough Council to request that Plum Tree Lane was placed on the street sweeping schedule.

Action: Clerk to write to MBC.

9. Planning Matters.

a. Planning Applications.

14/504595/FULL

Hill Green Lodge, Hill Green Road, Stockbury - No Objections.

Side and rear extension on ground floor and roof extension involving front and rear dormers and balcony.

14/506024/FULL

1 Vale Cottages Stockbury Valley Stockbury Kent ME9 7QD - No Objections.

Retrospective - retention of an over height fence on the north boundary of property, retention of a block wall as one side of a covered area and support for replacement roof to outbuilding.

b. Appeals and Decisions.

Squirrel Wood enforcement – The Clerk informed members that MBC Enforcement were still looking into this matter.

Trailer Sign, A249 – The Clerk reported that enforcement action was now being taken with regards to this sign.

10. Financial Matters.

a. Statement of Accounts.

The Financial Statement was circulated and approved by all present.

b. Cheques for Payment.

The cheques for payment were authorised by members. These were then signed by two authorised signatories.

c. Parish Services Scheme.

Members discussed the Parish Services Scheme and the work to be undertaken in the parish. It was agreed to upgrade the triangle in the Village and to seek quotations for this work.

Action: Cllrs Tomsett and Porter to progress.

Village Sign – It was reported that the post for the sign needed to be replaced and therefore this matter should be reviewed.

Following further discussion it was agreed to seek quotations for the work and approve the expenditure at the next parish council meeting.

11. External Reports.

a. Parish Councillors.

Cllr Porter reported that the agreement for the Stockbury Bus expired in 2016. He informed members that he and the Cllr Tomsett had been talking to Kent County Council about the future of the bus and proposals to keep this going for residents.

He stated that he had no further details at present but would report back to the next meeting.

Action: Cllr Porter to progress.

b. Kent County Councillor.

Apologies were received from KCC Councillor Jenny Whittle.

c. Maidstone Borough Councillor.

Apologies were received from MBC Councillor Daphne Parvin.

12. Correspondence Report.

The Correspondence Report was noted and approved by members.

13. Stockbury Orchard.

Cllr Porter reported on the progress of the Orchard.

He reported on the forthcoming planting event arranged at the Orchard on Sunday 1st March.

14. White Horse Woods.

No matters were reported.

15. Footpaths and Bridleways.

No matters were reported.

16. Parish Plan.

Cllr Porter informed members that the Parish Plan questionnaire have now been printed and was ready to distribute to residents. He thanked Carmel Parks for her assistance in this matter.

He reported that the Parish Council had received a 60% response during the last parish plan consultation and he hoped that this would be the case this time. He stated that he was currently looking into the analysis of the questionnaire.

17. Any Other Business.

a. Members of the Public.

A resident in attendance at the meeting spoke regarding the work of the Parish Council and thanked members for its work around the parish.

The resident spoke regarding the Stockbury Observer and the printing of this. He spoke regarding Denmaur Papers and asked whether the Parish Council could send a letter of thanks to them for their continued assistance in printing the publication.

This was agreed by members and Cllr Porter stated that he would action this item.

Action: Cllr Porter to progress.

The resident spoke regarding the maintenance of the parish and asked whether Parish Council may wish to rethink its position on the warden/maintenance in the parish as the previous warden was unable to continue this role.

Members spoke regarding this matter and it was agreed that the Parish Council should establish the current situation regarding insurance cover before progressing this any further.

Action: Clerk to liaise with Parish Council's Insurance Company.

Village Gates – A resident spoke regarding past plans for the Parish Council to have a village gate features within the parish and asked what progress was being made regarding this project. Cllr Porter stated that he would liaise with KCC Councillor Whittle regarding this matter.

Action: Cllr Porter to progress.

A resident in attendance at the meeting spoke regarding the small Village Green area and asked whether this was the responsibility of Golding Homes. A discussion took place regarding this matter.

Concerns were raised with regards to a large advertising sign on the A249. The Chairman confirmed that matter this was being actioned by MBC Planning Enforcement.

A resident spoke regarding old rusty signage at the entrance of the parish advertising a local business and asked if these could to be removed. Cllr Porter stated that he would liaise with the owner of the shop to have these removed.

Action: Cllr Porter to progress.

b. Parish Councillors.

Cllr Cathcart reported on a Neighbourhood Watch meeting on 20 March and suggested that the parish Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator should attend this.

18. Date of next meeting.

18th March 2015.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was closed to the press and public at 8.25 PM

Signed _____

Dated _____