

**The Minutes of the meeting of Stockbury Parish Council
held in Stockbury Village Hall on 20th of August 2014 at 7:30 PM.**

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

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

The meeting was chaired by Cllr Tomsett.

1. Apologies.

Apologies were received from Parish Cllr Adams, KCC Councillor Jenny Whittle and MBC Councillor Daphne Parvin.

2. Declaration of Interest.

Cllr Porter – Planning application for Rose Cottage.

3. Minutes of the previous meeting.

The Minutes of the previous meeting were circulated to all present. These were proposed by Cllr Woods, seconded by Cllr Cathcart and agreed by all present.
The Minutes were then signed and dated by the Chairman.

4. Matters arising from the Minutes.

Highways – Cllr Cathcart reported that he had written to John Burr, Director of Highways and a response had been received and circulated to all present. It was agreed that this would be discussed under the agenda for Highways.

5. Notice of Reports from External Meetings.

No matters were raised.

6. Consultation on the meeting agenda.

a. Members of the Public.

A resident raised concerns regarding the A249 crossover closures. It was agreed that this would be discussed further under Highways Matters.

b. Parish Councillors.

No matters were reported raised.

7. Police Report.

No Police were present at the meeting and no report was given.

Cllr Mace reported on an incident at Pett Road that was being investigated by the police.

Cllr Tomsett stated that there had been similar activity at Church Farm.

Cllr Cathcart reported that he was unable to attend a Police Forum meeting at Lenham Village Hall on 21 August 2014.

8. Highways Matters.

A249 Crossovers – Cllr Cathcart spoke regarding the correspondence between the Parish Council and John Burr, Director of Highways. He summarised this response to Members and the problems caused with the closure of the crossovers for the Kent County Show.

He stated that there was a further event at the Showground the forthcoming weekend and the expectation was that access to Stockbury would be kept open.

The Chairman stated that at the time of the Kent County Show all crossovers along the A249 were closed preventing any access to Stockbury without first joining the Showground traffic.

A resident attended the meeting to speak in support of the A249 crossover closures for showground events.

Councillors stated that the village residents were not in favour of the closures of the crossovers preventing direct access to the village.

This was discussed further and the Chairman thanked the resident for attending the meeting. He clarified that members were discussing direct access to the village and the South Street U-turn. He spoke regarding the inconvenience this has caused to the village residents and local businesses due to the poorly planned traffic management for the event.

He spoke regarding the Traffic Management Notice and the wording that the closures would only be undertaken if necessary. He stated that the road was reopened by villagers on this occasion and therefore this enabled a discussion to take place with the authorities and as a result access to the village was opened for the rest of the event.

The Chairman stated that the Parish Council accepted the views of the Bimbury Lane residents, but the closure of access for the Showground events was not be feasible for Stockbury Village.

Cllr Cathcart clarified the exact wording of the Traffic Management Order.

Cllr Woods stated that it was a highway responsibility to manage the traffic accordingly and the Parish Council had liaised with the Director of Highways to confirm that this would be the case for future events.

The Chairman thanked all of their comments.

Cllr Cathcart stated that he was in the process of arranging a Tri-Parish meeting with the Showground and surrounding parishes.

A discussion took place regarding the Scragged Oak Road improvements and the work due to be undertaken by South East Water.

It was reported that a lorry had entered the village during the early hours of the morning and caused damage to the tarmac outside the Village Hall.

9. Planning Matters.

a. Applications received.

14/500463/Full – Rose Cottage – no objections.

14/500937/Full – Norton Green House – no objections.

14/501528/Full – The Barrow, South Street – no objections.

Cllr Cathcart reported on the enforcement action currently being taken on 7 Bimbury Lane. He stated that MBC was still awaiting the submission of a formal planning application.

10. Financial Matters.

a. Financial Statement.

The Financial Statement was circulated to all present. This was proposed by Cllr Mace and seconded by Cllr Porter.

Cllr Porter spoke regarding the budget statement and the allocation against Parish Plan. He stated that this was due to be undertaken in this financial year. A discussion took place regarding this allocation.

Cllr Tomsett reported on the progress of the change of bank signatures for the Cultural Fund and stated that this was still being progressed.

b. Cheques for Signature.

The approved cheques were signed by two authorised signatories.

11. External Reports.

a. Reports from Parish Councillors.

No matters were raised.

b. KCC Councillors Report.

Apologies were received from Cllr Whittle.

c. MBC Councillors Report.

Apologies were received from Cllr Parvin.

12. Correspondence Report.

The correspondence report was noted by all members.

Cllr Woods spoke regarding the Leader Programme and stated that he would establish further details.

Action: Cllr Woods to progress.

13. Stockbury Orchard.

Cllr Tomsett reported on the barbecue event held at the Orchard.

He stated that the next event would be the Halloween Fireworks in October.

14. Footpaths.

Cllr Tomsett reported that KCC had issued the Parish Council with the Definitive Maps for the footpaths within the parish.

15. Parish Plan/NHP.

Cllr Porter informed the meeting that he was still progressing this and he anticipated the questionnaire

would be circulated by the end of the year.

16. Any Other Business.

a. Raised by Members of the Public.

A resident raised concerns that the unsociable activities had started again at the Aerodrome Estate. She stated that she had informed the police of the problems.

b. Raised by Parish Councillors.

Fly tipping – Cllr Cockett stated that fly tipping had taken place in South Street Road and he had liaised with Maidstone Borough Council regarding this.

Cllr Mace spoke regarding an article in the Downs Mail concerning the cutting of verges and central reservations. He stated that he would circulate this to all members.

Cllr Porter spoke regarding the maintenance of the Playing Field. He asked the Parish Council if they would consider financing the grass cutting again in next year's budget.

This was discussed and it was agreed that the Clerk would draft various options for the budget for 2015/16.

Action: Clerk to draft budget and place item next agenda.

17. Date of next meeting.

17th September 2014.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting was closed to the press and at 8:28 PM.

Signed _____

Dated _____