

Stockbridge Parish Council



MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 21st NOVEMBER 2024 AT 7:15PM AT THE STOCKBRIDGE TOWN HALL, STOCKBRIDGE

Present: Cllrs H Jackson, B Powell, D Smith, A Lawrence
M Porter (late)

Cllrs D Drew (late)

Apologies: Cllrs M Norton, A Parr, D Halle, A Marshall

Clerk: Belinda Baker

Public attendance: Ms Lisa Ellis

C/24/137 **Apologies**

Apologies were received from Cllrs Norton, Parr, Halle and Marshall.

C/24/138 **Election of meeting Chair**

In the absence of the Chair and Vice Chair the Council voted Cllr Lawrence the Chair the meeting. The meeting was quorate with four councillors.

C/24/139 **Co-Option of Councillor**

Ms Lisa Ellis had put herself forward as a Councillor. She had circulated some information about herself before the meeting. There were no questions. Cllr Ellis signed the documentation and was welcomed as a Councillor.

C/24/140 **To receive declarations of pecuniary interests (DPIs) and other significant interests from members concerning items on the agenda**

None were declared

C/24/141 **Public Participation**

None attended.

C/24/142 **Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 17th October 2024**

a. To approve and sign the minutes of 17th October 2024.

The minutes were agreed as a true record of the meeting and were signed by the Chair.

b. To deal with matters arising not on the agenda

- The Clerk said that Cllr Drew had contacted her to say that HCC's parking survey for Stockbridge would be published soon. He had told her that HCC was keen to work with SPC on solutions. She had acknowledged to him that parking on the Test Bridge was something that needed to be tackled but had queried if paid for parking would be popular in Stockbridge. Cllr Drew had said that any parking solutions would need to be paid for and that HCC would work with SPC to find funding for any course of action.

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- Cllr Lawrence said he had written to Cllr Jefferies because TVBC was promoting Stockbridge as a tourist destination on visitor guide leaflets yet there was no funding to support the initiative.
- The Clerk had submitted the Council's response to the LWCIP consultation (C/24/122c).

c. To deal with any correspondence

- HALC would be holding a County Forum on 28th November.

C/24/143 Borough and County Councillor Reports

- i Cllr Jeffery had sent a report which was circulated before the meeting. There were no questions.
- ii Cllr Drew had sent a report and would be attending later (C/24/159).

C/24/144 Meeting dates for the following year

The meeting dates circulated by the Clerk of every third Thursday except August when no meeting would be held and December when it was the second Thursday, were agreed. It was agreed not to hold an APM.

Action: Clerk

C/24/145 Resilience

Cllr Powell said he had formed a team with other relevant parties who would be able to assist in the formation of a plan. He said it was important to work with local groups in order to understand what would work best in an emergency. Cllr Lawrence commented that Stockbridge was lucky because the Houghton Fishing Club provided support from flooding via the river keepers. Cllr Smith provided a number of leaflets from Neighbourcare that would inform and assist vulnerable people in an emergency. Cllr Powell said he would give these out in at the Community Market. It was agreed the next newsletter would carry information about the plan the resources available to vulnerable people.

Action: Cllr Powell

Cllr Porter joined the meeting

C/24/146 Cemetery

a. Cleaning of the Lutyens Memorial in Winton Hill Cemetery

It was noted that the funding still only stood at £100. It was agreed that this should be returned to the donor. The Council agreed that the memorial did not have any structural damage and it fitted in with the rural feel of the cemetery.

Action: Clerk

b. Agree clearance and tree work

One quotation was circulated before the meeting. The Clerk had approached other suppliers. The quotation was from the supplier that was doing the tree work at the QE II garden and so his quotation was known to be competitive. The Council agreed that the quotation for £1540 was

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reasonable and agreed to award the work to this supplier.

Action: Clerk

Cllr Lawrence left the meeting
Cllr Porter took over as Chair of the meeting

C/24147 **Lancaster House**

a. Marking of boundary and hedging

Cllr Smith confirmed he had marked out the boundary with the new posts (C/24/127).

Action: Cllr Smith

b. Consider setting up Trust for the site

The Clerk was awaiting further information from the solicitors.

Action: Clerk

C/24/148 **Queen Elizabeth II Memorial Garden**

The Clerk confirmed that TVBC had awarded a grant from the Rural England Prosperity fund for the garden installation. Not all that had been requested had been awarded however, and the Council would require S106 informal recreation money to make up the difference. The Clerk and Cllr Jackson had met with Longstock Nursery and a date in late January 2025 had been agreed for installation. Permission for the tree work had been requested of TVBC (C/24/155a) and this was due to take place in the middle of January. She requested permission from the Council to pay the 25% deposit to Longstock Nursery for the work. This was agreed. The Council agreed to hold an event to open the garden, formally, but no date was specified.

Action: Clerk

C/24/149 **Christmas Lights Project**

The Xmas trees had now been installed along the high street. The Council agreed the funds in the Council's bank account for the project. Cllr Smith commented that the traders were not being forthcoming with funding. He said that the owner of the barn where the trees had been stored asked for the Council's flags to be removed. In the absence of a suitable store the Clerk volunteered to house the flags.

Action: Cllr Smith, Clerk

C/24/150 **Budget 25/26**

a. Employers NI

The Government had recently increased the employers NI due for each employee from April 2025. The Auditor's email explaining the new charges had been circulated to the Council. The new rate was noted. The Staffing Committee had agreed that it was appropriate for payment of Employers NI to be paid by the Council.

b. Consider proposed budget for 25/26

The 25/26 budget agreed by the WG (C/24/128) had been circulated before

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the meeting. Cllr Powell explained that the WG had felt that the Council's general reserve was high and some of these funds could be allocated appropriately as earmarked reserves for Council projects (C/24/155f). He said Trout 'n About fund had agreed to contribute £3K to a project and the WG proposed this money should be spent on an SLR. He was keen to emphasise that this was pay back to the community for the inconvenience of the day. The Council agreed to the budget as set out by the WG and agreed to the precept of £22,288 which was a reduction of 8.5%.

Action: Clerk

C/24/151

Policy Review

a. Reserves Policy

The policy drawn up by the Clerk was agreed by the Council.

Action: Clerk

b. Equality and Diversity Policy

The policy drawn up by the Clerk was agreed by the Council.

Action: Clerk

C/24/152

Infrastructure Projects

a. Gate at Marsh Field

The Clerk had received two quotations for the work and had approached another supplier. The Council agreed unanimously to accept the quotation from Kiwi fencing for £1960 for the installation of a metal kissing gate.

Action: Clerk

b. New SLR

Members of the Budget WG proposed purchase of a new SLR with the money donated from Trout 'n About. The Clerk had circulated 3 different versions of the devices. The Council agreed that a solar panel was important for increasing battery life. Cllr Powell said he would investigate how the data could be downloaded.

Action: Cllr Powell

Cllr Drew joined the meeting

C/24/153

Council Communications

a. Report from engagement surgery at the Community Market

Cllr Powell had taken the surgery. He reported that comments had been raised about the lack of a glass recycling centre

Action: Cllr Powell, Clerk

b. Content for December's newsletter

This was agreed as the Resilience plan, Trout 'n About contribution to the PC, New Cllr Ellis, Christmas lights, Salisbury bus and the QE II garden.

Action: Clerk

C/24/154

Village Matters and Maintenance

a. Lengthsman and Maintenance

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Cllr Ellis agreed to take over the lengthsman co-ordination. The Clerk said she would explain what would need doing.

Action: Cllr Ellis, Clerk

b. Update on grants from HCC for RoW

The Council had received confirmation of a grant of £500 for the equipment from Cllr Drew's community grants. In light of this HCC's Countryside services were now re- looking at the original application. The Council thanked Cllr Drew for his support.

Action: Clerk

c. VDS – agree new WG

It was agreed to wait until Cllr Lawrence was available

Action: Cllr Lawrence

d. Consider proposal to set up village Neighbourhood watch group

It was agreed to move this to following meeting.

Action: Clerk

C/24/155

Finance

a. Recent Transactions – to approve income and expenditure since last meeting

Income and payments 99-102 were circulated ahead of the meeting and were reviewed and approved. Income was from HCC for the RoW equipment grant, two payments for the cemetery, 4 donations to the Christmas fund and a grant from the Town Hall for playground repairs.

Opening bank balance		54909.78
R Steel (cemetery)	Income	220
S'bridge Comm Cinema (Xmas)	Income	500
The Hub (Xmas fund)	Income	75
St. Peter's Church (Xmas fund)	Income	250
S'bridge Town Hall (Xmas fund)	Income	1000
R Steel (cemetery)	Income	265
S'bridge Town Hall (playground grant)	Income	1022.41
Hugo Fox (website)	99	11.99
B Baker (Salary + lengthsman -tax – pension + Staff Comm)	100	646.44
Unity Bank (service charge)	101	5.4
Standard Life (pension both)	86	24.26
Closing Balance (minus cheque)		57554.10

Savings Account

Opening Balance		30,088.15
TVBC (CIL)		14326.59
Closing balance		44414.74

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b. To approve budget year to date.

Expenditure against budget was reviewed, approved and agreed.

c. Update on grant from Town Hall for playground repairs

The Town Hall had donated £1022.41 for the repairs to the playground equipment. This money was now in the PC's account(C/24/155a)

d. Prize for Test Valley/Danebury School

The Council agreed to donate a prize of £30 to the prize giving at Test Valley now Danebury School.

Action: Clerk

e. Agree Clerk's pay rise and back pay as per NALC agreement and recommended by the Staffing Committee

The Clerk's pay rise and back pay to £16.65 an hour was agreed unanimously.

Action: Clerk

f. Agree to take funds from the General Reserve to set up new Recreation Ground reserve, new IT reserve, and contribute to the Playground equipment reserve

It was agreed to increase the number of the Council's earmarked reserves with a new reserve for the Recreation Ground, IT equipment and to contribute to the playground equipment reserve. Funding for these reserves was to be taken from the General Reserve. This was agreed unanimously.

Action: Clerk

C/24/156

Planning

a. New applications – there were none

Number	Address	Description	Result
24/02594/TREEN	Public Toilets High Street Stockbridge	Tree works as detailed on Application Form	29/11/24
The Council had no objection			
24/02593/TREEN	Springfield Old London Road Stockbridge Hampshire SO20 6EJ	T1 - Cherry - Crown thin by up to 20%, reduce any overextended branches by up to 2m, T2 - Sycamore - Fell to ground level	29/11/24
The Council had no objection			
24/02543/LBWN	Grosvenor Hotel High Street Stockbridge Hampshire SO20 6EU	Removal of modern timber panelling to internal walls of treatment room within stable block, and replacement with timber stud frame and plasterboard fixed to existing walls.	29/11/24
The Council had no objection			
24/2155/FULL	Waterlow High Street Stockbridge Hampshire SO20 6EU	Replacement windows and enlargement of one window opening	18/10/24

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The Council had no objection			
24/02444/FULLN	Water Meadows, High Street Stockbridge Hampshire SO20 6EU	Alterations to fenestration - replacement of all UPVC windows with timber casement windows, replacement of concrete roof tile with a standing seam zinc, decking	29/11/24
The Council had no objection			
24/02359/FULLN	Grosvenor Hotel High Street Stockbridge Hampshire SO20 6EU	Erection of wooden pergola (retrospective)	29/11/24
The Council had no objection			

b. To note recent decisions

Number	Address	Description	Decision
24/02257/TREEN	Kings Head House High Street Stockbridge Hampshire SO20 6EU	T1 - Alder - Reduce by 2m	No objection
24/02274/TREEN	2 Riverside Cottages High Street Stockbridge	T1 - Apple - Formative prune by no more than 1.5m	No objection
24/02211/TREEN	Fire Station High Street Stockbridge Hampshire SO20 6HF	T2-T4 - Tila X Europa - Prune to give 2m clearance to neighbouring roof, T5-T7 and T24 - Salix Daphnoides - Prune to give 2m clearance to neighbouring	25/10/24
24/02156/LBWN	Waterlow High Street Stockbridge Hampshire SO20 6EU	Replacement windows and enlargement of one window opening	Consent
24/2155/FULL	Waterlow High Street Stockbridge Hampshire	Replacement windows and enlargement of one window opening	Consent
24/01545/FULLN	Greyhound Inn High Street Stockbridge	Temporary canopy	Refuse

c. To note decisions awaited

Number	Address	Description	Date
24/02315/TREEN	Mulberry House High Street Stockbridge	T1 - Arbutus - Fell	29/10/24
24/02338/TREEN	Land Adjacent To Providence House , High Street,	T1 - Norway spruce - Prune branches overhanging garden room back to boundary and up to 3m above the roof ridge, reduce the length of branches	31/10/24
24/02328/FULLN	Highfield House, Steepleton Hill,	Single storey rear extension, new entrance and porch, timber cladding to first floor, associated alterations, new swimming pool, detached carport	8/11/24

e. Enforcements

There were none.

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C/24/157

Old London Rd

Cllr Porter explained that at the last meeting (C/24/121) it had been proposed that a survey of the speeds of the traffic in OLR should be undertaken. He said that HCC was insistent that the traffic needed slowing down but he said this was unnecessary because the only users of the road were residents or parents. He said that speeding didn't happen with south to north journeys. He said money was available for the survey Traffic earmarked reserve. He said he felt that speed humps in OLR would be the best solution. Cllr Smith said he felt HCC's proposals were an improvement to the corner because it provided more pavement therefore a safer crossing from Winton Hill. Cllr Powell agreed. Cllr Porter said he felt that altering the roundabout exit would increase the amount of traffic using OLR as a rat run going north to south. The Council agreed 3:1 not to progress the traffic survey proposal.

C/24/158

Health and Safety

There were none reported

C/24/159

County Councillor report

Cllr Drew spoke to say that HCC was trying to save £175m. He said that HCC was aware of the Council's forecasted activities but expenditure was also going up. He said passenger transport, school crossing patrols and library stocks would be facing reductions. The library staff were being asked to look at revenue generation including providing banking hubs. He said that the recycling centre at Bunny Lane would continue. He said he was happy to look a new glass recycling venue (C/24/153). Food collections would begin in Test Valley in April. He addressed the HCC parking survey to say (C/24/142b) that the final version was being signed off and that HCC would want to work with the PC for a solution but that something would need to be done.

C/23/160

Items for next agenda and date of next meeting

The next Council meeting is due to be held on 12th December 2024 at the Town Hall. Items for the Agenda:

Newsletter

New kissing gate at entrance to water meadows

Action: Clerk

The meeting closed at 9.20pm

Signed.....

Date.....