

Stockbridge Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON
THURSDAY 25th April 2019
7.30PM AT STOCKBRIDGE TOWN HALL



Present: Parish Councillors R Foord (Chairman), A Lownie (Vice Chairman), F Candler, S Smith, R Hills, D Halle
Borough Councillor Busk.

Guest Speakers: Cllr Andrew Gibson (HCC), Mr Paul Jackson, Head of Planning and Building at Test Valley Borough Council.

Minutes taken by: Belinda Baker – Parish Clerk

Item		Action
PM/01/19	Welcome and Introductions Cllr Foord welcomed all to the meeting and introduced the guest speakers.	
PM/02/19	Apologies for Absence Apologies were received from Parish Councillors Richard Hills, Russell Jackson, Angie Fillippa, James Leslie, Stephen Taylor TVBC Councillor – Peter Boulton	
PM/03/19	Chairman's enquiry of those attending the meeting as to whether anyone wanted to record the meeting. No one wanted to record the meeting.	
PM/04/19	Parish Council Chairman's Report – Cllr Richard Foord Please see attached report	
PM/05/19	Presentation of annual accounts for the financial year 01 April 2018 to 31 March 2019 and details of the budget set for the financial year 01 April 2019 to 31 March 2020 – Cllr Alyson Lownie Please see attached report	
PM/06/19	Guest Speakers Cllr Andrew Gibson – Hampshire County Councillor for Test Valley Central. For reference Cllr Gibson's slides are attached. Cllr Gibson started by drawing the meeting's attention to the financial challenges the Council faces due to government cuts and pointed out that although the Government has reduced the Council's funding there are only certain areas that the Council can make cuts in – such as Highways and Community Funding. Other areas such as Social Care are ring fenced, this means the cuts can come down doubly harder in the exposed areas. The Council has had to make a half a billion saving from these sections of the budget. However, Cllr Gibson reported that Hampshire Council tax was still lower than most other County Councils. Meanwhile local government is looking at 10 years of low revenue due to the present difficult economic situation. Future Planning is very conscious of the increase in numbers of	

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the over 60's. This is seen as being a massive challenge by 2050. It is also looking at how technology can ease some of the problems. HCC still has a number of grants available and village halls such as Over Wallop, Broughton and Longparish have benefited. HCC has also linked with TVBC to provide community items such as de-fibrillators. Cllr Gibson went on to say that Hampshire schools were above average in all measured areas of attainment against the UK average and school places in Hampshire were being allocated to a high number of first choices and only a very low percentage (3%) were not allocated a school of either their first, second and third choices. Cllr Gibson commented that Highway Maintenance still had a considerable problem with pot holes and he urged the community to report those that they came across. He finished by saying that the 2050 plan emphasised the importance of the digital economy and that HCC was working with the technology providers to improve the digital capabilities within Hampshire's villages.

Cllr Daniel Busk - Test Valley Borough Councillor

Cllr Busk started by explaining that the increase in Council tax was to cover the cost of social care. Meanwhile, the Council had managed to ensure that there was no increase in parking charges. The Council had improved the leisure facilities at Romsey Rapids and Andover Leisure Centre at no capital cost to the residents. Test Valley continued to deliver affordable housing and last year they did so over the government targets.

Mr Paul Jackson – Head of Planning and Building Test Valley Borough Council.

Mr Jackson is in overall charge of 65 staff across 3 offices. He emphasised that the area has a rich heritage and consequently there are a high number of listed buildings. He explained that the Planning Department has to deal with the tension between business/employment and the impact on residents and their property. He presented slides that showed Stockbridge in 1900 and the inter war years and said that there had been a reduction in business activity since the turn of the 20th Century because the businesses then were mainly food retail (butchers, bakers etc). Change of use from a business to residential is not always a planning matter since it could be part of permitted development. Even if there is intensification of businesses in the area, there is no control available from planning. Where planning issues are concerned, the starting point for any decision is the National Planning Policy framework in conjunction with the Local Plan to Test Valley. These two documents form the basis of all planning judgements. The department is sensitive to the fact that they need to take local views into account in any planning decision but there is a balancing act that must be struck between the various issues to be considered such as noise and the rise in visitors to the area and material considerations such as increased employment opportunities. Other influencing factors to a planning decision would be the Neighbourhood plans adopted by the Parish Councils (Test Valley recently announced the first Neighbourhood plan to be adopted). These plans give

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	<p>the Parish's wishes significant weight in the planning decisions, equal to the Local Plan used by the Planning Department.</p> <p>The Planning Department will consult experts in areas such as the environment, noise control, traffic and safety where these issues are thought pertinent to a planning application. This is so that all the different concerns can be taken into account. They will impose enforceable conditions on a planning award, such as noise control, if they consider it necessary.</p> <p>Mr Jackson finished by saying that there is always a tensions between commercial and residential applications and this is especially so in Stockbridge where there are so many businesses so close to residents.</p>	
PM/07/19	Questions Mr Jackson took a number questions from the audience	

Meeting Closed at 9.00pm.