

Stockbridge Parish Council



**Minutes of Parish Council Meeting
Thursday 11th December 2025, 7.15pm
Stockbridge Town Hall**

Present:

Chairman – Councillor D Halle (DH)

Vice Chair - Cllr M Porter (MP)

Cllr D Smith (DS)

Cllr A Lawrence

Cllr L Ellis

Clerk

W Turkington

TVBC Borough Cllr I Jeffrey (IJ)

TVBC County Cllr D Drew (DD)

Members of the public: None

1. Apologies

Cllr H Jackson (HJ); Cllr B Powell (BP)

2. Declarations of Pecuniary Interests (DPIs) and Other Significant Interests (OSIs)

None declared

3. Public Participation

No members of the public were present

4. Minutes of the Council meeting held on Thursday, 20th November 2025

- a. To approve the Minutes of Parish Council meeting held on 20th November 2025. Proposed by Cllr DH; seconded by Cllr MP. Agreed by the Council and signed by Cllr DH and Cllr MP.
- b. There were no matters arising that were not on the agenda
- c. Correspondence. A resident had emailed to notify the council that part of the wall by the White Hart Inn had been knocked down. Cllr DS advised it was being dealt with by the landlord and brewery and does not pose a danger.

5. Borough and County Councillor Reports

Test Valley Borough Cllr I Jeffrey (IJ)

TVBC Cllr IJ gave a report and overview of the latest Mid Test Matters (MTM) magazine and some of the items covered, including updates on Southern Water, Romsey town centre and TVBC's policy towards the homeless.

- **TVBC Homeless Policy.** TVBC Cllr IJ was proud to report that TVBC has a policy that no one has to sleep outdoors in the borough as accommodation is provided, however, not every person wants help in this way.
- **Council grants.** There is information on these in MTM and TVBC Cllr IJ referred the council to TBVC's website, which gives more details on them.

- **Local Government Reorganisation.** The public consultation runs until 11th January 2026 and members of the public as well as the parish council can put forward their views. Cllr DH would be responding on behalf of Stockbridge Parish Council, which was in favour of Test Valley being linked with the New Forest, Winchester and East Hampshire.
- **Cultural activities.** These include the 30th Anniversary of the Romsey Male Voice Choir, which TVBC Cllr IJ had recently joined, and he is now the Chairman of Stockbridge Music, which has held a couple of concerts in St Peter's Church. TVBC Cllr IJ reported that he had booked the Michelmersh Silver Band for St George's Day on 23rd April 2026. Following the fire at King John's House, the oldest building in Romsey, a fund-raising campaign had been initiated.

In respect of matters raised at the last meeting, TVBC Cllr IJ advised that he is still pursuing the issue of street sweeping because he had been advised by the parish council that not all of Stockbridge's streets and pavements are being cleaned. Parish councillors were also concerned about the drains clogging up and potential flooding, for example, of the school playground. It was thought that the road sweeping vehicles have tracking devices on them so it should be easy to identify where and when they are in operation. TVBC Cllr IJ advised he had yet to receive an answer from TVBC and he would follow this up with the relevant department.

Councillors also raised concern about the food waste collection service vehicle blocking the road whilst picking up the bins. The actual collections are done well, however, TVBC Cllr IJ would follow the concerns about hindering traffic flow.

TVBC Cllr IJ left the meeting after giving the above report.

6. Planning

NEW APPLICATIONS

25/02715/FULLN and **25/02052/LBWN**. White Hart Inn. No objection.

25/02766/TREEN Mulberry House. No Objection

25/02609/FULLN The Hideaway. Objection

To view the applications above, please go to TVBCs website – Planning Applications

ENFORCEMENTS - None

7. Clerks Report

QEII park. The clerk had contacted TVBC about a possible grant/extra funding to assist with maintenance of the QEII park, however, no further monies were available for this project as the clerk had been advised that the responsibility for maintaining the park lay with the parish council. The real concern was TVBC had wanted the parish council to provide unlimited liability to TVBC, which the parish council had not agreed to undertake. The clerk advised that she had requested detailed information from the funding officer.

SLR SIDS. The clerk had contacted TVBC about obtaining a grant and had been advised that the parish council would need to provide evidence in the form of traffic speed data to show that the above were required. The clerk had been advised to consult with the Community Police Officer and it was agreed to invite the CPO to one of the next meetings to offer advice on the above.

8. Infrastructure Projects

- a. Land ownership ref a permissive footpath from Penny Lane. Cllr AL to follow up with Land Registry about ownership of the land.

9. Council communications

- a. Newsletter articles for the Stockbridge Parish Magazine, which had not published in the last quarter. It was agreed that now that a new clerk had been appointed, publication of the magazine would be reinstated and published on the parish council website along with the Mid Test Matters newsletter. It was also agreed to review the website content and social media opportunities.
- b. There was no report from the community surgery this month.

10. Cemetery

- a. Burials. A discussion took place about implementing 'an exclusive right of burial' policy, whereby a person could purchase a specific burial plot and if permitted, whether this would include a single or double burial plot and the appropriate costs. Cllr DS to put forward more information for consideration at the next meeting.

11. Village Matters and Maintenance

- a. **Playground.** Cllr DH reported that he would check that the Lengthsman had jet-washed everything and cut back any undergrowth, as requested
- b. **Lengthsman.** Cllr DH advised he had suggested a meeting with the 'cluster' of parish councils for which Stockbridge Parish Council is the Lead Council in respect of overseeing the work of the Lengthsman. Cllr DH would set up a meeting in February 2026 for the parish clerks and the Lengthsman. The purpose of the meeting will be to clarify what the Lengthsman should be doing and improve the reporting structure.
- c. **Village Litter Pick.** Cllr DH advised that all the required equipment had been purchased and would be stored in the village shed. It was hoped to get at least eight volunteers to litter pick, as currently there were three and to prepare a schedule for next year.

12. Staffing Committee

Hampshire Association of Local Councils (HALC) advised that any confidential matters in respect of personnel should be discussed in a closed meeting in which members of the public and Press could not be present. The parish council agreed to take further legal action and pay for legal advice.

13. Finance

Recent transactions. Cllr DH had circulated the accounts, which were approved by the council.

14. Items for next agenda

15. Date of next meeting

Thursday, 15 January 2026, 7.15pm, Stockbridge Town Hall

Signed Chairman, Stockbridge Parish Council

Signed Parish Councillor

Date:

ACTIONS

Actions to be taken arising from Minutes of the Meeting of 11th December 2025

Item No.	Cllr/Clerk	Action/s Agreed
5.	Cllr DH	MidTest Matters magazine. To provide regular updates on Stockbridge
	Cllr DH	Local Government Re-organisation. To circulate the email from TVBC to all the parish council's contacts, as appropriate
8.	Clerk	Queen II Memorial Garden To contact Marie Stubbington, Community Engagement Office, to find out about grants
11.	Clerk	New SLR-SIDs. To contact TVBC about a possible grant towards the above
	Cllr AR	Permissive pathway. To find out who owns the lands ref the permissive pathway from Penny Lane
12.	Cllr LE	Stockbridge Parish Magazine. To submit an article on litter picking.
	Clerk	Community Surgery. To contact Cllr BP for more information
14.	Cllr LE	Village Litter Pick. To organise the next litter pick
	Cllr DH	British Heart Foundation. To revert to the BHF in respect of their offer of a bench and advise the suggested location.