

Stockbridge Parish Council



**Minutes of Parish Council Meeting
Thursday 15h January 2026, 7.15pm
Stockbridge Town Hall**

Present:

Chairman – Councillor D Halle (DH)

Vice Chair - Cllr M Porter (MP)

Cllr H Jackson (HJ)

Cllr B Powell

Cllr D Smith (DS)

Clerk

W Turkington

TVBC Borough Cllr I Jeffrey (IJ)

TVBC County Cllr D Drew (DD)

Members of the public: None

1. Apologies

Cllr A Lawrence (AL)

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

None declared

3. Public Participation

Five members of the public were present. A resident spoke to the council on a number of issues, which were duly noted.

4. Minutes

- a. To approve the Minutes of Parish Council meeting held on 11th December 2025.
Proposed by Cllr MP; seconded by Cllr BP.
- b. Matters arising not on the agenda.
The cost of new IT equipment for the Clerk. The Chair had sent details to all councillors to review, and the expenditure was approved at the meeting.
A discussion took place about reducing the number of parish council meetings to six per year. Cllr DH proposed that this was reviewed when there were more councillors, as a quorum of 3 councillors was needed at a meeting to vote on any proposals.
A new Community Resilience Grant of £1000 to support local groups was available from TVBC The parish council agreed to apply for the above to help the local Neighbourhood Care Group. More information with useful contact numbers would be put on the parish website.
- c. Correspondence. The formal resignations of Councillors Lisa Ellis and Tracy Cook were noted. The Clerk had notified TVBC and applied for Notices of Casual Vacancies. These would be put on the parish noticeboards and parish website.

5. Borough and County Councillor Reports

TVBC Borough Cllr I Jeffrey (IJ) gave a report on various items covered in Mid Test Matters

- Hampshire County Council and other local elections will go ahead on 7th May
- Two seminars on Artificial Intelligence (AI) for small businesses
- Winter fuel scams
- Houses targeted by crime gangs
- New Community Resilience Grant launched by Borough Council
- Fly tipping - penalties
- Stockbridge Music – latest concerts

Cllr IJ and Cllr DD asked for any questions.

Issues were raised about:

- Lack of road sweeping. Cllr DS had contacted TVBC many times but to date there had been no action.
- Increase in potholes. Cllr DD advised that these came under Hampshire County Council, who were endeavouring to make temporary repairs quickly as complete resurfacing would take much longer. He would report these issues.
- Severe flooding along the High Street, particularly along where the Town Hall and retailer Orvis is located, as the main drain is blocked with leaves and other detritus. Part of the problem is that if the water table is high, there is nowhere for the water to go. Cllr IJ reported he had spoken to Environmental Services, and the latter had advised they are looking into it and sent somebody out, who reported that the drain had collapsed and the work was now on the list for repairs. This would be Hampshire County Council's responsibility.
- Trout 'n About. Cllr DH had received an email from Waste Management at TVBC advising that they cannot provide this service in future, which is paid for by the parish council, and that the parish council should see a private contractor. The event is a real benefit to the local economy for Hampshire. Cllr IJ asked DH to send him further details, and he would look into it.

TVBC County Councillor D Drew (DD) reported on the following items:

- The M27 tunnel, which was finished earlier than scheduled
- Advice on staying safe and well during cold weather
- National funding to improve bus travel. This is provided as a Pay on Demand service in parts of Test Valley
- Hampshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS)
- A review given by other councils and councillors on Test Valley, which received very positive feedback, highlighting its strong leadership.

He reported that the government had asked TVBC two questions:

- i) Did TVBC want to delay elections? TVBC had responded 'No'.
- ii) If the elections were not delayed, did the Council have capacity to undertake all that was required of it? TVBC had replied 'Yes' but qualified the answer by pointing out that if it had to do more, then it would take up more resources.

TVBC considered Devolution to be appropriate as it would provide money to Hampshire that can be managed and distributed by a mayoral, combined authority, which would have some opportunity to influence government. He advised that in 2027, there will be shadow elections for the new local authorities.

The government requires district and borough councils to produce new local plans and for Test Valley, this would mean some 80% increase in housing numbers. The overall concern was that there were no proper plans for infrastructure for these new housing developments.

The TVBC Cabinet had undertaken a site visit around Test Valley to look at sites for the borough local plan. This had included Wey Hill (Andover,) Amport and Stockbridge. In respect of the latter, the proposal to do a land swap with the local school had been rejected by the Hampshire assets team, however, there is a site further up from the school that might be appropriate for development. The next step could be a Regulation 18 consultation.

Cllr DD showed an infographic showing what Fleet council does and suggested it might be something that Parish Council could produce for Stockbridge.

Cllr DD reported that he had put his name forward to be a governor of the South-Central Ambulance Service (SCAS), which is an NHS Foundation Trust. He is also on the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Fire and Rescue Authority.

6. Planning

Please refer to the Planning Department section of the TVBC website for full details on the planning applications below.

NEW APPLICATIONS	PROPERTY	PARISH COUNCIL
25/02977/TREEN	Sherriff Hse, High St	No objection
25/02391/FULLN (Re-advertisement)	Garden Lodge, Marsh Ct Rd	Objection
25/02998/FULLN	Yew Tree Cottage, High St	No objection
25/03001/FULLN	Penny Lane Barn	No objection
25/03038/FULLN	Cannon House	Objection

In respect of 25/03038/FULLN, the Parish Council asked Cllr IJ to put this application forward to the Planning Committee, should it go forward.

RECENT DECISIONS	PROPERTY	PLANNING DECISION
24/02863/FULLN	Penny Lane Barn	REFUSED, Appeal dismissed
25/02332/FULLN	May Cottage, Old London Rd	PERMISSION
25/02333/LBWN	May Cottage, Old London Rd	CONSENT
26/02670/TREEN	13 Trafalgar Way	NO OBJECTIN
25/02766/TREEN	Mulberry House	NO OBJECTION
25/02715/FULLN and 25/02716/LBWN	White Hart Inn	WITHDRAWN

Please refer to the Planning Department section of the TVBC website for full details

ENFORCEMENTS - None noted

7. Clerks Report

The clerk had contacted Tim Bunt, the Community Police Officer (CPO) in respect of the proposed SLR SIDS for Stockbridge. He referred the clerk to Lockerly Parish Council, as they had installed them. The CPO had indicated he would be happy to come to one of the parish council meetings.

Cllr DH suggested that it would be good if the CPO attended two or three of the parish council meetings during the year and the clerk will provide the SCO with dates
Cllr BP suggested that it would also be good if the CPO came to one of the community markets, which he usually attends to provide IT advice to residents.

8. Infrastructure Projects, Cllr AL

Cllr AL had sent his apologies.

- a. Land ownership ref permissive footpath from Penny Lane. It was noted that he was looking into the above.

9. Council Communications, Cllr BP

- a. **IT** – Cllr BP had circulated details of the proposed new laptop and accessories to the council and the expenditure was agreed. Cllr DH advised that once a bank card had been issued to the parish council by Unity Bank, they could purchase the equipment and reclaim the VAT.
- b. **Website, Social Media, Newsletter** – the clerk was now putting information on the website for the parish council, including the monthly publication of Mid Test Matters The parish council would set up the ‘gov.uk’ email suffixes, which is a requirement under Assertion 10 Compliance regulations for IT and email management. Cllr BP and the clerk to implement once the new IT equipment has been received. In respect of Social Media/Facebook page, the council agreed that this was not a priority currently as there are several local Facebook groups and the council could post information to the most appropriate one. This would circulate news to a wider audience for the parish council. The councillors were requested to look at some of the local Facebook groups and come back with suggestions on which one would be suitable for the parish council to send information to in future. An example cited was the Stockbridge and Villages Facebook group. It was noted that there used to be a quarterly parish council newsletter. It was agreed that the parish council newsletter should be reinstated and to have three issues a year, beginning in April/May as a Spring issue. The format would be two pages with updates on parish items, along with some pictures
- c. **Community Surgery** – No report for January as this begins again in February.

10. Policy Review Cllr BP

Cllr BP and the Clerk were looking at the current policy in respect of emails and the requirement for a ‘gov.uk’ suffix, and privacy for councillors using their council email addresses in communicating with each other. Councillors should at that point reset their own passwords and all email messages should have a disclaimer at the bottom as advised.

11. Cemetery Cllr DS

Cllr DS had circulated the latest report. The cemetery was being well maintained.

12. Village Matters and Maintenance Cllr DH

- a. Playground. The lengthsman had jet washed all the equipment all was in order
- b. Lengthsman. The TVNC financial contribution for the year had been used. Any further work required to the end of the financial year in the parish would now be paid from parish council funds. It was noted that there was very little to do at this time of year.
- c. Village Litter Pick. Cllr Lisa Ellis had resigned last month; however, it was hoped that she would continue her support to the litter pick. The parish council had all the required equipment. Cllr DH would contact her.

13. Staffing Committee Cllr DH, Cllr BP

The parish council was taking legal advice from the appointed solicitors. It was agreed to have three members of the parish council on the committee:
Cllr DH Cllr BP, Cllr AL.
The committee would meet three times per year unless otherwise required.

14. Finance Cllr DH, Clerk

The councillors had all received copies of the accounts. These were approved. Cllr HD advised he is currently overseeing the bank account after the previous clerk left and is now in the process of registering the new clerk. He advised it can take several weeks to get this authorised.

The parish council agreed to increase the Precept application by 3% based on anticipated additional expenditure over the coming year, for example, SLR SIDs training and potentially to cover waste removal after Trout 'n About, if TVBC withdrew the latter. The parish council is holding funds for the Lengthsman, CIL, Stockbridge Christmas Lighs and the Cemetery.

The Parish Council manages 14 parishes in the Lengthsman cluster, and separate to the payment to each parish towards the Lengthsman work, Stockbridge Parish Council receives £100 per parish for managing this service.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed.

Date of next meeting: Thursday, 19 February 2026, 7.15pm, Stockbridge Town Hall

Signed Chairman, Stockbridge Parish Council

SignedParish Councillor

Date:

ACTIONS

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

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Item No.	Cllr/Clerk	Action/s Agreed
4.c.	Clerk Cllr MP	Notices of Casual Vacancies to be put on parish website. To put above on noticeboards
7.	Clerk	Community Police Officer To contact and arrange for above to attend a future PC meeting SLR/SIDs To contact Lockerly parish clerk for reference
9.b	Cllr BP & Clerk Clerk	IT To implement new email suffixes to '.gov.uk' Newsletter To prepare template
12.	Cllr DH	Litter Picking To contact Lisa Ellis ref organising.
14.	Cllr DH Clerk	Finance. To add the clerk as admin on the bank account. Precept. To send in 2026/27 application to TVBC
15.	Clerk	Community Resilience Grant. To contact TVBC for application details