

Stockbridge Parish Council



MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 20th FEBRUARY 2025 AT 7:15PM AT THE STOCKBRIDGE TOWN HALL, STOCKBRIDGE

Present: Cllrs D Halle (Chair) D Smith, M Porter, B Powell
M Norton

Cllrs I Jeffery, D Drew

Apologies: Cllrs A Lawrence, L Ellis, H Jackson,

Clerk: Belinda Baker

Public attendance: Two

C/24/219 **Apologies**

Apologies were received from Cllrs Lawrence, Ellis and Jackson.

C/24/220 **To receive declarations of pecuniary interests (DPIs) and other significant interests from members concerning items on the agenda**

None were declared

C/24/221 **Public Participation**

One member of public who attended did not choose to make comment, the other was due to speak about a matter on the Agenda.

C/24/222 **Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 16th January 2025**

a. To approve and sign the minutes of 16th January 2025.

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

- TVPTA was holding a quarterly meeting 6th March. No one volunteered to attend.

c. To deal with any correspondence

- A resident had written to ask if a permissive footpath could be installed to enable safer access to Stockbridge from Steepleton Hill. The Chair asked for the matter to be put on March's agenda and for the Clerk to invite the resident to the meeting.

Action: Clerk

C/24/223 **Xmas Lights**

The member of the public who was on the Christmas WG spoke to say that the projected costs for 2025 would be over £5K. This was because a number of lights needed replacing. She explained that this cost was one-off but she was

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asking all donors to increase their contributions. She recognised that the PC was due to give £1,000 in 2025 but asked if a grant of a further £1,000 could be considered. She said the community “switch on event” was well attended and was seen as good value. Cllr Drew suggested that she and the Clerk apply for a grant from his community grant. The Council agreed to grant the Xmas fund an additional £1,000 for new lights in 2025.

Action: Clerk

C/24/224 HCC's Parking Survey

Cllr Norton said that he had met with members of the WG (C/24/202) - Cllr Porter, and two members of the public (one with experience of roads management in local Gvt and other a trader). Cllr Norton recognised that although a number of residents' surveys had been undertaken in the past, he proposed to use the PC newsletter to obtain further feedback. He said he had been made aware that because recent changes in the Gvt budget (ie: Emp NI and business rates) which would take effect in April and would hit local businesses hard, many traders were thinking of giving up. He said that an extra parking charge would not be helpful. The member of the public commented that parking at the Salisbury Hill end of the High Street would be impossible if parking on the Test Bridge was prohibited. Cllr Powell commented that 2 hrs of free parking would support the cafe owners but anything longer may need to be paid for. This would be reasonable to anyone spending a larger sum on a meal out. Residents would be protected with parking permits. Cllr Norton commented that HCC's survey said that 85% respondents did not have a problem with parking. Cllr Halle said it was important to ask residents what they wanted. The Council agreed to include a survey in the newsletter. Cllr Norton would supply the information and the questions.

Action: Cllr Norton, Cllr Porter, Clerk

A member of public left the meeting

C/24/225 Borough and County Councillor Reports

- i Cllr Drew spoke to say that HCC had agreed a 4.99% Council tax rise. He said increasing demand for adult and children social care took up just about all of this money. He said the legislation for Hampshire devolution was moving forward and at present the Gvt was consulting on the proposals. The new Mayor of Hampshire would have new powers and more money from central government. He said that TVBC was looking at the other Borough councils to work out who it would be best to merge with. He said that KPMG had been engaged to work out the metrics and cost of the devolution. The final submission would be in September.
- ii Cllr Jeffery said TVBC would be starting food waste collections in October. He said that the house building target had gone up by a further 75%. He commented that a new theatre was being built at the entrance to the Chanty Centre following the demolition of the present unit.

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C/24/226

Queen Elizabeth II Memorial Garden

a. **Project status**

The Clerk confirmed the funding from the S106 money (C/24/210a) was now forthcoming. She said that apart from the benches the work had been completed. The benches are to be installed soon. There was general agreement that the garden was looking much improved. The Clerk noted that the maintenance equipment was yet to be purchased. The Council agreed to purchase a combination padlock for the shed.

Action: Clerk

b. **Lease of the land**

Clerk and Cllr Lawrence had raised queries with regards to the lease that had been put forward by TVBC. There were 3 problem areas – responsibility to repair the path accessing the toilets, the ability of SPC to cut back hedging and trees, and the level of indemnity required. Cllr Lawrence had supplied case law supporting SPC's position which had been forwarded to TVBC. Cllr Jeffery agreed to take the matter up with the legal department.

Action: Cllr Jeffery, Clerk

c. **Grant application**

The Clerk advised she was collecting the photos and invoices necessary for the application. She would be able to submit it once the benches were installed at the Memorial Garden

Action: Clerk

d. **Opening event**

The Council agreed to hold the opening event at 3pm on 3rd April (C/24/210c). Refreshments would be provided and would be decided at March meeting.

Action: Clerk

C/24/227

Playground

a. **Update on agreed remedial actions**

The remedial work (C/24/205b) was due to take place the following week. The residents (C/24/205a) neighbouring the playground, had kindly agreed to pay for the tree work to reduce the height and remove the overhanging branches. The Clerk was asked to contact a local supplier already used by the Council.

Action: Clerk

b. **Agree new "No ball games sign"**

A resident local to the playground had asked that a "No Ball games" sign should be installed to stop teenagers playing football in the playground and damaging the surface and fencing. This was agreed as appropriate. Cllr Powell agreed to look around for one.

Action: Cllr Powell

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C/24/228

Resilience

Cllr Powell updated the Council to say he was holding a meeting the following week. He felt he had a good handle on the requirements of a Resilience Plan. He said that he had approached the Primary School to allow their site to be used as a muster point. He did not want to make the plan too complicated but he hoped to provide a "what to do in event of ..." plan for most situations.

Action: Cllr Powell

C/24/229

Cemetery

a. **Updated forms.**

The updated Exclusive Right Of Burial and transfer of EROB forms were agreed. The Council agreed the EROB was for 50 years. It was agreed that the Cemetery policy should be deferred until the March meeting. The Council agreed to charge double fees for an interment in an EROB for a person that did not qualify for residential status.

Action: Clerk

b. **Missing paperwork procedure**

Cllr Smith explained that recently there had been requests for interments in plots where exclusive right of burial had been purchased but the paperwork had been lost and the Council had insufficient records to prove who was the owner. He explained that in these cases the personal representative of the deceased person had been asked to sign a letter which acknowledged the documentation was not available on either side and that should any person come forward, at a later date, that could prove ownership then the personal representative agreed to pay the full cost of returning the grave back to its present condition. The Council agreed this as a suitable procedure and letter.

Action: Cllr Smith, Clerk

a. **Memorials Policy**

The Council agreed to defer this to the March meeting.

Action: Clerk

C/24/230

Infrastructure Projects

a. **SLR**

Cllr Powell agreed to check how the data could be downloaded.

Action: Cllr Powell

b. **Kissing gate at RoW**

The contractor had requested that the RoW could be closed for the installation. The work was due to take place at the end of March. The Clerk confirmed that TVBC had agreed S106 money could be used.

Action: Clerk

c. **Phone Boxes**

The Council agreed the phone boxes needed re-painting. The Clerk was asked to obtain some quotations.

Action: Clerk

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C/24/231

Council Communications

a. **Content for March Newsletter**

This was agreed as the QEII garden, HCC parking survey, Hampshire devolution, Trout 'n About volunteers, Resilience.

Action: Clerk

b. **Report from the community surgery**

No Councillor had been able to attend.

C/24/233

Village Matters and Maintenance

a. **Lengthsman and Maintenance**

No tasks for the lengthsman were discussed. The Council noted that a resident was very helpfully removing the moss from the flintstones between the crossing and Town Hall, it was agreed to thank him. It was noted that the flower bed by the trout pond would need weeding.

Action: Clerk

b. **Training for RoW work**

The Clerk was due to organise training for Mr McLaughlan.

Action: Clerk

c. **VDS – agree approach**

TVBC officers had requested that they attend the March meeting to propose a Neighbourhood Plan for Stockbridge. It was agreed to defer discussing the VDS until after this. It was agreed to ask the Save Our Stockbridge group to attend the meeting.

Action: Clerk

d. **Daffodil Run volunteers**

The annual daffodil run was due to take place Sunday April 6th. Cllrs Halle, Norton and Porter agreed to help with marshalling.

Action: Cllrs Halle, Norton and Porter

C/24/234

Finance

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

Income and payments 142 - 155 were circulated ahead of the meeting and were reviewed and approved. Income was for the cemetery and the S106 contributions for the Q E II Memorial Garden (C/24/226a) and RoW kissing gate (C/24/230b).

Opening bank balance		41988.84
Blackwell & Moody (cemetery)	Income	105
A H Cheater (cemetery)	Income	530
TVBC (S106)	Income	4454.18
TVBC (S106)	Income	1960
Hugo Fox (website)	142	11.99
B Baker (Salary + lengthsman -tax – pension + Staff Comm + back pay)	143	673.91

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Unity Bank (service charge)	144	6
Standard Life (pension both)	145	24.26
Standard Life (pension back pay contribution)	146	31.79
SLCC membership (to be shared with HWPC)	147	240
G & M Jacobs (newsletter delivery)	148	100
Infinity Playgrounds (Playground inspection)	149	57
HMRC (Clerk's tax and Emp NI)	150	182.4
Shane Ling (lengthsman Jan)	151	823
KS Tree Care (QE II garden)	152	1640
STHC (room hire)	153	21
YMML (Clerk's office expense)	154	36
OVO Energy (Milsom)	155	24.37
Closing balance		45166.30

Savings Account

Opening Balance		44690.61
Closing balance		44690.61

- b. To approve budget year to date.**
Expenditure against budget was reviewed, approved and agreed.
- c. Further use of S106 funds**
The Clerk asked the Councillors to consider how to make best use of the remaining S106 funds.
- d. Employers NI and lengthsman funds**
The Clerk had written to the lengthsman cluster to explain that a £15 contribution would be required to cover the co-ordinator Emp NI.

Action: Clerk

C/24/235

Planning

a. New Applications – To agree

Number	Address	Description	Result
25/00321/TREEN	Room 5 - 6 2 Clarendon Terrace High Street Stockbridge Hampshire SO20 6EY	T1- Yew- Reduce overall canopy by 1-1.5m, raise canopy by 1m and raise tree line from fence line	04/03/25
The Council had no comment to make			
25/00315/TREEN	Fishmore House High Street Stockbridge Hampshire SO20 6EY	(T1) Plane Tree - Reduce easterly limb by up to 2m to balance crown and reduce weight on limb	04/03/25
The Council had no comment to make			

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25/00255/LBWN	Kings Head House High Street Stockbridge	Replacement of five barred gate with automated opening gate and erection of fence	07/03/25
The Council had no comment to make			
25/00141/FULLN	Penny Lane Barn Penny Lane Stockbridge	Retention of 2 pumps air source heat	26/02/25
The Council had no comment to make			
24/02863/FULLN	Penny Lane Barn Penny Lane Stockbridge Hampshire SO20 6JJ	Retrospective change of use of land to residential, construction of retaining walls, creation of access and associated landscaping	26/02/25
The Council had no comment to make			

c. To note recent decisions – there were none

d. To note decisions awaited

Number	Address	Description	Date
24/02849/TPON	Cannon House Old London Road Stockbridge Hampshire SO20 6EJ	T1 - Horse Chestnut sp. (TPO.TVBC.0188A) - Cut back to pre-existing cuts 3m epicormic growth. Clean up stub cuts and rot pockets	07/01/25
25/00038/FULLN	The Hideaway , High Street, Stockbridge, Hampshire	Use of the property as a single dwellinghouse, provision of new access, parking, retention of 2 Air Source Heat Pumps and raised platforms	07/02/25

e. Enforcements

There were none.

C/24/236

Health and Safety

There were none reported

C/23/237

Items for next agenda and date of next meeting

The next Council meeting is due to be held on 20th March 2025 at the Town Hall. Items for the Agenda:

HCC's Parking Survey.

Council Newsletter

TVBC Neighbourhood Planning team

New permissive footpath

Action: Clerk

The meeting closed at 9.50pm

Signed.....

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Date.....