

Stockbridge Parish Council



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

Present: Cllrs D Halle (Chair) D Smith, M Porter, A Lawrence,
M Norton, B Powell, H Jackson, T Cooke, L Ellis

Cllrs D Drew

Apologies: Cllrs None

Clerk: Belinda Baker

Public attendance: Two

C/25/022 Election of Chair of the Council

Cllr Halle was unanimously elected as Chair of the Council.

C/25/023 Apologies

There were none

C/25/024 To receive declarations of pecuniary interests (DPIs) and other significant interests from members concerning items on the agenda

Cllr Norton declared an interest in planning application 25/00918.

C/25/025 Public Participation

One members of public spoke about the parking survey. He expressed disapproval that HCC had installed paid parking at the Danebury hill site. The other member of the public spoke on behalf of SOS. She expressed support that the VDS should be updated and said that SOS did not support a NDP for Stockbridge.

C/25/026 Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 17th April 2025

a. To approve and sign the minutes of 17th April 2025.

The Council added the words "Cllr Lawrence made comments against the appropriateness of an NDP" to minute C/25/007a. The Chair signed the minutes.

b. To deal with matters arising not on the agenda

- The TVAPTC next meeting would be held on 22nd May.

c. To deal with any correspondence

- TVBC's Community asset fund was now available for grants.
- The Council was thanked by the resident who had received the thank you gift, sent by the Council, for cleaning flints on the High street (C/25/004b).

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C/25/027

Borough and County Councillor Reports

i

Cllr Drew had circulated a report before the meeting. He said HCC had given the green light to a new £50m recycling facility to boost the county's recycling rates. He said that 92% Primary school applicants had been offered their first choice. He was asked to chase HCC to repaint the high street zebra crossing.

ii

Cllr Jeffery had sent a report but did not attend. There were no comments

C/25/028

Community Planning Matters

a. TVBC's upcoming revised Local Plan consultation – consider the proposed allocation of 100 new homes outside the current settlement boundary adjacent to Danebury School in Longstock

Cllr Drew explained that the Council would have an opportunity to comment on the proposal when TVBC's Local Plan was put out for consultation in June. He was unable to clarify if land owned by Danebury school would need to be "swapped" with the developers for the proposal to take place.

b. Initiate a Pan-Parish Group to co-ordinate planning responses

Cllr Halle said that local parishes should get together to show strength when dealing with these planning matters. This was agreed. Cllr Halle agreed to make the approach.

Action: Cllr Halle

c. VDS - To review the previous working groups recommendation to refresh the existing document

The Council agreed that the document needed refreshing.

d. Agree Working Group for VDS

Cllrs Jackson, Lawrence and Powell agreed to join the WG.

Action: VDS WG

C/25/029

HCC's Parking Survey

The Traffic Parking WG's draft letter to HCC had been circulated before the meeting. Cllr Lawrence had made changes to the document. These were accepted. The Clerk was asked to send it to HCC.

Action: Clerk

Cllr Drew left the meeting

C/25/030

Playground

a. Agree any tree work

A letter from the landowners made it clear that they did not want to spend extra money on reducing the height of the trees. The Clerk said that it was not appropriate for the Council to spend money on trees on private land. Cllr Powell suggested approaching the landowner to work out a solution. He hoped that funding could be obtained from other sources.

Action: Cllr Porter

C/25/031

Resilience

The Resilience plan had been circulated before the meeting. There were no negative comments. The Council agreed to adopt the plan. Cllr Powell said that

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the primary school would be able to house a generator should the Council be able to purchase one. He also proposed buying walkie talkie radios. The Clerk said that the SSN round of grants would be able to fund this. Cllr Powell agreed to forward to the Clerk information on appropriate devices

Action: Cllr Powell, Clerk

C/25/032

Queen Elizabeth II Memorial Garden

a. Update on lease of land

There was no update. The Clerk asked the Council to take the matter of the agenda until there was a response from TVBC. This was agreed.

Action: Clerk

b. Securing of benches

Cllr Halle agreed to purchase the land anchors to secure benches to the ground.

Action: Cllr Halle

c. Maintenance of flower beds and grounds

Cllr Jackson had asked the volunteer who had done the work on the High Street, but he had been unable to confirm he could help. It was agreed to propose a rota in the newsletter. The Council agreed to buy a hose.

Action: Clerk

C/25/033

Cemetery

a. Memorials Policy

The policy was agreed by the Council.

Action: Clerk

C/25/034

River Test Pollution

a. Consider purchase of water monitoring equipment

Cllr Ellis proposed that water monitoring equipment was purchased to monitor what the Southern Water pumping station was putting into the Test. She said she had support for this proposal from the Pan Parish Forum and Stockbridge businesses. She said there was a reduction in invertebrates in the river so that only 3% were left. Cllr Norton commented that monitoring was being done in other places along the river. He said that monitoring was only relevant when there had been recent heavy rainfall. Cllr Halle said he felt the decision to monitor was the Pan Parish Forum's and Cllr Ellis was asked to refer the matter back to them.

Action: Cllr Ellis

C/25/035

Lancaster House

It was noted that the TVBC community Asset fund (C/25/026c) could be used to improve access and use of the site. The Clerk cautioned that TVBC would need to see clear community support in the application. The Council agreed to form a WG to meet at the site to assess what could be done. The WG was agreed as Cllrs Smith, Lawrence, Powell, Halle and Ellis.

Action: Lancaster Hse WG

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Cllr Lawrence left the meeting

C/25/036 Infrastructure Projects

a. **New SLR**

Cllr Powell said that the SLR options he investigated were for over £3K. He said that it was better the PC bought the SLR because the PC could reclaim the VAT. He agreed to forward to the Clerk the item that he felt met the PC's needs.

Action: Clerk

b. **Phone Boxes**

The Clerk had received confirmation that planning permission was not required but she said that if the phone boxes were rubbed down there was likely to be flecks of paint in the air that may end up in the trout pond. The Council agreed to erect the Council's gazebos, kept at Cllr Lawrence's house, around the phone boxes whilst they were being rubbed down.

Action: Clerk

c. **Proposed permissive footpath from Penny Lane to Stockbridge**

Cllr Norton said he had the details of the landowner which he would forward to the Clerk in order for her to ask their permission.

Action: Clerk

C/25/037 Council Communications

a. **Content for June Newsletter**

This was agreed as the Resilience plan, new councillor Tracy Cooke, results of the parking survey, Trout n About's request for a road closure, the phone boxes and the permissive footpath. The Primary school had received induction stoves from Trout n About and asked to provide an article.

Action: Clerk

b. **Report from the community surgery**

Cllr Powell had attended but no Council matter had been brought to his attention.

C/25/038 Village Matters and Maintenance

a. **Lengthsman and Maintenance**

Cllr Ellis would provide June's schedule. No maintenance was requested.

Action: Cllr Ellis

b. **New postbox at the Town Hall**

The Council agreed the purchase of an outside postbox to be fixed to a wall at the Town Hall. Council's post would be delivered to this postbox and it would mean that the Council's registered address would change to the Town Hall. Use of the postbox would be shared with the Town Hall. This was agreed.

Action: Clerk

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C/25/039

Finance

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

Income and payments 7-26 were circulated ahead of the meeting and were reviewed and approved. Income was from HWPC for the share of the Zoom licence, HCC for the lengthsman and for the cemetery.

Opening bank balance		44971.98
HWPC (Zoom licence share)	Income	64.95
HCC (Lengthsman)	Income	18700
R Steel (cemetery)	Income	530
Ovo Energy (Milsom's light)	7	22.61
Shane Ling (Lengthsman March)	8	769
Hugo Fox (website)	9	11.99
B Baker (Salary + lengthsman -tax – pension + Staff Comm + back pay)	10	693.56
Unity Bank (Service charge)	11	6
Standard Life (pension both)	12	27.15
B Baker (watering can, Cllr expenses)	13	45.89
Ovo Energy (Milsom's light)	14	22.61
B Baker (Zoom licence shared with HWPC)	15	155.88
HALC (membership)	16	347
D Younger (flag installation and mowing)	17	60
B Baker (survey monkey -month)	18	75
STHC (room hire)	19	21
HCC (streetlights)	20	1203.74
Do the numbers (internal audit)	21	320
YMML (Clerk's office expense)	22	36
B Baker (thank you gift for resident)	23	42.89
Shane Ling (Lengthsman April)	24	1897.5
Shane Ling (cemetery)	25	322
HMRC (Clerk's tax & Emp NI)	26	237.57
Closing balance		62492.24

Savings Account

Opening Balance		44971.98
Closing balance		44971.98

b. To approve final 2025/2026 budget year to date.

Expenditure against budget was reviewed, approved and agreed.

c. Approve Internal Auditor's report

This was approved. The Council agreed to purchase a "Yellow Box" on guidance for Councils as directed by the Internal Auditor.

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Action: Clerk

- d. **Approve Annual Governance Statements**
This was approved.
- e. **Approve Annual Accounting Statements**
This was approved.
- f. **Approve Annual Internal Auditor's Statements**
This was approved.

Action: Clerk

- g. **Approve Insurance**
The Clerk presented 3 quotations. The Council agreed to stay with Zurich as the lowest cost provider.

Action: Clerk

- h. **Conflict of interest with external auditor, BDO**
None were declared.

C/25/040

Planning

a. **New Applications – To agree**

Cllr Norton left the room when application 25/00918 was discussed.

Number	Address	Description	Result
25/01031/TPON	Cannon House Old London Road Stockbridge Hampshire SO20 6EJ	T1 - Beech - Eastern stem to reduce in height 4m, Southwestern side to reduce the lateral branches by up to 2.5m, Western stem to reduce in height by 3.5m, Western and Northwestern side of the canopy to reduce by up to 2.5m, 5.5m highway crown lift tertiary foliage and canopy crown thin of 10%	03/06/25
The Council had no comment to make.			
25/00952/TREEN	Avalon Old London Road Stockbridge Hampshire SO20 6EJ	T1 - T3 - Beech - cut back lateral branches by up to 2.5m as per photograph	20/05/25
The Council had no comment to make			
25/00900/LBWN	Unit 2 The Vine High Street Stockbridge Hampshire SO20 6HF	Alterations to shop front signage	30/05/25
The Council had no objection			
25/00914/CLPN	Greyhound Inn High Street Stockbridge Hampshire SO20 6EY	Application for a certificate of lawfulness for erection of marquee on a seasonal basis from May to September	16/05/25
The Council had no objection			
25/00918/CLEN	The Garden Lodge Marsh Court Road Stockbridge Hampshire SO20 6JB	Application for a lawful development certificate for existing use as single dwelling	23/05/25

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The Council objected to the application 5:3

1. Although council tax might have been paid on the structure, council tax is not the only criterion for determining the residential status of the building.
2. The building must comply with planning conditions and building regulations – but there does not appear to be any record of planning permission being sought or determined for the current structure.
3. The structure does not appear to be adequate for residential use. It appears to be a very small timber construction with a felt roof and its external size does not suggest residential living space of an adequate size or quality. In any reasonable assessment, the structure is a garden shed or cabin, intended for storage of garden equipment/furniture and ancillary use.
4. There is no detail on the current facilities of the structure and if it has the very basic requirements that are required for residential use (kitchen, bathroom, drainage etc.). If the structure has drainage – where is this draining too.
5. There is no nitrogen assessment provided with the application.
6. The site is outside of the settlement boundary and is neither 'essential' or 'appropriate' to develop in accord with COM02 of the Test Valley Borough Council Local Plan.
7. There is no detail to confirm that parking standards have been met in accordance with the Local Plan.
8. There is no tree assessment to assess the impact this application could have on the adjacent tall trees and any future pressure to prune these to provide adequate lighting to the structure.
9. It is unclear if 'The Cabin' and 'The Garden Lodge' are one and the same structure.
10. The site is immediately adjacent to the Test Way and the Stockbridge Common Marsh SSSI and there is no assessment of the impact on these assets.
11. The provided council tax bills for the period of 2012 to 2026 are all addressed to Oliver Norton, the applicant's son. The same Oliver Norton has submitted a sworn statutory declaration to advise that Mr Michael Fowler resided at the structure between 2010 and 2023. The council tax account should be in the name of the 'occupier', so it is unclear who inhabited the structure and when.

b. To note recent decisions – there were none

c. To note decisions awaited

Number	Address	Description	Date
25/00720/FULLS	Field North Of North Park Farm Somborne Park Road Little Somborne Hampshire	Installation of ground mounted solar panels	25/04/25
25/00772/CLPN	The Red Barn Somborne Park Road Stockbridge Hampshire	Application for lawful development certificate for proposed change of use of agricultural building to E(g)(i) use (office to carry out any operational or administrative functions)	24/04/25
25/00590/PDMA N	3 Clarendon Terrace High Street Stockbridge Hampshire SO20 6EY	Application to determine if prior approval is required for proposed change of use from Class E (Commercial, Business and Services) to a single dwellinghouse (Class C3	05/04/25

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APP/C1760/C/25/ 3362588	Grosvenor Hotel, High Street, Stockbridge, Hampshire	Appeal against without planning permission, the construction of a wooden framed building with a corrugated metal sheet roof	19/05/25
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d. Enforcements
There were none.

C/25/041 **Health and Safety**
There were none reported

C/25/042 **Items for next agenda and date of next meeting**
The next Council meeting is due to be held on 19th Juner 2025 at the Town
Hall. Items for the Agenda:
Council newsletter
Water Monitoring
Painting of phone boxes
SLR
Flags for VJ day

Action: Clerk

The meeting closed at 9.45pm

Signed.....

Date.....