

Stockbridge Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
THURSDAY 19th NOVEMBER 2020
7.30PM via ZOOM online



Present: Cllrs D Halle (Chair), T Hales, G Boney, F Parr
R Foord, I Bell, J Leslie, S Taylor, A Lawrence
A Gibson, T Ward

Apologies: Cllr V Vere Stokes

Clerk: Belinda Baker

Public attendance: Seven

C/20/104 **Apologies**
Apologies had been received from Cllr Vere Stokes

C/20/105 **To receive declarations of pecuniary interests (DPIs) and other significant interests from members concerning specific items on the agenda**
Cllr Foord declared an interest in item 8 on the agenda (C/20/111)

C/20/106 **Public Participation**
The first member of the public wanted to speak about the picnic tables around the bus stop. He said that he has been surprised to see the tables fully occupied and people congregating around them and not social distancing. He said he wanted the Council to remove the tables in the same way the Church have removed their benches. He said that the Covid infections in the area was on the rise and this time the lockdown feels frightening. He said he had arranged for Houghton Fishing Club to take the benches away and to house them. A second member of the public spoke to support this view and said he had seen a large number of people around Woodfire and the benches. He said that the benches increased risk and he asked the Council what the exit plan from lockdown was.

A third member of the public explained that he wanted to continue attending the meetings and he had a special interest in parking and as a governor of Test Valley School.

Other members of the public who attended were there to talk about items on the agenda, it was agreed that they should be invited to talk at that point on the agenda.

C/20/107 **Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 15th October 2020**

- a. To approve and sign the minutes**
These were approved as a true record of the meeting.
- b. To deal with matters arising not on the agenda**
The Clerk notified the Council that:

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- Traffic and Parking WP had no update which is why it was not on the agenda
- She intended to carry out an annual policy review and asked if Councillors had noticed any policy anomalies.
- Milsons light was now working.

c. To deal with any correspondence.

There was none that were not on the agenda.

C/20/108

i

County and Borough Councillor Reports

Cllr Gibson informed the Council that HCC Highways was re-organising into two departments – north and south with Stockbridge within south hants. He expressed concern that there was a rise in ground water but conceded there was conflicting opinions on how likely flooding was to occur. He asked the Council who the contacts were, for opening the sluice gates, in case of flooding. He was re-assured that Houghton Fishing Club were available 24/7. Cllr Leslie asked that the weblinks in his report should be put on the Council website. Cllr Gibson confirmed that the Lengthsman scheme will continue next year.

Action: Clerk

Cllr Lawrence joined the meeting

- ii** Cllr Ward expressed concern that the Covid cases were rising in the area. He however could not provide the information on cases at a parish level. He encouraged the Council to ensure the resilience plan was up to date.

C/20/109

Covid 19

a. Any support issues concerning new lockdown

None were reported

b. Children's playground

The Clerk informed the Council that the Children's playground could remain open this lockdown. She had done another risk assessment which had been circulated to the Cllrs. Cllr Halle confirmed that the signage was still in place and up to date.

c. Barriers on the High Street

- i.** Cllr Boney said he supported the removal of the picnic tables because he felt that there was difference from the 1st lockdown in the way people were behaving and that the Council should act as a responsible public body. Cllr Leslie also supported the benches being removed because he felt that the spirit of the lockdown was not being taken seriously. The Clerk relayed a phone call she had received praising the picnic benches and expressing sadness that the Church had now removed their benches. Cllr Taylor said he felt that the picnic benches were not being used sensibly and that he felt that visitors to Stockbridge were abusing them, he said they could be reinstated after lockdown. Cllr Halle pointed out that other benches around the parish were not being removed. The Council voted 7-2 to remove the picnic benches until the end of Lockdown.

Action: Cllr Halle

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- ii Cllr Halle confirmed that reaction to the barriers was still largely positive. Cllr Hales expressed concern that visitors to Stockbridge were not being as respectful to the barriers as they ought to be.

C/20/110 **Recycling Centre – update on progress for new site**

The clerk relayed an email from TVBC confirming the legal agreement with HCC was in the process of being sorted out. Cllr Ward confirmed that the new recycling centre in Longstock was likely to be at the John Lewis estate.

C/20/111 **Rubbish bins at Thyme and Tides**

A resident had approached the Council regarding the commercial bins that currently resided in the driveway beside Thyme and Tides. The resident had said that these bins were often smelly and overflowing and suggested that they should be moved to the back of the Old Police House. Cllr Bell suggested that Thyme and Tides should be approached verbally before they were written to. Cllr Halle said he would approach Thyme and Tides.

Action: Cllr Halle

C/20/112 **Resilience Planning**

Cllr Halle confirmed he had contacted TVBC to check on the Resilience plan that was held on file. He had been told the most recent plan was from 2004. Cllr Hales said he had been working on a draft plan from 2017. He said he felt that Stockbridge was in a good position to deal with a river flood but not any flooding created by blocked drains. The data collection of the vulnerable persons list was discussed. Cllr Lawrence suggested distributing to all Stockbridge households but Cllr Halle suggested including the information in the Benefice magazine which goes out to all Stockbridge households in December. This was agreed as the best course of action with the form being made available on the website to be filled in and sent to the Clerk. Cllr Foord pointed out that communication was central to any relief co-ordination, he suggested a pay as-you-go mobile phone should be used as a contact point.

Action: Clerk, Cllr Hales

C/20/113 **Cemetery**

a. Headstone Restoration

The Clerk supplied one quotation in the DropBox and said that Lockerly Stone had still not provided another but said they would do so.

Action: Clerk

b. Signage

The Clerk had circulated some examples of signage and some quotations. It was agreed that HCC seemed to have the best quotation. Cllr Boney expressed concern that the entrance to the cemetery was slippery. A member of the public commented that the trees and ivy needed to be cut back to restrict moisture. Words and signage to be agreed at next month's meeting.

Action: Clerk

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C/20/114 **Complaint regarding Longstock Parish Council**

The Clerk had circulated, before the meeting, minutes from Longstock Parish Council in which a complaint, regarding “people connected to” Stockbridge Parish Council and a social media Facebook site, was discussed. The Clerk had stressed to Councillors that the content of the complaint was not a matter for discussion, only the appropriateness of the matter being discussed in public at a Longstock Parish Council meeting. Cllr Taylor noted that HALC had written that the matter would be dealt with if Longstock apologised for holding the discussion. He proposed that Longstock should be approached for this apology. Cllr Boney agreed that this approach could be taken but he felt that nothing should be done after that. Cllr Foord felt that there was no virtue in taking this approach with Stockbridge’s closest neighbour. The Council agreed to Cllr Taylor’s proposal by 8:1.

Action: Clerk

C/20/115 **Christmas Plans**

A member of the public explained that some of the Christmas lights, that they had been hoping to re-use this year, were found to be not working. As donations were down this year due to Covid 19 she asked if the Council would contribute an extra £100. This was agreed.

C/20/116 **Approve Purchase of Parish Online Licence**

It was agreed to purchase an online licence, approx. £60, for Council use. Parish Online provides mapping information including from the post office, Environment Agency, HCC highways, road furniture and rights of way etc.

C/20/117 **Council Communications**

Cllr Halle proposed that there was an opportunity to improve Council communications to the residents and he felt that the Council should be more proactive. There were various ways of doing this with regular updates going from the website or perhaps a quarterly or monthly newsletter. It was agreed that Zoom made discussion of ideas at Council difficult and that a Working Party should be formed to work out options and then to present these to the Council next month. Cllr Halle, Cllr Lawrence volunteered to be on the Working Party along with the Clerk.

Action: Clerk

C/20/118 **Budget for 2021/2022**

It was agreed to form a Working Party to discuss the budget for next year and to bring the proposals back to the Council next month. Cllrs Halle, Bell, Foord and Leslie agreed to join the working party, including the Clerk.

Action: Clerk

C/20/119 **Test Valley Presentation Evening**

Test Valley School had written to the Clerk asking for £25 sponsorship for the school’s annual presentation evening. This was agreed.

Action: Clerk

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C/20/120

Village amenities

a. Lengthsman update

Cllr Halle said he felt that Shane had done a fine job clearing the War Memorial before the service. Cllr Gibson said he had had complaints regarding the hedges on either side of the A30. Cllr Halle said that this was on the Lengthsmans tasks for this month. Cllr Foord suggested that his farm hedge cutter might be more appropriate, Cllr Gibson agreed to check with HCC Highways.

Action: Cllr Halle, Cllr Foord

b. Lancaster House

TVBC had been chased but there was no update.

c. Trout Pond

Cllr Halle noted that more render has fallen from the walls into the pond. He said he was chasing for quotations for the work. It was likely to prove expensive because there was a need to hold the water away from the walls, whilst the render was applied and dried.

Action: Cllr Halle

d. Telephone Boxes

There was no update because the Council needed to wait for the title to come back from BT.

C/20/121

Finance

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

Income and payments 77-83 were circulated ahead of the meeting, were reviewed and approved. Cllrs noted income and expenditure against bank statements.

Opening bank balance		79606.55
Trout n'About	77	500
Safe Site Facilities	78	1162.04
B Baker	79	503.74
Safe Site Facilities	80	1200.76
Shane Ling	81	171
Shane Ling	82	1884.00
YMML	83	16.80
Closing Bank Balance		76243.21

b. To review budget year to date.

Expenditure against budget was reviewed, approved and noted.

c. Grant application for Scouts

A grant application from the Scouts for a larger meeting facility so that the group can meet but still observe social distancing was considered and agreed unanimously.

Action: Clerk

d. Clerk's back pay

The Clerk had not received a pay rise in line with NALC's recommendation

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of 2.75% from April 2020. It was agreed to award the pay rise and the back pay.

Action: Clerk

C/20/122

Planning

a. Outside Catering van on A30 layby

The Council approved this application

b. New applications – to agree responses

Number	Address	Description	Date
20/02643/FULLN	Garden House Blandford Row Stockbridge Hampshire SO20 6H	Construction of a detached dwelling with garage, parking, garden and new access (Resubmission 17/02350/FULLN)	28/10/20
The Council has no objection to this application but asks that a Swift Box should be installed as part of the construction, as per Council resolution C/20/077.			

c. To note recent decisions

Number	Address	Description	Date
20/02368/TREEN	The Guardhouse, 20 Trafalgar Way, Stockbridge	T1 - Maple - Prune back to previous growth points	No Objection
20/02248	Stables House, Winton Hill Stockbridge SO20 6HL	T1 - Holly - Reduce height by up to 2m, crown lift lower branches slightly and tidy overall appearance. T2 - Cherry - Remove lowest dying limb and tidy overall appearance	No Objection
20/01633	Greyhound Inn High Street Stockbridge Hampshire SO20 6EY	Erection of timber outbuilding for use as an ancillary store to The Greyhound, side shed and gas tank enclosure (Retrospective)	29/09/20
20/01482/TREEN	Kings Head House, High Street, Stockbridge	T1 - Willow - Fell, T2 - Ash - Fell, T3 - Ash - Fell	No Objection

d. To note decisions awaited

Number	Address	Description	Date
20/02354/LBWN	Fairways Off The Grosvenor Hotel, High Street, Stockbridge, Hampshire	Works involve the removal of a rotten modern casement window and replacement with a like for like casement window	30/10/20
20/01722/FULLN	Rosemary High Street Stockbridge Hampshire SO20 6HF	Change of use from existing depot to residential development of 4 two bed dwellings with associated access, parking	20/08/20
19/02508	Land South West of Little Dean Winton Hill Stockbridge Hampshire	Demolition of three agricultural buildings	22/11/19
19/02505	Land South West of Little Dean, Winton Hill, Stockbridge, Hampshire	Demolition of three agricultural buildings and erection of a single dwelling and detached garage.	Extension agreed

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20/01037/FULLN	Greyhound Inn High Street Stockbridge Hampshire SO20 6EY	Demolition and replacement of existing fishing hut to provide a rural office workspace comprising of 3 no. independent units	19/06/20
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f. Enforcement – to note any enforcement matters

Car parking layout at the Grosvenor which did not include the Houghton Fishing Club parking although the application had done so, has been referred to Enforcement.

C/20/123

Items for next agenda and date of next meeting

The date of the next meeting was agreed as 10th December. This will be held via Zoom.

Items for the agenda:

Budget for next year

Covid Issues

Action: Clerk

The meeting closed at 9.50 pm.

Signed.....

Date.....