

Stockbridge Parish Council



**Minutes of Parish Council Meeting
Thursday 16th October 2025 7.15pm
Stockbridge Town Hall**

Present:

Chairman – Councillor D Halle (DH)
Vice Chair - Cllr M Porter (MP)
Cllr H Jackson (HJ)
Cllr D Smith (DS)

Clerk (Locum)

W Turkington

County Cllr D Drew (DD)

Borough Cllr I Jeffrey (IJ)

Members of the public: 5

The Meeting was declared open by Cllr DH, Chairman, who welcomed Wendy Turkington as 'locum' Clerk, who would be taking the Minutes.

1. Apologies

Cllr T Cooke (TC); Cllr L Ellis (LE); Cllr A Lawrence (AL); Cllr B Powell (BP)

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

None declared

3. Public Participation

Five members of the public were present. Cllr DH invited them to ask about matters of concern to them when they arose on the agenda

4. Minutes

- a. To approve the Minutes of Parish Council meeting held on 18 September. Proposed by Cllr MP; seconded by Cllr DS. Agreed by the Council and signed by Cllr DH
- b. Matters arising not on the Agenda. None were raised.
- c. Correspondence. Cllr DH advised he had received two emails.
 - An email had been received from a resident in respect of the latest planning application from the White Hart, however, the consultation period had closed.
 - An email from Wendy Turkington, expressing her interest in the position of Clerk.

5. Borough and County Councillor Reports

Borough Cllr IJ referred to the 'Mid-Test Matters' community magazine and the parish councillors confirmed they had received copies. The latest edition contained an update on the Local Government reorganisation plan to move to a system of new, larger unitary councils, which will replace the current two-tier system of county and district councils. He advised that TVBC and some 12 other councils in Hampshire have put forward Option 1, which comprises four unitary authorities on the mainland, plus the Isle of Wight as its own unitary authority.

Borough Cllr IJ noted that Hampshire County Council (HCC) has put forward a different proposal known as Option 2. It was clear that local parish councils preferred Option 1. the government will, however, look at all the preferred options for instituting the new unitary authorities later this year. They will then go through a consultation process on their proposals, and borough and county councils, including parish councils, will be invited to express their views. This would take place later this year, before Christmas if possible.

County Cllr DD advised that he had supported Option1, put forward by TVBC because he considered that councillors who are responsible for rural areas have a better understanding of their needs, rather than a city councillor say, in Eastleigh or Southampton. There was also concern about the level of debt that these councils have incurred and it is important that the parish council expresses its view in the next consultation.

TVBC 2042 Local Plan, Regulation 18

County Cllr DD reported that TVBC had received some 2,000 responses to it and that it would take a little time for these to be reviewed.

New food waste bins

A new, weekly food waste collection service had started this week. TVBC had bought 10 vehicles for £100,000 each, funded by the government, so not directly taxpayers' money. County Cllr DD had recently visited the food waste plant and advised that TVBC anticipated sending between 4,000 to 6,000 tonnes of food waste to it each year, this figure being based on what Rushmore council are sending. Another bio-digester is being proposed at the Andover end of Cowdown Lane, where the large solar farm is situated.

Several parish councillors commented that their food waste bins had not yet been collected. County Cllr DD advised that the food waste bin collection day is not necessarily on the same day as other bin collections because different and smaller vehicles are used. Residents should have received cards advising which day their waste bin is being collected and if not, they should go onto the TVBC website and check their collection date. He suggested putting a notice to this effect on the parish website and he would send a link to the relevant page to Cllr DH.

If waste bins were not being collected, residents should make a formal complaint to the Environmental Services at TVBC. County Cllr DD would send a link to the relevant service to Cllr DH.

Road maintenance

Cllr DS raised concerns about the lack of general road maintenance and drain blockages on Winton Hill. He advised that there used to be a council 'sweeping truck' every Monday morning, but this had ceased since last Christmas. Cllr DS had sent numerous emails to TVBC and called the company who were contracted to sweep the roads, who had subsequently made some intermittent attempts. Residents have had to clear detritus blocking the drains themselves.

The issue of potholes at the top and bottom of Winton Hill was also of concern. Hampshire Highways had arranged for temporary repairs to these, but they did not last. County Cllr DD advised that the county's duty was to keep roads safe and so the quickest solution was to undertake temporary repairs to potholes and undertake full repairs in due course.

County Cllr DD advised he would follow up their concerns with Hampshire Highways and urged the parish councillors and residents to keep reporting issues, send in photographs of the potholes and copy their complaints to their county councillor.

On a separate matter, he reported that Hampshire Highways (HH) had bought in a large stock of white paint and councils should let them know about any areas where white lines have faded. The parish councillors reported that they had contacted HH and some work had been undertaken, such as repainting the zebra crossing.

Green spaces – Queen Elizabeth II Memorial Garden (QEII MG)

Borough Cllr IJ advised that in his capacity as Mayor last year, he and his wife had opened the above in Stockbridge. This week they had looked at it and were dismayed to see that it has become a “jungle” of overgrown weeds.

He asked if the land belongs to the Borough Council and if so, if there was an agreement with them to maintain it. The land is leased by TVBC to the PC so the PC is responsible for maintenance. Cllr DS advised that they had asked for volunteers to help maintain it and he had cut the grass in the spring but with the dry summer, it had not been needed. Due to subsequent heavy rains, he had been unable to cut the grass but had done so earlier in the week.

Cllr HJ proposed asking Longstock Park Nursery to come back and take a look at the current state of the beds and give advice on how best to proceed. Cllr HJ suggested that it would better to plant the flower beds with shrubs such as Lavender, which require little maintenance.

Cllr L. Ellis was trying to organise volunteers to look after the garden. If this wasn't possible, Cllr DH would contact the Lengthsman to cut back the excess vegetation and tidy up the garden and flower beds.

Cllr DH confirmed that the Lengthsman scheme was still in operation for maintenance of designated areas within the parish and this had been running for some ten years, with the grant remaining the same at £1000 per parish per annum. This to be looked at in more detail.

Cllr IJ thanked the Parish Councils for their assistance and for advising that a sign would be erected stating that the QE II MG was opened officially by him as the former Mayor and his wife.

‘Get Hampshire Working’ Initiative

County Cllr DD reported that the aim of this initiative is to bring together local employers across a wide spectrum of public and private businesses to tackle the root causes of unemployment.

He highlighted three initiatives within the above as examples.

- to address labour market exclusion, supporting people facing barriers to employment, such as women, residents impacted by ill health and disabilities, and older workers.
- to support Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI), to ensure people are not excluded from jobs because they might be older or disabled candidates, and to focus on youth employment, helping younger people at the start of their careers. They will work with employers to create inclusive recruitment practices.
- He urged parents to put forward their Secondary school applications. It was important that people should not just put a single school down as this will not

increase the chance of getting their preferred one. In fact, it could lead to a student ending up in a school that they didn't want to attend.

Hampshire County Council - Members Grants

The above grants have been reinstated and County Cllr DD reported that he has a fund of £5,000 available for parish councils to apply for funding. This would not be a revenue grant but could be used for specific projects but excluding those that would normally be covered by the parish precept.

Speed Awareness – Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs)

A discussion took place about the above and Cllr DH reported that there were some funds from Trout 'n About, which could be put towards SIDs.

6. Planning

NEW APPLICATIONS

Number	Address	Description	Closing Date	Comments
25/02332/FULLN	May Cottage Old London Rd, Stockbridge	Two storey extension with dormer to rear and repair main roof	31/10/25	No Comment
25/02358/FULLN	Highfield Old London Rd Stockbridge	Remove conservatory, erect rear extension, roof replacement to dwelling and garage, alterations to fenestration, install additional roof lights and solar panels	07/11/25	Support
25/02391/FULLN	The Garden Lodge Marsh Court Road Stockbridge	Demolition of dwelling and ancillary structures, erection of replacement dwelling and associated cycle/bin stores, landscaping, and parking	30/10/25	Objection to be submitted

RECENT DECISIONS

25/01805/ADV N TVBC - Consent given subject to conditions

25/02081/FULLS TVBC - Consent given subject to conditions

AWAITING DECISIONS

25/01166/FULLN TVBC – Refused ; **25/01970/AAQN** TVBC - Consent

25/01806/LBWN TVBC – Consent ; **25/01598/FULLN** TVBC – Consent;

25/01972/FULLN TVBC - Consent

To view the applications above, please go to TVBC's website - Planning Applications

A member of the public asked what action the Planning Dept took if a breach of an enforcement notice takes place and whether additional breaches are investigated at the same time, or whether each breach must be reported separately.

County Cllr DD advised that the enforcement officers consider all the information provided in the original application and compare it with whatever breaches might have taken place. He cautioned that in matters of planning enforcement, local authorities must act reasonably but they will, however, look at all breaches reported.

7. Community Planning Matters

- a. Housing Needs Survey. The parish council had agreed to go ahead with it; however, it had been suggested to wait until TVBC has finished its review of the Local Plan. Cllr DH will find out what is happening with the latter. It was agreed to add this item to the November agenda

8. Queen Elizabeth II Memorial Garden

This had been discussed earlier under 'Green Spaces'. Cllr HJ was concerned that Longstock Park Landscapes should have used sterilised soil when planting the beds, but this could not be proven. It was agreed that the Lengthsman would remove the grass cuttings.

Cllr DH advised that there was some funding available in the budget. He had investigated getting assistance through the Community Payback scheme, but this was not possible. Cllr LE was seeking volunteers to assist.

9. Parish Clerk

- a. Cllr DH advised there had been three applications and that he would arrange interviews with the staffing committee.
- b. The former clerk had requested back-dated pay. Cllr DH had contacted HALC, who advised that this should be paid.
- c. There had been a breach of GDPR regulations, which would be reported to the ICO.

10. Playground

The quarterly inspection had taken place and there were no recommendations. Cllr DS reported that a large bough had fallen across the swings, and he had cut it up. Cllr DH will contact the Lengthsman to clear up the debris. It had been noted at the last meeting that a swing was needed for infants as there are a couple of families with small children moving to the village and the parents had asked about a toddler swings.

11. Infrastructure Projects

- a. New SLR. Trout 'n About had confirmed it was contributing £3000 towards a new sign. Cllr RP was looking at various types.
- b. Phone Boxes. Cllr DH reported that two estimates had been received for painting them, however, there were environmental concerns about stripping old paint. It was agreed to review this at a later date.
- c. The parish council is trying to find out who owns the land in respect of the permissive footpath in Penny Lane, Stockbridge. The parish council was concerned

at the potential loss of permissive footpaths around the village. Cllr AL had been asked to follow this up.

12. Council Communications

- a. Newsletter. Cllr LE is submitting an article on litter picking and is organising it. Trout 'n About are providing high-visibility jackets and pickers, and bags and gloves have been ordered. Until a new parish clerk is appointed, Cllr LE will deal with the newsletter.
- b. Report from Community Surgery – nothing to report
- c. Proposal to move to gov.uk website/email address, it was agreed to defer until new Clerk is in place.

13. Cemetery

- a. Update. Cllr DS reported that the Lengthsman has tended to the cemetery.
- b. Assessment of stability of memorials. Cllr DS advised that he had looked at them but suggested that he and Cllr DH should undertake another safety inspection to evaluate any that might need remedial works. Cllr DS had received all the electronic records for the cemetery, and he had forwarded them to Cllr DH. It was noted that the paper records were in storage.

14. Policy Review

- a. Email policy. Cllr DH had not had a response from HALC about what email policy should be adopted. He would follow this up.

15. Village Matters and Maintenance

- a. Cllr DH will contact the Lengthsman to confirm what areas of maintenance need to be undertaken. The Lengthsman is currently behind due to illness.
- b. Village Litter Pick. Cllr LE is organising it, as advised in pt.12 (a). Cllr DS offered to help in recruiting volunteers. It will be promoted on the parish council website.

16. Finance

- a. Recent income and expenditure transactions were approved.
- b. Budget 2025/2026 to date was approved.
- c. Publication of Rights. It was noted that the Notice of Public Rights had been recorded and published as required on the parish website and noticeboards.
- d. Yellow book. This is published by the US government on auditing standards. In the UK, parish councils use the Practitioners' Guide issued by SAPPP.

17. Health and Safety

The proposed litter pick was discussed in respect of any safety issues. The parish council has public liability insurance.

18. Items for next Agenda

Community Planning matters: Housing Needs Survey
Queen Elizabeth II Memorial Garden. Planting update

Date of next meeting Thursday, 20th November, 7.15pm, Stockbridge Town Hall

Signed Chairman, Stockbridge Parish Council

Signed Parish Councillor

Date