

STOCK PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk – Lorraine Green

Stock Village Hall, Common Road, Stock, Essex, CM4 0QW.

Tel. No. 07757 114952

Website: www.stock.org.uk/council

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 23RD APRIL 2008 AT RECTORY HALL, HIGH STEET, STOCK AT 7.30PM.

Present: Cllrs. Phillips, Watling, Woodward, Finch and Otter
In The Chair: Cllr. Johnson
Minute Secretary: Lorraine Green
Also Present: 15 Members of the Public, PCSO Jon McDonald and PC Kevin Harvey.

		ACTION
1.	MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2007. The Minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting were taken as read and the Chairman confirmed that they were signed as a true record at the April 2007 meeting. All agreed.	
2.	MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES. Nothing to report.	
3.	CHAIRMAN'S REPORT. <u>Council Membership</u> After the Parish Council Elections, held in May, there were two vacancies. Firstly, Peter Woodward was co-opted and then Laura-Jayne Cottey, who sadly later in the year had to resign and was then replaced by Adrian Rilstone. More recently the Council has had to accept the resignation of Wendy Elliott as she and her Husband are moving to Ely. Wendy has been involved with the Parish Council for some years and has been keenly involved with all village matters. John Millernas is the Vice-Chairman and has on several occasions chaired the Parish Council meetings. He is very active and involved with parish affairs. Chris Finch was appointed P3 Footpath Representative. Charles Phillips was re-appointed as Tree Warden. Peter Woodward has taken over the responsibility of the recreational activities. Margaret Otter is the Parish Passenger Transport Representative. Roger Watling runs the village website and deals with the I.T. issues concerning the Parish Council. He also laminates the posters for the noticeboard. A Personnel Committee has been set up to deal with all personnel matters, which consists of three Parish Councillors. A revised Model Code of Conduct has been adopted. Ian Grundy attends most Parish Council meetings and keeps us well in touch with all Chelmsford Borough Council matters. He is an extremely conscientious representative and is of great value to the parish. <u>Local Amenities</u> The Parish Council has worked hard to improve the appearance of the village. New chains were fitted around the green by the war memorial. New trees have been planted in the common area and tree surgery has been carried out where necessary. The track fronting the Almshouses has been reinstated and the seat re-positioned and a new litterbin installed. The footpath leading to the Doctors' Surgery has finally been constructed which the Parish Council supported. Footpaths around the village continue to be monitored and various works have been carried out. A new projector screen has been placed in the small room at the Village Hall for the use of the Parish Council and other organisations. The Parish Council has annually supported the local churches (graveyards), Stock Press, Almshouses, Essex Air Ambulance and this year we have added Stock Cares. The Parish Council also continues to assist the Cricket Club and Football Club with a contribution towards grass cutting. A footpath booklet has been produced by Jenny Berkley and a footpath map is currently being worked on both of which the Parish Council has contributed financially.	

Planning

Planning issues continue to consume a great deal of the Parish Council’s time. The Parish Council has always stood by the parishioners’ will that the Green Belt and the village’s rural aspect be maintained, and we have had some success in this regard. However we cannot change statutory planning laws.

Policing

The PCSO’s attend most meetings and report any incidents and endeavour to present an image around the village. A Mobile Police Station visits the village once a month and has been parked in the Village Hall Car Park.

Traffic

Traffic continues to be a major problem. Parking throughout the village is increasing. Discussions with the Police have not produced any positive solutions. Parking at the Village Hall is under discussion and it is hoped if agreed it could alleviate some of the problems. It is hoped that Traffic Speed Indicator Devices will be installed and the Parish Council is in discussions with the Highways Department as to whether they will install them or if the Parish Council will purchase them. Yellow lines and residents parking areas have been discussed and will be on the Agenda at the AGM.

Best Kept Village Competition

Again we have entered and despite the problem that occurs with new builds and disruption of our verges etc, the Parish Council feels that competition encourages local residents to do all they can to tidy up around their own properties. Our annual Bin It Day is scheduled for Saturday 26th April. A skip will be available. Pick-up sticks, black bags and gloves will also be available. The Parish Council sponsors Stock in Bloom, which is organised by the Stock Gardening Society. It is to encourage residents to make Stock more colourful and prettier. This year the area to be judged will be extended.

Thank you

The Parish Council meets generally on the last Monday in the month in the Village Hall. A great deal of work has to be recorded and the Clerk, Lorraine Green, works continuously throughout the month to be able to present the work to the Council. This she does with great efficiency. The Councillors are now electronically in touch with the Clerk and one another and the business of the Parish Council is a daily happening. As Chair of the Parish Council I thank all the Parish Council for their continued support and hard work and especially to Lorraine Green for her hard work, which is much appreciated.

4.

TWEEDY CHARITY.

The Clerk read out the following report that had been prepared by the Trustee, Mr Tony Barker:-

The Trustees of the Tweedy Charity are pleased to make their Annual Report for the year ended 31st March 2008.

Due to increases in energy costs the Trustees have decided to increase the charges to residents from June this year. This will be the first increase since 1998.

We continue to have full occupancy. Rose Baker celebrated her 100th Birthday on 23rd March and was very proud to receive a card from The Queen. She has much appreciated the handrail which was fitted in good time.

We are most grateful to Eric Williams FCA who has agreed to audit the accounts this year, following the death of our dear friend Stan Elgar who was so generous with his time.

With the help of Terry Vanner the Trustees have checked the buildings and taken up recommendations. The Trustees hope to start work on a repair and maintenance programme in the near future.

Once again the Trustees thank the Council for their continued support and request that we can call on your generosity regarding a donation to this charity.

<p>5.</p>	<p>ANY OTHER BUSINESS.</p> <p>A parishioner, John Pardon, said that it was unfortunate that the Temple Farm development was going ahead but that some control was needed whilst the development was taking place and once it was operational. In particular, the sheer volume of traffic and problems with HGV's in the centre of Stock and Downham Road. In the planning documents it states that the HGV's will only route North but there is nothing in the documentation to show how this will be policed. A realistic form of enforcement is needed to stop Stock being buried under an avalanche of vehicles. Cllr. Woodward had attended the A12 meeting. All parishes put forward their views but there is not enough money available to do much. Cllr. Woodward had suggesting closing the A12 slip road when the A12 is closed to prevent vehicles using Stock as a cut-through. Cllr. Woodward had also proposed putting a weight restriction notice on the Stock side of the roundabout that is proposed to be built at Bakers Lane and another notice by Billericay Station to prevent HGV's using Stock. It was agreed that the proposal for the road construction of the whole plan was needed. Cllr. Grundy had suggested putting an extra road into the development from the A12. It was proposed that there were plans to improve the slip road of the A12 to the Temple Farm development. Parishioners did not want the B1007 joined to the A12 and a weight restriction had been promised. Traffic Police Officers cannot enforce weight limits but they will look at if the major development takes place. The Chairman said that the Highways Department needed to make the village uncomfortable for HGV's, i.e. putting in chicanes etc.</p> <p>A parishioner stated that the Parish Council and parishioners of Stock must use this window of opportunity to go for a weight speed restriction in the village. It was agreed that the most effective thing regarding Temple Farm would be for everyone to write in expressing their views. If the Planning Department get lots of sensible comments and objections in answer to the proposal put forward they will listen. The Parish Council will also make comments and other bodies that have been formed. An application has been submitted under the reference 08/00476/OUT.</p> <p>Parishioners suggested that the Parish Council put an article in Stock Press and put up posters in the village advising parishioners to write in individually opposing Temple Farm and the traffic problems associated with its development. The Chairman agreed to produce a poster.</p> <p>Cllr. Phillips agreed to get Cllr. Watling to put the planning guidelines as outlined by Elaine Peck at Chelmsford Borough Council on the website.</p> <p>It was agreed that parishioners should keep a continuous census of vehicles in Downham Road. A parishioner stated that following the development of the A130 traffic volumes changed quite considerably to around 450 an hour. The commercial vehicles had increased from 4% to 17%. The HGV's were not using the A130 but Downham Road and the Police advised that Satellite Navigation is the problem.</p> <p>A parishioner, Jenny Berkley, said that Speed Indicator Devices were needed in the village, especially one coming from the North. The Chairman stated that the matter was in the hands of Highways who were going to look and advise. A parishioner stated that a temporary speed camera was need just past Rectory Close. PC Harvey advised that Adam Pipe deals with speeding issues and that he would get in touch with him to see what stage he was at with putting a speed indicator in. The Chairman advised that the Parish Council had had meetings with Chelmsford Borough Council and Highways and the matter had been discussed endlessly. The Chairman stated that every idea had been put before the Councils and if any parishioner had new, sensible ideas she would be extremely grateful to receive them. It was reported that there are residential properties all along the High Street, which are in a Conservation Area and need to be protected from traffic. Other villages have speed cameras and so should Stock. John Pardon advised that it was proposed that the 40mph limit would be extended to the A12 when Temple Farm is redeveloped. It was agreed that this would be a good time to push for an extension for the 40mph speed limit to be extended from The Ship to the 30mph limit in the village and Chelmsford Borough Council should be asked what action is being taken to prevent extra traffic coming through Stock.</p> <p>A parishioner asked what criteria was used in East Hanningfield as what is good for them is good for Stock. The Chairman advised that a speed census and speed volume of the B1007 had been carried out by Highways. It was reported that there had been two fatal accidents in Stock Road. The Parish Council agreed to find out the criteria.</p>	<p>SJ</p> <p>CP/RW</p> <p>CLERK</p>
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A parishioner reported that cars were parking on the hatched area by the shops where Stock Road joins Mill Road. This is dangerous as it is causing an obstruction and people cannot see or get through. The matter had been reported to the Police before. PCSO McDonald agreed to take another look.

A parishioner, Jenny Berkley, advised that there was going to be a new library in the school grounds which will vacate the existing library. The Heritage Society propose that it becomes a Heritage Centre. Mrs Berkley wanted to make the parishioners aware. The Chairman advised that the matter was on the Agenda for discussion at the next meeting.

A parishioner asked if there were people responsible for certain items, i.e. planning. The Chairman advised that the Parish Council had a Planning Sub Committee to discuss plans that do not need to go to full Council. The parishioner recommended that the Chairman puts one person in charge of leading and co-ordinating the speeding and Temple Farm issues. The Chairman advised that each Councillor is a representative of the whole village and they express parishioners' views at the Parish Council meeting and decisions are made.

A parishioner stated that it was wrong that cars cannot park in the Village Hall car park. The Chairman advised that the Parish Council were pursuing the matter.

A parishioner reported the state of the grass verges in Well Lane and Smallgains Lane. It was stated that the lanes were not made for traffic. The Chairman had spoken to the firms using articulated lorries who had agreed to reinstate the verges.

A parishioner, John Pardon, thanked the Parish Council for all that they do and said it was much appreciated.

The Chairman thanked everyone for coming; the meeting closed at 8.30pm.

Signed (CHAIRMAN).....DATE.....

STOCK PARISH COUNCIL

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR YEAR-ENDED 31/3/09

RECEIPTS

Precept	£ 30,000.00
Bank Int.	£ 1,523.01
VAT Refund	£ 1,014.20
Misc.	£ 510.00
Parks Etc.	£ 620.00
	<u>£33,667.21</u>
Current A/c. 31/03/08	£ 735.26
Tracker A/c. 31/03/08	<u>£32,817.19</u>
	<u>£67,219.66</u>

PAYMENTS

Admin	£
Grass Cutting	£
S137	£
Open Spaces/Parks Etc	£
VAT	<u>£</u>
	<u>£</u>
Current A/c. 31/03/09	£
Tracker A/c. 31/03/09	<u>£</u>
	<u>£</u>