

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 THURSDAY 23RD APRIL 2009
 AT RECTORY HALL, HIGH STEET, STOCK AT 7.30PM.**

Present: Cllrs. Dixon, Woodward, Hawkes, Rilstone and Otter
In The Chair: Cllr. Johnson
Minute Secretary: Lorraine Green
Also Present: 6 Members of the Public, Chelmsford Borough Cllr. Ian Grundy and PCSO Kay Fleming.

The Chairman advised that Cllrs. Finch, Millernas and Phillips sent their apologies. The Chairman stated that she was pleased to have Chelmsford Borough Cllr. Ian Grundy who attends every Parish Council meeting.

		ACTION
1.	<p>MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2008.</p> <p>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 2008 meeting. All agreed.</p>	
2.	<p>MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES.</p> <p>Nothing to report.</p>	
3.	<p>CHAIRMAN'S REPORT.</p> <p><u>Traffic</u></p> <p>We have been waiting for a long time for the promised Speed Indicators. Recently two black poles have appeared and I am now told the Indicators will be in place before the end of the financial year.</p> <p><u>Parking</u></p> <p>An ever worsening problem. We have had consultations with all the authorities and no easy solution has been found. The Parish Council felt the under use of the Village Hall car park was an area where discussions could take place. With representatives from the Village Hall Trustees Committee it has been agreed the car park should be opened to the public with certain conditions. A three month trial period will begin shortly. It is appreciated that this will probably only alleviate parking North of the village. Other ideas are being investigated.</p> <p><u>Planning</u></p> <p>The Parish Councillors' duty has always been to represent the view of the Parish. Generally we believe the village envelope should be maintained and the surrounding Green Belt be preserved. Housing should be available for all types of villager and in particular all types of houses. Unfortunately, the planners do not always agree with our observations and allow houses to be built which the Parish Council feel are inappropriate development. We find this very frustrating but persevere with reports back to Chelmsford Borough Council.</p> <p><u>Condition of Roads and Verges</u></p> <p>The roads and verges have suffered throughout this last cold winter. Reports are regularly made to Essex County Council Highways. Emergency holes are temporarily repaired but as conditions of the roads and verges are the same throughout the County financial reserves are limited and are now dealt with on a priority basis and will be done eventually.</p> <p><u>Best Kept Village Competition</u></p> <p>It has been decided not to enter this year as the report we received last year was largely inappropriate. With so much building work in progress and the poor conditions of the roads and verges judgement would be predictable.</p>	

Stock in Bloom

The Parish Council will continue to support this event that the Gardening Society organises. The entries have increased and the results have been appreciated by many and brightened up the village.

The Pond

A very invasive plant has taken over the pond. It has been decided the only remedy is to dredge the pond in the hope that it will remove the plant roots.

Car Park Area on Common

A hard top car park area has been completed on the common. Support for this project came from the Cricket Club, the Bowling Club and the Montessori School. The sleepers will be removed once the grassed area has hardened up.

Tree Planting

Seventy four `whips` have been planted in areas around the village. The School Gardening Club turned out to help the planting at the Village Hall. With small spades provided they did a wonderful job planting these small trees along the fence at the bottom of the car park.

Hereward Mount

The land adjacent to Hereward Mount has been handed over to the Parish Council for the village use. It is an ideal area for children to play, for Scouting activities, for dog walkers or just for a stroll. It can be entered by a small gate at the junction of Honeypot Lane and the B1007 or by a field gate 50 yards down Honeypot Lane. There are no parking facilities.

War Memorial

The War Memorial has now been listed as a Grade II listed monument.

Bin It Day

The annual clean up day is on **9th May**. Pick-up sticks, gloves and black sacks are provided and a skip will be placed on the Common car park. We urge all villagers to make an effort to clean up around their properties and to help clean ditches and verges around the centre of the village and Common. The tools will be available on the Common at 9am and the skip will remain until Monday a.m.

Manned Vehicles

These will continue to visit the village to collect articles that cannot be placed in a wheelie bin. It will be in All Saints Church Car Park between 11.15am and 12.15am on 2nd May, 27th June, 15th August, 5th September, 7th November and 21st November.

Children's Activities

The Parish Sports Programme will be on Wednesday 27th May between 9.30am and 12 noon and Monday 3rd August between 1.00am and 3pm. It is open to all children between the ages of 6-14 years. It is held on the Common. It is 2 1/2 hours of multisport – Chelmsford Borough Council brings all the necessary equipment.

There will be a Play Activities Day for children up to the age of 11 years on Saturday 27th June in Stock Village Hall between 10am and 2pm. Staff do not take responsibility for the children, who are free to come and go as they please. Children under 5 must be accompanied by and supervised throughout by adult carers (with a maximum of 4 children per carer). These activities are provided by Stock Parish Council in partnership with Chelmsford Borough Council Parks Services. Another date will also be arranged for August but this is yet to be confirmed along with the Skateboard Park.

	<p><u>Footpath Map and Booklet</u></p> <p>A footpath booklet and footpath map has been produced by Jenny Berkley which the Parish Council has financially contributed. The maps have been distributed to various points in the village, i.e. Doctors Surgery, Library, Post Office and can also be obtained via the Parish Council Office.</p> <p><u>Summary</u></p> <p>I am very grateful to all the Parish Councillors for their work throughout the year and in particular to our Clerk who works hard keeping us all informed with vast quantities of information and producing the minutes etc. The work is becoming more and more electronic and hi-tec. It is important that the Clerk and Parish Councillors are computer literate. The Parish Council appreciate and finds valuable all the work that Cllr. Ian Grundy carries out on behalf of the Parish at Chelmsford Borough Council.</p> <p>A parishioner, Jenny Berkley, asked whether the Chairman's Report could be available earlier. The Chairman explained that copies had been placed in the library, Post Office, website and noticeboard about three weeks prior to the meeting.</p> <p>A parishioner, Judy Williams, reported that the temporary repairs to potholes in the village were very poor. The Chairman explained that the potholes will be repaired properly when Highways can financially afford it. Mrs Williams reported that she had hit a pothole in her car. Cllr. Dixon advised that it was good that temporary repairs are being carried out as some holes are very deep and it is better than doing nothing. Cllr. Dixon advised parishioners to report potholes to Highways so that they were aware and could arrange repairs. Cllr. Dixon advised that the Essex County Council website was very good and Highways were quick to respond.</p> <p>Mrs Williams enquired as to why Common Road was being closed. Cllr. Woodward advised that a pipe was being put under the road to help drainage. This pipe would be connected up to the pipes the Parish Council have recently put into the car park.</p> <p>A parishioner reported that they were disappointed that the Speed Indicator Device has been installed in the South and not the North of the village and advised that two are needed. The Chairman advised that the Parish Council were working on it and that a pole has been erected in the North of the village.</p>	
<p>4.</p>	<p><u>TWEEDY CHARITY.</u></p> <p>The Clerk read out the following report that had been prepared by the Trustee, Mr Tony Barker:-</p> <p>On behalf of the Trustees, I am now pleased to submit our Report to the Council for the preceding twelve months, and should be very grateful if you could request the Council to consider making a donation to this local charity, as it has done in previous years.</p> <p>This year started as quietly as previous years, but has recently seen some action. Nos. 2 and 3 are now awaiting shower conversions, which are in the hands of The Guinness Trust, which appears to work as slowly as the Chelmsford Council, however, we are now waiting for contractors' quotations. Once completed, three of the houses will have shower rooms instead of bathrooms, all paid for by Government grants.</p> <p>The grass cutter gave notice at the end of last year and the new appointee has yet to make his mark, but we expect good service once he gets into gear. The front hedge still looks good, and it is the same person who will keep the grass down.</p> <p>Then, in February this year, Mary Perry at No. 1, who was on holiday in Australia with her Daughter and Son-in-Law, telephoned to say she was staying there with them, and accordingly, gave notice. This caused some consternation among the Trustees, as we need full occupancy to stay afloat financially, and the last vacancy took nearly eighteen months to fill.</p> <p>Advertisements were put into Stock Press and the church notices in Stock and Boreham, and we also had a free advert in the Billericay Gazette, with a nice, but slightly incorrect write-up. As a result, we shall shortly be interviewing five applicants out of seven who contacted us, and are hoping for a new tenant very shortly. Let us hope all goes well.</p>	

	<p>The Chairman asked the Clerk to write back to Mr Barker thanking him very much and advising that the next donation would be made in November 2009.</p>	<p>CLERK</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p>ANY OTHER BUSINESS.</p> <p>A parishioner, Jenny Berkley, enquired as to whether there was any further news on the Temple Farm Inquiry. Cllr. Woodward advised that he had a meeting with Lyn Cameron of Chelmsford Borough Council who advised him that the Inquiry was immediately adjourned until September as a Councillor from West Hanningfield had discovered that some land between Bakers Lane and the A12 is common land and is not actually owned land. Cllr. Grundy agreed to make some inquiries.</p> <p>A parishioner, Judy Lusty, complained about the parking in The Square and Mill Road. She said that it is solid all day long. The Chairman advised that the main problem is the building work in Mill Road and hopefully when it is completed the parking problem should ease. The Chairman advised that the Police were currently dealing with the parking problem outside 4 The Vintners. She stated that it was a problem for the residents as they had nowhere to park their cars. The landlady of The Cock had been asked if the immediate residents could park in their car park but she did not agree to this. Cllr. Dixon stated that one suggestion was that the teachers are currently having to park in The Square whilst the building work is being carried out at the school and hopefully when that ended the parking situation should improve. A parishioner, Virginia Henderson, suggested having yellow lines in the village which are enforced for an hour a day. The Chairman stated that the locals need to be able to park. A parishioner, Judy Williams, said that she thinks people using The Bear do not use the car park and park in The Square.</p> <p>It was reported that the latest plan had been withdrawn for the florist shop.</p> <p>Cllr. Dixon advised that a notice is going up very shortly in the Village Hall Car Park. Parking during the day is not a problem but the Village Hall Committee are concerned about parking in the evening. - noise is a concern for their neighbours and receiving complaints. Sometimes parking is not available during the day. The Parish Council have purchased a sign that has limited times and days during which people can park in the Village Hall. When the car park is not available it will say private car park parking not available. This will be on a three month trial period and it is hoped that it will alleviate the parking in Common Road.</p> <p>A parishioner, Virginia Henderson, enquired as to when the traffic lights would be removed from outside the Rectory Hall as traffic, including big lorries, were going down Smallgains Lane. The Chairman advised that gas works were being carried out and the Parish Council were aware of the situation. PCSO Fleming was aware of the lorries as she was there when a double lorry went through. PCSO Fleming to speak to Highways. Cllr. Grundy advised that it is imminent for the lights to be removed. He advised that there is a lot of talk being done on reviewing local lanes and making some 20mph. PCSO Fleming to visit Smallgains Lane with speed gun. Cllr. Otter reported that there were also traffic problems in Common Road and Mill Road.</p> <p>A parishioner, Judy Williams, enquired as to when Scriveners Farm are going to reinstate the footpath to the right of the earth piles. The Chairman advised that they are creating ponds.</p> <p>A parishioner, Jenny Berkley, enquired as to why the Council Tax had gone up. Cllr. Dixon advised that the Precept applied for over the last 8 years had remained at £30,000.00 and in the last financial year the Parish Council had spent £42,000.00. Therefore the Parish Council were not covering the levels of expenditure that they need to spend. Nothing excessive had been spent but £30,000.00 was out of date for the level of expenditure required. The Precept had remained at £30,000.00 and no inflationary elements had ever been added. The Parish Council had now eaten into the reserves which were down to about £25,000.00. The reserves were therefore below where they should be and the expenditure was higher. The situation had been made worse by CBC's decision to withdraw the Parish Council Support Grant which amounted to about £5,000.00. The Precept decision was made two weeks before the Parish Council knew about the withdrawal of the grant. Cllr. Dixon explained the accounts and the Clerk explained about Section 137 payments. Cllr. Dixon stated that in local Government administration is always the greatest cost.</p>	<p>IG</p>

<p>A parishioner, Judy Williams, enquired as to the progress for a field for the football club. Cllr. Grundy advised that the football club currently have a three year lease but they cannot get grants. The football Club had asked the Parish Council for assistance, suggestions had been made and the Parish Council were currently looking at a couple of possible sites. One was at Crondon Park Golf Club and the other on the field opposite the Kings Head Public House. CBC had given a report on the Crondon Park field and advised it could be made into a football field but there would be a considerable amount of groundwork. The work would need to be funded and the distance from the village would need to be considered. The other field had been offered to the Parish Council at £1.00 a year rent. Cllr. Grundy advised that he would get CBC to look at this field as well. The football club would like the Parish Council to fund the project but that decision had not been reached yet. Cllr. Woodward advised that other parcels of land which could be possible sites are the piece of land opposite Greenwoods and Peacheys by the Reservoir. The Reservoir area is a lovely pitch but the Junior teams feel it is too far out of the village. Cllr. Woodward advised the Cricket Club are outgrowing the Common. A parishioner, Jenny Berkley, advised that there is a spare piece of land between the riding school and the tennis courts but she did not know who owned it.</p> <p>A parishioner, Judy Lusty, enquired as to what the plans are for the library. Cllr. Grundy agreed to find out what is happening.</p> <p>Cllr. Grundy reported that he had a meeting with Highways regarding the traffic problems on the B1007, i.e. speeding, volume, HGV's and the frustrations of residents. He read out a letter from Cllr. Hume. It was agreed that the matter would be discussed at the next Parish Council meeting.</p> <p>Cllr. Grundy discussed the Flood Alleviation Scheme and advised that a consultation was being held in Margaretting tomorrow and in the County Hotel in a couple of weeks time.</p>	<p>IG</p> <p>ALL</p>
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The Chairman thanked everyone for coming; the meeting closed at 8.35pm.

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

STOCK PARISH COUNCIL

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

RECEIPTS

Precept	£30,000.00
Bank Int.	£ 813.11
VAT Refund	£ 391.54
Misc.	£ 1,336.82
Parks Etc.	<u>£ 947.39</u>
	£33,488.86
Current A/c. 31/03/08	£ 735.26
Tracker A/c. 31/03/08	<u>£32,817.19</u>
	<u>£67,041.31</u>

PAYMENTS

Admin	£27,310.77
Grass Cutting	£ 4,476.00
S137	£ 2,220.00
Open Spaces/Parks Etc	£ 7,861.67
VAT	<u>£ 428.82</u>
	£42,297.26
Current A/c. 31/03/09	£ 4,113.75
Tracker A/c. 31/03/09	<u>£20,630.30</u>
	<u>£67,041.31</u>