

STOCK PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk – Lorraine Green

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MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 19TH APRIL 2010 AT RECTORY HALL, HIGH STEET, STOCK AT 7.30PM.

Present: *Cllrs. Millernas, Johnson, Phillips, Hawkes, Rilstone and Otter*
In The Chair: *Cllr. Dixon*
Minute Secretary: *Lorraine Green*
Also Present: *5 Members of the Public*

The Chairman advised that Cllrs. Woodward, Finch, Chelmsford Borough Cllr. Ian Grundy and PCSO Kay Fleming sent their apologies.

		ACTION
1.	MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2009. 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 May 2009 meeting. All agreed.	
2.	MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES. Nothing to report.	
3.	CHAIRMAN'S REPORT. <u>Council Membership</u> This has been a stable year for the Parish Council with all Councillors serving for the full year. This has provided a good base level of commitment and experience and representation for the village. The areas that the Parish Council are now consulted continues to grow with a very great emphasis on use of email for communications. <u>The Village Environment</u> Upkeep of the village to maintain and improve its appearance continues to be an important priority. We are hampered currently with the large volumes of construction taking place in the village and the toll this is taking on the verges and lanes. The cooperation of developers in the reinstatement of the verges at completion of their project is greatly appreciated. Footpaths are an important feature of the village and their upkeep is monitored. Cycling on footpaths is prohibited and extra signs erected to this effect. Dog walkers have an important part to play in keeping our footpaths clear by clearing up after their dogs. Sufficient bins are available and this anti-social activity by a few can spoil matters for the many. The Parish Council has been successful in grant applications to refurbish the bus shelter by the war memorial and for the replacement of the shelter opposite the Hoop. This work should be completed during the summer. Another successful grant application has enabled fencing to be erected around the children's play area on the common. This consists of a high level fence facing the cricket pitch to protect children from well-hit cricket balls, whilst the ends will be fenced to keep out dogs/foxes to keep the area clean. The Parish Council is pursuing the opportunity to purchase the old library building for general use within the community now that the new library is located at the school. <u>Roads and Traffic</u> Traffic issues on the B1007 continue. The Speed Indicator sign has been installed and its location is rotated to either end of the High Street as planned. Essex County Council is now giving consideration to another sign so both directions of the road can be addressed simultaneously. A further location is planned for Mill Road so that the main roads in the village are covered. Outside the village Downham Road must not be ignored and representations about speed limits have been made so far without success.	

A bid by the Parish Council for an additional pedestrian crossing on the High Street, by the Bakers Arms, has been approved by Essex County Council. When this is installed it is hoped it will have some measure of slowing traffic as it enters the village from the north. The condition of the roads continues to be a concern after the hard winter. Many roads still have many potholes requiring attention, with Common Road a particularly bad surface over almost its entire length. There is possibly some good news. The Parish Council understands that Essex County Council is giving serious consideration to resurfacing the High Street with a red surface as a traffic calming measure. We will await developments.

Planning Matters

Planning issues continue to take up a large amount of time and energy. The Parish Council exercises its duty to represent the views of the village in all applications with considerable diligence. The desire to maintain an even balance, and a strong village atmosphere, with a mix of housing styles/sizes etc cannot always be achieved and we must accept the final responsibility rests with Chelmsford Borough Council. In the last year over 60 planning applications were commented upon by the Parish Council.

Parking in the Village

Some limited use of parking at the village hall has been of small benefit to the village. We are informed by the Village Hall Trustees Committee that this has been achieved without any detriment to the hall users. Any small measure is worth having as pressure for parking space will only increase.

Other Matters

The annual Bin it Day was very poorly supported in 2009 so will not be repeated this year. Equally, the manned vehicles that Chelmsford Borough Council provides on a regular basis for the collection of large items of waste are being discontinued through lack of use.

The PCSO's continue to attend most Parish Council meetings and are active around the village. We are grateful for their contribution.

The Parish Council has decided not to enter the Best Kept Village Competition, but will continue to support the Stock in Bloom competition in conjunction with the Gardening Society.

Summary

My thanks go to all Parish Councillors for their efforts throughout the year. The Clerk continues to provide detailed support and information which is invaluable and appreciated. Equally, Borough Councillor, Ian Grundy, works very hard on behalf of the Parish in his duties with Chelmsford Borough Council and his support to the Parish Council is much welcomed.

The Chairman advised that there was no further news on the zebra crossing or the bus shelter. There was a delay on the materials for the fencing around the play area but the order had been placed.

4.

TWEEDY CHARITY.

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

The Trust has had a very busy year since last writing. In February, Mary Perry, who had gone to Australia to stay with her Daughter for a few weeks, wrote to say she was staying out there, and accordingly gave notice of her intention to leave the Almshouse. Our advertisement produced considerable interest, including an article in the Essex Chronicle, and in June the vacancy was filled by a local resident from Back Lane, Mr Michael Willmott. During the interviews to fill No. 1, it became clear that after some 450 years, a car park was required. Having submitted the usual planning application, this was constructed in October and we are preparing the ground for the final touch – required by the Council – of a hedge to hide the parking area. It has all gone well, and we have had some encouraging comments from our neighbours that it is very discreet and does not spoil the village at all.

	<p>Shortly after the new resident arrived, Rose Baker, who in her 102nd year was becoming very frail and could not walk, found a place in a nursing home just outside Stowmarket, whence she repaired in August. So, another round of advertising was necessary!</p> <p>We have now found a very suitable tenant, Mrs Joyce Renwick, who will take up residence after her bathroom has been entirely re-vamped to form a shower room. Planning approval was required as it is a listed building and was sought in October.</p> <p>Needless to say this has put considerable strain on the Trust's resources, and The Parish Council's generosity this year will be more than usually very much appreciated. Although a small surplus of £1,500.00 was made up to 5th April 2009, there has been considerable capital expenses since that date, decorating the houses that became vacant and building the car park, with much more to convert the bathroom of No. 4.</p>	
5.	<p>ANY OTHER BUSINESS.</p> <p>A parishioner, Richard Allan, advised that the Parish Council needed to advertise the Annual Parish Meeting more as it was very disappointing that not more people are attending.</p> <p>Mr Allan advised that he had meet Cllr. Grundy with John Pardon but it had not been very effective. Cllr. Grundy had said that he would access the records which had been made for the current enquiry. It had been agreed that a traffic count would be carried out with the Temple Farm development coming up. Mr Allan advised that the traffic was increasing. Mr Allan felt that to have one Speed Indicator for the whole village was an insult when other villages have more. ECC had told the Chairman that it loses its impact if the sign is permanently fixed in one position at each end of the village whereas if it is alternated it creates interest at the other end of the village. A parishioner, Mrs Henderson, said that the village should have an official speed camera.</p> <p>Cllr. Johnson reported that the replacement rail buses were travelling very fast through the village. It was also reported that extremely large vehicles are coming through the village and a suggestion was made to write to the companies and ask them to use the A130 not the village.</p> <p>Mr Allan suggested holding a protest as a weight limit is needed in the village. The Chairman advised that the matter has been raised with Cllr. Norman Hume at ECC. The Chairman advised that the zebra crossing has been approved outside the Bakers Arms and it has been suggested that a red road surface could be put down in the High Street. Cllr. Johnson said that the level of pavements needs to be raised. It was reported that you have to be careful as if you raise it could cover the damp course of some houses.</p>	

The Chairman thanked everyone for coming; the meeting closed at 7.55pm.

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

STOCK PARISH COUNCIL

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR YEAR-ENDED 31/3/10

RECEIPTS

Precept	£40,000.00
Bank Int.	£ 18.80
VAT Refund	£ 103.91
Misc.	£ 5,400.00
Parks Etc.	<u>£ 1,645.65</u>
	£47,168.36
Current A/c. 31/03/09	£ 4,113.75
Tracker A/c. 31/03/09	<u>£20,630.30</u>
	<u>£71,912.41</u>

PAYMENTS

Admin	£25,213.56
Grass Cutting	£ 4,927.00
S137	£ 1,500.00
Open Spaces/Parks Etc	£ 2,393.25
VAT	<u>£ 322.20</u>
	£34,356.01
Current A/c. 31/03/10	£ 1,907.30
Tracker A/c. 31/03/10	<u>£35,649.10</u>
	<u>£71,912.41</u>