

STOCK PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk – Lorraine Green

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MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 15TH APRIL 2013 AT STOCK VILLAGE HALL, COMMON ROAD, STOCK IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE PLANNING MEETING.

Present: *Cllrs. Millernas, Johnson, Woodward, Lee, Fenwick, Finch, Rilstone & Cooper*
In The Chair: *Cllr. Fairman*
Minute Secretary: *Lorraine Green*
Also Present: *2 Members of the Public and CCC Cllr. Ian Grundy*

		ACTION
1.	MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2012. 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 meeting held on 21 st May 2012. All agreed.	
2.	MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES. Nothing to report.	
3.	CHAIRMAN'S REPORT. Council Membership The past year has seen a full programme of meetings, generally a full council meeting each month supplemented as necessary by a separate meeting to focus on planning matters. I am pleased that full attendance is the norm at meetings; in fact over 90% of all possible councillor attendances were achieved across the year. The commitment and diligence of all councillors is something for which parishioners can be proud. In November John Dixon resigned from the Council due to his relocation to Wickham Bishops. John joined the Council in 2008 and became Chairman in 2009. He was an excellent, hard working member of the Council and will be missed. I am pleased to say that we have found a replacement Councillor, Kerry Cooper, from Myln Meadow. The Village Environment Upkeep of the village to maintain and improve its appearance continues to be an important priority. Much of the work undertaken this year has focused on protecting our greenswards from damage caused by parking. In this regard we have replaced and installed posts around the greenswards in the High street and also adjoining All Saints' Church. The Parish Council continues to employ the services of a "village handyman" to tackle some of the jobs required to improve the appearance of the village.	

The centre of the village is, as many will know, a Conservation Area. Last year Chelmsford City Council commissioned a landscape architect to design a scheme to enhance the Square. A number of options were produced that consider how to resurface and improve the space, all with the objective of visual enhancement without reducing car parking provision. The enhancement scheme provides a basis for the Parish Council to lobby the Highways Authority and raise funding. In due course the Parish Council will hold a public consultation on the enhancement scheme to allow Parishioners to comment on the proposals.

We have decided to enter the Rural Community Council of Essex's Village of the Year/Best Kept Village competition. Judges will be inspecting notice boards, the Common, play facilities, The village Hall, Churchyard and cemetery, the War Memorial, shops, pubs, business premises and bus shelters.

Queen's Diamond Jubilee Celebration on the Common

In June The Parish Council organised a Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebratory day on the Common. Despite poor weather proceeding the event the sun shone and there was a very good turnout. For me the highlights of the day were the lighting of a new village beacon and the much needed funds raised for the Cricket Club and Arise & Shine charity. I again thank members of the organising committee who worked so hard to make the event a success and also our generous sponsors and Lord Petre for attending the event and giving the opening speech.

Roads and Traffic

The Parish Council continues to lobby Essex County Council regarding Highways issues including pothole repairs and greater protection for Buttsbury Bridge from damage caused by HGV's.

The "Community Speedwatch" team have been working hard to try and reduce the number of speeding vehicles passing through the village. Any breaches of speed limits are reported to the Police. It is pleasing to note that when the teams are operational speeds are generally being contained.

Planning Matters

The Parish Council continues to monitor planning applications and to make comments on the general behalf of residents. The number of planning applications before the Parish Council was again in excess of 80 during the past year.

Police Matters

Last year our village police officer, PCSO Kay Fleming, resigned from the Police force. We would like to thank Kay for her help over the years and wish her well in the future. The Parish Council have lobbied Essex Police to provide a replacement community police officer and I am pleased to report that our new PCSO Hilary Willmot will be now be attending Parish Council meetings.

	<p>Finance</p> <p>The Parish Council has again maintained the precept at the previous year's level.</p> <p>Other Matters</p> <p>The Parish Sports Programme will be held on Monday 29th July between 1.30pm and 3.30pm for ages 6-11 years, Monday 5th August between 1.30pm and 3.30pm for ages 12-16 years and Friday 23rd August between 1.30pm and 3.30pm for ages 6-11 years. Stock Parish Council provides these activities in partnership with Chelmsford Borough Council Parks Services.</p> <p>Summary</p> <p>My thanks go to all Parish Councillors for their efforts throughout the year. The Clerk continues to provide detailed support and information that is invaluable and appreciated. Equally, City Councillor and County Councillor, Ian Grundy, continues to work hard on behalf of the Parish in his duties and his support to the Parish Council is valued.</p> <p>The Report was adopted by Cllr. Finch and seconded by Cllr. Millernas.</p>	
<p>4.</p>	<p>TWEEDY CHARITY.</p> <p>Mr Tony Barker had given the following report in December 2012.</p> <p>Once again I am pleased to submit the Trustee's report for the last year. It has been a relatively quiet year, with both good and sad news.</p> <p>We have had the large holly tree at the back reduced to a stump, shortly to be followed by the Norway spruce which started as a small Christmas tree and has become a giant. The Tree Preservation Officer had no hesitation in saying they were both in the wrong place and could be cut down.</p> <p>Sadly, however, we lost one of our tenants in July. Many people will remember Jim Webb as a well dressed and gentle, courteous man. He went shopping in Billericay and was later found lying unconscious on the pavement. He had had a massive heart attack and never recovered consciousness. His Brother looked after the Estate admirably, and after having paid all debts and cleared out the cottage, most kindly gave the Trust a small donation.</p> <p>Having lost a tenant, we advertised in the local church magazine and in Stock Press. An almost immediate response from the churches meant we were able to fill the vacancy pretty quickly, with the new tenant, Mrs Elisabeth Pye, taking over in October. She appears to have settled in nicely. We redecorated the cottage before she moved in and took the opportunity to renew the very rusty water heater – the cost of which alarmed us more than somewhat!</p> <p>The gravel lane has posed problems yet again; although the Council kindly filled in the potholes a little while ago, probably due to the atrocious weather, they have come back with a vengeance and it would be appreciated if you could organise a further repair as it really is a serious and urgent issue now. The Parish Council had taken this matter in hand and some of the work had been carried out. Once the better weather comes the top layer will be put down.</p> <p>The Report was adopted by Cllr. Finch and seconded by Cllr. Millernas.</p>	
<p>5.</p>	<p>REPORT BY ECC CLLR. IAN GRUNDY.</p> <p>Cllr. Grundy reported that he had had an interesting experience in the eighteen months he had been elected Councillor.</p>	

	<p>There is a huge modernising programme in Essex County Council which is still ongoing. The Local Highways Panel is based at CCC which gives the Parish Council input into schemes at a much more local level. ECC have cleared the backlog of 7 years schemes. They are currently trying to clear up the S106 money that has not been spent. Stock have a small amount owing to them. Cllr. Grundy said the panel is useful to the Parish Council as they can make applications for speeding issues. The state of highways has been an issue. They spend £85m every year and were allocated £35m to try and the highways system back to what it should be. ECC now have one single contractor who is responsible for all maintenance in the County.</p> <p>The Police Commissioner is beginning to take effect and is going quite well. He may want to visit the Parish Council as he wants to get involved in local communities.</p> <p>The Primary Care Trust has been abolished and now goes through ECC.</p> <p>The I.T. system is going to be updated.</p> <p>The Chairman thanked Cllr. Grundy and wished him luck with his Election campaign.</p>	
6.	<p>ANY OTHER BUSINESS.</p> <p>It was reported that the woodland in Swan Lane is for sale. The Chairman had telephoned the agent and said the Parish Council would be interested in purchasing the land. The Agent advised that the woodland had been withdrawn from the market at the moment. Chairman to keep Parish Council informed.</p> <p>Cllr. Woodward suggested approaching Mrs West about purchasing some of the field for allotments and football pitch. Cllr. Grundy advised that there had been queries regarding the access onto the main road and the cost of renovating the land.</p> <p>Clerk was asked to write to the Head Teacher asking her to write to parents and ask them to park at the Village Hall and walk the children to school. The speed of traffic of parents in The Square, Back Lane, Dakyn Drive was a concern as was the lack of courtesy and consideration for residents and businesses.</p>	<p>NF</p> <p>CLERK</p>

The Chairman thanked everyone for coming; the meeting closed at 9.10pm.

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

STOCK PARISH COUNCIL

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR YEAR-ENDED 31/3/13

RECEIPTS

Precept	£40,000.00
Bank Int.	£ 18.68
VAT Refund	£ 0.00
Misc.	£ 2,756.25
Parks Etc.	<u>£ 586.50</u>
	£43,361.43
Current A/c. 31/03/12	£ 1,230.64
Tracker A/c. 31/03/12	<u>£38,690.60</u>
	<u>£83,282.67</u>

PAYMENTS

Admin	£26,999.54
Grass Cutting	£ 7,109.50
S137	£ 1,250.00
Open Spaces/Parks Etc	£15,241.63
VAT	<u>£ 2,158.43</u>
	£52,759.10
Current A/c. 31/03/13	£ 3,814.29
Tracker A/c. 31/03/13	<u>£26,709.28</u>
	<u>£83,282.67</u>