



**Stock Parish Council**

The Tythe Barn, High Street, Stock, Essex. CM4 9BU

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**Council Minutes**

held at Stock Cricket Club, The Club House, Common Road, Stock, CM4 9NF  
at 7pm on Tuesday 12th December 2023

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**Minutes**

**Present G Fullam, P Fenwick (Chairman), M Gray (Vice Chairman) M Rolph, S Porter, R Pritchard**

**1. Apologies of absence**

P Fenwick advised the council that Councillor I Grundy was unable to attend tonight's meeting and accepted his absence

**2. Minutes of last meeting**

P Fenwick approved minutes from 7/11/23. R Pritchard advised he will check grammar and spelling mistakes going forward, before they are published

**3. Declaration of Councillor Interests relating to the Agenda**

M. Rolph confirmed he had interests in 11 High Street planning application

**4. Public participation**

A parishioner said G Fullam's minutes and agenda have been great. He also said he had been helping on Speed Watch this morning. He said he would help do the petitions for parking surrounding the square and understands the need for some additional volunteer's. What are the next steps for arranging this? P Fenwick thanked the parishioner for their kind words and for attending monthly meetings regularly.

A second parishioner asked about the situation regarding a petition with regard to Well Lane, Mill Road and Back Lane. And asked if it would help if they make a campaign to John Whittingdale (MP for Maldon) as parishioners individually to ask for assistance with the road safety and speed limits and help explain the excuses as to why CCC are not helping. P Fenwick said that would be really helpful and he is quite happy to go and see John Whittingdale again.

Another parishioner expressed a desire for actions to be added to the agenda. P Fenwick advised the Council were happy with the current process. He also confirmed that the

petition is for parking that the previous parishioner had asked about. He advised the petition and surveys are two separate things.

The parishioner explained they were present to represent the residents of Well Lane and asked for clarification as to when the issue would be discussed – now during Public Participation or later in the meeting when the issue was listed on the agenda. P Fenwick confirmed that the issue would be discussed during Public Participation and asked parishioners to comment on anything relevant on the agenda.

The same parishioner raised the point that the issue listed as ‘speeding’ in Well Lane should instead be titled ‘road safety’, as simply calling it ‘speeding’ is misleading

Well Lane residents met with G Fullam and M Gray on 8/12/23. Under the point ‘Well Lane application to be discussed’. The parishioner expressed confusion until it was pointed out by G Fullam that the agenda was published before the Well Lane meeting, hence nothing more was put on the Agenda.

G Fullam then talked through the actions points made from the Well Lane working meeting – a 20mph speed would be applied for as a single application for the village to create a 20mph zone. [Highways Liaison Officer, Essex Highways] J Simmons advised that the High Street (PR1) and Mill Road (PR2) Could not be applied for as they didn’t fit in with Essex Highways Policy. G Fullam pushed back and advised Ingatestone High Street (a PR2) and Billericay High Street (a PR1) have both got 20mph speed limits in place. J Simmons had advised on the phone prior to the meeting that this was not his area, as he was over Chelmsford and Colchester, but to get your local City Councillor to push this (*In the meeting G Fullam stated it was the local MP, but checked this after with J Simmons and his reply on email dated 18/12/23 ‘When something requested is against policy and the applicant wishes to pursue this nonetheless, then it would need to be a decision of the Cabinet Member for Highways, Infrastructure and Sustainable Transport through a Cabinet Member Action (CMA). I would though that a CMA is a fairly complex procedure, additionally I am not sure we would get support from the Police for a 20mph on Mill Road’*).

G Fullam also advised that she asked if J Simmons or one of his team could come and visit the village and walk it with the Parish Council and he said they don’t have the staff to be able to do it. The Parish Council would investigate getting a Quiet Lane designated for Well Lane (one is already in place in Swan Lane), to look into weight restriction due to a document one of the residents got when they brought their house. It was suggested that the speed limit be reduced from end of housing section of Well Lane through to Smallgains Lane from national speed to 40mph. The Parish Council will look into getting a survey done on ‘where the water goes’, due to drainage issues with culverts being blocked.

The parishioner said is there any other way that we can get someone to come out and walk the village. P Fenwick asked G Fullam to go back and see if anyone else in their team was available. The parishioner said we need to push back on the 20mph ,as Ingatestone was only improved less than two months ago. Stock is really the outlier now in the surrounding towns and villages’. They advised the credit for getting Ingatestone to 20mph was being given to a local conservative councillor, so should the Parish Council consult with local County Councillor I Grundy rather than the MP (John Whittingdale).

The parishioner told how one of their neighbours had brought a house in 1994 and a routine search came back from Chelmsford Bourgh Council that there was a Heavy Goods

Vehicle restriction in Well Lane. The parishioner is trying to find out if the restriction had since been rescinded. The parishioner explained how very large HGVs had been visiting businesses in Smallgains Lane more regularly via Well Lane, because their sat navs had sent them down Mill Road and Well Lane, rather than along Stock Road and left down Smallgains Lane. S Porter suggested that this may be because HGV's could not make the turn if coming from Stock Road, but the parishioner advised that they instead depart the area via that route. P Fenwick asked how many HGV's go through there any given week. The parishioner replied two or three visited per week and restated that Well Lane is not suitable for HGV's.

The parishioner asked if the list of streets on the agenda is that the full list of streets earmarked to be 20mph. G Fullam confirmed its not exhausted but instead is as list of the streets that have been brought up in previous Parish Council Meetings as those where a 20mph limit could be put in place.

A parishioner asked if the Parish Council considered using a WhatsApp group to share information. R Pritchard confirmed it would be possible to do this. The parishioner then suggested that a link could be created in their Well Lane residents' group that would keep them informed which residents could opt in or out of. R Pritchard advised that we do have a website that we can use more and communicate that way, that we also put things in Stock Press and on Facebook Village page. He advised we have four vacancies for Parish Councilors and are doing our best with the resources available. We have the village Facebook group our own Facebook site & our own website. S Porter said its keeping up with it. We have to discuss it at a council meeting first and then publish it. What we would be sending out would have to be at a meeting anyway.

R Pritchard said we would need to email other Councillors and Clerk we have to be transparent and suggested that the way the world moves is faster and waiting a month to share information won't work. It would speed things up if we could agree on email. We are trying to improve. P Fenwick confirmed we will look at keeping the website updated. The parishioner said the other things is response to paper surveys to improve that. M Gray said he has had quite a lot of experience no matter how much paper work response rate is low. 21% on the village design statement. The parishioner said they haven't seen a survey before.

The parishioner said on Friday's working meeting they discussed about changing the zebra crossing at Budgens to be a puffin crossing and taking priority over the potential installation of average speed cameras. M Gray said he had done a straw poll over the weekend and that everyone he spoke to wanted to have the speed camera's over puffin. He said we have approved average speed cameras from the November meeting. We need to collate the data and see if it fits the criteria set by Essex Highways, see if we can go ahead with the speed camera. The parishioner said they want to make a formal objection for any average speed cameras. On the straw poll that I have taken there was more willingness to upgrade the crossing. If that gets upgraded that negates the need for average speed cameras. S Porter said we have had the average speed strips three times since she has been on the council which is seven years. We have had 80mph down by Bellman's Farm (just south of All Saints Church). If we can get average speed cameras installed, motorists would have to drive slowly though the whole village. We need it to go all the way through from one end to the other. The parishioner said we will always get to the

situation 15 people that want the crossing sorted out. 15 people want average speed cameras. Isn't that how you do surveys. M Rolph said it will not deter people from speeding 24hrs a day. He explained that, living on the High street, he witness motorists racing through the village night and day and that, if you have an enforcement camera that will catch these people and deter them from speeding down the High Street. It solves the problem from this end to the other. Everyone that uses the Highway are at risk with speeding cars you will not deter them with a 20mph speed restriction or with a crossing restriction. I Support anything we can do to slow the traffic down. This Parish council have been working on it for well over 5 years now. With Essex Highways to get a crossing or a mini roundabout by Common Road. Every resource, we have tried to bring problems to CCC the 1 thing that we have got people to agree to, subject to strips.

The parishioner said have you seen the collision data for the crossing.

P Fenwick said the Parish Council can look at a Puffin crossing and average speed camera and that the data only took into account accidents and not near misses. P Fenwick said he had watched traffic go past All Saints Church speeding close to where the fatal accident occurred in November, including one motorist braking suddenly and then sliding into the centre of the road. I Saw someone break suddenly and then sliding into the centre of the road. The crossing won't affect those people, the whole High Street is important. The Parish Council had voted to approve funding for average speed cameras, this was minuted and it will go ahead, and that the Parish Council will still look at the Puffin crossing as well.

P Fenwick explained that the meeting now needed to move on to the next agenda items. The parishioner asked if that meant they could no longer speak. S Porter said when we set our standing orders we should only allow three minutes for public participation and we have now spent 30minutes. A councillor said traffic orders you are allowed to make an objection to them when they come up. P Fenwick said we have agreed we will look into the zebra crossing at Budgen's and we will submit forms for crossing.

## 5. Planning Matters

Councillors

### **Ref. No: 23/01835/FUL - 11 High Street Stock Ingatestone Essex CM4 9BD**

Demolition of existing single storey extension and construction of two storey rear extension.

It's a listed building I can't see any problems no harm to the listed building or to the character of the property. All Councillors agreed No Comment

### **Ref. No: 23/01837/FUL - 6 High Street Stock Ingatestone Essex CM4 9BA**

Proposed pool house with plant. New attached garage and stone portico to house.

Support the comments made by Planning and Conservation Officer. The plant room opposite and the landscaping will screen the pool. They have Taken onboard the comments we last made.

All Councillors agreed No comment

### **Ref. No: 23/01858/FUL - Linacre House 25 Hereward Mount Stock Ingatestone Essex CM4 9PS**

Construction of outdoor swimming pool.

All Councillors agreed No comment

### **Ref. No 23/01660/FUL Apps Farm Mill Road Stock CM4 9RU**

Demolition of existing dwelling and buildings. Construction of 3 buildings to accommodate 45 x over 55s specialist residential units (use class C3), pavilion building and associated infrastructure. Relocation of existing greenhouse. Landscaping including new ponds. Formation of new access.

Inappropriate use of metropolitan green belt, the proposed development is not in keeping with NFFP para 137.

Metropolitan green belt was introduced to stop urban sprawl, building on metropolitan green belt should only be considered if it meets certain criteria which this proposed development doesn't.

Metropolitan green belt is to keep land between urban areas, giving openness and stopping development such as this.

The proposed development exceeds the original footprint of Apps Farm which would result in overdevelopment.

The infrastructure of Stock would not support the scale of this proposed development, any new development must be supported by provision of infrastructure, services and facilities that are identified as necessary by its needs, Strategic Policy S9 CCC local plan, this proposed development wouldn't be.

The village design statement has not been followed plus the proposed development would create noise and light pollution.

Access to Mill Road would be dangerous, there are no public transport services and Mill Road has no footpaths or streetlighting.

The proposed development would result in the total loss of the non-designated heritage assets on site, the harm to the non-designated heritage assets should be taken into consideration in accordance with para 203 of the NFFP.

There is concern with the effect the proposed development would have on the environment, surface water, wildlife, hedgerows and vegetation.

All councillors were unanimous in objecting to this application.

The deadline is 28<sup>th</sup> December.

### **TREE'S**

#### **Ref. No: 23/05630/CAT 38 Mill Road Stock CM4 9LJ**

T1 Conifer- Crown lift by approximately 2m. Reason: To clear garage roof. T2-3 Conifer- Section fell both trees to as close to ground level as possible. Reason: These trees have outgrown this space and have just become too big.

No Comment

**Ref. No: 23/05628/CAT 49 High Street Stock CM4 9BN**

Franchets Cotoneaster, Common Hornbeam, Evergreen Spindle, Serviceberry - Fell - Reason: To allow better access and visibility when driving onto main road.

No Comment

**Ref. No: 23/05639/CAT 8 The Square Stock CM4 9LH**

T1 conifer - Located in rear garden-Remove. Reason: Due to overcrowding and poor health T2 holm oak - Located in no. 33B - Reduce overhanging branches by 1.5m back towards boundary

No Comment

**Ref. No: 23/05573/CAT The Old School House Stock Road CM4 9BX**

T3 Pine - Remove . Reason: The tree works are proposed to stop the influence of the tree(s) on the soil below building foundation level and provide long term stability.

No Comment

**Ref. No: 23/05231/TPO Longwood Lodge Whites Hill Stock CM4 9QB**

T1, Oak, Section Fell retain pecking post at the main fork at approx. 15ft, leaving stem re-growth to allow some regeneration. this tree has suffered a large amount of crown die back, resulting in large parts of the crown main structure dying; due to the close proximity to the neighbouring property and to prevent failure.

No Comment

**Ref. No: 23/05638/CAT 9 Austen Drive Stock CM4 9FB**

Prunus - Located in front garden of 9 Austen Drive- Crown reduction by 1m max, cutting back to suitable growing points. Lightly thin the crown by max 25% & shape to leave a natural profile. Reason: Overhanging neighbouring property

No Comment

**Ref. No: 23/05239/TPO 5 Dakyn Drive Stock CM4 9DJ**

T1 is a pedunculate oak (Quercus robur) located in the north-east corner of the property's front garden - reduce the branch located on the north-east aspect at 5 m by approximately 4 m to a lateral limb and reduce remaining tree by 2.5-3m to previous pruning points - Reason: This is due to notable decay developing along the length of the branch and to continue cyclical management and reduce load on developing areas of dysfunction and decay in canopy.

No Comment

**Informal Consultation Footpath 23 Diversion** – M Rolph & M Gray went to the site and walked the new proposed route

M Gray said M Rolph and myself went down and met with the resident and to be honest what she showed us, where she intended to take the path and exit on Madles Lane. We didn't see too much of an issue. I see a bigger issue leaving it as it is. The proposed path still goes through their back garden. The exit of footpath, they will put a wooden raise fencing. The neighbours have got a 6ft fence and a laurel hedge. It should cover any issues. They did propose to put up

green metallic fence, but we didn't support that and that post and rail would be more in keeping.

No Objection. G Fullam to send to Chelmsford.

## 6. Community Areas

### Highways and Maintenance

#### Parking

M Gray said he had his grandson so couldn't take him to the school. I Grundy went and not sure the outcome G Fullam to speak with the Headteacher

Petition for parking restrictions needed to be started by residents. School area and Square. Already highlighted earlier.

#### Speeding

G Fullam spoke about the application that have been submitted so far. 40mph buffer out towards Chelmsford waiting for ATC strips. High Street waiting for invoice. Bus stop moving applied for waiting for next steps.

All councillor voted and agreed on next applications to be submitted:

20mph zone

Well Lane application; quite lane, weigh restriction, reduction in speed for national speed limit to be 40mph.

Crossing at Budgen's to be a Pelican

Exiting the village towards Billericay to be reduced to 30mph

Downham Road was discussed. R Pritchard said that he lives there and that reducing speed would not be policed and therefore not right at the moment to make that application

#### Speed Watch –

M Gray said we did our first speed watch this morning. Speed gun worked for 10 minutes and the battery ran out. M Rolph said he is working to repair batteries. It was a deterrent having five of us standing there. One lorry driver was verbal but majority of people very supportive. We have a WhatsApp group for Speed Watch volunteers. Training session we had ten residents. Another ten can now do online training and then come out with one of us, then they become authorised. We have four locations. Mill Road and the High Street. Common Lane and Mill Road. Mill Lane and Mill Road. Its separate to getting the cameras. Coming up here tonight people doing 50mph. Totally out of control vehicles.

Zebra Crossing – Village Hall End – Reported faded lines ref: 2882850

#### Street Lights –

Budgens crossing, Swan Lane Bus Stop – all requested new lights Ref FLT013314

Column corrosion found on the one opposite Budges by the crossing.

G Fullam to chase them up about the one at High Street Bellman's Farm

Signs – S Porter confirmed she will take away the sign and paint it

Bakers of Danbury taken village Sign for repair and Wooden Post

Reported sign by Honeypt lane Hedge covering it.

M Gray said pedestrian crossing sign missing need to be replaced by Harvard Inn

G Fullam to apply for yellow lines to have them re painted as faded going into the square. M Gray said same people park on them and they have been told. SEEP we have asked them to come in. Look to push some money through, for additional resources to come out to Stock, as they only go as far as Chelmsford. Even if it's once a week, we will pay for that visit.

Alms Houses - Gravel Path –P Fenwick said he has reported that to Swift so he will undertake that as per last time. It's the serve rain. Also to replace the gravel path by the Hoop. Lushhill post and Common posts need replacing. P Fenwick to talk to Swift

### **Environment**

Hankins Wood – P Fenwick spoke to M Gumbs and she has said final document has been sent 16<sup>th</sup> November and our solicitors have admitted they have received it and they will have the document ready for tonight.

The Common Tree Survey, Drainage and Car Park Project. P Fenwick to chase up to confirm start date. Price quoted 9/11/21 £21,440.40

P Fenwick said they are supposed to have started this week because of the weather it will be next week.

Bus Shelter – Agreed Cost of 10K in November meeting. M Gray to push that forward.

Pond Clearance – Need to pay Cheque of £348 to TCV Volunteering Group G Fullam to send photos every month

Trees – Resident Common Road. Issue with Tree overhanding boundary from the common. S Porter liaising with D Swift to get these cut back. G Fullam to send photo to S Porter of another residents picture of more trees on the common needing to be cut back. Tree Planting date. Needs to be New Year

### **Community Initiatives and Events**

Affordable Housing Update – pushed back date to January with Graham for face to face meeting

Meeting at 4.30pm 9<sup>th</sup> January

Christmas Market on the Common

- Carly singer would like cheque money to be given to Stock Pre School £50
- Band Paid £250 on Xmas Fayre
- Money Raised Mulled Wine & Raffle – Raise cheque's for Stock Pre School & Stock Cares £905 to be split
- Christmas Trees invoice to raise a cheque

## **7. Matters Arising**

Councillors

Register of Interest Forms – confirmed in November meeting that it has been adopted. G Fullam to upload on the website

Dates for Parish Council Meetings 2024 are 9<sup>th</sup> January, 13<sup>th</sup> February, 12<sup>th</sup> March, 9<sup>th</sup> April, 14<sup>th</sup> May, 11<sup>th</sup> June, 9<sup>th</sup> July, No August, 10<sup>th</sup> September, 8<sup>th</sup> October, 12<sup>th</sup> November, 10<sup>th</sup> December

Local Government Boundary Commission – to be shared on Social and website.

## **8. Finance**

Review Monthly Schedule of Accounts Payable



Review bank Balances

CIL Payment 1/4/23-30/9/23 £2152.85

Change account to HSBC update

Cheques made out to Clerks Wages, £70 Voucher Abercorn's, £368.20 ATC, S Type Security 1134.00, Heybridge creative £57.60, GS Farming £216.00, Stock Village Hall £186, HMRC £38.92, Stock Cricket Club £300, Stock Cares £452.50, Stock Pre School £502.50, TCV Volunteering £348.

**9. Essex County Council / Chelmsford City Council Report**

I Grundy not present

**10. Chairman's Report**

Nothing to report

**11. Clerk's Report**

Joy Millanas has fallen down by The Village Shop she has broken her femur bone and had to have an operation. She fell down where the pavement is bad on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> November. G Fullam to report it on application to improve all footpaths.

**12. Village Information Exchange**

M Gray Gravel outside square to paddocks needs to be sorted. P Fenwick to ask Swift

Signs missing for warning of speed change number 2 missing Stock Hill. 1,2 and 3 missing greenwoods side

S Porter – take the lights down 6<sup>th</sup> January.

**13. Date of Next meeting**

9<sup>th</sup> January at 7pm

**Mark Eade wants to be considered to become a Councillor**

**John Pye wants to be considered to become a Councillor**