



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

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## **Minutes**

for meeting held at  
**The Cricket Club Pavilion**  
**Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> September 2024**

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### **Welcome**

Paul Fenwick welcomed the public to the meeting.

### **Apologies of absence**

Apologies had been received by Matthew Grey, Mandy Baker and Sophie Porter/Clark.

### **Minutes of last meetings**

The minutes from July were reported to have a few typos, which will be corrected and approved.

### **Declaration of Councillor Interests relating to the Agenda**

No interests were declared.

### **Public participation**

Paul Fenwick read out the new policy regarding public participation, confirming as stated on the agenda any questions to be put to the council should be emailed 3 working days before the meeting and that only questions would be taken during public participation if relevant and appropriate.

A resident who is new to the village expressed concern over the upkeep of the footpaths in and around the village particularly the footpath behind the catholic church and Well Lane. The areas in question have become unsafe to the residents. He continued to say that brambles are so overgrown it's impossible to distinguish between the footpath and the ditch. The resident went on to say his wife had suffered a fall because of this and had a suspected broken rib. He mentioned he had taken it upon himself to clear some of the brambles. Paul Fenwick mentioned the rangers had been contacted. Ian Grundy went on to say he had asked public rights of way last week to clear footpaths in stock, so hopefully there will be some action done soon. Paul Fenwick asked if the rangers could be chased on this matter, which Mark Rolph responded that the rangers don't come out at a moment's notice, they need to be made aware in advance as they're only volunteers. Mark Rolph also said that Ian Grundy had asked the appropriate people for the job on this matter.

**Action: Ian Grundy**

There were no further queries from the Public.

### **Planning Matters**

. Reference: 24/01130/FUL

Address: 2 Cherrytree Cottages Stock Road Stock Ingatestone

Description of works: Demolish existing extension and construction of single storey side extension with pitched roof.

**The proposed extension isn't in keeping with the original property, doesn't comply with the VDS and would unbalance the setting, it would also be harmful to the conservation area. SPC therefore do not support this application.**

. Reference: 24/05672/CAT

Address: 2 High Trees Stock Ingatestone CM4 9DQ

Description of works: T2 Beech – Fell – Reason: Dead

**Leave to tree officers at Chelmsford**

. Reference: 24/01179/FUL

Address: Hippodrome Barn Goatsmoor Lane Stock Ingatestone

Description of works: Demolition of existing barn and construction of single storey extension to dwelling.

**No Comment**

. Reference: 24/05169/TPO

Address: 12 Myln Meadow Stock Ingatestone Essex

Description of works: T14 – Oak (Marked T1) – Quercus Robar – Reduce by 2m on the northern aspect of the tree facing 12 Myln Meadow and reduce by up to 4m on the southern aspect of the tree. Remove and deadwood and rubbing crossing branches – Reason: To balance the tree and reduce risk of limb failure as the branches overhanging are over extended.

**Leave to tree officers at Chelmsford**

. Reference: 24/00940/FUL

Address: 1 The Hamlet Stock Road Stock Ingatestone Essex

Description of works: Retrospective single and side storey extension

**Already agreed**

### **Matters Arising**

#### **Highways and Maintenance**

##### **Parking**

John Pye reported that he submitted an application to South Essex Parking Partnership on 15<sup>th</sup> May 2024 and on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2024, he and Paul Fenwick met with Andy Clay of the Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) Team. He was informed by Andy that the initial assessment of our application had been made and that in general it agreed with our application to install double yellow lines to all dangerous road junctions and the bend on Mill Road. Andy Clay is going to email what happens next, but explained that due to funding nothing would happen until the first quarter of next year. There will be a consultation period starting with a statement in the Essex Chronicle. Each household in the vicinity of any proposed double line will be written to. Any objection will be considered and then there will be a public meeting in the Court Room at Chelmsford Council.

John Pye went on to report that the TRO team have recommended a parking restriction period in Swan Lane at School times. We understand that Stock School are likely to agree to the 3PR Bronze Scheme. This is basically a system that produces Signs, Leaflets and Information packs to make pupils and parents more respectful of their neighbours when parking. An Essex County Council Officer is assisting in the negotiations with the School. If the 3PR Bronze is agreed this will be operational from October. This Scheme is totally funded by the SEPP. Ian Grundy said that this was really good news, he was very pleased to hear this as this has been ongoing for ages and finally we have a good outcome and hopefully parents will use the Village Hall Car Park although John went on to say that the Governors and the Head said that it is too dangerous to do this, which he doesn't agree with. John Pye also said if the yellow lines do go in, it will make it very difficult for parents to park near the school. There will be yellow lines on Cambridge Close, Austin Drive, the long bend on Mill Road and the top back lane. He said this could force the parents to park in the Village Hall Car Park and walk the children along Stock Road to school. Paulette McAllister added that all these things are really positive and we can encourage parents to park and walk the children to school.

The school are trying to help and sending letters out to parents regarding this issue. Mark Eade asked if the leaflet from South Essex Parking Partnership can be put on the website and in Stock Press.

#### **Speeding & Road Safety**

John Pye reported we currently have Nine (9) Local Highways Panel Applications in (LHPs) which are at various stages of consideration. The first of which was issued on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2023. Regarding the applications concerning Speed Cameras and Speed limit reductions throughout the village to 20mph and the road entering the village reduced from 60mph to 30mph, we have now been told that we cant get anything less than 30mph in the High Street. For this to be considered it has to go to the Transport Minister. The results from the speed strips didn't justify speed reductions anywhere in the village. We have told Highways, that regardless of this, we as a village wish to still pursue speeding restrictions and reductions.

John Pye went on to say that changing the Pedestrian Crossing into a Puffin Crossing was considered justified. However, following a visit from the Highways Design Team, we are now told that due to technical issues, they are unable to install one. What they have now proposed is a big upgrade to the crossing which consists of better lighting, more signs and different road surface which will cost roughly £18,500. This is being put forward by Highways for next year's budget.

John Pye also said moving the bus stop by Bishops House up the hill at the moment is still being considered by the design team. This will probably happen but at the moment we don't know when.

Another LHP that is in progress is making Well Lane and Smallgains Lane Quiet Lanes. John Pye said this was considered justified but only in terms of installing signage. The cost of this is £7525 and that was going to go forward, but John Pye proposed this money could be spent elsewhere such as the bus stop by Bishops House that needs moving. Paul Fenwick mentioned that Swan Lane is a quiet Lane and it hasn't been very effective with the sign going up. Other councillors agreed that the cost of this is too much for what it is. John Pye and Ian Grundy continued to say ECC haven't got any money and the budget has already

been set until next March. Ian Grundy said he has an LHP meeting tomorrow which he said he would report back on at the next meeting. He also said another option to fund this would be if the Parish Council part fund. John Pye finished by saying there's still a possibility of the village being reduced to 20mph, but they still need to lay out 11 ATC's which is nearly £400 a time, which we will also have to fund. He expects its policy that they have to do this. Rob Pritchard said it must be around 7/8 months that we have been on the TV and in the press, and still nothing has happened. Paul continued to say we have covered all angles and still nothing has been done. The road outside the village which is 60mph, the average came back at 40mph with the speed strips, so Highways have said why change it. The figures came back showed that 10,000 vehicles speed through the village each week. Paul Fenwick asked John Pye if Jon Simmons had come back about the part funding, which John advised he would chase. Rob Pritchard proposed we put a petition together for villagers to sign to get some headline for the village. Ian Grundy said he is happy to present it to the council. Paulette agreed to all of the suggested and said if we don't keep the heat on with the above, it will undo all of the hard work already put into this.

Mark Rolph mentioned that a Police Officer attended a Speed Watch session and said we are doing good work. In the last 6 months, the volunteers have reported nearly 300 speeders through the village (High Street and Mill Road) The volunteers do 1 maybe 2 hours a week with over 20 volunteers that are involved. Mark Rolph continued to say that we should keep doing what we are doing and the petition is the next step.

Rob mentioned that in the previous meeting, Sophie and Mandy were going to speak to the school about getting the children involved using scarecrows and signs to slow down.

Paulette mentioned that Ingatestone got their High Street reduced to 20mph because of the school. Paul Fenwick said this could be another angle that we could use to get 20mph in our High Street.

**Action: Rob to create a petition for the villagers to sign**

### **SpeedWatch**

Mark Rolph continued on Speed Watch. He said this happens at all times between 7.30am to 5.00pm. The record number of speeders in an hour is 33, which works out 1 every couple of minutes. There's a good team of volunteers and will keep it going and keep reporting to the police. It's a good addition to everything else that we are also doing. Rob suggested that a newsletter maybe beneficial in getting information such as speed watch, safety, contact details and different issues directly to villagers. Paulette suggested doing this quarterly which all councillors agreed with. John Pye asked Mark Rolph how people sign up to volunteer on the speed watch. Mark replied that an email to the clerk or direct to him would be the best thing to do.

**Action: Rob and Paul to work on a newsletter being produced for villagers**

### **Highways Reports**

John Pye informed us we currently have 20 outstanding items such as road markings, pedestrian crossings worn out and drains blocked. Some of these have been outstanding for too long. John has asked our Chelmsford Councillor Ian Grundy to assist in getting these items resolved. There has been some success in that the school railings and a bollard in Swan Lane have been replaced. John is currently trying to get a replacement give way sign at the junction of Mill Road and Common Road where it was knocked down.

**Action: John Pye and Ian Grundy**

### **Street Care**

On a positive note, John Pye reported that following many complaints from parishioners, we finally had the length of the High Street pavements and gully's swept. The High Street drains were also cleared. He has also requested a permanent rubbish bin at the bus stop opposite The Ship Public House.

### **General Maintenance**

John Pye reported the brick built bus shelter on the Village Green has been power washed and re painted and the Women's Institute planted out both ends with shrubs. The bus shelter opposite The Ship has been totally rebuilt. A total of 6 benches in the village have been refurbished. The gravel path outside the Alms Houses has been renewed. The works in progress is the gravel path from the square and the Paddocks which consists of filling in potholes and replacing the bent white posts. We have received 3 quotes for this work. One from S and L construction services for £18806. One from TJ Harris and Landscapes was £11630 and one from Swift which was £5600. The reconstruction for the Kissing Gate at junction of Mill Walk and Mill Lane has nearly been finished.

**Action: All councillors agreed with using Swift for the work needed on the gravel path.**

### **All Saints Church**

Paul Fenwick reported that Gerry Scott had asked if there was any news from SPC regarding the bollards to the church car park. Paul emailed back stating we were having a meeting tonight and he was happy to meet to give him some dates but hasn't heard anything back as of yet.

**Action: Paul Fenwick**

### **Environment**

#### **Hankins Wood**

No further action needed. To be deleted from the agenda.

### **The Common Tree Survey, Drainage and Car Park Project**

Paul Fenwick reported that we are still waiting to hear from CCC. John Pye asked about the tree planting on the Common. This is being organised by Sophie Porter-Clark. Paul Fenwick asked Marnie Dillon to email Sophie Porter-Clark.

**Action: Marnie Dillon to Email Sophie Porter-Clark**

### **Flooding**

Mark Rolph reported that 'Where Does the Water Go' team met up a couple of months ago and did a survey around the village which they have given to the Essex Floods Assets department. Mark said he heard back a couple of weeks ago and they are nearly done with their analysis to see what can be done about the various ditches that are in bad repair. Mark Rolph continued to say that he has expressed concern about Smallgains Lane, which is in good condition at the moment, however during the winter he fears we could see flooding again. ECC have put an enforcement notice on a land owner which covers a brook where the holdup of waterflow goes. Mark said that if people ignore the enforcement notice, then the work doesn't get done. Paul Fenwick reported he had in fact already spoken to the land owner who has stated he doesn't own the brook, but he is waiting for that to be confirmed by Land Registry via his solicitor. He did say if it is something that's got to be done between him and his neighbor, he would be happy splitting it 50%. Paul Fenwick said the brook possibly belongs to Essex Waterways. Mark Rolph is still waiting for a response from Essex Floods Assets regarding this also. There is also a pond on Smallgains Lane that is getting blocked which can be resolved but this can wait until the brook is sorted. There

are a few more ditches that need to be maintained throughout the village however we need to find out who owns these. Mark said they are going back out in November to assess the ditches with Essex Flood Assets and will have more of an update then.

**Action: Mark Rolph**

### **Norwich to Tilbury Pylons Consultation**

Paul Fenwick reported that the period has finished for consultation now. To be removed from the agenda.

### **Community Initiatives and Events**

#### **Litter Pick**

Mark Rolph reported we are overdue a litter pick. We had one a couple of months ago which was very successful. Mark continued to say he would arrange another one for Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> September 2024 at 10am on the Common.

**Action: Mark Rolph**

#### **Christmas Fayre**

Paul Fenwick reported that this will go ahead on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> November 2024. He has provisionally booked 30 stalls which he has received the booking form for to confirm. Marnie Dillon is going to email all the stall holders from last year to see if they would be happy to come along again this year. Paul said the cost of the market stalls are £1570 plus VAT.

**Action: Paul to send off booking form and Marnie Dillon to send emails to last year's stall holders**

### **Finance**

Mark Eade confirmed the move to Unity Bank from Barclays is in progress.

The bank account balances as of 10<sup>th</sup> September 2024 are:

Business Current Account: £94,244.42

Business Savings Account: £89,862.08

### **Essex County Council / Chelmsford City Council Report**

Ian Grundy reported that there has been a series of emails regarding the tenancy at 13 Vernon Court which he has taken this up with the Chief Executive of CHP. On 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2024 he visited the site and has given the occupant 28 days to remove the vehicles and there will be a further inspection on 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2024 to ensure this happens. He has always been given a formal warning on his tenancy and the Police have been notified to keep a look out on the vehicles. They are also going to replace the posts that the tenant removed.

Ian Grundy also said that usually in winter not many potholes and road repairs not being done, however this winter they are using new material so such progress should continue during the winter months. Ian also reported that overgrown vegetation on private landowners property have responsibility of this and in future they will receive one letter reminding them of their duty and if they don't respond, ECC will carry out the work and send the land owners an invoice.

Ian reported that Children's Services are under pressure and ECC are having to get involved as the NHS are referring to them.

Ride for London has been cancelled next year due to problems in London.

Ian also reported that the County Council elections will take place next May. Ian will not be standing for this. The boundary commissioner has changed the boundaries which will see Stock and Margaretting will now come under Broomfield and Writtle division. Ian will keep us informed on this.

Ian reported 1393 pensions in Chelmsford are haven't claimed pension credit and there are over 16000 in the county that haven't claimed. He also reported 37 prisoners were released from Chelmsford Prison today under the new early release scheme.

**Chairman's Report**

Paul Fenwick mentioned that Laura Atkinson has been in touch from affordable housing. Paul will email Laura to arrange for her to come to the next meeting.

**Clerk's Report**

Nothing to report.

**Village Information Exchange**

Mark Rolph reported that Sophie had been in contact to say she had received an email from David Massey at Tweedy's Charity. He has requested a donation, which we have done previously in February 2023.

**Action: All councillors agreed to send a donation. Marnie will email Sophie to organise raising a cheque.**

Paulette Mcallister suggested if we could update the map of Stock in memory of John Millernas. All councillors agreed to this being a lovely idea.

**Action: Mark to ask Matt if he could speak to Johns family and get the go ahead.**

Rob Pritchard mentioned that bushes are growing on the left hand side turning of Common Road making the visibility very limited upon turning.

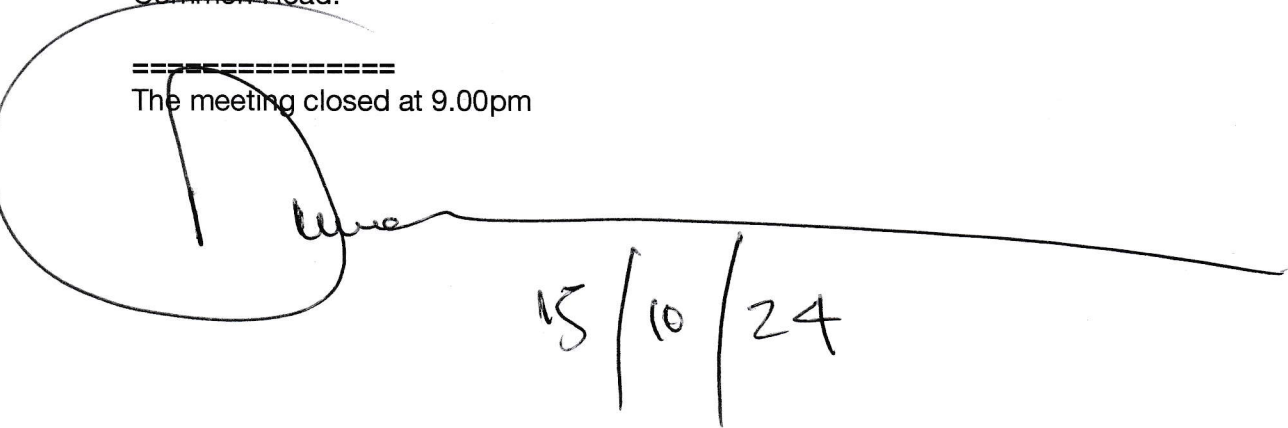
**Action: John Pye to report to Highways**

**Date of Next meeting**

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 15th October 2024, at 7.30pm at the Cricket Pavilion on Common Road.

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The meeting closed at 9.00pm

A large, handwritten signature in black ink is written across the page. The signature is cursive and appears to be 'M. ...'. Below the signature, the date '15 / 10 / 24' is written in a simple, hand-drawn style. The signature and date are written over the printed text 'The meeting closed at 9.00pm'.