



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

Minutes

for meeting held at
The Cricket Club Pavilion
Tuesday 10th December 2024

Present: Chairman: Absent
Vice-Chairman: Absent

Councillors: R Pritchard, S Porter/Clark, M Rolph, P Mcallister, J Pye, M Baker

Also present: the Parish Clerk

1. Welcome

Cllr M Rolph gave apologies on behalf of Cllr P Fenwicks absence and also read a short eulogy of the passing of Sally Johnson who served for 42 years as a Councillor and Chair to the Council. Our condolences go out to Mark Johnson and the family at this sad time.

A 1 minute silence was given by the meeting in respect of the passing of this community serving resident.

2. Apologies of absence

Apologies had been received by Cllrs P Fenwick, M Gray and M Eade

3. Minutes of last meetings

Resolved to **Approve** the Council minutes held on 12th of November 24 as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

4. Declaration of Councillor Interests relating to the Agenda

Cllr R Pritchard declared he wasn't going to be making a comment on the planning application relating to Steels Farm House. Cllr M Baker also wanted it minuted that she doesn't comment on planning applications.

5. Public participation

Cllr M Rolph 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.

There were no queries from the Public.

6. Presentation of Trucam Services

Cllr M Rolph read out a short presentation of Trucam, who are a service from Maldon Town Council and have the authority to use a Trucam, which is a gun that takes a video of the vehicle as well as the speed. They have been trained by the Police, and they are allowed to send the footage to the Police which results in the driver being fined and prosecuted. The cost is £50.00 per hour. Cllr M Rolph will take the next step in getting further information from them. Their services look very promising and the Parish Council wish to proceed.

All Councillors present voted in favour.

7. Planning Matters

Reference: 24/01506/FUL

Address: 20 The Square Stock Ingatestone Essex Description of works: Proposed Single Storey Rear Extension with Internal Alterations. Demolition of existing dilapidated timber store and construct brick store. New front window.

Resolved to support conservation officers report

Reference: 24/01562/FUL

Address: Byfield House Stock Road Stock Ingatestone
Description of works: Single storey side extension

No Comment due to invalid reference number

Reference: 24/00179/DOC/2

Condition 3 - Materials, Condition 4 - Cladding, Condition 6 - Hard and Soft Landscaping - Al-bards Farm Great Prestons Lane Stock Ingatestone Essex CM4 9RL

Resolved to not support

Reference: 24/01568/FUL

Address: Steels Farm Downham Road Stock Ingatestone

Description of works: Two storey side extension, single storey rear extension. Alterations to the roof including two dormer windows to the rear. Front entrance porch canopy.

Resolved to support

Reference: 24/05255/TPO

Address: Mill View Common Road Stock Ingatestone

Description of works: T27 Oak side of garden of Mill view - Crown reduction of up to 3 meters.

Reason: Encroaching on the property, will help to prevent damage to neighbouring properties and create a frame work for future maintenance.

Resolved to leave to tree arboriculture

Reference: 24/01065/FUL

Address: Mill Cottage 150 Mill Road Stock Ingatestone

Description of works: Proposed new machine store

Resolved to support

Reference: 24/01611/CLOPUD

Address: Heathfield Dowsett Lane Stock Ingatestone Essex CM11 1JH

Description of works: Construction of art studio as incidental domestic outbuilding

Resolved to support

Reference: 24/01636/FUL

Address: 6 Hereward Mount Stock Ingatestone Essex

Description of works: Removal of two balconies. Proposed single storey rear extension including an Orangery with roof lanterns.

Resolved to make a comment in regards to the hazard of the road

Reference: 24/05266/TPO

Address: The Molineux Honeypot Lane Stock Ingatestone

Description of works: W1 - Aspen x4 - (located on the main driveway) - Fell, including 1x stem leaning against the fence on the north side of the driveway and 3x trees on the southern side -

Reason: Trees are leaning heavily across the drive/ fence and causing an increased obstruction to vehicles using the driveway. Ground movement evident after recent strong winds.

Resolved to leave to tree arboriculture

Highways and Maintenance

8. Parking

There has been no change since Cllr J Pye's last report at our November Parish Council meeting. Cllr J Pye stated that SEPP have said they cannot give us an update as we are in the Period of Purdah. Andy Clay has promised a response after the Elections.

Parking at Stock School

There has been no change since Cllr J Pye's last report at our November Parish Council meeting. The delay again is due to the Period of Purdah.

9. Speeding & Road Safety

Following a meeting with Sir John Whittingdale attended by Cllr P Fenwick, Cllr J Pye and Cllr M Rolph, Sir John Whittingdale has now organized meetings for us to meet with Tom Cunningham (Cabinet Member for Highways & Transportation), Roger Hirst (Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner) and Lee Scott (Chair of Essex Safer Road Partnership & also a Cabinet Member) We understand that these three Senior Officials can make decisions that overrule Department of Transport and Essex Speed Strategy guidance.

With the help from a few Stock residents, the petition to support The Parish Council in achieving various speed reduction and road safety objectives, got roughly 300 signatures at the Stock Christmas Fayre, with another 40 on the school run. The online signatures is now at 991. We are hoping, with another push, we can get those figures up to the 2000 mark.

Stock Parish Council would like to state that we remain nonpolitical and are not associated with Reform or any other Political Party, but we welcome every bit of support that we can get on this petition and we thank the residents for the work they have done.

10. Vehicle Activated Devices

Cllr J Pye reported that he has placed the order with SWARCO for the 3 VAS (Vehicle Activated Signs). These are signs that flash up the 30MPH speed limit and Thank you or Slow Down. The delivery date is the end of January 2025 and Cllr J Pye will be installing them with the help of a couple of Volunteers from the Village.

11. SpeedWatch

Cllr M Rolph reported that it has been difficult to get out due to the time of year, shorter daytimes, illnesses and holidays. He reported that we are up to around 400 reports of speeding since it started 6 months ago.

12. Highways Reports

Cllr Pye reported 9 outstanding items.

- The down light on the pedestrian crossing on the Budgens side has now been replaced at last.
- Highways have now added the knocked down give way sign and the blocked drain outside The Bear to their scheduled items to do list.
- Following an inspection from Highways, the dead trees on The Common and Mill Road are the responsibility of Stock Parish Council.
- The kerb at the junction of School Lane and the High Street has been reported as its been destroyed by heavy vehicles running over the corner.
- A Parishoner has reported that the Willow Trees outside 27 Mill Road are becoming entangled in the electricity cables. We will need to obtain a price to pollard the trees as they are SPCs responsibility.

13. Street Care

We now have a rubbish bin next to the rebuilt Bus Stop opposite the Ship Public House. We have also been put on the priority list to have the High Street swept.

14. General Maintenance

A purchase order has now been raised for the renewal of the Gravel Path from The Square past The Hoop, including filling the potholes and replacing the bent White posts.

Works to be agreed for next year

- Refurbish the bench in Back Lane – budget price of £420
- Clean & tidy up Bus Shelter opposite The Hoop after house construction completion – budget price of £220
- Repair and repaint Kissing Gate halfway down Mill Walk – budget price of £110
- Reconstruct and repaint Village Gateways to be agreed, to make drivers more aware they are entering a Village.

Cllr J Pye reported that the Village Gateways at the entrance at both ends of the Village can hardly be seen and are going to be replaced so they are more visible. Cllr P Fenwick supports this and he has been speaking to Michael Hurst as it's a Conservation matter and will continue to do so going forward to make this possible.

15. All Saints Church

It was resolved that Cllr M Rolph will arrange a reminder for Gerry Scott (PPC) and arrange meeting about the bollards in the Car Park.

Environment

16. The Common Tree Survey, Drainage and Car Park Project

Cllr M Rolph reported we are still waiting for the go ahead to move the posts and reinstate the verge. We have permission for the car park to be resurfaced and the drainage on The Common.

17. Tree Planting

We have been told that we do not have permission from Chelmsford Council to install hedging on The Common. We now propose to ask CHP for permission to plant them on Dakyn Drive near the sheltered housing/bungalows. **It was resolved** the Clerk will email CHP to ask for permission.

18. Flooding

Cllr M Rolph reported that he, Cllr P Fenwick and a resident have got a meeting with the landowners near The Brook to organise clearing the blockage of The Brook. Essex Highways and Essex Flood Assets along with a few volunteers from The Village will work together to clear it.

The flow of the water under the bridge is totally blocked and Essex Highways have been informed that it needs to be cleared along with The pond on the right hand side coming from Billericay is unable flow into a ditch because of the blockage.

19. Other Matters

The Clerk read out information on agreeing the upcoming Budget for the financial year of 2025/2026. It needs to be agreed and signed off by 15th January. All Councillors have been given the information needed to decide if they increase the Precept or keep it the same as the previous financial year.

Cllr S Porter will ask her contact regarding a few of the dead trees around the Village. Cllr J Pye will also work with Cllr S Porter on this matter.

20. Finance

It was resolved that the accounts for payment for December 2024 be approved as follows:

Sage Monthly Fee	£30.00
Essex Pension Fund	£7.44
O2 Monthly Bill	£13.57
HMRC Employer Contributions (November Pay)	£28.91
Clerk Wages (November Pay)	£967.50
HMRC Overdue Interest	£96.53* (needs to be looked into)
S Type Security (NOV Patrols)	£588.00
Chelmsford Silver Band	£275.00
GHS Farming (xmas tree)	£216.00
PKF Littlejohn (AGAR 23/24 Invoice)	£378.00
Wicksteed	£153.00
C R Swift (Xmas Tree)	£576.00
SWARCO	£4274.17

The bank account balances as of 10th December 2024 are:

BARCLAYS Business Current Account: £9593.26
BARCLAYS Business Savings Account: £89,862.08
UNITY Current T1: £40,223.96
UNITY Instant Access: £50,000

All Councillors voted in favour to transfer the remaining funds from the Barclays accounts to our Unity Bank accounts.

Cllr P Fenwick has expenses for Christmas lights he bought for the Village which need to be reimbursed and he is also owed £100 (£20 for the past 5 years) for the use of electricity provided by Mrs Gurnett for the Christmas lights.

21. Christmas Fayre Donations

SPC ran the Mulled Wine stall at the Stock Christmas Fayre and sold a total of 48 bottles making £530.00. The cost of these bottles was £236 with a total profit of £294.00. This will be donated to a Bone Cancer Charity in memory of Ian Grundy. There was also a total of £85 donated by stallholders which will also be donated to the charity.

22. Chairman's Report

Chairman not present.

23. Clerk's Report

The Clerk reported that there is money owed to HMRC dating back to financial year 2022-2023 of a total of £96.53. All Councillors agreed for this to be looked into as they are not sure what the money owed is for. Cllr M Rolph will discuss this with Cllr P Fenwick and Cllr M Eade to make a decision what the next steps are.

It was resolved the Clerk will put together a report each month on S Type Security patrols and share with the Councillors at each meeting. The Clerk will also invite S Type Security for a review at the next meeting.

The Clerk also reported that she will be taking her remaining 14 hours annual leave over the Christmas period.

24. Village Information Exchange

Cllr M Rolph asked the Clerk to look into getting some quotes for the playground refurbishment. **It was resolved** that the Clerk will take this on.

25. Date of Next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 14th January 2025, at 7.30pm at the Cricket Pavilion on Common Road.

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The meeting closed at 8.29pm

M Rolph
21/1/25