



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

Minutes

for

Meeting

held at

Stock Cricket Club Pavilion
Common Road, Stock, CM4 9NF
at 7.30pm on Tuesday 9th June 2026

All Members of the Committee are hereby summoned to attend the Annual Public Meeting of Stock Parish Council for the purpose of transacting the following business:

1. Welcome by Chairman

Paul Fenwick opened the meeting and welcomed the public (x2).

Council attendees: Paul Fenwick, Mark Rolph, Liz Foster, Tony Netherton and Mike Steel (ECC)

2. Apologies of Absence

Apologies of absence received from: Gillian Bonnet, John Pye, Mark Eade and Rob Pritchard

3. Minutes of last meeting

Minutes of the last meeting were approved and signed

4. Declaration of Councillor Interests relating to the Agenda

LF, and MR declared interests for Marvels planning application, and TN for Round Farm.

5. Public participation

A request was made for an update on the potential acquisition of plots on the former football ground in Mill Lane. PF responded that positive negotiations were ongoing with a number of plot owners. SPC will be providing £50k from available funds for the project but a sum in excess of £400k will likely be required to acquire all 5 acres of the land. A number of potential donors have already come forward however a fund raising exercise will have to take place in the village to raise the necessary remainder. SPC are speaking to advisors to see how this can

best be achieved while optimising the benefit of any Gift Aid. The aim is to register the fund via a Charitable Trust for the sole purpose of using the land as a Football Ground and Leisure Facility.

6. Planning

[Demolition of existing dwelling and outbuilding. Erection of a replacement dwelling and garage with associated works](#)

Sunrise Furze Lane Stock Ingatestone Essex CM4 9RW

Ref. No: 26/00526/FUL

Councillors expressed concern about the potential adverse affects the construction traffic for this project will have on this narrow lane. Councillors noted similar concerns expressed by Essex Highways and agreed to support its proposed conditions of work as submitted to the Planning Department.

[T1 Willow - Section fell to ground level. Reason: The tree has leafed out and there is a significant amount of deadwood throughout the crown.](#)

4 Rectory Close Stock Ingatestone Essex CM4 9BP

Ref. No: 26/05638/CAT

SPC agreed to support Chelmsford Tree Officer review.

[T5 - Walnut - Crown reduction of 6-8m. Reason - Concerns of potential danger from falling branches. T11 - Sycamore - Reduce one branch by approximately 10m. Reason - Concerns of potential danger from falling branches.](#)

3 High Trees Stock Ingatestone CM4 9DQ

Ref. No: 26/05633/CAT

SPC agreed to support Chelmsford Tree Officer review.

[Variation of condition 2 to approved planning permission 25/00258/FUL \(Demolition of existing garden room and construction of proposed domestic art studio\) Alterations to roof, materials and external openings.](#)

Heathfield Dowsett Lane Stock Ingatestone Essex CM11 1JH

Ref. No: 25/00258/S73

No comment

[Outline application for the erection of up to 3 detached dwellings. All matters reserved.](#)

Site At Byfield House Stock Road Stock Ingatestone Essex CM4 9QU

Ref. No: 26/00525/OUT

Councillors expressed concerns regarding a reference in the application of the site being downgraded from Green to Grey Belt. SPC will submit this concern to Planning accordingly.

[Change of use of an existing agricultural building to a small-scale dog daycare facility \(Sui Genesis\) with assoicated outdoor exercise space and access track.](#)

Round Farm Goatsmoor Lane Stock Ingatestone Essex

Ref. No: 26/00539/FUL

No comment

[Conversion of barn to self contained dwelling with internal and external alterations.](#)

Planning Application

Marvells 5 High Street Stock Ingatestone Essex CM4 9BD

Ref. No: 26/00548/FUL

No comment

7. Highways and Maintenance

- . Parking) -
- . Speeding & Road Safety) -
- . Highways reports) - **Councillors referred to JP's report on these 5 items as previously distributed**
- . Street Care) -
- . General Maintenance work) -

Updates from JP's report:-

PARKING RESTRICTIONS & PARKING NEAR TO THE SCHOOL.

We have been informed that the Safety Audit when carried out will not be acceptable to SEPP (Nick Binder) as a means to apply for a new Traffic Regulations Order.

The very latest is that Cllr. Mike Steel has submitted a request for a Surgery with the new Cabinet Member Cllr. Webster to try and unravel this unacceptable situation. If agreed Mike Steel and John Pye will attend.

VILLAGE SPEED MANAGEMENT

As mentioned above Cllr. Mike Steel has requested a Surgery with the new Cabinet Member. We hope to be allowed to discuss the above LHP's with him too. It seems that the only person that can turn Guidance into Common Sense is the Cabinet Member

HIGHWAYS REPORTING

We are hoping that all of the 12 pot holes will be repaired soon under the "Pothole Emergency Scheme."

Cllr. Mike Steel is investigating to see if these can be replaced under the 'Safety Funding' scheme.

. SpeedWatch

MR reported that the Village SpeedWatch Group continues to monitor traffic and report speeding motorists to Essex Police. Speeds in excess of 35mph in our 30mph zones have been permitted to be reported, however this has now been reduced to any in excess of 34mph.

MR also reported that he and JP attended an Essex Police celebration event for the 20th Anniversary of the Safer Essex Roads Partnership being instigated. Representatives from many of the SpeedWatch groups from around the County also attended. All Groups were sincerely thanked by senior Police and Fire Service officials for the voluntary work they do. Each Group was presented with a Thankyou Certificate from SERP.

. Litter Pick

MR stated that a Village Litter Pick will be organised in early July before the peak holiday season starts.

. Public Footpaths

LF reported as follows:-

Swan Lane 4018721 footpath 27 – repairs completed

Frisling Hall 4018723 footpath 12 – liaising with land owner

Frisling Hall 4018723 footpath 23 - liaising with land owner

Stock Road 4040958footpath 61 – assessed waiting for repairs

Broomwood Road 4038821 footpath 58 waiting to be assessed

Back lane 4027539 footpath 36 waiting for repairs

School lane 4027539 footpath 35 awaiting assessment

8. Environment

. Trees

TN reported that a dead wooding survey will be conducted on Monday 15th June . We will then await the Tree Surgeons quote on the project.

TN further reported that the repair of the Common Road/Common verge will also be conducted on Monday.

. Flooding

MR reported that the Mill Road pond is to be cleaned of weed/algae on Wednesday 10th June. MR will arrange for any debris to be cleared by CCC.

. Football Ground

As reported by PF in Public Participation.

9. Events 2026

Christmas Market

Councillors agreed to form working group to organise the event this year. MR agreed to send out a poll to find best date for the first WG meeting.

Remembrance Service

MR reported that the Working Group is progressing with the arrangement for the Service this year. MR had confirmed to the group that should CCC not pay for Traffic Management as in previous years, SPC will do so.

10. Finance

To review and authorise online payments.

Invoices totalling £2,249.79 were reviewed and agreed.

To review bank balances

Current Account: £34,202.14

Deposit Account: £111,887.34

11. Chelmsford City Councillor Report

No report

12. Essex County Councillor Report

MS gave a verbal summary of the written report previously submitted:-

County Elections.

I reported last time that there was a new Administration in place at ECC:

Reform	53 (now 52)
Conservative	13
Lib-Dem	5
Other	4
Green	1
Labour	1
Vacancy	2

The Conservatives are the official opposition

A Shadow Opposition Cabinet has been formed and I have the role of Shadow Cabinet Member for Highways and Infrastructure

Proportional allocation to committees means 2 Conservatives on the main Scrutiny and Planning committees.

I am one of the members on the Place Scrutiny committee.

I pushed for these positions, as they cover the most raised issues in my division - so I am able to stay abreast of developments.

ECC Full Council Meeting 28th May 2026

This was the first meeting.

Announcements by the new administration included:

- . Request to Govt to cancel LGR
- . Removal of library reservation charges
- . Declaration of a "Pothole Emergency" - no detail was given at the meeting, but we got an email later saying £2M was being drawn down from reserves, and another public announcement that the District Teams would be increased from 9 to 12. I assume these are the MHI teams.
- . Cancellation of Net Zero - no detail of what this means

There were 2 motions:

- . Conservative Motion to build on the "Outstanding" rated Children's services
- . Lib-Dem Motion to have funding for safety highways schemes, in the absence of the LHPs

Both motions were amended by the Reform administration (watered down, and removed commitments) and amended motions passed.

I spoke in support of the Lib-Dem motion

At the Oral Questions part of the meeting, I asked 2 questions to the Highways Cabinet Member:

- . Will the Cabinet Member continue the investment in the maintenance of the roads and underwrite commitment by the last administration made to commit an extra £50M
- . Will the Cabinet Member review the consultation on the new draft Strategy and take it forward to policy

Both questions received the same answer - I need to consider and get back to you - which was a bit surprising given the announcements about the potholes.

Local Government Reorganisation (LGR)

The Government has announced that Chelmsford will join Brentwood and Maldon, along with Essex County Council services, to form a new mid-Essex unitary authority from April 2028. This forms part of the wider five unitary model which has now been selected for Greater Essex.

The new Reform ECC Administration have written to Steve Reed MP, Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, and stated that ECC "will utilise all resources at our disposal to challenge and resist LGR"

They have instructed lawyers to prepare a pre-action protocol letter.

Highways

There are a number of issues related to Stock that I have been trying to pursue, I believe I have secured refresh of white lining in the High Street near Swan Lane - scheduled for mid-year.

The Road Safety Audit (RSA) order by SPC on the subject of DYLS has now been accepted.

However, my reading of the situation is that this will not achieve what you or SEPP are looking for. I have made this clear to your Chair. Furthermore, I have spoken to SEPP again, and they want a safety case for DYLS, but what is being produced by Highways is actually looking at the safety of requested DYLS, not the safety case for having them.

I asked for the RSA Terms of Reference (ToR) which I have received and passed on to your Chair, but I attach them here again. Given that the outcome of the current actions is unlikely to make the progress you require, I have requested a surgery with the new Reform Highways Cabinet Member to include Stock PC. I have not got an acceptance for this yet, although the request was acknowledged.

I outlined that this meeting should address the DYLS, signing defects, bus stop and any other safety issues and/or related to the fatality.

Highways Road Maintenance

The new Reform Administration have ceased the submission of Members Highways Initiative (MHI) - this was the means by which Cllrs can direct the extra funded teams to prioritise defects - including carriageway, pavements, signs, drains. The Cllr website is closed to new submissions, although they seem to be still repairing the ones in the system - my week is this week! The map has not been updated to reflect the new boundaries, so I cannot see Stock and Margaretting but I have requested these lists (twice!).

It would seem that the Administration is changing the use of the extra funded teams from repairing all defects raised by Cllrs, to one where they have asked each Cllr to nominate just 3 roads. Last week, we were given just 48 hours to nominate 3 roads so I wrote to my 12 PCs week and have had to select 3 roads for my entire division, with no criteria on length, level of defect, etc - so I have taken note of the 5 responses I received and selected the 3 I think have most impact on residents and are of a size that might get accepted.

This does not seem a good way to do it - I have 85 miles of roads in my division, and this will fix less than 0.5% of them, and it also rules out pavements, which are not included in the scheme - and pavements are in a worse state than roads, but the Reform Administration have declared themselves pro-car!. I have made my views known to the Cabinet Member.

13. Chair Report

As per the Football Ground report above.

14. Village Information Exchange

LF had two items to report:-

- . The Village Notice boards need a cosmetic refurbishment. Quotes for the work to be obtained.
- . The Green in Back Lane needs cutting. CR Swift to be asked to place this on its village grass cutting schedule.

Date of Next meeting

Tuesday 14th July at 7.30pm at the Cricket Club Pavilion.