

STOCK PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk – Lorraine Green

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Website: www.stock.org.uk/council

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 29TH APRIL 2014 AT STOCK VILLAGE HALL, COMMON ROAD, STOCK AT 7.30PM

Present: *Cllrs. Millernas, Johnson, Fenwick, Finch & Rilstone*
In The Chair: *Cllr. Fairman*
Minute Secretary: *Lorraine Green*
Also Present: *5 Members of the Public and CCC Cllr. Ian Grundy*

		ACTION
1.	MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2013. 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 20 th May 2013. 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 council meeting each month supplemented by a separate meeting to focus on planning matters. There are nine councillors all of whom give up a considerable amount of time to attend Parish Council meetings on a voluntary basis. The commitment and diligence of all councillors is something for which parishioners can be proud. The Village Environment The Parish Council spends a considerable amount of time dealing with the upkeep of the village and maintaining and improving its appearance continues to be an important priority. We employ a village handyman to tackle some of the jobs required to improve the appearance of the village. In addition councillors together with their friends and relatives undertake a village tidy up day. This year we filled a skip with rubbish pulled from ditches and hedgerows. In light of all this work I am delighted to confirm that this year Stock won a "merit award" in the Rural Community Council of Essex's Village of the Year/Best Kept Village competition. World War One commemoration event Stock Common Sunday 27th July 2014 The Parish Council are organising a WWI commemoration event on the afternoon of Sunday 27 th July. The event will comprise an exhibition dedicated to the men of Stock who fought and died during the war and a concert. The concert will feature the Essex Yeomanry band, together with music and poetry from the period. Exhibitors will include Stow Maries WWI aerodrome and Andrew Smerdon, who will focus on the use of horses during the war. Further details will be provided nearer the time of the event.	

Roads and Traffic

The “Community Speedwatch” team have been working hard to try and reduce the number of speeding vehicles passing through the village. A number of new recruits have come forward to assist and I would like to thank the whole team for helping to undertake this important work.

In the summer of 2013 the Parish Council commissioned a village traffic survey. The purpose of the survey was to provide evidence for us to lobby Essex County Council and Chelmsford City Council to provide additional speed control measures. It will not be a surprise that the survey revealed a significant number of vehicles travelling through the village are at speeds in excess of 35mph. On one speed marker placed just before the crossing near Common Road during the course of one day 37 vehicles were travelling at over 60mph and shockingly 23 movements at over 65mph – all within metres of the pelican crossing.

The Parish Council’s plan is to install average speed cameras in the village. We have discussed the matter with Essex Police and they are supportive. We now need to find the funding.

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.

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 100 during the past year.

Police Matters

Stock remains a very safe place to live and crime levels are comparatively low. However crime levels have slightly increased during the year. According to Essex Police in the period between the 1st January 2014 and 31st March 2014 there were 22 offences recorded compared to 14 over the same period in 2013. Much of the crime related theft from houses, outbuildings and vehicles.

The Parish Council continue to lobby Essex Police to increase their presence in the village with some success. Recently there have been police patrols in the centre of the village.

Finance

There has been a modest increase in the precept of 1.5%.

	<p>Other Matters</p> <p>Once again we will be hosting a Play in the Park event on Monday 7th August between 1.30pm and 3.30pm on the Common. Play in the park is a free two hour multi-activity session for children aged 6-11 and includes sports, arts, crafts, games and free-play.</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>It was agreed that the report should be put onto the website, noticeboard, in Stock Press and put in the Post Office window. 20 copies should also be put into the library and Doctors' Surgery.</p>	
4.	<p>TWEEDY CHARITY.</p> <p>No report had been received. Cllr. Rilstone reported that one property is empty and is currently being advertised in Stock Press. Certain criteria has to be met, i.e. the applicant has to be over 50 and be a citizen of Boreham or Stock with a modest income.</p>	
5.	<p>REPORT BY ECC CLLR. IAN GRUNDY.</p> <p>No report was given.</p>	
6.	<p>ANY OTHER BUSINESS.</p> <p>Cllr. Finch advised that he had sold his property and had moved out of the village so would therefore be resigning from the Parish Council. He advised that he had lived outside of the village for a year and felt he was not able to carry out his duties as a Parish Councillor as he should. Cllr. Finch had been the third generation of his family to be a Parish Councillor. Cllr. Johnson thanked Cllr. Finch for his work on footpaths which she said had been very useful. The Chairman thanked Cllr. Finch for his work as Councillor.</p> <p>A parishioner reported that at the end of Common Road, at the entrance to the Bakers Arms car park, people are parking on this stretch of road which is incredibly dangerous. The Chairman advised that this has also concerned the Parish Council for a considerable time and they are now discussing the situation with South Essex Parking Partnership regarding putting yellow lines down in that area. Various other junctions are also being looked at in the village.</p> <p>A parishioner enquired about the Broadband speed in the village and the roll out programme for Superfast Broadband. Cllr. Grundy advised that it is coming to Stock in 2016.</p> <p>Cllr. Grundy formally thanked the Chairman for all his work on the Parish Council.</p>	

The Chairman thanked everyone for coming; the meeting closed at 7.50pm.

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

STOCK PARISH COUNCIL

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR YEAR-ENDED 31/3/14

RECEIPTS

Precept	£ 40,800.00
Bank Int.	£ 19.21
VAT Refund	£ 1,826.69
Misc.	£ 78,588.37
Parks Etc.	£ 470.40
	<u>£121,704.67</u>
Current A/c. 31/03/13	£ 3,814.29
Tracker A/c. 31/03/13	£ 26,709.28
	<u>£152,228.24</u>

PAYMENTS

Admin	£ 94,853.25
Grass Cutting	£ 5,998.70
S137	£ 1,450.00
Open Spaces/Parks Etc	£ 7,009.48
VAT	£ 2,284.71
	<u>£111,596.14</u>
Current A/c. 31/03/14	£ 903.61
Tracker A/c. 31/03/14	£ 39,728.49
	<u>£152,228.24</u>