

STOCKSBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Stocksbridge Town Council, held remotely via Zoom,
on Thursday, 12th November 2020

PRESENT: Cllr. C Ward (Chair); Cllrs. R J Crowther, M Milton, A S Law, M Whittaker,
J A Grocutt, S Abrahams and J Staniforth

325. To Receive Chairman's Remarks and Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence.

The Chairman noted the recent death of Vera Grand, a former Town Councillor, serving on the Council during the 1960's and 1970's.

Cllr. SA suggested that a rose be planted in the front border of the Town Hall with a plaque to mark Vera's service on the Town Council. The Clerk undertook to contact Valley In Bloom.

326. Exclusion of the Press and Public

There were no items for exclusion of the press and public.

327. Declarations of Interest

Cllr. A S Law declared an interest in any planning applications to be considered.

328. Public Questions and Petitions

There were no public questions and petitions.

329. To Receive Remarks from the Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 8th October 2020

With reference to item 313 paragraph 3 – Parking Outside Schools. The Clerk reported that she had received correspondence from Sergeant Frain noting that this was a national issue and that the Police would be happy to attend a meeting with Head Teachers via Zoom to discuss this matter further. The Clerk undertook to organise a meeting as soon as possible.

Councillors noted the experiences of local residents when approaching parents parking inappropriately, often blocking driveways, and the abusive language used when they were asked to move or park considerately.

Cllr. CW noted that she had received positive feedback from residents to the letter in Look Local requesting that parents park more considerately outside schools.

With reference to item 319 paragraph 2 - Christmas Illuminations. The Clerk reported that the Town Councils Christmas Illuminations would have been switched on this evening to coincide with those at Fox Valley.

With reference to item 319 paragraph 3 – Christmas Card Competition. The Clerk reported that several schools had agreed to participate and she would be collecting the cards on Tuesday

morning, following which Cllrs. CW, RJC and JAG would be judging the entries, the winners card would then be produced and a packs of the finished card taken into school to be presented to the winner.

With reference to item 320 item c) Flytipping in New Hall Wood. Cllr. SA reported that the issues of flytipping were being looked into by SCC Officers.

330. To Approve as a True and Correct Record the Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on 8th October 2020

Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 8th October 2020, copies of which had been circulated prior to the meeting were taken as read.

Proposed by Cllr. J Staniforth, seconded by Cllr. A S Law and

RESOLVED:- That the minutes be confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

331. Finances - To Receive and Approve Monthly Financial Statements

The Clerk reported that the details of the Monthly Financial Statements had been previously circulated.

Proposed by Cllr. J A Grocutt, seconded by Cllr. M Milton and

RESOLVED:- That the Town Council accept details of the Monthly Financial Statements for October 2020 as supplied by the Clerk.

The Clerk reported that the next round of CIL funding had been received, being just over £26,000 which meant that the Town Council now had just over £51,000 in the pot for the next Participatory Budgeting event. This event would hopefully be able to be organised for the Spring, which would be a good ‘pick me up’ for the Town following this awful year.

332. Grant Applications

Deepcar Village Community Association

The Clerk tabled a grant application from Deepcar Community Association requesting funding assistance towards replacement of the flooring in Deepcar Village Hall.

The Clerk noted the questions raised by Cllr.JAG regarding use of local companies, where possible, when submitting grant applications and the response received from the DVCA.

The Clerk undertook to look at the Town Council’s Grant’s Policy document with a view to amending if required.

Proposed by Cllr. A S Law, seconded by Cllr. M Milton and

RESOLVED:- That the Town Council approve a grant of £1000 to Deepcar Village Community Association for assistance towards replacement of the flooring in Deepcar Village Hall.

333. SLLP Grant Applications

No grant applications had been received to date.

334. Clerks Reports

Public Phone Box at Bolsterstone

The Clerk informed of a request from a resident of Bolsterstone to adopt the public phone box for use as a Community Library via BT’s Adopt a Kiosk Scheme.

The Clerk had emailed BT to ascertain that this box was no longer in use and had just received notification that it was still a 'live' phone box currently awaiting repair works.

Cllr. JAG noted previous consultations on phone boxes and informed it had been felt at the time that due to the rural location and poor reception for mobile phones the phone box at Bolsterstone should be retained. However, Cllr. JAG had no objections to Bolsterstone Community Group taking on the phone box as a library after Covid 19, if this was possible.

The Clerk undertook to contact BT to ascertain a timeframe for repairs and also how many calls had been made from the phone box prior to it requiring maintenance.

Cllr. JAG noted that we were lucky in Stocksbridge to have a Library where staff were paid to run it and not volunteers and felt that it should be utilised by residents whenever possible.

Coffee and Cake Scheme

The Clerk reported that she had written to local cafe owners informing of the Town Council's intention to run a coffee and cake scheme during December as it was not possible to hold the annual Senior Citizens Christmas Party due to Covid restrictions. Three cafes had responded noting they wished to participate, the Old Pin, Leisure Centre Oxley cafe and Bridge Bakery. However, the Clerk felt that with the current lockdown situation it would not be possible to run the scheme this side of Christmas and felt that Spring would be more appropriate, when hopefully people would be able to meet again.

Cllr. CW asked if a letter explaining the situation could be sent to Look Local, noting that the Town Council would organise an event for the elderly residents as soon as it was possible to do so and in the meantime wishing everyone a Merry Christmas.

Cllr. MM suggested that perhaps Councillors could visit each venue to chat too people once the scheme was in place.

Town Hall Frontage

The Clerk reported that she had met with Graces Ornamental Ironworks regarding the installation of a small wrought iron ornamental border fence to prevent soil from spreading onto the pavement in the planted area at the front of the Town Hall.

Councillors felt it was a worthwhile project, particularly if the High Street was to be improved with the Towns Fund monies, and requested that the Clerk obtain a formal quote from Graces Ornamental Ironworks and another quote from a local company to be considered at a future meeting.

335. To Receive Verbal Reports from Members'

a) Cllr. JS informed that he had attended the socially distanced Remembrance Day Service held at the Clock Tower and a Towns Fund Infrastructure meeting, noting that a bid for a train service to the area had been submitted.

b) Cllr. MW reported that he had been contacted by a member of the public, along with Cllrs. JAG and MM, regarding the issue of rats around St John's Junior School and thanked Cllr. JAG for dealing with the matter.

Cllr. MW had been contacted by a member of the public required to isolate following the Track and Trace system and the numerous calls received from them over the next couple of days, surmounting to what she felt was harassment.

Cllr. MW reported that Walkers are Welcome wished any members of the public to report any problems or obstructions experienced on their many walks within the area.

Cllr. MW had also attended, via Zoom, Oxley Park meetings.

c) Cllr MM noted the issue of rat infestation as mentioned by Cllr. MW and thanked Cllr. JAG for dealing with this matter.

d) Cllr. RJC reported that he had attended the High School Governors meeting, Remembrance Day Service at the Clock Tower and also the outdoor service at St Mary's Church, Bolsterstone where he had laid wreaths on behalf of the Town Council. It had been good to see so many people wishing to attend the services, noting the social distancing being observed on both occasions.

e) Cllr. SA advised that she had attended both the Remembrance Day services and also stood outside the Town Hall to watch the funeral procession of Vera Grand which she felt had been very fitting, having been both a Town Councillor and Church Warden at St Matthias.

Cllr. SA reported that she was involved almost on a daily basis with issues regarding STEP. The Business Centre was open and could be utilised as a business address for post and photocopying for anyone working from home. The Nursery had been open but had needed to close due to Covid. All staff at The Venue were furloughed.

Cllr. SA informed of transport issues raised by S Parry who felt that the community bus should be free for everyone with a bus pass.

Cllr. JAG stated that this item had been raised and discussed at previous Transport meetings and that it would require a change of legislation to make this happen.

Cllr. SA reported on issues of lack of sporting facilities within local schools, with some parents choosing to send their children to schools out of the area such as Penistone and Notre Dame.

Cllr. SA felt that liaison with local people and a zoom meeting with the High school was needed to ascertain how they could be supported.

Cllr. SA was extremely concerned to raise the issue of lack of care and appalling midwifery services for pregnant mums within the area prior to giving birth, with 7 traumatic births being reported to Jessops and new mums very anxious at not seeing a Health Visitor in the 8 months since the birth of their baby. Due to Covid 19 there were no face to face visits, everything was done via phone which was a dangerous practice. There had been a 50% rise in child deaths in the country. Sheffield City Council had been informed.

Cllr. CW had spoken to a midwife regarding the matter and she had stated it was not a situation that they wanted and it was very hard but they could see no way to resolve the issue whilst Covid was around.

Cllr. JAG stated that she had already written to the Cabinet Member as she was extremely worried and concerned of reports of the lack of care. She felt that a letter should be sent from the Town Council, incorporating Cllr. SA's information, copying M Cates MP.

f) Cllr. JAG reported that she had put information of facebook regarding BT's proposal to remove phone boxes at Lee Avenue and Unsliven Road, with no objections so far.

Cllr. JAG had attended the Oxley Park meeting which had been very useful.

Cllr. JAG had written to all the residents of Woolley Road regarding the Skate Park and would be meeting on site with SCC Officers on 16th November to look at the site. It seemed to be that people would like to see a real park in Oxley Park, as there were in other areas. The Leisure Centre had now got the cafe open and £500K had been allocated for a park for toddlers with a seating area located in between the swimming baths and Leisure Centre with a pathway leading to the area by the Inman Pavilion, the funding needed to be spent by the end of March 2021. The drainage issues have now been sorted by SCC.

Cllr. JAG had attended both the Remembrance Day Services and stood outside the Town Hall to watch the funeral procession of Vera Grand.

Cllr. JAG had visited the Food Bank again and they were coping well with the current situation.

Cllr. JAG had attended the Don Valley Railway meeting with Cllr. JS and noted that the bid for a railway link to the area had been submitted.

Cllr. JAG had received numerous complaints regarding fireworks, which hopefully would now no longer be an issue.

Cllr. JAG noted correspondence circulated by Forestry England regarding proposals for planting in Wharncliffe, Old Park and Wombwell woodlands and that she felt they should be aware of the plans for joining together cycle routes in these areas. The Clerk suggested that Councillors submit their views individually and also send them to the office when a combined response could be collated and submitted.

336. To Receive a Verbal Report from the Mayor

The Mayor, Cllr. Catherine Ward reported that she had attended the following events since the last meeting:-

8th September – opening of The Bridge bakery

October – opening of the bridge in the flower bed outside the Library, which had been rebuilt with money received from Tesco

8th November – Remembrance Day service held at the Clock Tower

Cllr. CW reported on issues of anti-social behaviour in the Stubbin garages at Haywood Lane with youths setting fire to garages and trees, drinking and generally being anti-social. The Police had been involved and have identified some of the ring leaders.

Cllr. JAG informed that anti-social behaviour was an issue all over the Town and she had spoken to Sergeant Frain on numerous occasions. A lot of work had been done to identify the ring leaders and arrests would be made and parents involved.

Cllr. CW had advised residents to keep calling the Police to report the issues and hopefully, eventually something would be done. There were no youth services in the area and no Youth Centre.

Cllr. CW noted that with respect to the Scout Hut at Nanny Hill she had been informed that the lease would not be renewed by Sheffield City Council and that the building would be sold. The Scout leader had been advised not to spend any money on the building in respect of maintenance.

Cllr. CW was hopeful that once the pandemic was over relevant people could be brought together to ascertain the best way forward.

337. Town Fund

Cllr. JAG updated members on the Towns Fund meeting held on 11th November, noting that M Dransfield and A Holmes had requested an invitation to attend the December Town Council meeting, to be held in Part 2 of the meeting.

Cllr. JAG informed that full plans had to be completed by the end of January and there was still a lot of work to be undertaken. A lot of people had filled in the consultation on line but she asked that if anyone knew young people in the area that they be encouraged to make their views known before the consultation closed. Out of the responses received to date the majority wished to see improvements to the High Street and improved transport links to the area. Sub groups were drawing up plans on what the money was to be spent on which would then have to go to public consultation as soon as possible in order to meet the end of January deadline.

Cllr. JAG noted that other Towns were spreading the funding out but each area was in a different position and it depended where they were starting from. M Dransfield had put together some proper construction plans. A company had been hired to pull all the completed consultation papers together which Cllr. JAG felt was good as there was a lot to accomplish in a short space of time.

338. Annual Accounts 2019/2020

The Clerk reported that she had received the opinion of the Auditors for the Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2020, there were no matters arising. The Clerk noted that the required documents were currently on display on the Town Council notice board and website.

Proposed by Cllr. M Whittaker, seconded by Cllr. J A Grocutt and

RESOLVED:- That the Town Council accept the Auditors certificate and opinion.

339. Accounts for Authorisation

The Clerk informed that approval was required for cheques signed in between meetings during the Coronavirus lockdown, authority having been given by the Chairman, Deputy Chairman and Cllr. JAG, a list of which had been circulated to members prior to the meeting.

Proposed by Cllr. S Abrahams, seconded by Cllr. A S Law and

(i) That approval be given for cheques signed in between meetings during the Coronavirus Lockdown, in settlement of the undermentioned accounts.

			<u>Made Under Power</u>
4SLC Trust	Quarterly funding	£ 5000.00	LGA76(S19)
PFK Littlejohn LLP	External Audit 2019/2020	£ 480.00	LGA72(S111)
T Bisatt	Zoom monthly subscription	£ 11.99	“
Greave House Farm Trust	SLLP grant	£ 2500.00	LGA76(S19)

(ii) That approval be given for cheques signed in between meetings during the Coronavirus Lockdown, in settlement of the undermentioned accounts in respect of The ARC:-

			<u>Made Under Power</u>
Pointer Fire Ltd	Fire Alarm Service agreement	£ 552.65	LGA72(S111)
Facility Maint Solutions	Roof Works – Phase 1	£ 695.00	“
Facility Maint Solutions	Lighting repairs	£ 95.00	“
Facility Maint Solutions	Supply/install water heater	£ 390.00	“
Facility Maint Solutions	Supply/fit emergency lights	£ 95.00	“
Record 24/7	Automatic door repairs	£ 211.15	“
Copymark (Service) Ltd	Photocopier usage	£ 2.54	“

(iii) That authority be given for Direct Debits paid during the Coronavirus lockdown during October 2020:-

			<u>Made Under Power</u>
SSE	Electricity charges – ARC	£ 1187.28	LGA72(S111)
Veolia	Waste removal	£ 133.62	“
Moorepay	Monthly charge	£ 67.63	“
Business Stream	Water charges – ARC	£ 391.96	“
Sheffield City Council	Business Rates – History Society	£ 114.00	“
Sheffield City Council	Business Rates – communal area	£ 1498.00	“
Sheffield City Council	Business Rates – Bolsterstone	£ 172.00	“
Intuit Ltd – Quickbooks	VAT software subscription	£ 14.40	“

(iv) That authority be given for salaries paid during the coronavirus lockdown:-

Salaries/Tax/NI/Pensions November 2020

£ 3217.05 Made Under Power
LGA72(S111)

Chairman