

STOCKSBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Stocksbridge Town Council, held remotely via Zoom,  
on Thursday, 11<sup>th</sup> March 2021

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

K Clark, Parks & Countryside, SCC - Item 392

V Faulkner, Friends of Oxley Park – Item 392

Member of the public – Item 393

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388. To Receive Chairman’s Remarks and Apologies for Absence

There were no Apologies for Absence. The Chairman welcomed Cllr. ASL from his hospital bed. The Chairman noted the recent concerning news regarding Liberty Steels and its possible effect on local families and businesses.

Cllr. SA also noted the devastating news and the impact it would have on the 786 people who worked at the site and fallout it would have on local services and industries in the area. It is hoped that the Government note these facts and how the lack of crucial aerospace production could impact the world internationally.

389. Exclusion of the Press and Public

There were no items for exclusion of the Press and Public.

390. Declarations of Interest

Cllr. J Grocutt declared an interest in the following issues: Planning, Highways, Transport, Licensing, Housing and Parking Services.

Cllr. ASL declared an interest in all Planning issues which may arise.

Cllr. RJC declared a personal interest in the Oxley Park item.

391. Public Questions and Petitions

There were no public questions and petitions.

392. Oxley Park Proposals

The Chairman welcomed Kate Clark, Parks and Countryside, SCC who had been invited in order to update members with regards to the proposals for Oxley Park and also Vicky Faulkner, Chair of Friends of Oxley Park group to update on complementary works they are undertaking.

KC informed that she had been working on proposals for Oxley Park for the last year and noted her report for Phase 1 and Phase 2 had been previously circulated to members. Consultations had taken place in local schools, with the Friends of Oxley Park Group and the community. All had come back with similar priorities, being a cafe, toilet facilities, new play equipment, refurbishment of the skate park and better paths and walking routes. The recent renovation of the Leisure Centre

had provided the cafe and toilet facilities and they were currently on site installing a new childrens playground adjacent to the Leisure Centre with a new tarmac footpath to link the area to other parts of Oxley Park. The project will also incorporate improvements to access routes, landscaping and car and bike parking provision. The playground will incorporate a wide range of fixed equipment some of which will be inclusive including a basket swing and wheelchair accessible roundabout, alongside natural features such as boulders and tree planting.

Cllr. SA noted that the area was currently flooded and suggested plants appropriate for wetland areas to soak up the water.

KC informed of the installation of a drain across the fields at the rear of the centre which had more extensive works planned for the end of March with a soak away and wetland planting.

KC advised of working with the Friends of Oxley Park group to upgrade the skate park to an All Wheels site.

The Chairman welcomed Vicky Faulkner, Chair of Friends of Oxley Park who had originally requested an upgrade to the skate park on behalf of her son.

VF informed that Woolley Road residents had been consulted as to what they would like for the site to resolve the anti social behaviour and noise issues. Flyers had been sent around schools to see what they would like to see and to wheelchair users. SVP had requested that a 'Happy to Chat' bench be installed at the site and a bid for £10,000 had been match funded to provide a sculpture trail around the park depicting the historical heritage of the area and the recent pandemic. VF thanked both Cllr. JAG and KC for moving the project forward, noting that she felt very proud to be involved.

KC noted that for Phase 3 the Towns Fund had been approached for funding for an All Weather 3G pitch for Stocksbridge but the location of this was still to be decided. The future sustainability of the facilities had been considered throughout the planning with more robust equipment being chosen and concrete and tarmac walkways.

Cllr. JAG stated that this would be a marvellous area for the Town and praised Vicky for taking on all of the Oxley Park site, it had been a fantastic core group to work with. The area was now becoming what it should be and she hoped that the Town Council would support the continued upkeep of Oxley Park as they had with the Leisure Centre.

Cllr. CW agreed stating that it would be good to divert funds elsewhere to support the project.

Cllr. MW noted that SVP receive £10,000 funding from Liberty Steels and queried whether the group could be utilised on this project.

KC stated that SCC have already used SVP on a number of occasions and would certainly continue to do so wherever possible.

Cllr. CW thanked both K Clark and V Faulkner for attending the meeting and providing the updates on progress.

### 393. Deepcar Recycling Centre

The Clerk noted that correspondence from a local resident had been forwarded to Councillors following an accident outside the entrance to the Deepcar Recycling Centre due to the number of vehicles lining the highway awaiting entrance to the site and an overtaking car crashing into onward coming vehicles on the other side of the highway.

The Chairman welcomed Mr Carson to the meeting who informed that his son had been lucky to escape with no injuries but that his car was a write-off. Staff at the site were being subject to verbal abuse when they were there to manage the site not the traffic and Mr Carson asked if anything could be done prior to a more serious incident occurring.

Cllr. CW stated that due to the road layout it was an awkward situation but suggested that possibly signage further back along the highway to alert drivers to the possibility of queuing traffic ahead may be a way forward as people wishing to use the site were already being diverted into the area previously used for grit storage in an effort to keep the highway clear.

Cllr. MW noted he had recently counted 40 cars queuing on the highway awaiting entrance to the site.

Cllr. JAG stated that as Cabinet Member for Highways as well as a Town Councillor it fell under her remit to try to resolve the issue, noting that she had already had several conversations regarding the matter. The main thing was that Mr Carson's son was alright and on the mend.

Traffic signage required a traffic regulation order which takes time, the grit area currently being utilised could be made bigger to accommodate more vehicles but it is also used to park the containers prior to them being collected. A frustrating fact is that whilst queuing, vehicles do not move forward when then can to keep the traffic flowing. This is a problem which is happening at all recycling centres causing hazards on the roads. Parking Wardens have been tried and they have also been subject to verbal abuse. It is hoped that with the onset of Summer opening hours that the situation will be somewhat alleviated whilst a solution is sought.

Cllr. SA stated that the problems were causing issues elsewhere with flytipping and tyres being dumped all along the country lanes at all hours of the day and night and the area around the charity bins in the Co-op car park being a disgrace.

Cllr. JAG noted that she had arranged for Veolia to clear the area 3 times per week over the last 18 months and each time they attended it was as bad again. It was part of the Amey contract to clear the tyres which they were having to do on a daily basis. We were lucky to live in such a beautiful area and should be proud to do so.

Cllr. CW informed that the Manager of the Co-op was seriously considering removal of the charity bins as the piles of rubbish did not create a good image when entering the car park to shop.

The Chairman thanked Mr Carson for attending the meeting.

394. To Receive Remarks from the Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> February 2021

There were no matters arising.

395. To Approve as a True and Correct Record the Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on 11<sup>th</sup> February 2021

Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> February 2021, copies of which had been circulated prior to the meeting were taken as read.

Proposed by Cllr. M Milton, seconded by Cllr. M Whittaker and

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

396. 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 Staniforth, seconded by Cllr. S Abrahams and

**RESOLVED:-** That the Town Council accept details of the Monthly Financial Statements for February 2021 as supplied by the Clerk.

397. Grant Applications

## a) Stocksbridge Nursery Infant School

The Clerk tabled a request from Stocksbridge Nursery Infant School asking that the Town Council consider donating funding towards a greenhouse for use as part of the Forest School learning.

Cllr. SA noted that greenhouses could be used in conjunction with a heating source, if available, to enhance the growth and variety of produce.

Proposed by Cllr. J A Grocutt, seconded by Cllr. S Abrahams and

**RESOLVED:-** That the Town Council approve a grant of £500 to Stocksbridge Nursery Infant School towards a greenhouse for use as part of the Forest School learning.

Cllr. SA undertook to forward details of the heating information to send to the school.

398. SLLP Grant Applications

No grant applications had been received to date.

399. Clerks Reports

a) Planning Application – 21/00541/APN – Wooded area stretching northwest from 3 Pheasant Lane to Yewtrees Lane, Pheasant Lane. Erection of forestry building (application for determination if approval required for siting and appearance).

The Clerk noted that the above planning application had been previously circulated to members as had comments from Bolsterstone Community Group.

Following discussion it was:-

Proposed by Cllr. S Abrahams, seconded by Cllr. M Whittaker and

**RESOLVED:-** That the Clerk write to Planning Department informing that Councillors noted that the building appeared to be on the large side for the location in a greenbelt area and being part of the Peak District National Park. The access road leading to the site appeared to be more of a track and exited on to a dangerous bend. Members also take on board the comments made by Bolsterstone Community Group.

400. To Receive Verbal Reports from Members?

a) Cllr. JAG noted the success of the Towns Fund Bid securing £24.1 million of the £25 million requested. It had been decided that the shortfall of £0.9 million would be shaved off each of the projects. Cllr. JAG had done an interview last week regarding the bid and had also met with Dame Sarah Storey and taken the opportunity to note that it would be good to get the Upper Don Trail finished to coincide with the forthcoming improvements in the Town.

Cllr. JAG informed that with regard to Zoom meetings the Government had only approved a 12 month legislation period so we were now awaiting an update from them.

Cllr. JAG noted issues regarding Neighbourhood Plans and the difficulties and time taken to progress these to fruition.

Cllr. JAG had been involved in casework regarding local flooding issues.

b) Cllr. SA informed that she had been involved in STEP meetings and was hopeful that the sale of the Welfare Hall was nearing completion. It was hoped that The Venue could be opened up again shortly and they were keen to know what the people of the area wished to see it used for moving forward. The Venue is on land leased by Liberty Steel and runs out next year, which under the present circumstances is quite worrying.

Cllr. SA had attended the Bolsterstone Archaeological Group and Health and Wellbeing meetings and noted that all events needed to be co-ordinated across the area in order to avoid clashes. Alex

Archer from the Co-op online platform was keen to work with the Town Council to co-ordinate volunteers in the area.

Cllr. SA stated that she was being inundated with calls from local people regarding the amount of litter/rubbish in the area.

Cllr. SA had received some positive feedback from local residents regarding the proposed Nursery on Broomfield Road.

c) Cllr. MW noted that he was pleased with the conclusion reached regarding the Wood Royd Road planning proposal, which had been refused, following presentations made at the Planning Committee and that the piece submitted by Cllr. RJC had been used in both The Star and Yorkshire Post.

Cllr. MW informed that he had been approached by a resident regarding ultrafast broadband for the area. Cllr. MW thanked the Clerk for providing some information to be forwarded on.

d) Cllr. MM noted that the works at Tankersley roundabout were now completed and traffic appeared to be moving more freely, following some initial issues.

e) Cllr. ASL noted that it was good to be part of the meeting, see everyone and keep in touch with what is happening in the area.

f) Cllr. RJC advised that he had attended the Inman Pavilion meetings and made a presentation to the Planning Board regarding the Wood Royd Road proposals. Decisions on the Hollin Busk site were being taken and new documentation uploaded onto the Planning website.

#### 401. To Receive a Verbal Report from the Mayor

The Mayor, Cllr. Catherine Ward reported that she had finally had the pleasure of handing out the Citizens Awards for 2020 to last year's winners, which had unfortunately been delayed due to the Covid pandemic.

Cllr. CW noted that the owner of the business above St Luke's Charity Shop was concerned with what may happen to his business following the recent success of the Towns Fund bid and proposals for that site.

Cllr JAG suggested that he would be best writing to the Board to express his concerns.

*Cllr. CW left the meeting at this point and Cllr. RJC Chaired the remainder of the meeting.*

#### 402. Citizens Awards for 2021

Councillors considered nominations for the Citizens Award for 2021.

Nominations were received for the staff at both Valley Medical Centre and Deepcar Medical Centre for their hardwork during the pandemic. Katy Travis and Lee Hible for co-ordinating all the local people who volunteered during the pandemic and Stocksbridge Community Care Group for keeping in contact with residents/vulnerable people during the pandemic.

In view of the number of people involved it was suggested that it would be more appropriate to have plaques made, to be sited at each location, noting the award and what it represented.

Proposed by Cllr. J A Grocutt, seconded by Cllr. S Abrahams and

RESOLVED:-

- a) That Awards for 2020/2021 relate to the work carried out during the Covid Pandemic.
- b) Awards be presented to:-
  - i) Valley Medical Centre and Deepcar Medical Centre for their hard work during the pandemic

- ii) Katy Travis and Lee Hible, Stocksbridge Community Leisure Centre for co-ordinating all the local people who volunteered during the pandemic
- iii) Stocksbridge Community Care Group for keeping in contact with residents/vulnerable people during the pandemic
- c) That the Clerk arrange for plaques to be made and sited at each location in recognition of the services provided.

403. Towns Deal Bid

Cllr. JAG noted previous comments and stated that the hard work now starts with the ongoing consultations, circulation of information, timescales and getting websites up and running etc. Cllr. JAG noted that any works have to be completed prior to receipt of the funds.

404. 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. J Staniforth, 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. Made Under Power

Facility Maintenance Solutions	Monthly water monitoring	£ 10.00	LGA72(Sch14P9)
Facility Maintenance Solutions	Lighting timer & gate	£ 40.00	LGA72(S111)
	Repairs		
City Illuminations Ltd	Poppy install/removal	£ 264.00	“
T H Bisatt	Zoom subscription	£ 11.99	“
Viking	Office supplies	£ 92.92	“
Zurich Municipal	Insurance 2021/2022	£ 547.76	“

(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>
Copymark (Service) Ltd	Photocopier usage	£ 3.96	LGA72(S111)
NRC Services Ltd	Cleaning & materials	£ 688.10	“
Facility Maintenance Solutions	Monthly water monitoring	£ 20.00	“
Firths Window Cleaning Services	Window cleaning	£ 55.00	“
AquaPoint Ltd	Water cooler charges	£ 33.94	“
Zurich Municipal	Insurance 2021/2022	£1586.35	“
T H Bisatt	Hand sanitizer gel	£ 44.99	“
Micro Alarms Ltd	Alarm repairs	£ 77.40	“
ITI Network Services Ltd	PAT Testing	£ 168.00	“

(iii) That authority be given for Direct Debits paid during the Coronavirus lockdown during February 2021:-

			<u>Made Under Power</u>
Societe Generale	Photocopier rental	£ 194.40	LGA72(S111)
Veolia	Waste Removal	£ 105.54	LGA72(S111)
Moorepay	Payroll Monthly Charge	£ 67.75	LGA72(S111)
British Telecommunications plc	Telephone Charges	£ 110.99	LGA72(S111)
Intuit Ltd – Quickbooks	VAT Software Subscription	£ 14.40	LGA72(S111)

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

Salaries/Tax/NI/Pensions	March 2021	£3217.05	<u>Made Under Power</u> LGA72(S111)
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Chairman