

STOCKSBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Stocksbridge Town Council, held in the Council Chamber,
Town Hall, Stocksbridge, on Thursday, 9th November 2023

PRESENT: Cllr. M Whittaker (Chair); Cllrs. A S Law, J Wood, J Staniforth, J A Grocutt,
R J Crowther, K Davis and S Abrahams

IN ATTENDANCE: C Bell, Don Valley Railway and A Forrest, Senior Transport Manager for
Rail, SYMCA – Item 139

9 members of the public

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

There were no Apologies for Absence.

The Chairman noted the sad passing of Councillor Vickie Priestley, former Lord Mayor of Sheffield and very long serving, dedicated public servant, both a City Councillor and Bradfield Parish Councillor. Very sadly taken before her time.

136. Exclusion of the Press and Public

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

137. Declarations of Interest

There were no Declarations of Interest.

138. Public Questions and Petitions

There were no public questions and petitions.

139. Train Service Proposals

The Chairman welcomed Chris Bell, Don Valley Railway and Alex Forrest, SYMCA who had been invited to update members on Train Service proposals following a recent announcement by the Government.

AF reported that proposals for restoring the railway line had been submitted to Government 2/3 years ago when it was rejected. It had been re-submitted and accepted 2 years ago and a Business Case made and submitted in September 2022. The Prime Minister had referred to the Don Valley line project being taken forward when he announced HS2 plans to the North had been abolished. There had been further good outcomes for other areas reported in the Network North document released with Waverley and South Sheffield getting electrification of lines. M Cates MP had received a letter stating that the project would be funded subject to a positive Business Case. An Outline Business Case, followed by a Full Business Case to be submitted to Network Rail for analysis; what was the preferred mode of transport, either heavy rail or tram train? There was the need to assess the condition of the line; undertake an ecology study; land ownership, the steelworks to Deepcar was private land; operation – how would it fit in with other trains; tram interchange connection, possibly at Nunnery; timetable, possible one per hour initially.

CB informed of possible routes to create the most viable options including opening up Victoria Station at Sheffield which was the most cost effective way forward.

Cllr. MW queried whether any works/infrastructure would affect any future steelworks requirements.

CB noted that the line had been shared in the past. At present the focus was on getting the train to Stocksbridge. CB stated that there was a high degree of scepticism from the public, therefore there was a need to keep the proposals highly prioritised. There was a need to protect Deepcar Station and line from future possible development. The submissions to Phase I would decide whether it would proceed to Phase II. There would be public consultation throughout the process.

Residents present at the meeting who lived near to the rail tracks raised concerns regarding parking issues, noise, number of trains. The rail tracks were the flood alleviation site should they be required. A member of the public queried where the numbers had come from and the financial backing as following Covid many people now worked from home.

Cllr. SA asked if there was a timetable they were working to.

AF thought it would most probably be 2 years. The project proposals had to cover costs after 5 years. The funding had become available following the HS2 line being dropped.

The Chairman thanked A Forrest and C Bell for attending the meeting to update and members of the public for attending to raise their concerns/issues.

Following discussion the Town Council endorsed protection of the track from deterioration, writing to both Network Rail and the steelworks requesting that they uphold their public duty to protect their assets whilst the study is being undertaken.

Cllr. RJC undertook to write on behalf of the Town Council.

140. To Receive Remarks from the Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 12th October 2023
There were no remarks from the Minutes.

141. To Approve as a True and Correct Record the Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 12th October 2023

Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on 12th October 2023, copies of which had been circulated prior to the meeting were taken as read.

Proposed by Cllr. J Staniforth, seconded by Cllr. J A Grocutt and

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

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

RESOLVED:- That the Town Council accept details of the Monthly Financial Statements for October 2023 as supplied by the Clerk.

The Clerk informed of the receipt of £24,461 CIL Funding, bringing the pot to £36,000, this being mainly from the development at Carr Road/Hollin Busk. A further payment was due in April therefore it would be possible to hold a third Participatory Budgeting event during Autumn 2024.

143. Yorkshire Local Councils Associations

Correspondence including:-

- White Rose Update, 20th October

- White Rose Update, 3rd November
Copies previously circulated.

144. Streets Ahead

The Clerk reported that she had received a copy of the Streets Ahead Newsletter, October 2023. Copies of this correspondence had been previously circulated to members’.

145. Clerks & Councils Direct

The Clerk reported that she had received a copy of Clerks & Councils Direct, Issue 150, November 2023.

146. Planning – SCC

The Clerk reported that she had received correspondence from Planning Department, SCC informing of an Appeal made to the Secretary of State against the decision of SCC to refuse planning permission for erection of up to 92 dwellinghouses on land between Hollin Busk Road and Broomfield Grove and Broomfield Lane. The Clerk noted that the objections made by the Town Council had been forwarded to the Planning Inspectorate and the appellant.

147. North LAC – SUD Partnership Meeting

The Clerk reported that she had received notes of the North LAC Stocksbridge & Upper Don Partnership meeting held on 11th October 2023.

148. Town Deal – Underbank Consultation

The Clerk reported that she had received correspondence from the Upper Don Trail Trust regarding the public consultation on the Underbank proposals, copies of which had been circulated to members.

149. SYMCA

The Clerk reported that she had received correspondence from SYMCA informing that the Traveline telephone number is being replaced by a new Freephone number, 0800 952 0002. Copies of this correspondence had been previously circulated to members’.

150. The Venue

The Clerk reported that she had received correspondence from The Venue inviting members to attend a performance of their pantomime Jack and the Beanstalk on Thursday, 16th November. Copies of this correspondence had been previously circulated to members’.

151. Clerks Reports
Remembrance Day

The Clerk noted the emails, circulated to members, regarding this year’s Remembrance Day Service and Parade, noting that the Town Council’s Risk Assessment and Traffic Management Service provision by Amey had been forwarded to SCC. The Clerk understood that the TA’s would provide their own risk assessment documentation. The Clerk informed that the Town Council’s insurance company were satisfied with the Town Council’s risk assessment. In view of recent events should any incident occur the Clerk would contact either the Police or Army. Cllr. JAG reported that it had been mentioned at the Royal British Legion meeting that the TA’s would be joining this year’s Parade and the ensuing emails regarding their attendance.

The Clerk reported a further detailed email received today regarding the situation but stated that it was out of the remit of the Clerk to organise, if the Army felt they were at risk then a decision needed to be taken as to whether the Parade went ahead or if the Army should attend the event. The Clerk reported that she had requested the flag on the Clock Tower be in situ for Remembrance Day and also a road sweep of Nanny Hill, which had been carried out.

Christmas Card Competition

The Clerk informed that entries from 4 local primary schools for the Town Council's Christmas Card competition had been judged earlier today. There were three winners from each school participating and one overall winner, Leo Hirst being from St Ann's RC school. The winning designs would be sent to the printers on 10th November, to be returned by 23rd November. The Mayor and Deputy Mayor could then visit each school to hand out packs of cards to the winner and runners up week commencing 27th November.

152. To Receive Verbal Reports from Members'

a) Cllr. JS reported that it had been good to see members of the community out enjoying Trick or Treat Night.

Cllr. JS informed that he had attended the Underbank Trails Project public consultation which had a very good turnout and he feels will benefit the community.

Cllr. JS had attended the Saturday morning sessions at SCLC which were getting busy again now the weather had turned and the Craft Club at the Inman Pavilion which had been well attended.

Cllr. JS was in regular contact with Stagecoach regarding buses which were not turning up.

b) Cllr. JAG reported that she had attended the soil cutting event at Oxley Park noting it was good to see the works moving ahead; a Practice Patients meeting at Valley Medical Centre; the Food Bank; WI meeting; Royal British Legion meeting; Welcome Spaces and St John's Church; Fox Glen site meeting regarding siting of the new equipment; many site meetings regarding flooding issues around the area; Monday Morning Childrens Acts in Stocksbridge Library; TARA Coffee Morning in Stocksbridge Library; Underbank Trials Project consultation, over 250 people attending throughout the session and met with the new Parks Officer regarding Pen Nook open space.

c) Cllr. SA reported that she had attended the Underbank consultation; STEP Board, noting that they were almost to full staffing levels. The Venue is booked up during the evenings but not as yet during the daytime and they are busy undertaking necessary repairs to the building.

Cllr. SA had attended the Bolsterstone Archaeology Heritage Group event; UDAC review following the Homegrown Festival, it was hoped to hold a similar event next year.

Cllr. SA reported major drug issues in the car park at Underbank; anti-social behaviour on Ridal Avenue; an incident in the Co-op on Saturday evening; drugs issues around Pot House and an individual with a machete. The Police had attended but no action taken.

On a positive note Cllr. SA informed that it was 10 years since the re-opening of the Swimming Baths and they wished to hold a party for their volunteers. Cllr. SA felt the Town Council should be involved via a grant to support the event as we had been there at the beginning.

Councillors noted the need for a Community Forum meeting where people felt safe to raise their concerns. It was noted that B Horsman was very busy supporting family members at this time. Following discussion the Clerk undertook to contact B Horsman to ascertain if the Town Council could be of assistance with getting the Community Forum meetings running again.

d) Cllr. ASL reported that he had attended the Royal British Legion meeting and TARA Coffee Morning and of future planned events.

Cllr. ASL reported that, unfortunately, there had been some issues with TARA committee members.

e) Cllr. J Wood advised that she had attended the Bolsterstone Archaeology Heritage Group event and also assisted with the judging of the Christmas Card competition earlier today with the Chairman.

153. To Receive a Verbal Report from the Mayor

The Mayor, Cllr. M Whittaker reported that he had attended the following events since the last meeting:-

Underbank Trails Project public consultation

Fox Glen Park siting of equipment meeting, unfortunately installation was delayed due to lack of staff

Bolsterstone Archaeology Heritage Group event

Judging of the Town Council's Christmas Card competition earlier today with Cllr. JW

Cllr. MW noted the increasing amount of litter on the exit from the by-pass to Deepcar, informing of comments on social media and stating that perhaps the culprits should take their litter home and not leave it to others to clear up their mess.

Members stated that it was National Highways responsibility to clear the area and many letters had been written in the past. The area was very busy with heavy traffic and not suitable for members of the public to litter pick there.

Cllr. JW enquired if signage could be installed requesting that litter be taken home to dispose of. The Clerk undertook to write to National Highways again and also to S Wright, SCC regarding signage.

154. To Consider Planning Applications and receive the Decisions of the Sheffield Planning and Highways Committee

Public Rights of Way - Footpath 6

The Clerk reported that she had received correspondence from PROW informing of an application to upgrade Stocksbridge footpath 6, known as Park Lane, to the status of bridleway and add a section of bridleway based on historic documentary evidence. Copies of this correspondence had been previously circulated to members.

23/03281/FUL	7 St Hilda Close, Deepcar	Erection of first-floor side extension above attached garage to dwellinghouse.
23/01883/FUL	Stocksbridge Park Steels FC, Bracken Moor Lane, Stocksbridge	Groundworks to create level viewing area with canopy over and associated access ramp, plus works to turnstile to allow wheelchair access and erection of store.
23/03317/FUL	18 Webb Avenue, Deepcar	Erection of a front porch to dwellinghouse.

Planning Applications - Decisions

The undermentioned planning application has been Withdrawn:-

23/02863/OUT	49 Carr Road, Deepcar	Outline application (approval sought for all matters except landscaping) for the erection of two dwellings.
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The undermentioned planning application has been given Condition Application Decided:-

17/04673/COND4	Land at Junction with Carr Road/ Hollin Busk Lane, Deepcar	Application to approve details in relation to condition number 8.
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Landscape and Ecological Management Plan, 18. Details of Species Rich Grassland, 21. Details of Open Space, and 28. Hard/Soft Landscape Scheme; Relating to planning permission 17/04673/OUT.

155. Finance Committee Members discussed Minutes of the Meeting of the Finance Committee of the Town Council, held on 31st October 2023, copies of which had been previously circulated. Proposed by Cllr. S Abrahams, seconded by Cllr. R J Crowther and
RESOLVED:- (i) That the minutes of the Finance Committee be accepted.

156. Accounts for Authorisation
Proposed by Cllr. J A Grocutt, seconded by Cllr. J Wood and
RESOLVED:- (i) That payments be authorised in settlement of the undermentioned accounts:-

			<u>Made Under Power</u>
Salaries/Tax/NI/Pensions	November 2023	£3655.90	LGA72(S111)
Royal British Legion	Poppy Wreaths	£ 150.00	LGA72(S137)
Loxley Silver Band	Remembrance Day Parade	£ 400.00	“
Waldershelf Singers	Xmas Party entertainment	£ 150.00	“
Bolsterstone Male Voice Choir	Xmas Party entertainment	£ 150.00	“
Stocksbridge & Deepcar Royal British Legion	Grant Aid	£ 350.00	LGA76(S19)
Amey LG Ltd	Remembrance Day Traffic Management	£1831.97	LGA72(S137)
Facility Maintenance Solutions Ltd	Monthly Water monitoring	£ 10.30	LGA72(Sch14P9)
Look Local	History Society leaflets - Clock Tower Gardens	£ 160.00	LGA72(S111)
Look Local	Advert – Xmas Party	£ 192.00	LGA72(S137)
T Bisatt	Norton Annual Subscription	£ 99.99	LGA72(S111)
T Bisatt	Microsoft 365 Annual Subs	£ 79.99	“
T Bisatt	Xmas Card photo frames	£ 32.99	“
T Bisatt	Mileage expenses	£ 58.70	“
T Bisatt	Flowers – Valley in Bloom Volunteer	£ 30.00	“
T Bisatt	Xmas Party – gifts	£ 133.50	“

- (ii) That payments be authorised in settlement of the undermentioned accounts in respect of The ARC:-

			<u>Made Under Power</u>
NRC Services Ltd	Cleaning charges	£ 726.01	LGA72(S111)
Micro Alarms Ltd	Re-programming Alarms	£ 182.40	“
Facility Maintenance Solutions Ltd	Monthly Water monitoring	£ 20.60	“
Facility Maintenance Solutions Ltd	Repairs to office lighting	£ 137.50	“
Facility Maintenance Solutions Ltd	6 monthly external maint.	£ 123.60	“
Facility Maintenance Solutions Ltd	Annual water sampling	£ 153.36	“
Copymark (Service) Ltd	Photocopying charges	£ 11.75	“
Culligan	Water cooler charges	£ 54.66	“
Pointer Ltd	Annual fire alarm servicing	£ 621.48	“

(iii) That authority be given for Direct Debits paid in settlement of the undermentioned accounts:-

October 2023:-

Sheffield City Council	Business Rates-Toilets	£ 57.00	LGA72(S111)
Sheffield City Council	Business Rates-ARC	£ 550.00	LGA72(S111)
Sheffield City Council	Business Rates-History Soc	£ 42.00	LGA72(S111)
SSE	Electricity charges Aug	£ 851.55	LGA72(S111)
SSE	Electricity charges Sept	£ 821.66	LGA72(S111)
Business Stream	Water charges – ARC	£ 30.18	LGA72(S111)
Moorepay	Payroll charges	£ 88.32	LGA72(S111)
Intuit Ltd – Quickbooks	VAT software subscription	£ 16.80	LGA72(S111)
Veolia	Waste removal	£ 124.92	LGA72(S111)
Veolia	Annual Duty of Care charge	£ 55.13	LGA72(S111)

(iv) That approval be given for payments authorised at the Finance Committee meeting in settlement of the undermentioned accounts:-

			<u>Made Under Power</u>
Micro Alarms Ltd	Alarm Monitoring	£ 521.90	LGA72(S111)
Crest Regalia Ltd	Link/engraving of Mayoral Chain	£ 95.88	“

Chairman