

STOCKSBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of an Extraordinary Meeting of the Stocksbridge Town Council, held via Zoom, on Tuesday,
4th May 2021

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

IN ATTENDANCE: H Frith, Stocksbridge and Deepcar Litter Picking Group – Item 31

22. To Receive Chairman's Remarks and Apologies for Absence
There were no Apologies for Absence.
The Chairman thanked members for their vote of confidence in electing him as Chairman/Mayor for 2021.
23. Exclusion of the Press and Public
There were no items for Exclusion of the Press and Public.
24. 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.
25. Public Questions and Petitions
A local resident had enquired whether people wishing to do so could purchase a tree/plaque to be installed on a tree in remembrance of a loved one, noting that perhaps this was something Steel Valley Project could be involved with.
Cllr. CW queried whether this had been considered for the Clock Tower Gardens.
It was noted that this idea had been discouraged by Sheffield City Council as memorial trees tended to become areas of dead foliage/plastic left to rot and spoil an area.
Cllr. MM stated that care was taken that such areas did not become a graveyard and spoil the area for children.
Cllr. JAG noted that it was difficult issue, an area needed to be found to plant one tree in remembrance of everyone.
Cllr. SA stated that it appeared to be a growing practice with memorabilia hung on trees in various locations within the area, which was in many cases a threat to wildlife.
Cllr. RJC stated that the Clock Tower Gardens was a War Memorial and as such not suited to this proposal.
Cllr. MW endorsed all the comments made and suggested that these points be put to the resident, noting that the Town Council would contact T Newman, SVP to get his thoughts on a possible location for such a tree.
26. To Receive Remarks from the Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 8th April 2021
With reference to item 414 – Litter Picking. The Clerk reported that she had contacted H Frith with the joining instructions for the meeting tonight.

Cllr. SA noted that it had been agreed at the last meeting that a litter pick would take place each month on a Saturday, dates to be decided, followed by refreshments in the Council Chamber.

27. To Approve as a True and Correct Record the Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on 8th April 2021

Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 8th April 2021, copies of which had been circulated prior to the meeting were taken as read.

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

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

28. 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. C Ward, seconded by Cllr. J A Grocutt and

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

The Clerk noted that the Precept had now been received from SCC as had the CIL payments for the past 6 months.

29. Grant Applications

a) Valley Recreational Activity Community Project (Valley React)

The Clerk tabled a grant application from Valley Recreational Activity Community Project requesting funding assistance towards the provision of passes to Stocksbridge Community Leisure Centre for 16-18 year olds working in a job support scheme, in an effort to combat anti-social behavior and provide support for their mental health and wellbeing.

Cllr. SA stated that this scheme was part of a project being undertaken by the People Keeping Well Group who had advertised for a person to work with the young people in the area. More information was required including input from schools in order that a co-ordinated approach to help young people could be delivered. Cllr. SA had spoken to a number of youths in the area and they wanted somewhere to meet and chat/game and a biking facility, they did not want access to the Leisure Centre. However, they were keen to see the Youth Centre and The Venue open again.

Cllr. JAG stated that groups needed to join together to share ideas, school leavers have nothing to do and nowhere to go and they are a vulnerable age group, provision for them needed to be put in place. Any funding available needed to be spent on what they wanted and consultation should be carried out with regard to this.

Cllr. CW reported on her meeting with Gary Beatson at the Youth Centre, noting that they had taken on 95% of the staff from Sheffield Futures. The Youth Centre was currently having a long overdue overhaul. The SCC gardeners would be using the garage for their lunchbreaks instead of returning to Town and the Gardening Group would be using the Centre each Friday. Efforts were being made to get the building open as soon as possible.

Cllr. RJC queried which pupils out of the 349 would be getting the 33 passes, would they be means tested? The Youth Centre would give youths a sense of ownership of a place.

Cllr. RJC appreciated the issues being experienced, youths had had it rough over the past two years but care was needed to ensure how best to move forward and provided what they wanted.

The Clerk undertook to contact Valley React noting the Town Council's comments.

30. SLLP Grant Applications

No grant applications had been received to date.

31. Clerks Reports

The Clerk reported that she had received correspondence from a resident of the new Fox Valley estate regarding the lack of dog waste bins on the increasingly popular route from Vaughton Hill to Fox Valley. The residents group have purchased and are covering the costs of emptying dog bins themselves but these are insufficient for the number of pedestrians using the route, hence the childrens play areas and the pathway are frequently covered with litter and dog waste. The letter had been forwarded to SCC. The Clerk noted that a response had been received from Bryn Gaines informing that the complaint had been passed to Planning and Transport but this was not part of their remit, nor that of Parks and Countryside. He was currently awaiting a response from PROW.

Helen Frith joined the meeting at this point.

The Chairman thanked Helen for joining the meeting and thanked her for setting up the Litter Picking Group which were doing a great job around the area.

Cllr. SA noted that she had joined the group on the Good Friday litter pick and was pleased at the number of people who had volunteered. A litter pick once per month on a Saturday had been agreed but until covid restrictions permitted the Town Hall could not be opened for refreshments.

HF noted that the Cubs and Beavers would be joining the next litter pick and undertook to contact the Clerk with a date in order that arrangements could be made for the litter to be collected in a timely manner as this had not happened following the last litter pick.

HF enquired if a letter could be sent to the shop owners on the precinct asking that they keep the front of their businesses clear of litter, noting that improvements appeared to have been made to the area, which would enable the litter picking group to focus on other areas around the Town.

Cllr. JAG noted that the Keep Britain Tidy event was usually held in May/June and perhaps the litter pick could tie in with this.

The Clerk undertook to write to the businesses on the precinct and also email the local schools to inform of the date of the next litter pick. The Clerk would also obtain further equipment for the group to utilise.

The Chairman thanked Helen and the group for a job well done.

Planning Application 20/01553/FUL – New Road, Stocksbridge. The Clerk reported on correspondence received from a local resident raising concerns regarding parking adjacent to the site and also recent flooding issues following the commencement of works on the site which had previously not occurred. Yorkshire Water had attended and noted that it was not a burst pipe but appeared to be surface water from drainage of the new homes being built.

Cllr. SA was sympathetic to the issues raised noting the blind corner and heavy traffic use.

Cllr. RJC raised highways concerns with visibility issues which would only increase once more houses and cars accessed the road.

Cllr. CW noted that there was no dropped kerb to the area which was difficult for wheelchair/disabled scooters and pram users.

Cllr. JAG undertook to look into the matter of the dropped kerb and also noted the width of the footpath in view of family homes being built in the area.

The Clerk undertook to write to SCC Planning noting the health and safety concerns with regard to traffic and to Cllr. JAG in her role as Cabinet Member for Transport and Development requesting a dropped kerb for the area.

The Clerk updated members on the proposed future meetings, noting that there could be no remote meetings held after this week. Therefore, the May and June Town Council meetings could not be held, hence the Extraordinary Meeting now scheduled for 24th June which would be held in the Council Chamber. The July Town Council meeting would take place as planned on 8th July, followed by the August recess. The Clerk stated that come September it would be possible to reinstate the Recreation and Environment and Finance Committees which would take place on 7th September 2021.

32. To Receive Verbal Reports from Members'

a) Cllr. SA reported that the sale of the Welfare Hall was still ongoing and a slow opening of The Venue was planned, opening fully in September. Meetings of the Arts groups would be held in June/July.

Cllr. SA had attended the People Keeping Well meeting and the Co-op Community Fund was open from 4th to 30th May for applications.

b) Cllr. MW reported that he had attended the SVP meeting, noting they had been informed to stop all works for Liberty Steels in the current climate and would possibly not be getting their annual grant from them. T Newman was confident that SVP had enough reserves to cover this situation. SVP were to get funding from the Towns Fund for a project in the Little Don.

c) Cllr. CW had already reported on her meeting with G Beatson and noted casework she was involved with.

d) Cllr. JAG noted that she had attended several Towns Fund meetings, informing that she had contacted the Library to ask if they could assist with informing residents how to access the information on the welcometostocksbridge site. A full time Communications Officer was to be recruited to offer face to face information. A Project Manager was to oversee the re-working of the sub-groups to become more specific to projects.

Cllr. JAG had attended the Oxley Park Steering Group which was working extremely well.

Cllr. JAG was involved with much casework covering varied items.

Cllr. JAG noted the recent death of the Chair of the TARA Group and also the death of the son of the Secretary leaving the Treasurer to try to carry on the running of the group. Due to the pandemic the group had not met at all, therefore the funding they received had not been allocated. Cllr. JAG felt that a representative from the Town Council should attend and try to assist the group in any way they could.

Both Cllrs. CW and JS offered their services if they could be of assistance.

Cllr. RJC stated that the group had been well run in the past and requested that Mary Kaye be invited to a future meeting in order that the best way forward could be ascertained.

33. To Receive a Verbal Report from the Mayor

The Chairman, Cllr. RJC reported that he had attended the following meetings:-

Garden Village Community Association

Friends of Hollin Busk Group which were 7 weeks away from the Enquiry. If the Appeal was approved then we could assume that Wood Royd Road would follow suit.

Cllr. RJC had met with Miriam Cates MP at the launch of the 26 bus route obtained by Thurgoland Parish Council after a number of years in the process, so well done to them and a bonus to Stocksbridge as it came to Fox Valley.

Cllr. RJC extended his thanks to the office for ensuring that the protocols were adhered to following the death of HRH Prince Philip.

34. Policies

The Clerk noted that approval for the undermentioned policies was required, copies of which had been previously circulated to members:-

Media

Health, Safety and Environmental

Use of CCTV Management Protocol and Operational Procedures

Use of Portable Electrical Appliances and Fixed Electrical Testing

Proposed by Cllr. J Staniforth, seconded by Cllr. C Ward and

RESOLVED:- That the Town Council approve the Policies as tabled by the Clerk in respect of the undermentioned items:-

Media

Health, Safety and Environmental

Use of CCTV Management Protocol and Operational Procedures

Use of Portable Electrical Appliances and Fixed Electrical Testing

35. Towns Deal Bid

Cllr. JAG noted that this had been reported on under Members Reports.

36. 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. J A Grocutt and

RESOLVED:-

(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>
Valley In Bloom	Funding Award for 2021/2022	£1600.00	LGA76(S19)
T H Bisatt	Zoom subscription	£ 11.99	LGA72(S111)
T H Bisatt	Floral tribute to Prince Philip	£ 40.00	“
K Lindley	Supplies for Bolsterstone toilets	£ 23.16	LGA72(Sch14P9)
Steel Valley Project	Strategic Partnership Funding	£5000.00	LGA76(S19)
Peak Park Parishes Forum	Annual subscription	£ 6.00	LGA72(S111)
T H Bisatt	School Award Vouchers	£ 607.45	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>
Micro Alarms Ltd	Alarm Callout/repairs	£ 77.40	LGA72(S111)
NRC Cleaning Services	Cleaning/materials	£ 640.43	“
Facility Maintenance Solms	Rear gutter replacement	£1330.00	“
Bradfield Parish Council	Key cutting	£ 13.50	“
T H Bisatt	HSE Law Poster	£ 10.20	“

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

			<u>Made Under Power</u>
Business Stream	Water charges – ARC	£ 429.06	LGA72(S111)
Business Stream	Water charges – public toilets	£ 29.11	“
Veolia	Waste removal	£ 78.48	“
Moorepay	Payroll monthly charge	£ 67.75	“
Intuit Ltd – Quickbooks	VAT software subscription	£ 14.40	“
E-On	Electricity charges – Xmas tree	£ 69.16	“

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

Salaries/Tax/Nl/Pensions	May 2021	£3341.99	<u>Made Under Power</u> LGA72(S111)
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Chairman