

STOCKSBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Stocksbridge Town Council, held in the Council Chamber,  
Town Hall, Stocksbridge, on Thursday, 11<sup>th</sup> January 2024

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

IN ATTENDANCE: T Newman, Steel Valley Project – Item 180

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176. To Receive Chairman's Remarks and Apologies for Absence  
Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. MW and ASL. In view of their absence it was resolved that Cllr. RJC Chair the meeting.
177. Exclusion of the Press and Public  
There were no items for exclusion of the press and public.
178. Declarations of Interest  
Cllrs. JS and RJC declared an interest in agenda item 13 a) Grant Applications – Garden Village Community Association.
179. Public Questions and Petitions  
There were no public questions and petitions.
180. Steel Valley Project  
The Chairman welcome T Newman, Steel Valley Project who had been invited to present a report to members.  
TN introduced himself to new members and gave a brief history of the Steel Valley Project to date.  
TN reported on the Natural Flood Management Project in partnership with others including the Environment Agency and SCC. 50 leaky dams and ponds had been created to date with 8 in Newhall Wood.  
Cllr. SA noted that in Newhall Wood this was proving successful to date with no flooding occurring as in the past and the dams had been tested due to the recent heavy rainfall.  
TN advised that 1,000 trees were to be planted at Parsonage Farm, no objections had been received from residents. The trees were due within the next few weeks and would be planted immediately. Agreements had been reached with the EA and SCC as to their future responsibility with respect to maintenance of the trees.  
12 dams had been created in Bitholmes Wood and water monitoring projects were being undertaken in various areas to ascertain the quantity of water prior and after installing the dams.  
TN noted that the Towns Fund Little Don project was now uncertain due to changing priorities with the current high levels of inflation, however, it was hoped that some funding would be allocated which would enable some of the proposed works to be undertaken.

The Wantley Dragon project was moving ahead with the sculpture due on site at the end of March and wildflower planting being undertaken. Local school children were working with Stoneface on the design of the dragons head. It was hoped to hold an opening event. Funding had been received from the Heritage Lottery Fund for the Upper Don Nature project improving habitat for wildlife, access for people and educational opportunities for local schools. Cllr. RJC queried whether different designs were being utilised for the leaky dams. TN advised that they were and SVP were pleased that to date none of the dams had been washed away, particularly in view of the severe weather and storms recently. Cllr. JW noted the very poor state of Fox Glen with many paths crumbling away and it being extremely muddy with water from the Hollin Busk development causing issues. TN stated that SVP had undertaken a lot of work in Fox Glen in the past, renovating the Band Stand and installing a wooden walkway which unfortunately had been washed away. The area was in need of investment and the top path was quite dangerous. TN had been requested to submit ideas to the Hollin Busk development following the water runoff issues but was not aware if these had been taken into consideration. Cllr. JAG stated that there were a lot of issues with flooding of local homes already and the EA had indicated that it would be 4/5 years before they could install a new culvert to deal with the excess water. Members noted other areas of concern due to water runoff, siting Coppice Close and Newton Avenue, the new homes at Coppice Close not being safe to live in. The Town Council had raised their concerns with Planning when these applications were submitted but they had still been approved. TN thanked members for their time and invitation to the meeting. The Chairman thanked T Newman for attending and the informative presentation.

181. To Receive Remarks from the Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> December 2023

With reference to item 161, 5<sup>th</sup> paragraph – Litter on Stocksbridge By-pass. The Clerk reported that she had received correspondence from Cllr. L Chinchin clarifying that litter picking on most trunk roads resides with the relevant local authority, the Deepcar junction of the A616 lies within the boundary of SCC. The latest position was that SCC are seeking quotes from Amey to undertake the work on an ad hoc basis in the short term with a view to seeing what is required to add the slip roads to Amey's network in the long term. Cllr. LC would be seeking an update from SCC in the New Year.

The Clerk noted from correspondence received from Cllr. KD that arrangements had been made for himself, the Chairman and the lead campaigner of the Stocksbridge Litter Pickers group to meet with a representative from McDonalds on 24<sup>th</sup> January to discuss a way forward to hopefully reduce littering in this area.

Cllr. KD informed that he had been advised by D Luck that there were no plans at this time to transfer responsibility for the slip road to Amey.

Cllr. JAG advised that there was a Ward meeting the following week and undertook to raise this issue.

With reference to item 172 – Biodiversity Duty. The Clerk informed of a YLCA zoom session on Biodiversity Duty taking place on the evening of 26<sup>th</sup> February, which she had undertaken to attend.

182. To Approve as a True and Correct Record the Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> December 2023  
Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on 14<sup>th</sup> December 2023, copies of which had been circulated prior to the meeting were taken as read.  
Proposed by Cllr. J A Grocutt, seconded by Cllr. K Davis and  
RESOLVED:- That the minutes be confirmed and signed by the Chairman.
183. 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. S Abrahams, seconded by Cllr. J A Grocutt and  
RESOLVED:- That the Town Council accept details of the Monthly Financial Statements for December 2023 as supplied by the Clerk.
184. Yorkshire Local Councils Associations  
Correspondence including:-  
- White Rose Update, 15<sup>th</sup> December  
- White Rose Update, 5<sup>th</sup> January 2024  
Copies previously circulated.
185. Stagecoach  
The Clerk reported that she had received correspondence from Stagecoach informing of rises to fares effective from 7<sup>th</sup> January 2024. Copies of this correspondence had been previously circulated to members.
186. Clerks & Councils Direct  
The Clerk reported that she had received a copy of Clerks & Councils Direct, Issue 151, January 2024.
187. Clerks Reports  
The Clerk reported that there had been a break-in over the Christmas period to the boiler room and store rooms at the rear of the Town Hall building. T Newman, SVP had also advised that the window of their van had been broken which had shown up on CCTV footage. Nothing had been taken.  
The Clerk had requested Facility Maintenance Solutions to quote for a replacement door to the boiler room with a metal sheet and deadlocks and also for a further CCTV camera to be added which would cover the rear of the building, the cost for which was £400.  
  
The Clerk informed that EASE Healthcare had vacated Room 9 and now had a suite of interconnecting rooms, being 10, 11 and 12. Arrangements were in hand for Room 9 to be decorated and a new carpet fitted with a potential tenant viewing the room on 18<sup>th</sup> January.
188. To Receive Verbal Reports from Members'  
a) Cllr. JS reported that the swings at Smithy Moor playground had still not been installed due to SCC being short staffed and recent weather conditions.  
Cllr. JS had attended the activity sessions at SCLC and the Craft Club at the Inman Pavilion.  
b) Cllr. SA informed that STEP continues to do well with The Venue having bookings until December.

Cllr. SA raised concerns with regard to several recent serious accidents at the Newton Avenue/Manchester Road junction due to bad parking and speeding issues, also one at the bottom of Underbank which had required the attendance of the Air Ambulance. In all cases the Police and Ambulance services had been called.

The Clerk was requested to write to South Yorkshire Police noting these incidents and raising concerns regarding speeding and parking issues in the area.

c) Cllr. KD referred to previous discussions regarding litter on the by-pass slip road and his forthcoming meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> January with MacDonalDs.

d) Cllr. JAG advised that she had attended a Christmas Carol Concert with Waldershelf Singers and Deepcar Band; a childrens Christmas Party held at Stocksbridge Library; visited the Food Bank which had had to open in between Christmas and New Year due to local need. There was currently a Citizens Advice provision providing a vital service which is funded until the year end.

Cllr. JAG had attended the Busy Hands Christmas Party; Towns Fund meeting, noting that projects had needed to be prioritised due to rising inflation levels, with the Town Centre, Oxley Park, local bus service and place making being those most requested during the public consultation. The planning application for the new Library facility had been submitted and A Holmes would be attending the Recreation and Environment Committee meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> January to provide a further update.

Cllr. JAG had also attended the WI meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> January.

Cllr. JAG was dealing with complaints from residents near the Hollin Busk and Ingfield House developments due to the state of Carr Road and Bocking Hill caused by site traffic.

Cllr. JAG was also working through a list of complaints regarding pot holes and had been informed by Amey that Nanny Hill would be resurfaced sometime this year.

Cllr. JAG advised that SCC were piloting EV charging points in Hope Street car park.

189. To Receive a Verbal Report from the Mayor

The Mayor, Cllr. M Whittaker had sent his apologies due to illness.

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

23/03953/RG3	Oxley Park, Moorland Drive, Stocksbridge	Replacement of skatepark with a new concrete skatepark, landscaping, signage and other associated works (application under Regulation 3 – 1992).
23/03933/FUL	More Hall, More Hall Lane, Ewden	Alterations and conversion of dwellinghouse (Use Class C3) into three separate apartments (Use Class C3) with associated access and parking.
23/03934/LBC	More Hall, More Hall Lane, Ewden	Alterations and conversion of dwellinghouse (Use Class C3) into three separate apartments (Use Class C3) with associated access and parking.
23/04037/FUL	Stocksbridge Library, 519 Manchester Road, Stocksbridge	Demolition of existing buildings, erection of 3-4 storey building comprising library (Use Class F1),

23/03750/FUL	30 St Matthias Road, Deepcar	flexible community space, café and office space (Use Class E), with secure cycle store and associated ancillary space, hard and soft landscaping and associated works. Demolition of attached garage and erection of a two storey side extension to dwellinghouse.
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#### Planning Applications - Decisions

The undermentioned planning applications have been Granted Conditionally:-

23/03076/FUL	Edgecliffe Cottage, Don Hill Height, Deepcar	Erection of single-storey side extension to dwellinghouse.
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The undermentioned planning application has been given Prior Approval not Required:-

23/03725/HPN	23 Pen Nook Glade, Deepcar	Single-storey rear extension – the extension will be 4.04m from the rear of the original dwellinghouse, ridge height no more than 3.78m and height to the eaves of 2.25m.
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Proposed by Cllr. K Davis, seconded by Cllr. J Wood and

**RESOLVED:-** That Cllr. JAG Chair the Grant Applications item due to both Cllrs. RJC and JS declaring an interest.

#### 191. Grant Applications

##### a) Garden Village Community Association

Members considered a grant application from Garden Village Community Association requesting funding assistance towards fixing the flooring within the Inman Pavilion which has become physically hazardous and unsightly for hall users and visitors.

Proposed by Cllr. S Abrahams, seconded by Cllr. J Wood and

**RESOLVED:-** That a grant of £1,000 be awarded to Garden Village Community Association for funding towards fixing the flooring within the Inman Pavilion which has become physically hazardous and unsightly for hall users and visitors.

#### 192. Internal Auditor

The Clerk tabled a quotation received from Internal Audit Yorkshire for the Internal Audit 2023/2024, being £535.

Proposed by Cllr. K Davis, seconded by Cllr. J Wood and

**RESOLVED:-** That the Town Council formally appoint Internal Audit Yorkshire to undertake the Internal Audit of the Town Council accounts for the financial year 2023/2024.

#### 193. 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	January 2024	£4139.76	LGA72(S111)
City Illuminations Ltd	Poppy feature install/remove	£ 264.00	LGA72(S144)
Facility Maintenance Solutions Ltd	Monthly water monitoring	£ 10.30	LGA72(Sch14P9)
Look Local	Xmas greeting advert	£ 123.60	“

4SLC Trust	Revenue funding – Qtr 4	£5000.00	LGA76(S19)
MJRCC Ltd	Computer services	£ 480.00	LGA72(S111)
FlagPole Express	Pride Progress flag	£ 40.20	“
Elite Hosting Ltd	Website hosting services	£ 167.88	“

(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	£ 811.38	LGA72(S111)
Copymark (Service) Ltd	Photocopying charges	£ 8.08	“
Facility Maintenance Solutions Ltd	Monthly water monitoring	£ 20.60	“

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

December 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)
British Telecommunications Ltd	Broadband	£ 183.24	LGA72(S111)
SSE	Electricity charges Nov	£1175.17	LGA72(S111)
Moorepay	Payroll charges	£ 84.47	LGA72(S111)
Intuit Ltd – Quickbooks	VAT software subscription	£ 16.80	LGA72(S111)
British Gas Lite	Electricity charges – Xmas Tree	£ 10.29	LGA72(S111)
Veolia	Waste removal charges	£ 101.59	LGA72(S111)

Chairman