

STOCKSBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Stocksbridge Town Council, held remotely via Zoom,
on Thursday, 9th July 2020

PRESENT: Cllr. C Ward (Chair); Cllrs. R J Crowther, J Staniforth, M Milton, J A Grocutt,
A S Law, S Abrahams and M Whittaker to Item 290

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

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the second meeting to be held via Zoom and noted the system if anyone wished to speak.

280. Exclusion of the Press and Public

There were no items for Exclusion of the Press and Public

281. Declarations of Interest

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

Cllr. SA declared an interest in agenda item 9 – Grant Applications – Bolsterstone Archaeology and Heritage Group.

282. Public Questions and Petitions

There were no Public Questions and Petitions.

283. Bus Services

The Clerk noted that D Jarvis, South Yorkshire Mayor had been invited to attend the meeting but no confirmation of attendance had been received only an automated acknowledgement.

Cllr. CW suggested that the Town Council should keep trying noting that she was being approached daily with regard to transport issues.

Cllr. JAG stated that the buses were currently back running normally after much lobbying but they were currently subsidised by the Government and she could foresee a real problem in the future as at present people were not confident enough to utilise them fully. Cllr. JAG reported that a group were looking independently into transport issues but noted concerns that transport to the area could go horribly wrong in the future.

Cllr. JS concurred with Cllr. JAG's comments and concerns.

284. To Receive Remarks from the Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 11th June 2020

With reference to item 275 – SLLP Grant Application. Cllr. CW reported that she had spoken to D Pindar, History Society who had informed that they had lots of information on the Land Jills and would be pleased to share this and encourage the community to get involved in a presentation.

With reference to item 278 second paragraph – Bench at Park Drive. Cllr. CW queried whether the Clerk had contacted Amey regarding replacement of the bench. The Clerk noted that there

were two benches and clarified which was the one in question, one being in a poor state of repair and the other not too bad. The Clerk had taken photographs and would contact Amey requesting refurbishment and consideration of a plaque.

285. To Approve as a True and Correct Record the Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on 11th June 2020
Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 11th June 2020, copies of which had been circulated prior to the meeting were taken as read.
Proposed by Cllr. J A Grocutt, seconded by Cllr. M Whittaker and
RESOLVED:- That the minutes be confirmed and signed by the Chairman.
286. 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. R J Crowther and
RESOLVED:- That the Town Council accept details of the Monthly Financial Statements for June 2020 as supplied by the Clerk.
287. Grant Applications
The Clerk tabled a SLLP grant application from the Bolsterstone Archaeology and Heritage Group requesting funding assistance towards their project Growing a Community Group.
Proposed by Cllr. J A Grocutt, seconded by Cllr. R J Crowther and
RESOLVED:- That a grant of £300 be awarded to Bolsterstone Archaeology and Heritage Group, from the SLLP Community Grant Scheme, for funding towards their Growing a Community Group project.
288. Clerks Reports
The Clerk noted that at the last meeting she had undertaken to commence the tendering process for the Christmas Illuminations contract which was due for renewal December 2020. However, she had been contacted by the current contractor offering to extend the contract by one year, for the same price as the last four years, in view of the current coronavirus pandemic. The Clerk noted that several other local authorities in a similar position were taking this option.
Cllr. JAG felt that under the present circumstances this option would be the best way to proceed.
Proposed by Cllr. J A Grocutt, seconded by Cllr. A S Law and
RESOLVED:- That the Town Council authorise the Clerk to contact the current contractor, City Illuminations Ltd to extend the Christmas Illuminations contract until December 2021, under the terms as stated, in view of the current coronavirus pandemic.
A vote was taken, all members were in favour.
289. To Receive Verbal Reports from Members?
a) Cllr. JAG reported that the Hollin Busk planning application would be considered at the Planning Board on Tuesday, 14th July at 2pm where both herself and Cllr. RJC would be speaking. Cllr. JAG noted that she had circulated a report to members from the Planning Officers but she was not happy with the biased content feeling the balance was unfair. The report gave no weight to the partition and objections raised by the large number of local residents opposed to the application. A number of other people were lined up to speak.

Cllr. JAG noted that she had again been contacted by the residents of Wood Royd Road as the culvert in Fox Glen was again blocked and they feared their homes would again be flooded, a fact which had been added to her presentation for Planning. In the meantime she was trying to get something sorted at Fox Glen.

Cllr. CW reported that she had been made aware that the wheel was being renovated at the top side of Hollin Busk. Cllr. JAG undertook to take a look at the area, noting that the Enforcement Officer had visited the site with a view to some actions being taken.

Cllr. JAG advised that she had been contacted by the farmer from Hollin Edge Farm regarding the lane leading to his property, part of which had been tarmaced by Amey. Members noted that this was an ongoing issue and that previously K Davis had organised a site visit. Cllr. JAG informed that she had undertaken to try to arrange a further site visit in the near future.

Cllr. JAG had been contacted by members of Bolsterstone Village Hall group to ascertain if there was any further funding that could be applied for with respect to the hall. The SLLP grant scheme was suggested as a possible source.

b) Cllr. MW informed that he had attended the SVP Board meeting via Zoom and noted that volunteers were now returning to work following the coronavirus pandemic with contracts being re-instated and currently the outlook was positive.

Cllr. MW had met a local resident clearing Himalayan Balsam in Wharncliffe Woods which was spreading prolifically. Cllr. MW was looking to organised a community event to mass clear the area once this was possible.

Cllr. MW had attended the funeral of Steve Osborn, local Valley Music Festival organiser which had been streamed on-line. A very sad occasion.

c) Cllr. RJC reported that he had attended, via Zoom, School Governors meetings.

Cllr. RJC noted his anger at the Hollin Busk planning report, stating it was diabolical that policies that were old and defunct were being utilised with NPPF safeguards being disregarded.

d) Cllr. SA reported that she had been in contact with STEP via email whilst she had been on lockdown in France, the Business Centre had remained open but it was not looking good for the Childrens Centre.

Cllr. SA was aware of the diabetes problems in the Valley and was preparing to undertake a walk around the Town Council boundary area during the October half term week, with any members of the public who wished to take part, in order to promote that you could still walk if you were elderly and suffering with diabetes.

e) Cllr. JS noted that he had been informed that the Childrens Centre was to re-open in August.

f) Cllr. MM informed that he had read the Hollin Busk report and commented that it appeared to be in disagreement with itself on a number of issues, one being the access to shopping facilities at 900m. Cllr. JAG stated that this was just one of the many conflicts of the report, if people walked to the shops they were unlikely to walk back due to the steep hills in the area. The bus services were poor so it was not sustainable to build there, tilting the balance to opposition. There was to be a site visit on Monday with access to Royd Farm in order to better view the slope of the site and it would be useful if they would visit Fox Glen site in view of the current situation. The Friends of Hollin Busk Group would be present but they were not allowed to lobby during the site visit.

Cllr. MM had noted the increased popularity of allotments and queried if there were enough sites in the area. Cllr. JAG stated that there had been 600 applications for allotments during the pandemic and that SCC could not cope with the huge demand. Parks Department had been approached to ascertain if there were any areas in the City that could be utilised.

Cllr. CW noted concerns that once people were back to work the allotments would stand empty again.

Cllr. JAG informed that Officers check the allotment sites on a regular basis.

Members noted the area of land to the rear of Beechwood Road which they felt may be suitable, residents in the area concerned that it was currently being used as a dumping ground. Cllr. JAG noted that the Recycling Depot was now open 7 days per week and suggested that the 5year plan be looked at to ascertain if the Beechwood Road site was part of it.

290. To Receive a Verbal Report from the Mayor

Cllr. C Ward reported that she had been speaking to the Scout/Cubs Leader who had informed that the lease on the Scout Hut at Nanny Hill would finish in 9 months time. He was hoping it could be extended and improvement works undertaken on the building.

Cllr. JAG stated that the building was in a very poor state of repair and felt that groups should be encouraged to use the Youth Centre instead which had better facilities and access to outdoor fields for activities. The site was also better placed for dropping off/collecting children, particularly during the Winter months.

Cllr. CW stated that she was hoping to get everyone together again to discuss sharing the Youth Centre once it was allowed.

Cllr. RJC noted that it had taken five years of discussions with the SCC Legal Department to get the lease on the Inman Pavilion.

291. Accounts and Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2019/2020

The Clerk reported that the internal audit for the accounts for the financial year 2019/2020 had been completed. Copies of the Internal Auditor's report had been previously circulated together with copies of the Accounts and Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR). The Clerk reported that she had received notice that the external audit of the Town Council's Accounts would take place this year in July. Notice of audit and electors rights had been advertised accordingly.

Proposed by Cllr. J A Grocutt, seconded by Cllr. R J Crowther and

RESOLVED:- That the Town Council:-

- a) Approve the accounts for the year ended 2019/2020
- b) Approve Section 1 of the AGAR, Annual Governance Statement 2019/2020
- c) Approve Section 2 of the AGAR, Accounting Statements 2019/2020
- d) To receive the report of the Internal Auditor
- e) To authorise the Clerk to display the necessary notices

All members were in agreement.

292. 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. A S Law, seconded by Cllr. S Abrahams 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>	
Friends of Oxley Park	SLLP Grant Scheme	£ 2100.00	LGA76(S19)
T H Bisatt	Reimbursement for Mayors	£ 250.00	LGA72(S111)
Viking	Stationery/postage stamps	£ 215.93	“
Facility Maintenance Solutions	Monthly water monitoring - Bolsterstone toilets	£ 10.00	LGA72Sch14P9

(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>	
IMP FM Group Ltd	Callout charge	£ 54.00	LGA72(S111)
Copymark (Service) Ltd	Photocopier usage	£ 2.58	“
NRC Services Ltd	Cleaning – June	£ 425.85	“
Facility Maintenance Solutions	Monthly water monitoring	£ 20.00	“
AquaPoint Ltd	Water supply/service/rental	£ 48.34	“
Firths Window Cleaning	Windows cleaned – July	£ 55.00	“

(iii) That authority be given for Direct Debits paid during the Coronavirus lockdown during April, May, June and July 2020:-

April 2020

Yorkshire Water	Town Hall water charges	£ 401.61	LGA72(S111)
Veolia	Waste removal	£ 85.92	“
Moorepay	Payroll monthly charges	£ 61.61	“
Intuit Ltd – Quickbooks	VAT software subscription	£ 14.40	“

May 2020

SG Equipment	Photocopier lease	£ 194.40	“
British Telecommunications plc	Phone charges	£ 113.05	“
Moorepay	Payroll monthly charges	£ 117.15	“
Intuit Ltd – Quickbooks	VAT software subscription	£ 14.40	“
British Telecommunication plc	EMCS line	£ 43.16	“
Veolia	Waste removal	£ 85.68	“

June 2020

British Telecommunications plc	Broadband charges	£ 140.04	“
Moorepay	Payroll monthly charges	£ 61.63	“
Npower	Precinct supply	£ 29.55	“
Intuit Ltd – Quickbooks	VAT software subscription	£ 14.40	“
Veolia	Waste removal	£ 105.54	“
SSE Southern Electric	Electricity charges – Town Hall	£ 1213.56	“
Business Stream	Water charges – Town Hall	£ 164.78	“

July 2020

Moorepay	Payroll monthly charges	£ 84.16	“
Moorepay	Payroll changes to Pension Bank	£ 60.00	“
Veolia	Waste removal	£ 85.68	“
Public Works Loan Board	Loan repayment	£ 3379.37	“
Sheffield City Council	Business rates – History Society	£ 57.36	“

Sheffield City Council	Business rates – Communal Areas	£ 475.50	“
Sheffield City Council	Business rates – Bolsterstone	£ 82.80	“
Intuit Ltd – Quickbooks	VAT software subscription	£ 14.40	“
Business Stream	Water charges – Bolsterstone	£ 37.30	“
(iv) That authority be given for salaries paid during the coronavirus lockdown:-			
Salaries/Tax/NI/Pensions	April 2020	£ 3174.24	“
Salaries/Tax/NI/Pensions	May 2020	£ 3174.24	“
Salaries/Tax/NI/Pensions	June 2020	£ 3174.24	“
Salaries/Tax/NI/Pensions	July 2020	£ 3174.24	“

The Clerk noted that the next Town Council meeting was scheduled for 10th September 2020, hopefully back in the Council Chamber and that she wished to commence Committees with effect from 29th September 2020. If there were any issues which required attention prior to this date then an Extraordinary meeting could be called.

Chairman