

STOCKSBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Stocksbridge Town Council, held in the Council Chamber,
Town Hall, Stocksbridge, on Thursday, 13th February 2025

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

IN ATTENDANCE: A Foster, Fraud Protect Officer, South Yorkshire Police – Item 172

168. To Receive Chairman's Remarks and Apologies for Absence
Apologies for Absence were received from Cllr. A S Law.
In the absence of the Chairman the Deputy Chairman Cllr. K Davis chaired the meeting.
169. Exclusion of the Press and Public
The Clerk noted that agenda item 16 – To Receive Minutes of the Personnel Committee of the Town Council held on 11th February 2025 would be taken in Part 2 of the meeting.
170. Declarations of Interest
Cllr. MW declared an interest in item 187 – To Consider Planning Applications and receive the Decisions of the Sheffield Planning and Highways Committee.
171. Public Questions and Petitions
There were no public questions and petitions.
172. Fraud and Cyber Scams
The Chairman welcomed A Foster, South Yorkshire Police who had requested an opportunity to inform Councillors of his role and the role of his colleague N Garret, the Cyber Protect Officer. AF informed that himself and his colleague were there to support victims of Fraud and Cyber crime, noting that this was 40% of all crime reported with only 13% of victims making a report. AF stated that criminals targetted the old/vulnerable/bereaved and lonely members of society and noted two call blockers which could help with detecting scam callers, one being from TrueCall Secure which could be installed for people suffering with dementia. These were for landlines, there was no way to protect mobile phones, the perpetrators cannot be stopped due to the high volumes of calls. Dialling 159 will put people to a central hub who can then put you straight through to your Bank if you feel you are being intimidated/scammed with callers saying they are from your Bank and asking you to transfer money etc. AF stated that the impact on mental health is catastrophic with people often being in denial that they have been scammed and have lost substantial sums of money. Cllr. RJC stated that AI is now the new major crime with people thinking they are speaking to famous people etc. and he had heard that BT were working on a new AI development video. AF informed that issues could be reported to Action Fraud and that paying for items via credit card or PayPal provided some protection.

AF thanked the Town Council for the opportunity to present and stated that he was willing to attend community groups etc., to inform/educate and raise awareness of the issues and requested feedback/comments from the Town Council on the presentation.

The Chairman thanked A Foster for attending the meeting and the Clerk undertook to gather comments and forward them on.

173. To Receive Remarks from the Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 9th January 2025
There were no Remarks from the Minutes.
174. To Approve as a True and Correct Record the Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 9th January 2025
Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on 9th January 2025, copies of which had been circulated prior to the meeting were taken as read.
Proposed by Cllr. J Wood, seconded by Cllr. J Staniforth and
RESOLVED:- That the minutes be confirmed and signed by the Chairman.
175. Finances - To Receive and Approve Monthly Financial Statements including Budget Monitoring
The Clerk reported that the details of the Monthly Financial Statements had been previously circulated.
Proposed by Cllr. J A Grocutt, seconded by Cllr. C Wilson and
RESOLVED:- That the Town Council accept details of the Monthly Financial Statements including Budget Monitoring information for January 2025 as supplied by the Clerk.
176. Yorkshire Local Councils Associations
The Clerk reported that she had received correspondence from YLCA including:-
- Weekly News and Notifications – 10th January
- Weekly News and Notifications – 17th January
- Weekly News and Notifications – 24th January
- Law and Governance Bulletin – January 2025
- Weekly News and Notifications – 31st January
Copies of this correspondence had been previously circulated to members.
177. Gritting in Stocksbridge
The Clerk reported that she had received correspondence from a resident with a relative on Horner Close regarding the lack of gritting in what was an elderly persons facility so deliveries of prescriptions, visits by carers, access for emergency vehicles etc was not possible or put other people in danger whilst trying to access on foot. Copies of this correspondence had been previously circulated to members with a request this this could possibly be raised with SCC for future occurrences of heavy snowfall.

The Clerk informed that numerous phone calls had also been made to the office requesting snow clearance of side roads etc and re-filling of grit bins in the area.
178. Bin Collections
The Clerk reported that she had received correspondence via Cllr. JAG with respect to bin collections following the recent heavy snowfall. Residents had been requested to leave bins out until such time as the backlog of collections could be made. Regular meetings were being held and communication messages sent out to ensure residents were kept informed of the situation.

179. SYMCA

The Clerk reported that she had received correspondence from SYMCA informing of a consultation by the South Yorkshire Mayor, Oliver Coppard seeking the views of the public on the setting of the council tax for policing and crime. The survey will close at noon on 3rd February.

180. Clerks & Councils Direct

The Clerk reported that she had received a copy of Clerks & Councils Direct, Issue 157, January 2025.

181. Shay House Lane

The Clerk reported that she had received correspondence from the Highway Co-ordinator Engineer informing that Shay House Lane, Stocksbridge would be closed for approximately six weeks commencing 15th February in order that structural repairs could be undertaken to a property following the bus crash at the end of November 2024. Copies of this correspondence had been previously circulated to members.

182. SYMCA

The Clerk reported that she had received correspondence from SYMCA informing of a consultation regarding allowing dogs to travel on the Supertram, running from 4th February to 3rd March 2025. Copies of this correspondence had been previously circulated to members.

183. STEP Community Day

The Clerk reported that she had received correspondence from STEP Development Trust inviting members to attend the STEP Brand Relaunch and Community Day to be held on Sunday, 6th April between 10am and 2pm at The Venue. Stalls would be available to promote groups/activities/services provided.

184. Clerks ReportsDeepcar Recycling Centre

The Clerk reported that she had received a query from a member of the public wishing to dispose of old tins of paint at the Recycling Centre only to be informed that they no longer accept these. The lady stated that this would no doubt cause flytipping of these items if there was no alternative option provided.

Cllr. RJC informed that if tins were filled with soil/sand then they may be accepted but it needed to be made clear to the public what was required or it would indeed lead to flytipping.

The Clerk was requested to write to Veolia requesting clarification on their policy in this regard.

Clerks/Community Service Manager Teams Meeting

The Clerk reported that she had attended a further Teams meeting with A Male who had informed of funding available to Parish/Town Council's towards the VE Day celebrations later this year. It was expected that this would be proportional to the 3 areas concerned. AM had also intimated that there may be the possibility of further funding for ad hoc events throughout the year which would also be distributed on a proportional basis.

The Clerk noted previous funding allocated to local care homes/schools/groups to celebrate national events and suggested that perhaps this funding could be utilised in a similar way.

Members were in agreement and the Clerk advised that she would add this to the next Finance agenda.

AM had also noted that the Parks Manager was keen to attend a future meeting to discuss issues arising within the Clock Tower Gardens which the Town Council may be able to assist with.

May Town Council Meeting

The Clerk informed that the Chairman, Cllr. ASL had requested that the Town Council Meeting due to be held on 8th May be cancelled due to the Beacon Lighting VE Day events. The Clerk noted that any items for this meeting could be considered at the Annual Meeting which was due to be held on 13th May 2025.

Interviews for Assistant to the Clerk Role

The Clerk updated on the interview process recently carried out.

185. To Receive Verbal Reports from Members'

a) Cllr. RJC reported that he had attended two Garden Village Community Association meetings.
b) Cllr. MW informed that had had attended a Community Action Group meeting earlier today together with Cllr. JAG and had been working with a resident living on Grove Road regarding its unadopted state.

c) Cllr. JAG advised that she had attended the SCLC Roller Hockey competition; SCLC Board meeting; informed of a Yorkshire Water initiative 'Hey Girls' regarding reusable sanitary products for which she had suggested Stocksbridge High School be part of the project; a meeting at the Bridge Centre at Stocksbridge High School; participated in the interview process for the Assistant's role; TARA coffee morning; Fairtrade, Royal British Legion and Community Action Group meetings. Cllr. JAG had also requested updates on the situation with regard to both Whitwell and Stubbin Community Centres the latter of which she had been informed was not fit for purpose in its current state.

d) Cllr. JW reported that she had been very involved with issues arising from the re-location of the Bridge Community Shop to the old Coffee Apple location. The current shop would close on 28th February and re-open at the new premises in April.

Cllr. JW advised that she had been in contact with both Highways England and SCC regarding litter on the bypass and was facing the usual frustration that no-one would accept responsibility for clearing the verges which were an eye sore. Cllr. JW had also written to Dr Marie Tidball MP and would write to Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council.

Members thanked Cllr. JW for taking on the mantle and suggested copying in all parties on any correspondence.

Cllr. JW informed that she had attended her first WI meeting which she had thoroughly enjoyed and hoped to attend more in the future.

Cllr. JW noted that she had also been part of the panel for selection and interview of candidates for the Assistant's role.

e) Cllr. CW reported that she had attended the Stocksbridge High School Parent Forum and completed her Councillor Training course. Cllr. CW had also been contacted by a member of the public regarding access to the rear of the garage at Deepcar.

f) Cllr. JS informed that he continued to attend the Dads Football and Saturday Kids Clubs at SCLC, both of which were very popular but funding may become an issue. Cllr. JS had also attended the Science Club held at the Inman Pavilion and informed of a Craft Club to be held on 17th February for half term.

g) In his absence the Clerk reported that Cllr. ASL had taken part in the selection and interview process for the Assistant's role.

186. To Receive a Verbal Report from the Deputy Mayor

The Deputy Mayor, Cllr. K Davis reported that he had attended the following events since the last meeting:-

4th February – Personnel Committee meeting – selection of candidates for the Assistant's role

11th February – Personnel Committee meeting – interviews for Assistant's role

Royal British Legion meeting

Shadowed Cllr. JAG at her monthly Surgery in order to provide cover whilst she was absent.

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

Planning Application – 24/00357/OUT

Land between Manchester Road and The Rookery and Rookery Vale, Manchester Road, Stocksbridge, Sheffield

Outline application for the erection of up to 22no. dwellings (use class C3) with means of access from Manchester Road (appearance, landscaping, layout and scale reserved matters).

An Appeal has been made to the Secretary of State against SCC's failure to give notice of its decision within the appropriate period on an application for permission or approval.

Any comments/representations must be received by the deadline of 18th February 2025.

25/00024/HPN	6 Birch Tree Road, Stocksbridge	Single-storey rear extension to dwellinghouse - the extension is 6 metres from the rear of the original dwellinghouse, ridge height no more than 3 metres and the height of the eaves is 3 metres.
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Planning Applications - Decisions

The undermentioned planning applications have been Granted Conditionally:-

24/03491/FUL	Ellen Cliffe Farm, Wortley Road, Deepcar	Erection of two-storey side/rear extension with access steps and raised patio to dwellinghouse.
24/03143/FUL	102 Manchester Road, Stocksbridge	Demolition of conservatory and erection of single-storey side extension and single-storey rear extension at lower ground floor level with balcony above to dwellinghouse.
24/03564/TCA	Moorstones, Stone Moor Road, Bolsterstone	Removal of trees (Bolsterstone Conservation Area).
24/02835/FUL	Land adjacent 74 Hole House Lane, Stocksbridge	Erection of a dwellinghouse.

The undermentioned planning applications have been given Condition Application Decided:-

24/00120/COND3	Land at junction with Carr Road Hollin Busk Lane, Deepcar	Application to approve details in relation to condition no(s) 14 (Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP)), and 15 (Construction Method Statement
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		(CMS)) as imposed by planning permission 24/00120/OUT.
22/02303/COND2	Land between Hollin Busk Road and Broomfield Grove and Broomfield Lane, Stocksbridge	Application to approve details in relation to condition number(s): 9 (Intrusive Site Investigation) and 18 (Broadband) imposed by planning permission 22/02303/OUT.
24/02679/COND1	Land At Rear Of 15 To 17 Broomfield Road, Stocksbridge	Application to approve details in relation to condition number(s): 7 & 12 (Coal Mining Legacy) imposed by planning permission 24/02679/FUL.
21/04832/COND1	Silver Fox Hotel, 839 Manchester Road, Stocksbridge	Application to approve details in relation to condition no(s) 3 (Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP), 4 (Land contamination investigation), 5 (intrusive site investigations and remedial works), 6 (intrusive site investigation report), 7 (remediation works), 8 (surface water sewer), 9 (surface water drainage design), 10 (site accommodation), 11 (ingress/egress of vehicles), 12 (wheel cleaning), 13 (full fibre broadband), 14 (renewable/low carbon energy), 15 (landscape and biodiversity plan), 16 (sound attenuation works), 18 (highways improvements), 20 (external materials/finishes), 24 (site boundary treatment), 25 (adoptable road), and 26 (hard/soft landscaping); Relating to planning permission 21/04832/FUL.

188. Personnel Committee Members discussed Minutes of the Finance Committee of the Town Council, held on 4th February 2025, copies of which had been previously circulated.

Proposed by Cllr. J A Grocutt, seconded by Cllr. K Davis and

RESOLVED:- (i) that the minutes of the Personnel Committee be accepted.

189. Recreation & Environment Committee Members discussed Minutes of the Recreation & Environment Committee of the Town Council, held on 4th February 2025, copies of which had been previously circulated.

Proposed by Cllr. J Wood, seconded by Cllr. R J Crowther and

RESOLVED:- (i) that the minutes of the Recreation & Environment Committee be accepted.

With reference to Item 4 – Planning Application – 24/00357/OUT. The Clerk reported that a response had been received from the Planning Inspectorate acknowledging receipt of the letter from the Town Council following concerns raised by the public at the Appeal made to the Secretary of State.

The Clerk noted that a letter of objection had been circulated from Cllr. RJC for approval by members prior to being submitted to the Planning Inspectorate.

Proposed by Cllr. C Wilson, seconded by Cllr. J A Grocutt and

RESOLVED:- That the letter of objection, as circulated by Cllr. RJC be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate. All members were in agreement.

190. Finance Committee Members discussed Minutes of the Finance Committee of the Town Council, held on 4th February 2025, copies of which had been previously circulated.

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

RESOLVED:- (i) that the minutes of the Finance Committee be accepted.

(ii) That the Town Council formally appoint Sabrina Doherty PSLCC to undertake the Internal Audit of the Town Council accounts for the financial year 2024/2025.

Proposed by Cllr. R J Crowther, seconded by Cllr. J Staniforth and

RESOLVED:- That under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, members of the press and public are excluded for the following item(s) of business as the Council considers that the nature of business to be transacted is prejudicial to the public interest.

191. Personnel Committee Members discussed Minutes of the Finance Committee of the Town Council, held on 11th February 2025, copies of which had been previously circulated.

Proposed by Cllr. M Whittaker, seconded by Cllr. C Wilson and

RESOLVED:- (i) that the minutes of the Personnel Committee be accepted.

(ii) That the Town Council appoint Helen Jolley to the post of Assistant to the Clerk subject to a satisfactory reference being provided. The date of the appointment to be confirmed, expected to be 1st March 2025.

The Chairman noted that he felt the selection process and interviews had gone extremely well with the four chosen for interview being excellent candidates who had presented themselves very well at the interviews.

192. Accounts for Authorisation

Proposed by Cllr. M Whittaker, seconded by Cllr. C Wilson and

RESOLVED:- (i) That payments be authorised in settlement of the undermentioned accounts:-

			<u>Made Under Power</u>
Salaries/Tax/NI/Pensions	February 2025	£4028.47	LGA72(S111)
Facility Maintenance Solutions Ltd	Toilets monthly water Monitoring	£ 10.30	LGA72(Sch14P9)
Boom Software	Final payment – website	£1950.00	LGA72(S111)
Yorkshire Local Councils Assn	New Councillor training	£ 70.20	“
City Illuminations Ltd	Xmas lighting contract	£11874.00	LGA72(S144)
Valley Music Festival	Grant Aid	£ 500.00	LGA76(S19)
Steel Valley Project	Grant Aid	£1000.00	LGA72(Sch14P27)
Dransfield Properties Ltd	ANPR Camera Install	£ 300.00	LG&Rat(S31)

(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	£ 903.49	LGA72(S111)
A Holden	Window cleaning charges	£ 60.00	“

Facility Maintenance Solutions Ltd	Monthly water monitoring	£ 20.60	“
Facility Maintenance Solutions Ltd	Monthly water monitoring	£ 153.36	“
Viking	Rock Salt	£ 28.78	“

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

January 2025:-

		<u>Made Under Power</u>	
Sheffield City Council	Business Rates – toilets	£ 57.00	LGA72(S111)
Sheffield City Council	Business Rates – ARC	£ 586.00	“
Sheffield City Council	Business Rates – History	£ 43.00	“
British Gas Lite	Electricity charges – Xmas	£ 48.05	“
	Tree – precinct		
MJRCC	Broadband/phone charges	£ 43.07	“
MJRCC	Computer charges	£ 31.20	“
SSE	Electricity charges – ARC	£1316.38	“
Intuit Ltd	Quickbooks package	£ 16.80	“
Moorepay	Payroll charges	£ 107.87	“
Public Works Loan Board	Loan Repayment	£3379.37	“
Business Stream	Water Charges ARC	£ 403.33	“
Veolia	Waste removal charges	£ 108.80	“

(iv) That approval be given for payments authorised at the Finance Committee meeting held on 4th February 2025 in settlement of the undermentioned account:-

		<u>Made Under Power</u>	
QRO Solutions Ltd	ANPR Cameras	£12636.00	LGA+Rat97(S31)

Chairman