

STOCKSBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

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

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Faye Tomson, District Eating (Project Developments) – Item 197
Lindsay Storey – Project Manager, District Eating – Item 197

2 Members of the Public

193. To Receive Chairman's Remarks and Apologies for Absence
There were no Apologies for Absence.

194. Exclusion of the Press and Public
There were no items for exclusion of the press and public.

195. Declarations of Interest
Cllr. MW declared an interest in item 210 – To Consider Planning Applications and receive the Decisions of the Sheffield Planning and Highways Committee.
Cllr. RJC declared an interest in item 210 – Planning Application 25/00440/FUL.
Cllrs. JS and CW declared an interest in item 207 – paragraph 3 – Stocksbridge High School.

196. Public Questions and Petitions
There were no public questions and petitions.

197. Project Developments
The Chairman welcomed Faye Tomson and Lindsay Storey, District Eating, who had requested an opportunity to inform Councillors of Project Developments planned for the future in respect of growing food in the local area.
FT informed members that she was a local person with a consulting engineering background and ran her own business. The aim of the Growing Yorkshire project was to make funding small farms possible, the aims being to improve biodiversity; regenerate soil; produce food; open access to land; create opportunities for people to farm; economic viability and social prescribing. Initially a five acre site was required to start the project with pigs and to grow food which could be made into meals and sold via a catering vehicle at events etc. A joint venture with an existing landowner would be preferable.
FT advised that she had a meeting scheduled with J Dallow, Parks and Countryside, SCC at Parkwood Springs to ascertain if a suitable site could be made available. If this was feasible then funding sources could be explored, via crowdfunding, to raise the initial £600,000 start up required for the first 18 months to cover legal agreements/planning/offer documents and wages. Apprenticeships and social prescribing would eventually be offered via voluntary organisations. The Chairman stated that it was a great idea and asked how the Town Council could assist.

FT advised that support from the Town Council would be much appreciated in association with Sheffield City Council.

Cllr. MW stated that it was a very good and interesting project and informed of the Sheffield Lakeland Landscape Partnership that the Town Council had been involved with via Sheffield and Rotherham Wildlife Trust and their subsequent setting up of a farming project.

Cllr. RJC noted it was a brilliant project and would be good to present to the Cabinet at Sheffield City Council suggesting the importance of land/flood management be incorporated into the presentation as this was a major environmental issue at the present time.

The Chairman thanked F Tomson and L Storey for attending the meeting and requested the Town Council be kept informed of progress.

198. To Receive Remarks from the Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 13th February 2025
There were no Remarks from the Minutes.

199. To Approve as a True and Correct Record the Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 13th February 2025
Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on 13th February 2025, copies of which had been circulated prior to the meeting were taken as read.
Proposed by Cllr. M Whittaker, seconded by Cllr. J A Grocutt and
RESOLVED:- That the minutes be confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

200. 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 Staniforth, seconded by Cllr. K Davis and
RESOLVED:- That the Town Council accept details of the Monthly Financial Statements including Budget Monitoring information for February 2025 as supplied by the Clerk.

201. Yorkshire Local Councils Associations
The Clerk reported that she had received correspondence from YLCA including:-
- Weekly News and Notifications – 14th February
- Weekly News and Notifications – 28th February
- Weekly News and Notifications – 7th March
- Agenda - YLCA Branch meeting to be held on 19th March 2025
- Minutes – YLCA Branch meeting held on 24th October 2024
Copies of this correspondence had been previously circulated to members.

202. Department for Transport
The Clerk reported that she had received correspondence from the Department for Transport informing of the proposed stopping up of highway at Stocksbridge Library. A copy of the draft Order had been put on the Town Council notice board until 4th April 2025. Copies of this correspondence had been previously circulated to members.

203. Clerks & Councils Direct
The Clerk reported that she had received a copy of Clerks & Councils Direct, Issue 158, March 2025.

204. BT Payphones

The Clerk reported that she had received correspondence from Strategic Planning informing of public consultation on British Telecom proposals to remove six payphones in Sheffield, the one on Heads Lane, Bolsterstone being considered in this area. The consultation runs from 7th March to 18th April 2025.

T Peers, a member of the public present advised that Bolsterstone Community Group had undertaken a consultation of local people via social media asking if they would like to see the phone box re-purposed in some way or remain as a phone box. Only 1 person out of 1500 had requested it remain a phone box. TP noted that the phone box was listed and in a conservation area therefore could not be removed. It had been suggested that the phone box be utilised as a book swap or information hub for walking groups, of which there were many in the area.

The Chairman felt this was a great idea.

205. Fly-tipping – St Matthias

The Clerk reported that she had received correspondence from the Environmental Enforcement Officer regarding the fly-tipping at the rear of St Matthias Church following it being reported to Streets Ahead. He will be undertaking a visit to determine the nature of the waste and will then decide what enforcement/remedial action is available.

The Clerk reported that the area had since been cleared and noted that the officer had been extremely helpful and responded promptly.

Councillors requested that a letter of thanks be sent to Bryn Gaines for his prompt response.

206. Stocksbridge History Society

The Clerk reported that she had received correspondence from D. Pinder thanking the Town Council for their continued support for the Valley Museum.

207. Clerks ReportsSTEP Community Day

The Clerk reported that a table had been booked at The Venue for the 6th April Community Day. The doors will be open from 9am for tables to be set up for which there is no charge. The event runs from 10am to 2pm. Councillors had undertaken to attend, in turn, throughout the event to answer questions from attendees. It had also been suggested that this may be an appropriate opportunity to create a Volunteer Hub of anyone interested in becoming a volunteer.

ANPR Cameras

The Clerk updated members on the installation of ANPR cameras in the area.

Stocksbridge High School

The Clerk advised that a request had been made for use of the Council Chamber by Stocksbridge High School for 2 or 3 planning meetings. On being informed of the charges they had asked if they could use the room free of charge.

Following discussion it was agreed that on this occasion the Town Council would forego charging for the room, however if it was to become a regular request then this would need to be reconsidered.

208. To Receive Verbal Reports from Members'

a) Cllr. JS reported that he had attended the Dads Football sessions, the Saturday Kids Club which was very popular with 40 children in attendance and the Car Boot sale at SCLC; the Craft Club at the Inman Pavilion with 35 children in attendance and the Transport Consultation event

organised by Dr M Tidball MP noting he was pleased that she had taken the time to engage with people.

b) Cllr. KD informed that he had also attended the Transport Consultation event which had been very impressive and he would be keen to see the findings.

Cllr. KD had taken Cllr. JAG's surgery in her absence; attended the Steel Valley Project Steering Committee and Royal British Legion meeting with Cllr. JAG.

c) Cllr. CW noted that she had been unable to attend the Transport Consultation event but had emailed her thoughts and received a response.

Cllr. CW reported that she continued to be involved with a PROW issue at the rear of the garage site at Deepcar which had been blocked. An SCC Officer had attended the site and informed clearance needs to be made available.

d) Cllr. JW informed that she had attended the Transport Consultation event which had been very good; had written to Dr M Tidball MP regarding the litter problems on the bypass and had received a response that she would be writing to SCC Highways.

Cllr. JW reported that she was still heavily involved in the Bridge Shop move to new premises which they hoped to open on 25th April 2025.

e) Cllr. MW reported that the Stocksbridge Walkers are Welcome group had now been absorbed into the Bradfield Walkers are Welcome group.

Cllr. MW informed that SCC had approved the budget for the City last Wednesday and the Local Plan for Sheffield had been presented to Government. Cllr. JAG requested that the Town Council be kept informed of proposals for building sites in the area.

Cllr. MW noted he was dealing with development site issues received from local residents.

f) Cllr. JAG reported that she had attended the Fairtrade meeting; Stocksbridge High School Bridge meeting and Royal British Legion meeting.

Cllr. JAG continued to be involved with Amey regarding pot hole issues around the area and was dealing with Planning Enforcement regarding the large sign at the Ingfield House development.

Cllr. JAG updated members on the Community Action Group meeting which co-ordinated issues around the area, noting that they had been informed that this area was to lose another Police Officer, meaning attendance at crime issues would be from the City Centre to Stocksbridge.

Cllr. JAG requested that a letter be sent from the Town Council to the Chief Constable stating that the NP Team cover a massive area and asking when the area would be properly resourced in terms of Officers.

Cllr. RJC stated that crime is not limited to the City Centre but starts at the edges. The Town Council have made an investment in safety with the installation of ANPR cameras to build Police intelligence but this is no use if the Police do not play their part.

g) Cllr. RJC reported that he had attended two Garden Village Community Association meetings.

Cllr. RJC referred to the presentation by Faye Tomson earlier in the meeting and requested that the Town Council write to John Dallow, Parks and Countryside stating that the Town Council fully supported the initiative and would like to be kept informed of progress from their prospective following their forthcoming meeting.

209. To Receive a Verbal Report from the Mayor

The Mayor, Cllr. A S Law reported that he had attended the following events since the last meeting:-

Meetings regarding the STEP Community Event day on 6th April 2025 and with TARA which was moving forward and doing well.

Attendance at the Transport Consultation event organised by Dr M Tidball, MP.

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

25/00438/FUL	39 Broomfield Lane, Stocksbridge	Demolition of outbuilding, erection of single-storey side extension, erection of detached garage to rear and partial rendering of bungalow.
25/00374/FUL	40 Cross Lane Stocksbridge	Demolition of conservatory, erection of single-storey rear extension, installation of side door, alterations to front garden to form off-road parking to dwellinghouse.
25/00498/FUL	39 Newton Avenue, Stocksbridge	Alterations to roof including raised ridge height, formation of gable ends to both sides, dormer window to rear and rooflights to front of dwellinghouse.
25/00541/FUL	8 Linden Crescent, Stocksbridge	Alterations to roof including raising of ridge height, hip to gable extension and erection of rear dormer to form additional habitable space, erection of two-storey side extension, and single-storey rear extension with raised patio.

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

RESOLVED:- That the Town Council write to Planning Department with respect to the undermentioned planning application noting that Councillors support the objections of neighbouring residents regarding access rights/location/noise and parking concerns and requesting that these be taken into account when considering the application:-

25/00440/FUL	19 Smith Road, Stocksbridge	Change of use from dwellinghouse (use class C3) to pre-school nursery (use class E) including erection of two-storey side extension and single-storey rear extension, removal of boundary hedging and wall and erection of timber fence and gates.
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Planning Applications - Decisions

The undermentioned planning applications have been Granted Conditionally:-

24/03731/FUL	6 Smithy Moor Lane, Stocksbridge	Erection of first floor rear extension and single-storey rear extension to dwellinghouse.
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The undermentioned planning application has been given Condition Application Decided:-

24/00120/COND4	Land at junction with Carr Road Hollin Busk Lane, Deepcar	Application to approve details in relation to condition no 23 (Criterion c - Traffic Regulation Order) relating to planning permission 24/00120/OUT.
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The undermentioned planning application has been given Reserved Matters Approved Conditional Legal Agreement:-

24/01876/REM	Land between Hollin Busk Road and Broomfield Grove and Broomfield Lane, Stocksbridge	Erection of 92x dwellinghouses with a play area, provision of new footpaths and landscaping (Application to approve appearance, landscaping, layout and scale as reserved under planning permission no. 22/02303/OUT) (Amended Plans).
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25/00024/HPN	6 Birch Tree Road, Stocksbridge	Prior Approval Not Required:- 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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25/00103/TPO	Land opposite 9 To 15 New Street, Stocksbridge	Grant Part Refuse Part:- Pruning and removal of trees (Tree Preservation Order No. 808/374).
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211. Recreation & Environment Committee Members discussed Minutes of the Recreation & Environment Committee of the Town Council, held on 4th March 2025, copies of which had been previously circulated.

Proposed by Cllr. K Davis, seconded by Cllr. R J Crowther and

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

(ii) That the Annual Citizens Award for 2025 be awarded to:-

- a) Tim and Evelyn Curson for their dedication to the Royal British Legion/Remembrance Day Parade for the past 35 years
- b) Alan Rodgers for his community work with Bolsterstone Community Group and the Participatory Budgeting Task Group
- c) Angela Ford for her ongoing involvement with the Stocksbridge Women's Institute and community work
- d) That recipients be presented with a certificate and cheque to the value of £50 at the Town Council's Annual Assembly on 13th May 2025

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

Proposed by Cllr. J Wood, seconded by Cllr. C Wilson and

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

(ii) That the Town Council accept the risk assessment forms and system of internal audit forms as supplied by the Clerk and noted that the Town Council have sufficient controls in place to accommodate the potential hazards faced by the Town Council.

(iii) That the Town Council accept the quotation from Zurich Insurance plc of £2,531.34 inclusive of insurance premium tax for a three year term agreement commencing 2025/26.

213. Accounts for Authorisation

Proposed by Cllr. J A Grocutt, seconded by Cllr. M Whittaker and

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

		<u>Made Under Power</u>	
Salaries/Tax/NI/Pensions	March 2025	£4950.97	LGA72(S111)
Facility Maintenance Solutions Ltd	Toilets monthly water Monitoring	£ 10.30	LGA72(Sch14P9)
Bolsterstone Community Group	Grant Aid	£ 575.00	LGA76(S19)
Viking	Stationery	£ 98.18	LGA72(S111)
MJRCC	Purchase and install of Clerk's PC	£1116.00	"
Valley React Community Group	Grant Aid	£1000.00	LGA76(S19)
Zurich Municipal	Insurance premium 2025/26	£ 590.34	LGA72(S111)
SD Audit & Consulting	Interim Audit 2024/25	£ 90.00	"
Word for Word	Letterheads	£ 75.60	"

(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	£ 758.88	LGA72(S111)
A Holden	Window cleaning charges	£ 60.00	"
Facility Maintenance Solutions Ltd	Monthly water monitoring	£ 20.60	"
Zurich Municipal	Insurance Premium 2025/26	£1941.00	"
Pollards	Coffee supplies	£ 57.50	"
Document Solutions	Photocopier usage	£ 5.84	"
Culligan UK Ltd	Water cooler charges	£ 74.46	"
T Bisatt	Reimbursement to Petty Cash	£ 50.00	"

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

February 2025:-		<u>Made Under Power</u>	
British Gas Lite	Electricity charges – Xmas Tree – precinct	£ 25.61	LGA72(S111)
MJRCC	Broadband/phone charges	£ 42.79	"
MJRCC	Computer charges	£ 31.20	"
SSE	Electricity charges – ARC	£1221.66	"
Intuit Ltd	Quickbooks package	£ 19.20	"
Moorepay	Payroll charges	£ 69.01	"
Veolia	Waste removal charges	£ 115.21	"
Societe Generale	Photocopier lease-last Payment	£ 194.40	"

Chairman