

STOCK AND BRADLEY PARISH COUNCIL
REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN FOR THE YEAR 2022/2023

Proposed Solar Farm

The parish council spent a lot of their time this year in investigating this proposal and seeking our parishioner's views. The actual planning application has now been submitted and the parish council have submitted their response which, in keeping with the overwhelming majority of our resident is to object to it. The decision, by Wychavon District Council, is not expected soon.

Speeding:

Speeding vehicles are probably the one biggest cause of concern to our parishioners and I understand that this concern is common to most villages in the area. The Parish Council has purchased three state of the art VAS machines two for Church Road, Bradley Green and the other on Earls Common Road, Stock Green. These are turned to face the incoming traffic as they enter the 30-mph zone. We are pleased to announce that the Parish Council have budgeted for a 4th Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS), we will now have one at all the 4 entrances to Stock & Bradley, no other village in Worcestershire (and possibly England) will have this many VAS's.

The PC have also convened a mtg to discuss possible solutions to the concerns expressed by the residents of Stock & Bradley to the Parish Council, regarding the excessive speeding through our village which has progressively increased over the past years.

Attending the meeting were:

- Paul Middlebrough, Deputy Police & Crime Commissioner & Assistant PCCs
- Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner, West Mercia
- Bob Haynes, Senior Traffic Management Advisor, Road Safety, West Mercia Police
- Paul Waterhouse, Traffic Management Advisor, Road Safety, West Mercia Police
- Simon Campbell, responsible for the enforcement of Safer Roads and CSW.
- PCSO Vicky Elliott.
- WCC Cllr Tony Miller.
- Tony Morriss, Deputy Chief Executive in the Office of the PCC.
- Stock & Bradley Parish Councillors
 - Mike Hadley – Chair
 - Paul Langham – Vice Chair
 - Pauline Warren
 - Nikki Davies
 - Roger Dean – Clerk

The Parish Councillors felt the meeting was productive with positive support from all attending and a plan for future actions was agreed, they thanked Paul Middlebrough for his support in facilitating and managing the meeting.

We have applied to the Safer Roads Partnership for permission to carry out our own speed enforcement, but it is a very lengthy process and despite chasing it up we still await their decision. The Parish Councillors would also like to thank PC's Edmunds and PCSO Vicky Elliot for making Stock & Bradley a regular stop for village speed checks.

Planning:

We have a right to comment on planning applications and during the last year we received:
6 Applications.
8 Approvals.
1 Withdrawals.

Worth mentioning are the following:

W/22/01269/FUL, Mr Iwaniszewski, Sika Barn, Droitwich Road, Bradley Green, B96 6QU
Proposed Parking and Retention of Garage/Storage Building (part retrospective application)
Mr Iwaniszewski had built a 3-car building without planning permission despite it being too high and too close to neighbouring properties and being instructed (during the build) to stop by WDC enforcement officers, which he ignored and completed the build.

This has subsequently been approved by WDC planning Dept, despite the PC objections.

Planning Contravention Notice / Enforcement Notice - ENF/22/0154 Re: "the Nest" land adjacent to former Bird in Hand, Stockwood, Inkberrow, B96 6SX - Ongoing noise and disturbance, the PC is monitoring the situation and is liaising with WRS, WDC Planning and the Police.

Ongoing Disturbance Upper Priest Bridge Farm, Dark Lane, Bradley Green.

As this is within FPC, Clerk has informed RBCllr Mr Matt Dormer and Mr Simon Jones, Principal Planning Officer, Bromsgrove & Redditch BC, of the continuing situation with use of unauthorised residential units at UPBF, which the PC first reported 21st July 2021. In addition, footpath 692 had been "fenced off" into smaller plots making it impossible to use, the Clerk has informed Patrick White, Senior Public Rights of Way Officer, Public Rights of Way, WCC, who is currently addressing this and is investigating.

W/23/00270/FUL, Mr Conor McAllister, JBM Solar Projects (UK) Ltd.

Land At (Os 9911 5879), Earls Common Road, Stock Green Construction of a Solar Farm and battery energy storage system (BESS) facility together with all associated works, equipment, and necessary infrastructure. Following several public meetings, the PC has submitted their objection to this application, and will make representation at the WDC Planning Committee when it is convened.

Queen's 70th Jubilee celebrations –a beacon was lit on the hill behind Kate & Gordon Farmiloe on Thursday 2nd June at 9.45, over 100 residents attended.

A celebration was held in the village hall from 3pm to 5 pm on Saturday 4th June with the PC providing sandwiches, cakes, tea and a glass of fizz - all residents were invited. The Clerk provided a statement of projected expenditure which came to over £500, the clerk had also applied to WDC for a grant of £100 and Cllr Mr Tony Miller also offered a donation of £200 which was gratefully accepted. There was evening celebration also on the 4th of June with entertainment, a paying bar and B-B-Q.

Queen's Jubilee Garden at Priest Bridge, the Jubilee Oak Tree and many daffodils have been planted to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee.

Coronation celebration – has been planned for the afternoon of Saturday 6th May, when all residents of S&B are invited to a complementary glass of fizz and refreshments in the village hall. CC Cllr Mr T Miller has generously donated £500 and the Clerk had also requested £200 from the WDC Coronation fund.

Flooding in Stock Green:

Due to the nature of the environment there is no guaranteed way to prevent future flooding, however, the Environment Agency have cleared the Stock Green Brook and have undertaken to de-silt in future years. Chair Mike Hadley and Reg Hughes participated in a Zoom meeting with WDC planning and flood elevation officers, where these issues were discussed.

The Parish Council Lengthsman Scheme:

Our Lengthsman is Allen Farnsworth. The scheme has proved to be very successful, and we renewed the contract for another year. He carries out various jobs for us on the highways including moving the VAS signs, clearing out ditches and grips and vegetation clearance. Allen has now retired, and we have signed a new contract with Mr Chris Cooke and his colleague, who services several other PCs

Village litter pick:

The Council organised two "litter picks" this year, many thanks to all those who took the time to support this worthwhile activity – the whole village was covered, the Parish Council now owns 20 pickers, tabards and gloves should anyone wish to start an impromptu litter pick.

High Speed Broadband:

The Parish Council is continuing contact with Airband to maintain the Highspeed Broadband "fibre to the door" throughout Stock and Bradley there are some issues but overall, it is proving successful with speeds in excess of 150 mbts.

New ways of sharing information in the village:

The council regularly updates its web site, notice boards and the S&B Chronicle Magazine to improve communications with the residents which contain Agendas, Minutes, Accounts of the Parish Council, and other information. Some information is also put on the local WhatsApp Group.

Defibrillators:

The two defibrillators, one sited at the Village Hall and the other in phone box in Stock Green have been regularly maintained, but not used. Two very successful Defib/CPR training sessions were held in the VH attended by over 40 residents.

Councillors and Training:

Mike Hadley was elected Chairman and Stella Wallis Vice Chair for the coming year and Councillors and the Clerk attended several County Council and Worcestershire CALC, virtual educational and awareness seminars, and meetings.

Accounts:

The accounts were approved by the external auditors PKF Littlejohn LLP. The Budget for 2023/24 has been approved and it was agreed to increase the Precept by 3% to £7,725. The Parish Councillors would like to thank Mr Gordon Farmiloe for auditing the accounts.

The council is preparing for **PC elections** Thursday 4th May.

The council have registered a new web address – stockandbradley-pc.gov.uk

Donations and gifts:

Over the past year the council have given the following:

St Richards Hospice	
(on behalf of Gordon Farmiloe for Auditing the accounts)	£100
Feckenham Horse Show	£100
Hanbury Horse Show	£250
Church	£75
Jubilee / Christmas Raffle	£600
Coronation celebration	£700

In conclusion I should mention that the Parish Council is there to represent and where necessary, protect, local interests and if something arises that is of concern to the parish, the Parish Council is already in existence to deal with it.

CLlr Mike Hadley, Chairman of S&B PC, 12th April 2023