

STOCKSBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Recreation & Environment Committee of the Town Council, held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Stocksbridge on Tuesday, 31st January 2023

PRESENT:- Cllr. S Abrahams (Chair), Cllrs. M Whittaker, M Milton and R Crowther

IN ATTENDANCE:- Carol Whittaker, Acting Neighbourhood Manager for the North Area – Item 4

1. Chairman's Remarks and Apologies for Absence
Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. C Ward, A Law and J Staniforth.
2. Exclusion of Press and Public
There were no items for exclusion of press and public.
3. Declarations of Interest
There were no Declarations of Interest.
4. Local Council Housing Issues
The Chairman welcomed Carol Whittaker, Acting Neighbourhood Manager for the North area who had been invited in order that members could raise their concerns with respect to council housing issues in the area.
Councillors noted complaints regarding the following:
Unkempt gardens/hedges; overhanging trees, noise nuisance and queried any housing policy changes with regard to blocks of properties being designated 'over 60's only', particularly in respect to the properties on Ridal Ave/Ridal Close.
CW undertook to determine and report back when the policy changed if at all and what properties are designated 'over 60's' and 'general letting'.
CW informed of the process with regard to bidding for properties, particularly for residents with disabilities/mobility issues. She also requested specific addresses with regards to unkempt garden/hedges/tree issues. It was noted that anonymous complaints are accepted if received from a group of residents but not from individuals as evidence is required.
One of the main issues with regard to repairs at the moment is damp/mould and the City Council have issued guidance with regard to the obligations to be met and the criteria to follow.
Cllr Whittaker thanked CW for a very informative and clear overview from the Housing departments stance.
The Chairman thanked CW for her attendance noting that specific queries would be emailed to the Housing team.
5. Annual Citizens Award
The Clerk outlined the process for this year's Annual Citizens Award in view of the impending elections in May. Nominations would be considered at the next meeting on 28th February, with ratification at the March Town Council meeting and successful nominees invited to attend the April Town Council meeting to be presented with a certificate and gift vouchers.
6. Elections 2023
The Clerk noted that the Elections for 2023 would be held in May and informed of information received from the Elections Officer in this regard, key dates being:-
Friday 24 March – Notice of Election
Mon 27 March-Tues 4 April (4pm) – Nomination Period
Tuesday 28 March – Poll Cards due to land
Mon 17 April – Registration Deadline
Tuesday 18 April – Postal Vote Deadline

Item 6 continued – Elections 2023

Tuesday 25 April – Proxy & VAC application deadline

Thurs 27 April – Thurs 4 May – Opening Postal Votes

Thurs 4 May – Polling Day

Fri 5 May – Count at EIS (9am)

It was noted that this year voter ID would be required for voting in person at polling stations. SCC are to issue guidance on what ID will be acceptable, following which the Town Council will publicise the information.

There being no further business the meeting closed.