

TOSTOCK PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL
ON WEDNESDAY 11th December, 2019

Present: Chair: P Fletcher, J Kearsley (Vice-Chair), D Blundell, O Boland,
G Macdowall, N Cytacki and M Johansson, P Boland.
County Councillor Jane Storey
Mrs S Burman (Clerk)
15 Members of the Public

1. APOLOGIES: Apologies received from DC Harry Richardson and DC Sarah Mansell

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

Poors Committee: D Blundell, N Cytacki
Village Hall: Chair - G MacDowall Committee – P Fletcher
i. Register of interest forms: Complete.
ii. Requests for pecuniary dispensations: None

3. REPORTS:

- a). County Councillor: **County Councillor Jane Storey:** No report.
- b). District Councillors: Reports circulated to all councillors previously. **Cllr Harry Richardson** had sent a brief report which confirmed MSDC had not held meetings due to the General Election. He wished everyone a Pleasant Christmas and a Happy New Year. **Councillor Sarah Mansell** who is standing in for Cllr Wendy Turner had sent a report that mentioned among other items, Mid Suffolk Citizens Advice Bureau having 45 volunteers that had carried out work valued at more than £380,000 assisting clients with claims, refunds and support. Cllr Cytacki proposed a vote of thanks to the CAB which was seconded by Cllr Kearsley.
- c). Chairman: Cllr Fletcher reported that since she had taken over as chair it was apparent that meetings need to be more formal with limited discussion on issues which do not require a vote at that meeting. This will not impact on the public forum as the Parish Council is answerable to residents and should take note of issues raised. The general rule is that issues raised in the public forum that are already on the agenda will be discussed at the meeting but those that do not appear will be dealt with at the next appropriate meeting. Written reports submitted by councillors are sent out prior to meetings. Only questions regarding these that are relevant to Tostock Parish Council will be discussed and minuted. Updates will be factual and not subject to extended debate. A debate will obviously take place if a motion is proposed and will take place before the vote on that motion. A full text of motions debated and voted will be recorded in the minutes.
- d). Village Hall: Cllr MacDowall confirmed that the Village Hall Committee had not met since the last Parish Council Meeting.

Public Forum: A resident who had received information via a Freedom of Information request made to Tostock Parish Council wished to state that he was appalled and disgusted at the emails the previous chair had received from a councillor before his resignation. He felt the previous chair had been harshly treated. Another resident wished to see tree planting in the village on the agenda in 2020 and also applauded the village hall on their new bins policy but noted that the dog poo bin was overflowing and appeared to have been missed on the emptying rounds. The clerk stated that she had received an email regarding this already and had been in touch with the relevant department. The resident hoped that if it was missed in future there would be notification so that the bin could be emptied by a volunteer. It was hoped it wouldn't be missed on a regular basis.

A resident enquired about the eligibility of one councillor to sit on Tostock Parish Council. The resident agreed to put the query in writing to the Chairman who would pass it on.

The retired footpath officer informed the council that he had useful material which can be passed on when the current vacancy is filled. The Chair thanked him.

Signature

4. a MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING Wednesday 13th November, 2019:

Cllr Kearsley proposed and was seconded by Cllr Blundell that the minutes to be approved as a true and accurate record. Cllr Peter Boland asked the chair who is legally responsible if the minutes are not a true and accurate record and that he had emailed the chair before the meeting asking whether she had taken legal advice on this matter. The chair confirmed that she had not taken legal advice, however she would if needed. A vote was taken. 6 councillors in agreement that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 9th October, 2019, to be approved as a true and accurate record and signed accordingly. 2 councillors against.

4. b MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL PLANNING MEETING Tuesday 19th November, 2019:

Cllr MacDowall proposed and seconded by Cllr Kearsley, all in agreement that the minutes of the Parish Council Planning Meeting held on Tuesday 19th November, 2019 were approved as a true and accurate record and signed accordingly. 6 councillors in agreement – 6 were present at the planning meeting.

5. PARISH COUNCILLOR VACANCY

The chair confirmed that no election for the vacancy had been called by villagers and that one indication of interest had been received from Jane Storey. She invited County Councillor Jane Storey to speak and tell those present a little about herself. Jane firstly stated that she was recording proceedings as it was of interest to her mother – a long standing resident of Tostock. She wondered if anyone else was recording the meeting? At this point Cllr Peter Boland stated that he had been/was recording the meeting. Jane spoke a little about her history of council work since 2005 and stated that although she now resides in Woolpit, she retains land and property in Tostock and her family continue to live and work here. Cllr Olivia Boland questioned County Councillor Storey further and was reminded that further details would be available when a declaration of interests was made and published in the near future. Cllr Kearsley proposed Tostock Parish Council co-opt Jane Storey and this was seconded by Cllr Cytacki. A vote was held – all in favour. The chair welcomed Cllr Storey. The acceptance was signed by Cllr Storey and the clerk.

6. UPDATES:

i. SID Speed Indicator Displays: Further work to be done on this. Cllr Kearsley proposed Cllr Fletcher to carry on looking into the finer details. Seconded by Cllr Cytacki. All in favour.

ii. 30 MPH limit extensions on roads leading to and from the village. Ongoing.

iii. SALC Training: (Suffolk Association of Local Councils.) The Clerk reported she had attended the Clerks Networking event and found it invaluable to spend the morning with 25 other clerks.

iv. BENCHES: The bench on the junction of Church Road and New Road is the only bench not to have had an overhaul – this is due to the weather - it has not been forgotten. Cllr Olivia Boland asked where the concrete slab costs would be coming from as the budget had not allowed for them. She was informed that current benches are set on concrete slabs and as there were no new benches proposed – no new concrete slabs were required.

v. LOCAL PLAN/NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN: Cllr MacDowall welcomed CCllr Jane Storey to the Parish Council and said he felt she could provide invaluable knowledge and experience of plans. Cllr Blundell stated that indeed, all councillors would be interested in learning more. Cllr MacDowall to carry on researching and the clerk to keep the subject on the agenda.

vi. THE CHRONICLE – COLOUR PRINTING: The chair reported that she had spoken to Shirley Nice who does the most excellent job voluntarily producing The Tostock Chronicle for the Parish Council. Some advertisers had cancelled therefore Shirley was not in a position to confirm most of the cost of colour printing could be covered as previously thought. There could certainly be 2 editions a year in colour – one at Christmas and one in the summer. There were several compliments made on the festive edition recently produced and Cllr Blundell proposed a vote of thanks for Shirley's hard work. Seconded by Cllr Cytacki. Cllr Olivia Boland questioned whether the printing could not be sourced more cheaply on line but it was explained that no two copies are ever the same length therefore a fixed price cannot be obtained leaving costs unknown. Local printers Gipping Press are used and also provide support as necessary. Shirley reminded the public and the Parish Council that the Chronicle is the villager's publication and they should decide when it moves to colour printing.

Signature

7. TO CONSIDER COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY:

Tostock has £15,900.88 to be used by March 2023 and £10,833.92 to be used by April 2024 in CIL monies (already in our bank account but Tostock must apply to **spend** it.) Tostock also has £6,420 to come from Section 106 from the Flatts Lane development. Plus £764.67 for outdoor sport provision. This money must be **applied for** and **used** before 27th September 2020. The clerk had been in contact with the Tennis Club who are seeking quotes for work due on the tennis court and area. Cllr Blundell raised the point that perhaps the bowls club might be interested in an outdoor area.

8. MOTIONS TO APPROVE GRIT BIN REPLACEMENTS AND LITTER BIN EMPTYING

The chair thanked Cllr Cytacki and his team of helpers for siting the new grit bins. Cllr Cytacki reported that whilst reviewing the situation it was apparent that two more are needed. Therefore: Cllr Cytacki proposed to approve the purchase of two more replacement grit bins for the damaged bins on the flagpole triangle and at the junction of The Green and Norton Road. Cllr Kearsley seconded. All in favour.

9. CONSIDER PREPERATION FOR TOSTOCK PC BUDGET FOR 2020/21

The chair, vice chair and clerk to draft a budget for consideration at the January meeting. Cllr Cytacki proposed and Cllr Blundell seconded. All in favour.

10. CORRESPONDENCE:

After the last parish Council Meeting on 13th November, the clerk had received a Freedom of Information request. This has been dealt with and the requested information sent to the requestee. Tostock Parish Council chair's email address had also been subject to a scam which was reported to SALC (who had just a few hours previously advised all parish councils as many had already had the scam emails.) Cllr Storey mentioned Trading Standards and the clerk reported that SALC appeared to have it in hand.

11.PLANNING :

Planning application:DC/19/05278 Appledores farm had been refused.

Planning application: DC/19/04752 Place Farm had been approved.

The enquiries brought up by residents in the public forum at the previous meeting had been investigated. The chair reported that the planning department had notified Tostock Parish Council in 2016 that the Appledores Farm gate was permitted however this had never been minuted nor can the correspondence be located. Highways enforcement continues an investigation however.

The caravan on site is privately owned and on private land. This does not constitute fly tipping (the phrase used in the public forum at the previous meeting) therefore is not a parish council issue.

There followed a discussion regarding the understanding of the word defamatory – Cllr Peter Boland referred back to the minutes of the previous parish council meeting when it had been recorded in the minutes the phrase that a resident had used in the public forum. Cllr Peter Boland did not agree with the chairs understanding of the word defamatory.

12.LITTER PICKER CONTRACT:

Proposal to extend the Litter Picking Contract to the end of the financial year to bring in line with everything else and to give time for any other interested parties to apply for the role. Cllr Fletcher proposed and Cllr Cytacki seconded.

Signature

13. FINANCE:

To approve payment of cheques as below: Proposed by Cllr Kearsley and seconded by Cllr Storey

Cheques:

1427 Christmas Tree	50.00
1428 Glasdon Grit Bins	358.02
1429 Grass Cutting	80.00
1430 Litter picking Nov	49.26
1431 Clerk Salary Nov	480.90

Bank Balances: Reserve Account @ 29/11/19 £37,483.58 Current Account @ 26/11/19 £9,835.24

15. COUNCILLORS REPORTS & ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA:

Cllr Olivia Boland asked about the list of items made after the village meeting – particularly the music festival. This can be considered at a more appropriate time.

Recording of meetings to be placed on the agenda. The type of equipment needed to be purchased, the budget for such equipment and the storage of recordings. Whether it was a good use of tax payers money.

An explanation of the difference between ‘in camera’ meetings and on camera was given by Cllr Storey. All were reminded that the public are not allowed to be recorded on camera.

Cllr Blundell requested that to prevent one person taking over the meeting – hands should be raised in future before any councillor speaks so that the chair may select the order of speaking ensuring all councillors get a turn to speak if required. Also that there should be a time limit on speaking. The clerk reported that many clerks/parish councils use egg timers to indicate speaking time to councillors.

16. DATE OF NEXT MEETING: To confirm the date of the next meeting as Wednesday, 8th January 2020 at 7.30pm in the village hall. (Not the 11th as on the published Agenda)

The meeting closed at 8.55 pm.

Signature