

TOSTOCK PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL  
ON WEDNESDAY 9<sup>th</sup> October 2019

Present: Cllrs J Debenham (Chair), J Kearsley (Vice-Chair), D Blundell, O Boland, P Fletcher,  
P Boland, G Macdowall and M Johansson  
County Councillor Jane Storey  
District Councillor Harry Richardson  
Mrs S Burman (Clerk)  
18 Members of the Public

1. APOLOGIES: Apologies received and accepted from Cllr Nick Cytacki, District Councillor Wendy Turner.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

Poors Committee: D Blundell.

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 **Cllr J Storey**: Spoke about an award winning Suffolk care home, a village award won by Woolpit and help available regarding a footpaths specialist. She mentioned the Elmswell Firefighter celebrating long service and stated our appreciation of them all.

b). District Councillors: **Cllr Wendy Turner** sent a report which had been circulated to councillors and included: The Green Group proposing a motion for MSDC to increase tree planting and the Council Admin voting against, the availability of tours for residents round Suffolk Energy's waste facility – book on their website, Thurston neighbourhood plan had a successful referendum 95.8% voted to go forward for adoption and Stowmarket Middle School site has had 38 affordable homes passed.

**Cllr Harry Richardson** attended and gave a report which included: increase in position to 5.61 years land supply for MSDC means that MSDC have now exceeded the government target for housebuilding and this releases any pressure to provide any additional development. Vote against more tree planting was due to committing MSDC to unfunded purchases of unspecified agricultural land.

c). Village Hall: None received.

d). Chairman: The Chairman stated that all the topics he had been involved in since the last meeting were listed on the agenda and he would comment on each of them as the meeting progressed.

**Public Forum:** The Editor of the Tostock Chronicle wished it to be known that only a small amount of extra money (£1 per household per year) would be needed to print every edition of the Chronicle in colour. The Christmas Chronicle (the next edition) would be in colour as usual anyway. This was due to the advertising money now being collected regularly. This to go on the next agenda for the November meeting.

4. MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL PLANNING MEETING Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> August, 2019:

Cllr Kearsley proposed and seconded by Cllr Blundell, all in agreement that the minutes of the Parish Council planning meeting held on the 28<sup>th</sup> August 2019, were approved as a true and accurate record and signed accordingly.

5. UPDATES:

i. **SID Speed Indicator Displays:** The chairman had provided a report on pricing. This included 6 poles provided free of charge. It was explained that a data collection unit would be a useful indicator of vehicle numbers and speeds. The next step is to approach the homeowners in the vicinity of the proposed poles and with their agreement, to seek approval from highways.

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ii. 30 MPH limit extensions on roads leading to and from the village. Cllr Fletcher was already looking into this and as a result the Parish Council had already written to Cllr Storey as is correct procedure regarding the speed limits, when a private homeowner also contacted Cllr Storey regarding the same subject. Some correspondence had passed between the parties and Cllr Fletcher reported that the received reply had been 'standard'. The chairman suggested that Highways are asked to come and talk about the situation particular to Tostock before an accident happens. Cllr Storey stated that we had a very good chance of getting a 'concealed turning' sign or similar installed on the approach to Tostock Old Hall due to the very high hedge leading to the entrance. Highways would cover the cost of this. Cllr Storey thought it was very unlikely the speed limit would be changed in the lower part of Church Road. She stated the importance of keeping the pull in clear before the single pass bridge leading to the A1088 and had cleared this herself previously as it tends to silt up when it floods. The River Blackbourne zone is already designated a flood area. Cllr Storey thought it more likely that 30mph could be extended from The Leys to the village entrance.

iii. SALC Training: (Suffolk Association of Local Councils.) The clerk confirmed that she and Cllr Fletcher had attended a planning course and the clerk had also attended a budgeting course. Cllr Johansson is booked to attend the new councillor's course at the end of October.

iv. BENCHES: Two of the three benches for repair had now been repaired and were looking splendid. The very heavy Leys pond bench had been removed today so that a review on it could take place. The chairman thanked Evan for his great work. The chairman provided some examples of new benches in both wood and recycled plastic – he requested that councillors email him with their preference so that he could present again at the next meeting.

#### 6. TO CONSIDER COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY:

The clerk had made enquiries regarding CIL and also S106 monies (basically, the previous name for CIL monies) A reporting form had been drawn up. The chairman read out that 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 27<sup>th</sup> September 2020. It was suggested that Cllr Debenham might be involved in finding out more about what the village hall plan for improvement might be. Cllr Blundell suggested that the village hall committee might benefit from employing an architect to create an overall plan and this would likely save money in the long run.

#### 7. CONSIDER TOSTOCK PC BUDGET FOR 2020/21

The clerk stated that this would be on the agenda for the next three meetings and that councillors should consider what they might be spending in 2020/21 in order to formalise the budget at the Jan 2020 meeting so that the precept could then be set. The quarterly budget report was not available as the September bank statements had not yet been received. Cllr Kearsley asked for CIL monies to be set out on the budget sheet which is the same as had been done previously. The clerk advised there would be a large overspend on the staff budget this current year and councillors acknowledged this.

#### 8. THE LOCAL PLAN:

Cllr MacDowall reported that no further research had taken place on this.

#### 9. TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE INSURANCE RENEWAL AND ASSET REGISTER REVIEW

The insurance has been reviewed and had in fact reduced a little to £414.96. Nothing to add to the asset register. All in agreement. Proposed by Cllr Kearsley and seconded by Cllr Fletcher.

#### 10. TO CONSIDER POORS CHARITY MEADOW OFFER

The chairman reported that the offer for the Parish Council to rent the Poor's Meadow had now been withdrawn. Cllr Cytacki had written to Tostock PC that the charity had decided to accept an offer to lease the Norton Road Meadow. Cllr Fletcher stated that she would look into the possibility of another site in the village in the future.

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**11. CORRESPONDENCE:**

A thank you letter from the bowls club for the donation for new team shirts was read out. It was noted that there is team photograph of the bowls club members wearing their splendid new attire in the chronicle.

A courtesy email had been received notifying removal or drastic pruning of a tree beginning to affect the lane and the telegraph wires at Romans Croft – as advised by MSDC Tree Officer.

A letter was received from Mrs Judy Swallow regarding permission for siting a celebratory bench in memory of her husband Mr Adrian Swallow. The land referred to is not Parish Council land and no funding is necessary from the council therefore the Parish Council have no objection and look forward to seeing the bench in situ next year.

**12. ITEMS FOR THE CHRONICLE:**

Council Tax Scam

Something about recycling to follow up on District Councillors reports.

Mention of the ongoing work and the super results regarding the village benches.

**13. PLANNING:**

Application DC/19/03789 Notice of refusal received.

It was noted that planning application DC/18/05568 at Westwood, Leys Road had started but was restricted.

An eye to be kept on its progress.

**14. FINANCE:**

Redirection of bank statements attempts to the clerk continue to be made.

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

(The chair congratulated the litter picker on doing a great job.)

**Cheques:**

1412 MSDC Bin Emptying	294.00
1413 AGAR PKF Littlejohn	240.00
1414 SALC Training and Payroll Charges	179.80
1415 Gipping Press	181.31
1416/20 Litter picking Aug & Sept	98.52
1417 Temp Clerk Expenses	4.70
1418 Clerk Salary & Expenses	660.50
1419 Insurance	414.96

Bank Balances: Reserve Account @ 31/8/19 £37,464.90

Current Account @ 31/8/19 £ 8,914.94

**15. COUNCILLORS REPORTS & ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA:**

Cllr Olivia Boland reported flooding/standing water and blocked drainage ditches near the single pass bridge pull in near the A1088. The chair advised that anyone can use the highways reporting tool on line and this is not a parish council matter – anyone can report and everyone, councillors and residents alike, should do so.

**16. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:** To confirm the date of the next meeting as Wednesday, 13<sup>th</sup> November 2019 at 7.30pm in the village hall.

A discussion was held regarding next year's meeting dates as the village hall had taken a block booking for Wednesday evenings from The Brownies who would like to finish at 7.30pm?

It was resolved for the clerk to book the dates for Wednesdays in 2020 as usual and report back which Wednesdays would possibly need an adjusted start time as The Brownies do not meet in school holidays so it was hoped a good number of PC meetings would continue to be on Wednesdays.

The meeting closed at 8.55 p.m. to the public – the meeting then continued in camera to resolve staff issue.

Signature .....