

TOSTOCK PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL
ON WEDNESDAY 11th March, 2020

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

1. APOLOGIES: Apologies received from P Boland, DC Harry Richardson.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

Poors Committee: D Blundell, N Cytacki, J Storey

Village Hall: Chair - G MacDowall, Committee – P Fletcher

i. Register of interest forms: Complete.

ii. Requests for non pecuniary dispensations: Cllr Fletcher – Litter picker discussion. Cllr Cytacki – Foothpaths officer discussion.

3. REPORTS:

a). County Councillor: **County Councillor Jane Storey:** Ipswich Northern Bypass route not proceeding. Shift focus to cycling and bus routes. Highways Investments/Suffolk 20/20 Fund. Body Cams for school crossing patrol staff. Highways are waiving fees for VE/VJ Day celebrations. There is a directory for shops that provide goods into customers own containers in order to reduce packaging. Colchester will have a new regional Orthopaedics Centre – NHS.

b). District Councillors: Reports circulated to all councillors previously. **Cllr Harry Richardson** had sent a report including MSDC approval of 1.66% increase in its share of council tax meaning a £2.76 per year increase on a Band D property, no change in the Council Tax Reduction Scheme, a change to the empty property discount and continued investment in CIFCO which makes a significant contribution to monies required to run council services. A reserve of £500,000 has been set aside for climate change. **Councillor Wendy Turner** had sent a report outlining 300 more houses passed for building in Woolpit, the push for MSDC to build more zero carbon homes and promote EV charging points. Tostock Toddler Group received £625 towards equipment for their sensory area and a dance teacher from the councillor Turner's locality budget.

c). Chairman: Cllr Fletcher reported that the annual parish meeting for electors of the parish was being held on 8th April 2020. Regarding recording of meetings, after the inconclusive discussion at the last meeting it was felt sensible to leave recording up to individual councillors if they so wished. The chair wished to see some of the 'updates' subjects removed from the agenda – to be brought back on when required. Re Corona Virus – there was no official government advice at this time.

d). Village Hall: Cllr MacDowall reported that the Village Hall Committee meet at the end of March.

Public Forum: Cllr Olivia Boland wished to thank the parish council for donating the Christmas Tree when it was done with, to the animals who had enjoyed it. A resident asked why the precept had gone up by 13.8% when 11.3% had been asked for. The vice chair explained that this was due to the tax base having changed and the clerk mentioned that it amounted to an approximate average of £4 per household per year. The chair explained that the parish council had set an austere budget as previous budgets had relied on borrowing from reserves for revenue spending. Although Parish Council reserves are healthy, there will be a need for replacements of council assets in the future. It is not prudent to use reserves to balance the budget. Having said this the PC will be using £1K of reserves this year and the same next in order to ensure revenue spending can continue. By 2022/23 finances should be back on track.

Signature

4. MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING Wednesday 9th January, 2020:

The minutes were proposed as a true and accurate record by Cllr Kearsley and seconded by Cllr Storey. 7 councillors voted for – 1 abstention.

5. UPDATES:

i. SID Speed Indicator Displays: After an explanation by the chair of the findings and discussion of the merits of using the local company Westcotec (from Dereham) it was agreed to purchase the display unit without the data collection unit which could be added on at a later date if deemed necessary. Solar power was not the way forward for the unit as some areas where the unit will be ‘posted’ will be in full shade. Councillor Boland extolled the merits of ordering from abroad but this would mean high import tax and not being able to claim the VAT back. Customer service back up should be excellent from such a local company and Cllr Storey reported that many villages have the same make and are satisfied. Purchase was proposed by Cllr Kearsley and seconded by Cllr Cytacki. 7 in favour, 1 abstention.

Cllr Fletcher proposed the spend in total be £2,950 (£2,800 for the unit and an extra £150 for brackets etc) this was seconded by Cllr Cytacki. 7 in favour, 1 abstention.

ii. 30 MPH limit extensions on roads leading to and from the village. Ongoing. Cllr Olivia Boland brought up the subject of a petition by the residents of Church Road and a discussion was held reminding all that the parish council had already discussed and voted on this on 13th November 2019. Church Road does not meet the criteria for Highways to review – The Leys and Norton Road remains open to possible changes because it is part of a National Cycle Path and takes considerable pedestrian traffic due to The Leys and adjacent footpaths. To be removed from updates.

iii. SALC Training: (Suffolk Association of Local Councils.) The Clerk had attended the preparing for audit course and the clerks networking morning.

iv. BENCHES: No changes. One bench in capable hands and will be reinstated. Village Hall have had an offer of a memorial bench. To be removed from agenda.

v. LOCAL PLAN/NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN: Cllr MacDowall and Cllr Storey had discussed and due to a new minister coming into post agreed to remove this from the agenda for 6 months. To be brought back on in September. Cllr Kearsley felt the Local Plan coming into agreement would be useful and apply to Tostock development plans. Cllr MacDowall stated the importance of hinterland villages like Tostock having a neighbourhood plan as land would be at a premium in the future. The average build according to the Local Plan could be 40 houses per hinterland village.

6. 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 has not received any update from the Tennis Club who were seeking quotes for work due on the tennis court and area, therefore Cllr MacDowall was requested to provide the parish council with requirement orders on behalf of the village hall and playing fields for the full amount of £6496.67 by the next parish council meeting so that application can be made as soon as possible in order not to lose these monies.

7. TO CONSIDER PARISH COUNCIL INVOLVEMENT IN NEW MOBILE GP/PHARMACIST PROJECT.

Councillor Olivia Boland talked at length about the importance of surgeries being carbon neutral. The populations of Thurston, Woolpit and Elmswell doubling. Village hall could make money by renting a room to a GP weekly. Video consultations more difficult for elderly who do not understand IT. Mobile GP better for disease resistance.

A motion was put forward by the chair: Should Tostock Parish Council pursue looking into a mobile GP/pharmacist? Proposed by P Fletcher, seconded by J Kearsley. 7 against, 1 abstention.

Signature

8. TO APPROVE PERMISSION FOR, AND DONATE TOSTOCK VE PARTY 9th May 2020

The chair proposed the Parish Council give permission for this to be held on the village green and a donation to be made of £75 – understood to be towards the ingredients for a cake and free ice creams for the children etc. Seconded by N Cytacki. A vote was held: All in favour. The Clerk stated she would inform insurers nearer the time.

9. CORRESPONDENCE:

None

10. PLANNING :

Planning application:DC/20/00722 Land adjoining Foresters, New Road.

A discussion was held and it was agreed the Clerk would write on behalf of the council, reporting the same objections as last time- this is outside the planning boundary and out of keeping with the area.

Planning application:DC/20/00723 Porch at The Poppies, Perkins Way.

The parish council had no objection. Clerk to write to planning department.

11. LITTER PICKER CONTRACT, TREE OFFICER & FOOTPATHS OFFICER:

The vice chair took over as chair for this section of the meeting. Cllr Kearsley proposed accepting the application for renewing the litter picker contract at a cost of £906.88 per year. Seconded by Cllr Cytacki. No other applications were received. 6 in favour. 1 abstention. Cllr Fletcher abstained from discussion and voting. An expression of interest in the footpaths officer's roles had come from John Cytacki and Adrian Malcolm which was warmly welcomed by all in favour of their sharing this role. Proposed by Cllr Kearsley, seconded by Cllr Fletcher. 6 in favour, 1 abstention. Cllr Cytacki abstained from discussion and voting.

12. TO APPROVE TOSTOCK PARISH COUNCIL POLICY OF COPYING COUNCILLOR EMAILS TO PARISH COUNCIL EMAIL ADDRESS (ie clerk@tostockpc.org.uk)

The chair stated that the parish email address was specifically set up as a repository for a full record after the previous clerk left post leaving the parish council with no record of mail pre 2018. It is useful for transparency, councillor safety and continuity. It is not relevant who the clerk is – and is desirable so that in the event of a change in clerk there is traceability. SALC advise normal housekeeping is that this is minuted as policy of Tostock Parish Council. At this point Cllr Olivia Boland spoke at great length. The vice chair closed this item on the agenda by speaking carefully to Cllr Olivia Boland. He asked her to put her concerns in writing and they would be addressed by the chair and the vice chair.

13. FINANCE:

The Clerk reported that year end is approaching and she had attended a preparing for audit course and a clerks networking morning. There is a lot of work to do – after the bank statements arrive in April. Audit is booked with SALC for 3rd June 2020.

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

Cheques:

1436 Litter Picker Jan (Inc Sack Holder)	90.09
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1437 Clerk Salary Jan	226.90
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(Signed since last meeting.)

1438 Gipping Press Nov 2019	389.24
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1438 Gipping Press Jan 2020	167.98
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1439 Litter Picker Feb 2020	41.05
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1439 Litter Grabber	19.99
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1440 Clerk Salary Feb 2020	176.10
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Bank Balances: Reserve Account @ 28/02/20 £37,502.27 Current Account @ 28/02/20 £7,778.21

Signature

14. COUNCILLORS REPORTS & ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA:

Cllr Blundell stated that management of councillor's speaking times and etiquette was not being adhered to and reiterated that he would like to see councillors indicate to the chair when they wished to speak to prevent meetings being monopolised by one councillor only.

Cllr Oliva Boland stated in her view it would be nice to see trees planted on the village green.

15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING: To confirm the date of the next Parish Council meeting as Wednesday, 15th April 2020 at 7.30pm in the village hall.

The Annual Parish Meeting is on Wednesday 8th April 2020 at 7.30pm in the village hall.

The meeting closed at 9.27 pm.

The budget for 2020/21 is available to view on the parish website

Signature