

TOSTOCK PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL
ON WEDNESDAY 8th January, 2020

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

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

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 pecuniary dispensations: None

3. REPORTS:

- a). County Councillor: **County Councillor Jane Storey:** Suffolk Fire Service reported to be working very well, particularly with the other emergency services in non-fire related incidents. The pathway to and from the Suffolk Business Park is up and running and being used. The SCC scrutiny committee will be meeting with KIER and SCC Highways for review. SCC draft budget is ready for review and expected to be approved at full council meeting on 27th Feb. Total increase in rates: 3.9% Band D tax will be around £40 extra per year.
- b). District Councillors: Reports circulated to all councillors previously. **Cllr Harry Richardson** had sent a report and also **Councillor Sarah Mansell** both mainly covering the SCC budget and rates to go to full council in Feb as reported by CC Jane Storey.
- c). Chairman: Cllr Fletcher reported that as it had only been a month since the last meeting and Christmas, New Year and illness had taken up the weeks between – there was no report.
- d). Village Hall: Cllr MacDowall confirmed that the Village Hall Committee meet next week.

Public Forum: A resident brought up the subject of not being able to hear the councillors very well during meetings. Cllr Macdowall confirmed that there is an audio system already installed in the hall but not an actual hearing loop. It was agreed to put on the next agenda.

4. MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING Wednesday 11th December, 2019:

After a short discussion with Cllr O Boland the minutes were proposed as a true and accurate record by Cllr Kearsley and seconded by Cllr Cytacki. A vote was held – 7 for and 1 abstention.

5. UPDATES:

- i. SID Speed Indicator Displays: Further work to be done on this. Cllr Fletcher hoped to have the information prepared for the next meeting.
- ii. 30 MPH limit extensions on roads leading to and from the village. Ongoing.
- iii. SALC Training: (Suffolk Association of Local Councils.) Nothing booked at present.
- iv. BENCHES: No changes
- v. LOCAL PLAN/NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN: Cllr MacDowall to carry on researching and the clerk to keep the subject on the agenda.

Signature

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 to chase the Tennis Club who are seeking quotes for work due on the tennis court and area. Cllr MacDowall stated that at the next PC meeting he would be able to state what the village hall would like to spend Section 106 monies on.

7. TO APPROVE 2020/21 BUDGET SET OUT BY THE CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR WORKING PARTY

Cllr Storey queried the wayleave and why it did not appear in the new budget. It was reported that nothing had been received this year in to the bank and it was unclear if there was one and when any monies were last received. It was suggested it may have been a telegraph pole or some such in the past.

Cllr Blundell queried why the precept was going up and the expected spend was going down. The chair explained to all that the budget had been out of line for some while and last year the VAT refund of nearly £3,000 (from the large purchase of the village entrance gateways) had been included in income resulting in an unrealistic financial view when setting the precept. It was proposed by the working party that rather than put the precept up by 25% plus, the sensible view was to raise the precept by £980 (11.83%) review all spending and use £1,000 of reserves for the shortfall as the reserves are more than adequate. It was felt to do this over the next two budgets would enable Tostock to keep a safe reserve and set off on a new path of raising the precept by a more realistic amount each year.

Cllr Boland asked why not use more of the reserve fund and not adjust over 2/3 years but it was felt it was more prudent to use just £1,000 of reserves per year until reserves were at a normal level.

Cllr Kearsley stated that he felt it was a sensible budget and Cllr Storey thanked the working party for the hours spent on it and proposed approval. This was seconded by Cllr Cytacki. A vote was held. All in favour.

8. TO SET TOSTOCK PRECEPT 2020/21

The chair stated the setting of the precept at £9,265.00 as per the budget approved previously. This was proposed by Cllr Kearsley and seconded by Cllr Storey. A vote was held All in favour.

9. CORRESPONDENCE:

After the last parish Council Meeting on 11th December, the clerk had received another Freedom of Information request. This has been dealt with and the requested information sent to the requestee. An email had been received regarding a memorial to the late Allison Scofield – this has been passed to the Village Hall Committee as Allison's link was with the Tostock Brownie Pack at the village hall.

10. PLANNING :

Planning application:DC/19/05941 Removal of conifers at The Cottage, The Leys.

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

11. TREE PLANTING, TREE OFFICER & FOOTPATHS OFFICER:

It was proposed that a piece is written for the Chronicle to advertise these posts to villagers who regularly walk the footpaths and or have an interest in trees. It was felt tree planting may be applicable on the Leys and the idea of an avenue of trees was mooted.

12. TO CONSIDER THE RECORDING OF MEETINGS

A discussion took place in which the council was divided. It was felt that it was a shame that a small village such as Tostock should need to be recording meetings, that it was an unfortunate necessity, that it was a shame to have to consider it and two councillors were firmly against. One councillor stated that with the current level of threats, intimidation and bullying against councillors, it was warranted to substantiate claims made after meetings. One councillor stated that councillors could record individually should they see fit. No agreement was reached bearing in mind the storage of recordings and the cost having made the decision to approve an austere budget. It was agreed to consult SALC and leave on the agenda.

Signature

13. FINANCE:

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

Cheques:

1432 Glasdon Grit Bins	238.68
1433 Litter Picker December	41.05
1434 Clerk Expenses Oct-Dec 19	125.52
1434 Clerk Salary Dec	308.18

Also 1435 SALC Training M Johansson 312.00 Signed next day

Bank Balances: Reserve Account @ 29/11/19 £37,483.58 Current Account @ 20/12/19 £8,757.17

15. COUNCILLORS REPORTS & ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA:

Cllr Olivia Boland stated that in view of the increase in population in the surrounding villages she would like the idea of a mobile GP put on the agenda.

The clerk reported that Saturday 9th May 2020 has been decided as a day for gathering on the village green in honour of the 75th Anniversary of VE Day. (The bank holiday having been moved to Friday 8th May)

16. DATE OF NEXT MEETING: To confirm the date of the next meeting as Wednesday, 11th March 2020 at 7.30pm in the village hall.

The meeting closed at 8.47 pm.

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

Signature