

TOSTOCK PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL
ON WEDNESDAY 13th MARCH 2019

Present: Cllrs R Perks (Chairman), J Kearsley, D Blundell, P Fletcher and N Cytacki
Mrs S Brown (Temporary Clerk)
One Member of the Public

1. APOLOGIES: Received and accepted from: Cllr C Debenham, Cllr J Debenham, Cllr S Mansel and Cllr J Levantis

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: Cllr Blundell in respect of item 12i.

3. DISPENSATIONS: None.

4. MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 15th FEBRUARY 2019:

Cllr Kearsley proposed and seconded by Cllr Perks, all in agreement that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 15th February 2019, were approved as a true and accurate record and signed accordingly.

5. REPORTS:

a). County Councillor **Cllr J Storey** attended a report had been received and circulated to Councillors which included: County Council announces consultation on Northern Relief Road, County Council budget 2019/20 approved, Important school age School Travel Policy, The future of the Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service, Citizens Advice Bureau funding.

b). District Councillors **Cllr J Levantis** a report had been received and circulated to Councillors which included: Proposals for the former Mid Suffolk offices and the former Needham Marker Middle School sites were approved by MSDC planning referrals committee on 27th February, BDC/MSDC public developers contribution database, Safeguarding reference tool for District Councillors, District Councils Networks Annual Conference (DCN), other national news.

Cllr S Mansel a report had been received and circulated to Councillors which included: General fund budget 2019/20, Housing revenue account, 5 year housing land supply, plans for visitor centre at Needham Lake, Planning and pre applications charging schedule, Needham Market developments, New joint local plan. Cllr Kearsley noted Cllr Mansel claimed that MSDC has 5.32 years supply of housing land supply this was briefly discussed.

c). Village Hall: the draft minutes of the meeting held on 24th January 2019 had been circulated to Councillors.

d). Chairman: Nothing to report.

6. Public Forum: A handout was given to councillors on the possible BMX track, it was advised planning permission would probably be needed and could cost in the region of £15,000 although there are a number of grants available. It may be possible to simply move some soil around. If there was support from the village Cllr Storey would be happy to support. It was noted the Poors Estate owns two pieces of land one of which is allotments and the meadow on Norton Road which is difficult to rent due to poor drainage, lack of grass and no water. At the last meeting of the Poors Charity it was felt it could be used for other activities such as BMX track or for dog walkers for a nominal fee. It was advised it had been rented for £50 a year. It was suggested the Parish Council could rent it for a nominal fee. It was highlighted if a BMX track was installed if the land was handed back it may have to be returned to its original state.

Signature.....

7. TO CONSIDER COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY:

The Chair advised he had attended a funding event run by MSDC and Community Action Suffolk and will write a brief report on the event to circulate to Councillors. A number of grants are available from various sources and the S106 and CIL database is available. Currently there is £764 available for outdoor sports equipment. A MSDC officer has stated there is £6400 (this has been queried) confirmed for Tostock, the Chair had sent a list of ideas to confirm whether the monies can be spent on them. Funding for larger projects was also discussed at the event advising pro bono help maybe available from architects.

8. TO CONSIDER NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN:

Cllr Kearsley had written and circulated to Councillors a 'Neighbourhood Plans and Planning Aid' report. The Clerk had received information from the Clerk at Elmswell and a brief outline of their experience so far from the Chair of Drinkstone Parish Council and Neighbourhood Planning Committee which was read to Council. Council discussed and highlighted planning consultants may be needed if Council receives any large planning applications in Tostock. It was highlighted there were grants available to help with costs but it was not a quick project it will take a number of years to progress it. It was felt there needed to be someone to push this forward and there would need to be a number of Councillors on the Committee as well as members who were really keen. It was highlighted there was a seminar on the subject in Ipswich on 30th April a number of Councillors advised they were interested in attending. It was also felt it may be worth waiting until July when the Local Plan should be published and how it defined Tostock. To place on the agenda for the Annual Parish Meeting.

9. FINANCE:

Finance Report: The fourth quarter against budget and the March payment schedule had been circulated to Councillors. The Clerk was still chasing MSDC for the Cleansing grant payments. The internal audit had been booked with LCPAS and should be completed in time for the May meeting. It was advised Tostock will have to undertake an external audit this year as income/expenditure is over £25,000.

784 Payment of Cheques: Cllr Kearsley proposed payment of invoices seconded by Cllr Fletcher all in agreement for the payment of cheques as below:

Cheques:

1375 – Grass cutting Aug/Sept/Oct/Nov £450

1376 – Gipping Press Dec/Jan & Feb/March 2019 £362.61

1377 – Glasdon £80.22

1378 – Litter Picker Jan/Feb invoices £106.73 – Two reports had been received and the litter picker was thanked not only for the thorough reports given but it was noted what a good job he was carrying out. It was noted there was more fly tipping Cllr Fletcher advised MSDC were very quick at coming out to clear this.

1379 – HMRC 4th quarter £262.60

1380 – Temp Clerk Jan/Feb/March salary & expenses £510.16

1381 – SALC provision of payroll service to 31.3.19 £54.00

1382 – Clerks final salary £493.35

Total expenditure for March 2019 £2297.30 + £22.37 VAT

Total income for March 2019 £2.96

Current Account at 1.2.19 £18,477.94 - Reserve Account at 1.2.19 £17,433.89

11. PLANNING:

- i. Application DC/19/00679 Hillcrest, Norton Road- Front, side & rear single storey extension: Council discussed noting the proposed planning was a much larger property and all in agreement no objection in principal but would ask given the sloping nature of the site to ensure the neighbours to the north of the site are not overlooked.

Signature.....

- ii. Planning applications decided by the Planning Authority: Land North of Village hall, Norton Road: Granted – Gable Cottage, Flatts Lane: Granted – Land adjoining Foresters, New Road: Granted – Highmoor House, Norton Road: Granted
- iii. The Chair advised Croft House will be putting a skip on The Green, it was asked when the skip was removed if the resident could ensure the area is put back to its original condition.

12. VILLAGE MATTERS:

- a). Norton Road – Ditches and Trees: The Clerk had been advised by the landowner that the job is in hand. The land owner's comments on the January minutes were noted.
- b). Overhanging Trees – Beyton Road: Cllr Fletcher advised this had been highlighted by a resident, it had been checked by Cllr Fletcher and it does not appear to be a problem at the moment the Chair to also inspect and if necessary to report to Highways.
- c). Speed Stickers – There were approximately 20 stickers left, more could be purchased if necessary.
- d). Speed Indicator Displays: The Chair update Council it was making slow progress as it was now necessary for a letter to be sent to adjacent residents and there were a number of residents still to talk to.
- e). Home Security Presentation: The Chair advised the Community Police had agreed to attend the Annual Parish Meeting in April.
- f). Village To Do List: The Tostock tidy up day had taken place last Saturday and all who took part seemed to enjoy it. Council thanked the organisers of the event and a notice to go in The Chronicle.
- g). Flower boxes at gateways: The Clerk advised highways had asked for a map showing the location of the boxes which would be added to the licence, the Chair had provided a map. The planters would be licensed to the Parish who will hold responsibility for upkeep and replacement. The resident is going ahead to make the boxes, Council to reimburse when finished. It was noted a firework sign needed to be removed.
- h). Tree planting: Nothing further to report
- i). Norton Road meadow owned by Poors Charity possible BMX track: The Chair had spoken to the Clerk of Elmswell parish council as they had started looking at this in the past who advised to think about maintenance, security and health & safety. Council discussed including how to use the Meadow to generate income Cllr Fletcher suggested it would be a good area to plant trees (Alder and Poplar) and turn it into an amenity area with wooded areas and paths running through. It was noted there was already quite a lot of wildlife in the area there could be a small pedestrian access gate. Other ideas of a dog bin, a picnic area with table, bat boxes, owl boxes, extra hedging and wild flower seeds. The parish council could rent this area as an amenity for the village. All in agreement in principal to rent as an amenity area for the village, to place on the Annual Parish Meeting agenda to receive feedback.
- j). Bench repair and to consider additional bench: It was advised the repair had taken place. Cllr Fletcher to give details of cheaper benches to the village hall committee which they may wish to purchase.
- k). HGV's through the village: Cllr Kearsley had received an email from a resident on the matter, Council discussed and felt they had taken as many measures as they could to help reduce speed and traffic in the village. It was advised some verges had been churned up due to large vehicles, it was noted the Tostock tidy days are slowly addressing areas which they are able to but many were in private ownership and the Parish Council cannot do anything about this.
- l). To consider photo frames for village hall: A request had been made to fund photo frames for the WW1 commemoration day posters which had been produced and to place in the village hall. Council discussed and Cllr Blundell proposed making a donation of £208 towards the cost and seconded by Cllr Fletcher all in agreement.
- m). To consider purchase of cleaning equipment for village tidy days: A list of items had been received Council discussed. Cllr Perks proposed supporting the group with a grant for the full amount of £163.87 seconded by Cllr Kearsley all in agreement.
- n). Support for remote control car club: A proposal for funding had been circulated to Councillors, it was noted this was a well put together report. Council discussed and although very supportive of the proposal they were concerned about the amount of money requested. Council would reconsider a grant if the group could raise some monies themselves in the first instance.

Signature.....

12. CORRESPONDENCE: Circulated to Councillors

- Spring Litter pick 2019 – Noted
- Woolpit Neighbourhood Plan Pre-Consultation – Noted

13. ITEMS FOR THE CHRONICLE:

- Annual Parish Meeting
- Poors Charity ideas for Meadow
- Tidy Up Day
- The Chair advised three residents had put themselves forward to help with The Chronicle unfortunately Publisher was approximately £100. Council agreed they were happy to purchase one copy of publisher if someone was happy to help with editing of The Chronicle.

14. COUNCILLORS REPORTS & ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA:

Nothing to report.

15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING: To confirm the date of the Annual Parish Meeting in the Village Hall on Wednesday, 10th April 2019 at 7.30pm

16. DATE OF NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING: To confirm the date of the next scheduled meeting of the Parish Council in the Village Hall on Wednesday, 17th April 2019 at 7.30pm

17. TO RESOLVE TO CLOSE THE MEETING TO THE PUBLIC TO PROGRESS STAFFING ISSUE:

It was resolved to close the meeting. The Chair updated Council in regards the Clerk a letter had been sent and no appeal lodged. Council all in agreement for a final salary payment to be made. The Chair advised he had picked up such documentation as possible. The Solicitors fees had been received Council were all in agreement to pay an invoice at the next meeting. Council agreed to place a notice of vacancy for a Clerk and confirmed the wording needed.

The meeting closed at 10.05 p.m.

Signature.....