

TOSTOCK PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL
ON WEDNESDAY 14th August 2019

Present: Cllrs J Debenham (Chair), J Kearsley (Vice-Chair), D Blundell, O Boland, P Fletcher,
N Cytacki., G Macdowall and M Johansson
District Councillor Harry Richarson
Mrs S Burman (Clerk)
Seven Members of the Public

1. APOLOGIES: Apologies received and accepted from Cllrs: P Boland and District Councillor Wendy Turner.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

Poors Committee: N Cytacki and D Blundell.

Village Hall: Chair - G MacDowall Committee – P Fletcher

- i. Register of interest forms: The clerk confirmed receipt of one corrected Register of Interest form.
- ii. Requests for dispensations: None

3. REPORTS:

a). County Councillor **Cllr J Storey**: No report received.

b). District Councillors: **Cllr Wendy Turner** sent a report which included: Warnings regarding council tax scams, draft joint local plan, 5 year land supply, £3.1m loss by CIFCO and zero waste week Sept 2-6th

Cllr Harry Richardson attended and gave a report which included: Suffolk's plan to become the greenest county, wildlife corridors and the intention to be carbon neutral by 2030. The chair asked if we would receive more information on wildlife corridors and Cllr Boland asked for more clarity on the carbon neutral statement.

c). Village Hall: None received.

d). Chairman: The Chairman had undertaken a review of benches in the village along with the Chairman of the village hall committee and Evan Markell – local carpenter. The outcome from this is that 3 new benches are required, 2 are to be rubbed down and treated, 3 are perfect and 1 may need to be replaced but a repair will be attempted first. Repairs to commence immediately £200 Proposed by Cllr Kearsley and seconded by Cllr Cytacki. Replacements to be researched and return to agenda.

Public Forum: One villager enquired when the Tostock Place application was to be discussed and was advised it would be the subject of another meeting – the date to be set at the end of this one. One villager enquired whether it would be possible to hold a garage/sale trail and were advised the Parish Council would have no objection as on private driveways etc.

4. MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING Wednesday 10th July, 2019:

Cllr Fletcher proposed and seconded by Cllr Debenham, all in agreement that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 10th July 2019, were approved as a true and accurate record and signed accordingly.

5. UPDATES:

i. HGV's through the Village: Cllr Fletcher advised Tostock had plenty of HGV signage. Highways have advised that there is in fact NO weight limit on the Norton Road bridge according to their records. 30mph signage was discussed and regarded as worth pursuing. The chairman suggested a working group for this to be taken forward and to investigate the possibility of extending the 30 mph limits to where houses begin on approaches to the village, for instance Tostock Old Hall to the single pass bridge towards the A1088. To place on next agenda.

ii. SID Speed Indicator Displays: The chairman had reviewed the information gathered by previous Parish Councillors and updated the costing. Each portable SID is £2625 plus VAT (£2900 with smiley/cross face) and the data collection unit at £250 plus VAT. Software is extra. More time is needed to put together a plan to present. It was thought that 4 volunteers had made themselves known to help run this system.

iii. General Power of Competence: The clerk confirmed that once a resolution has been passed, a parish council remains eligible up until its next relevant annual meeting, whether or not the conditions relating to electoral mandate and qualified clerk continue to be met, compliance with these conditions is judged at the time a resolution is passed. Remove from agenda.

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iv. SALC Training: (Suffolk Association of Local Councils.) The clerk confirmed that she and Cllr Fletcher were booked to attend a planning course and the clerk is also booked on the budgeting course. This required budgeting for. Cllr Kearsley proposed that the sum required for training be approved for transfer from the reserve account – this was seconded by Cllr Debenham. The new councillors were advised to go onto SALC website and arrange booking with the Clerk. Cllr Olivia Boland asked if training was compulsory. Cllr Kearsley advised that the funding was there – the clerk to find out whether compulsory. New councillors were advised to read their new councillors packs, the policies and information on the parish council website and attend the short training course offered.

6. TO CONSIDER COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY:

Cllr MacDowall advised that the village hall committee had met and made a short list of priorities. After the village meeting it was revised/added to. The village hall will come back to the parish council as some projects are quite large and take time to quote for. Cllr Blundell requested a copy of The Environmental Audit Report for the village hall. Cllr MacDowall suggested that the parish council keep a spreadsheet of the various monies available and their use by dates as they differed. To place on next agenda.

7. TO CONSIDER COSTS - POOR'S CHARITY MEADOW, NORTON ROAD & COMPLETION OF FORMAL LETTER TO THE POOR'S CHARITY:

The chairman stated that a report of the ongoing costs of fencing and maintenance, including whether villagers would use the land, was required. Cllr Cytacki said there was much enthusiasm for the project in the village, the £60 rent was extremely low and payable to a Tostock charity. Cllr Blundell suggested that a Project Statement would be a good idea. It was agreed to put an item in the Chronicle for villager's feedback and also for Cllr Fletcher to chair the working group. This was proposed by Cllr Cytacki and seconded by Cllr Blundell who was added to the Poors Estate committee as the PC rep at the Poors Estate meeting in June 2019. Cllr Johansson enquired why the land was not suitable for grazing – and heard that it was 'poor' land for grazing and did not produce enough rental for the charity to spend on its maintenance. Cllr Blundell stated the Parish Council will need to have a firm plan with costs to ascertain whether the village would like the Parish Council to go ahead. To place on next agenda.

8. THE LOCAL PLAN:

Cllr Kearsley's report had been circulated to all Councillors. A copy of the local plan had been delivered to Cllr Kearsley by the clerk for him to examine. The Local Plan states that Mid Suffolk must deliver 556 dwellings per year, of these, 127 must be affordable. The Tostock development area stands unchanged. Cllr Kearsley recommended that the parish council attend one of the drop in sessions being run during the consultation period as Tostock has been classed as a hinterland village when we are actually a hamlet according to the points grading method. Cllr MacDowall expressed concern that Tostock would remain vulnerable to inappropriate development while it did not have a neighbourhood plan. Cllr Cytacki stated he believed having a plan would bring developers in as it would mean identifying land in the village for possible development. Cllr Kearsley stated that he had reported to the parish council on the subject of a plan and he would provide copies for councillors via the clerk. The chair requested that Cllr MacDowall report back after he offered to speak to Beyton councillors who he understood were preparing a plan currently. Cllr Boland suggested that young people want Tostock to be bigger – why would we wish to be classed as smaller? The chair stated that villages do not choose which to be – they must abide by the points awarded system and follow the rules.

9. TO CONSIDER CHRISTMAS TREE FOR THE VILLAGE GREEN

Council discussed and Cllr Debenham proposed making £120 available now so that a more appropriately sized tree could be ordered earlier this year. Cllr Blundell seconded this. More lights were mentioned – it was agreed no more lights needed – merely a smaller tree!. The Red Oak on the green was mentioned as an alternative. Cllr Fletcher advised that this was researched last year and a cherry picker would be needed to put up and take down lights so a lower more traditional approach is preferred and is cheaper.

10. FACEBOOK AS A MEANS OF PARISH COUNCIL COMMUNICATION:

Cllr Boland put forward the case for using Facebook for communication of Parish Council business. The advantage of this is that it is instant and young people would find it easier to follow the Parish Council's business. The chairman expressed some concerns about who would maintain the Facebook pages. Cllr Cytacki

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voiced reservations regarding Facebook being an opinion based forum and not as factual as present communication methods which are the noticeboard, the website and the Chronicle. Cllr Cytacki also mentioned that social platforms work through a data exchange method. The Chairman suggested that as the website contains all the information already, maybe the village should be reminded via the Chronicle that this is the place to go for information. The clerk advised that the Proper Officer (The Clerk) would be responsible for the Facebook account and monitoring it which would take some time as social media would require frequent checking for content and or comments made. The clerk advised that the council would need to debate how many hours they were willing to fund the Clerk to carry out the extra work. The council took a vote on printing a notice in the Chronicle directing villagers to the website. 6 councillors were for this proposal.

11. CORRESPONDENCE:

An email was received from Mr Knowles of Tostock Place stating his intention to put in a planning application for 9 houses. The planning application was not received in time for inclusion on the agenda for this meeting. Subsequently an application was submitted and a specific meeting will be called to discuss comments the Parish Council wish to make to the planning department by 2nd September 2019.

12. ITEMS FOR THE CHRONICLE:

Direction notice to the Tostock Village Website.

Poor Estate land rental – ask for public feedback.

Council Tax Scam

13. PLANNING:

Appeal Decision: APP/W3520/W/19/3225661 Land Adjacent to Foresters, New Road, Tostock. IP30 9PJ
APPEAL DISMISSED

14. FINANCE:

The Clerk reported that banking arrangement changes require **signed minutes** by the bank (Signed this evening) To approve redirection of bank statements to the new Clerk: Mrs Sharon Burman. Proposed by Cllr Fletcher and seconded by Cllr Kearsley.

To approve donation of £300 to Carpet Bowls Club as quote now changed (from £267.75) Proposed by Cllr MacDowall and seconded by Cllr Debenham.

To approve payment of cheques as below:

Cheques:

1402 Litter picker and expenses	85.87
1403 Clerks & Councils Direct Subscription	12.00
1404 MSDC Parish Election Recharges	107.78
1405 Gipping Press	181.31
1406 Temp Clerk	408.00
1407 Clerk June & July	386.08
1408 Carpet Bowls Club Donation	300.00

Bank Balances: Reserve Account @ 1/8/19 £37,458.74

Current Account @ 1/8/19 £10,031.57

15. COUNCILLORS REPORTS & ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA:

Cllr Fletcher asked for Terms of Reference for Footpath and Tree Officers to be placed on the next agenda.

16. DATE OF NEXT MEETING: To confirm the date of the next meeting, a planning meeting, as Wednesday, 28th August 2019 at 7.30pm in the village hall.

The meeting closed at 9.20 p.m.

Signature