

**TOSTOCK PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN TOSTOCK VILLAGE HALL
ON MONDAY 17th May, 2021.**

Present: Chair: P Fletcher, J Kearsley (Vice-Chair) D Blundell, P Boland,
N Cytacki, M Johansson and J Storey.
Mrs S Burman (Clerk)
DC Harry Richardson and DC Wendy Turner
6 Members of the Public

The Chair opened the meeting at 7.32pm and stated that she would be recording the meeting.
Cllr Peter Boland also stated that he was recording.

1. APOLOGIES: Apologies received and accepted from Cllr Graham MacDowall and County Councillor Andy Mellon. Cllr P Boland queried why apologies not accepted from Olivia Boland and the clerk stated that no apologies had been received. Cllr P Boland stated that he would take this up with the clerk at a later date.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

Poors Committee: D Blundell, N Cytacki, J Storey

Requests for pecuniary dispensations: None

Cllr Storey wished to declare that she is chair of SSAFA Suffolk and also may be applying for planning permission at a future date – not relevant to the agenda this evening.

3. REPORTS: All circulated to councillors prior to the meeting from:

a). Chairman: Cllr Fletcher explained grants to charities under Section 137 as a background to items coming up on the agenda. Also how the Parish Council had relayed councillors comments by email to the planning authority since the Covid pandemic. She also stated that the Annual Parish Meeting (not a Parish Council meeting – but traditionally called on behalf of the parish by the chair) should be held between 1st March and 1st June but no guidance had been given yet on gatherings of over 30 people. In order to avoid cancelling this meeting for the second year running she suggested provisionally saving the date of 21st June 2021 for this purpose. This will be advertised to all as a firm date when it is allowed.

b). County Councillors Report: The chair read out the report previously circulated by email by the new County Councillor Andy Mellen. She echoed Cllr Mellen’s thanks to outgoing County Councillor Jane Storey for her dedication over many years.

c). District Councillors: Reports received from Cllr Harry Richardson and Cllr Wendy Turner who were in attendance and no questions were raised. Cllr Richardson wished to add that the Queen’s Speech had revealed changes to come within the planning system but this still had to go through parliament and would be most likely to affect cities and towns in the main. Cllr Turner had nothing to add except to contact her if you have any queries.

d). Village Hall: The Village Hall report had been circulated by email. It had been closed for over a year and is just starting to re-open. The outdoor gym equipment is installed and the survey amongst residents is being looked at.

Public Forum: No one wished to speak.

4. TO CONSIDER THE APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING:

The minutes of the meeting of Wednesday 9th December 2020 were proposed as a true and accurate record by Cllr Storey and seconded by Cllr Cytacki. Cllr Fletcher agreed – no other councillors were present.

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5. APPOINTMENT OF OFFICERS:

A short discussion revealed that no one else wished to stand for chair. Cllr Storey proposed Cllr Fletcher – seconded by Cllr Kearsley – All in favour. Similarly with Vice Chair no one else wished to stand. Cllr Kearsley was proposed by Cllr Fletcher and seconded by Cllr Blundell.

Cllrs Blundell and Cytacki were happy to continue to represent the parish council on the Poor’s Estate committee and no one currently wished to join Cllr MacDowall as PC representative on the Village Hall committee.

6. UPDATES:

i. SID Speed Indicator Displays: Cllr Fletcher reported that Highways have the post installations on their ‘to do’ list.

ii. Local Plan/Neighbourhood Plan: Nothing to report.

7. TO CONSIDER EXTRA DOG WASTE BIN AND EMPTYING COSTS:

Cllr Fletcher proposed a new dog waste bin to be purchased and sited at the walk through from the road junction side of the Croft to the playing field and for it to be added to the annual emptying costs. Cllr Cytacki seconded this. All in favour.

8. TO CONSIDER USING SOME OF THE UNWANTED VILLAGE HALL GRANT MONEY FOR CHARITABLE DONATION(S):

The chairman of the village hall had written to the Parish Council on 10th May 2020 stating that as the village hall had received a government grant the £1500 that the Parish Council had allowed for it in the 2020/21 budget was not required. The chair proposed to make a one off donation to three local charities – Citizens Advice Bureau, Suffolk Accident and Rescue Service and SSAFA(Suffolk) using some of the village hall grant which now is held in reserves. Cllr P Boland asked if there was a time frame or cut off date to decide this and the chair stated that there was not. Cllr Storey was in favour of making a donation to worthy charities. Cllr P Boland asked how the charities had come to the parish council’s attention. The clerk stated that charities had emailed all parish councils and councils alike during the pandemic and that these emails had not been passed to councillors during the pandemic. Cllr Blundell felt that parishioners may not wish to see their precept given away to charity when the money could be used in the village. Cllr Storey proposed that the matter be deferred and could be mooted at the Annual Parish Meeting to gauge parishioner’s opinions. This was seconded by Cllr Kearsley. All in favour.

9. 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.) In total the Parish Council has £41,566.07 CIL monies. Cllr Kearsley had noted from District Councillor reports that Tostock had received very little from County Councillor or District Councillors budgets. This should be discussed at the Annual Parish Meeting in order to attract more resources to Tostock. Cllr Cytacki agreed. Cllr Storey stated that Tostock had received little due to no requests being made for funding.

10. PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

The chair proposed that Parish Councillors continue to receive simple planning application notifications via the clerk and return any comments to the clerk as had successfully been carried out during the Covid pandemic. Any application other than simple straightforward and non-contentious would be discussed at a planning meeting. Cllr P Boland gave a brief assessment of how he thought the planning applications had been dealt with during the pandemic and the clerk reminded him that applications are posted on the notice board and the village website. Cllr Storey stated that common sense was key and no application requiring a meeting would not have one. Cllr Kearsley stated that in his opinion the best planning comments come from the public at public meetings. Cllr Cytacki proposed the email system to continue for simple and non-contentious applications only. Cllr Storey seconded. A vote was held. 5 in favour.

Signature

11. MOTION TO GIFT OUTDOOR EQUIPMENT AS PURCHASED TO TOSTOCK VILLAGE HALL:

It was proposed to gift the outdoor equipment as purchased to Tostock Village Hall by Cllr Blundell and seconded by Cllr Kearsley. All in favour.

12. MOTION TO APPROVE HIRE PAYMENT TO VILLAGE HALL FOR PC MEETINGS:

Cllr Fletcher proposed paying the Village Hall for hire of hall for Parish Council meetings going forward. It was thought that the previous rate paid per meeting was around £12.00 Cllr Blundell seconded. All in favour.

13. FINANCE: Clerks reports circulated by email to all prior to the meeting:

To approve payment of cheques as previously circulated by email – the last four months internal control sheets for all councillors to see and by email going forward.

Proposed by Cllr Fletcher and seconded by Cllr Kearsley. Cllr Storey noted that more detail might be useful. The Clerk can add more detail as required.

The Clerk confirmed four signatories regularly swapped and rotated during the lockdowns and system working well. Clerk to do VAT return and then prepare for the 2021 Audit and submit on line as in 2020.

April cheques:	001501	SALC Membership	£267.50
	001502	Grass Cutting	£ 85.00
	001503	Litter Picker	£ 69.76
	001504	Clerk	£184.60

Bank Balances: Reserve Account @ 30/4/21 £37,524.45 Current Account @ 30/4/21 £27,107.78

14. COUNCILLORS REPORTS & ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA:

Cllr Fletcher reported that villagers were having trouble with the paving slabs set as a step to reach the post box – these will be cleared of the grass which is encroaching on the size of the step.

Railway and river bridge flooding Norton Road/Heath Road – highways have no record of any issues apart from it is a natural flood plain. Cllr Blundell stated that he had solutions to flooding if anyone wished to contact him.

Cllr Johansson stated that Armstrong's Wood is still overgrown and not enough was removed last year.

Cllr P Boland – asked if the risk assessment for Parish Council meetings could be sent out with agendas.

15. DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS: To confirm the dates of the next meetings as

MONDAYS 5th July, 23rd August, 11th October and 6th December 2021 at 7.30pm in the village hall.

Clerk to book with Village Hall Secretary and put on website.

The Brownies are using the Village Hall on Wednesdays – the Covid cleaning schedule is aided by Parish Council meeting on Mondays.

The meeting closed at 8.40pm.

Signature