

# TOSTOCK PARISH COUNCIL

## **Minutes of an Ordinary Council Meeting held on Monday, 10<sup>th</sup> October 2022 at Tostock Village Hall**

**Present:** Cllrs O Boland, Johannsen, MacDowell, Mellen (Ch), Richardson

**Attending:** Mr Peter Dow  
11 members of the public

### MINUTES

- 22.10.01 **Resolved:**  
That Peter Dow be appointed as Clerk to this meeting
- 22.10.02 **Noted:**  
An apology for absence was noted from Cllr P Boland
- 22.10.03 **Noted:**  
The following when Members' Declarations of Local Non-Pecuniary Interest and/or Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in subsequent agenda items were invited and any additions, deletions or alterations to the Council's Register of Interests noted:  
3.1 Cllr MacDowell declared a Local Non-Pecuniary Interest in any matters related to the Village Hall as he was Chairman of the Village Hall Committee.
- 22.10.04 **Resolved:**  
**That the Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> July 2022, as circulated and posted, be agreed as a true record.**
- 22.10.05 **Noted:**  
The following when reports from Ward Members were invited:  
5.1 A written Report from District Councillor Austin Davies which had been circulated to Councillors;  
5.2 A written report from District Cllr Richardson which had been circulated to Councillors and to which he added orally:  
5.2.1 Changes to the scheduling of MSDC meetings following the death of Her Majesty the Queen;  
5.2.2 Imminent policy changes consequent upon moves at Government level regarding Investment Zones and affecting the Gateway 14 Freeport scheme;  
5.2.3 A revised Parking Strategy due to take account of anticipated population growth.  
5.3 A written report from County Cllr Andy Mellen and confirmation that TPC has registered an interest in the EV charging scheme currently funded at £2.75m.
- 22.10.06 **Noted:**  
The following when public comment or question was invited on any matter on the Agenda:  
6.1 The Council's Register of Interests as held and published on line by MSDC is out of date in relation to some current sitting Members;  
6.2 The Village Hall Committee is pursuing with the Charity Commission the current status of the playing field adjacent to the hall in light of recently expressed confusion as to ownership;  
6.3 Issues affecting the roll-out of the Speed Indicator Device are being addressed.

22.10.06.1.1.1 **Noted:**

The following when matters, as per the agenda, were brought forward from previous meetings:

- 7.1 The post of Village Litter Picker has been filled and Oliver Holland is employed for 2 hours per week under the direction of Cllr MacDowall.
- 7.2 There has been no further CIL input in the current round and existing holdings are likely to be dedicated to the village hall improvement project which is now at the funding assessment stage with 3 schemes on the table following public consultation. Phasing might be a consideration given the widely preferred option for an extension to the existing building which may not be possible using first-tranche funding. Peripheral issues regarding registered land ownership need not impinge on the progress of any scheme.
- 7.3 Cllr MacDowall agreed to inspect 2 trees on Council land when the leaves are down following concerns expressed after a recent visual tree safety audit carried out by a member of the public.
- 7.4 From the floor, Chris Howells offered to take further the co-ordination of a volunteer team with a view to bringing the Council's Speed Indicator Device into action. As a first step, the manufacturer must attend and conduct functionality tests given the length of time it has been in storage. The Meeting agreed that TPC would fund the costs of charging the batteries.
- 7.5 The Meeting noted that heavy rain is now needed to test recent remedial drainage works carried out by SCC at Flatts Lane. Cllr Mellen undertook to forward to SCC photographic evidence sent to him of any continuing problem.
- 7.6 The Meeting noted that the Council's presence on the recently revamped village website is now up to date.
- 7.7 The Meeting noted that the re-direction of postal address for receipt of TPC bank statements was proving to be problematic but that due process continues.
- 7.8 The Meeting accepted that, in light of SCC confirmation of the cost structure involved in effecting a speed limit change from 60mph to 30mph on Church Road, there was little point in taking the idea further unless and until statutory processes involving digitisation and a consequent reduction in costings are effected. Cllr Mellen undertook to check the legitimacy of some of the signatures to the recent petition as presented to SCC in this regard.
- 7.9 Following discussion regarding the proposed variation in an individual householder's access arrangements over the Green, the Meeting agreed that professional advice is necessary and that this should be at no cost to the Council which would not stand to benefit materially from any ensuing change. The Chairman invited a proposal in order to take the matter further on grounds that, as advised by the Clerk, sufficient information appeared on the Agenda.

**Proposal: Cllr Mellen;**

**That advice be sought from Messrs Birketts LLP of Ipswich as to the scope of works and consequential costs involved in varying existing Rights over The Green as requested by an adjacent householder and that the response be conveyed to the householder with a view to their bearing any and all eventual costs prior to any chargeable work being instructed.**

Seconded; Cllr Richardson

Voting unanimously in favour

**Proposal carried**

- 7.10 Cllr Mellen was thanked for his recent work to cut the grass at The Leys in light of difficulties in finding a contractor to undertake the work. Peter Dow offered to forward details to Cllr MacDowall of a contractor who has recently carried out such work locally to a high standard and at a reasonable price.

22.10.07 **Noted:**  
8.1 Following discussion on Council support for a Village firework display, the Chairman invited a proposal in order to take the matter further on grounds that, as advised by the Clerk, sufficient information appeared on the Agenda.

**Proposal: Cllr MacDowall;**

**That Council should support the proposed 2022 village fireworks display in relation to insurance costs up to a maximum sum of £100.00.**

Seconded Cllr Mellen

Voting unanimously in favour

**Proposal carried**

8.2 Following discussion regarding the publication costs of The Chronicle, the Chairman invited a proposal in order to take the matter further on grounds that, as advised by the Clerk, sufficient information appeared on the Agenda.

**Proposal: Cllr Richardson;**

**That Council should continue to fund until March 2023 any production cost shortfall in the publication of the Chronicle together with covering the cost, not to exceed £50.00, of the provision of a new editorial email address.**

Seconded Cllr Mellen

Voting unanimously in favour

**Proposal carried**

22.10.08 The Meeting received and noted a Financial Report tabled by Cllr MacDowall including projections for the remainder of the financial year from which no action was determined.

22.10.09 **Resolved:**

**That the following payments made are noted and agreed:**

Gipping Press (Chronicle)	£ 307
Birketts LLP (legal fees)	£ 236
Peter Dow for clerking services	£542.50
Jane Storey, reimbursement for Jubilee items	£ 332.40
Hire of Wesley Hall, Elmswell	£ 57
Suffolk.Cloud (website and mailbox)	£ 58
Birketts LLP – Payment to O. Boland ref. legal case	£ 17,500

*Cllr Mellen declared a Pecuniary Interest in the following agenda item, undertook to leave the Meeting if asked during its discussion, and did not vote.*

22.10.11 **Resolved :**

**That the following payments be authorised for payment:**

Community Action Suffolk (Insurance)	£ 403.37
South View Farm (mowing of the Leys)	£ 60
Gipping Press (Chronicle)	£ 360

20.10.12 **Noted:**

The following when public comment or question was invited on any matter of Council business;

12.1 There is no need to purchase a village Christmas tree this year.

12.2 The matter of Jubilee celebration expenses due to volunteers is in hand .

- 20.10.13 **Noted:**  
The following when any other business from Councillors or the Meeting Clerk for information, to be noted or for inclusion on a future agenda;
- 13.1 Confirmation of Council's current Standing Orders would come to the next meeting.
  - 13.2 The Chairman confirmed that he had not responded to recent Planning applications forwarded to TPC for comment regarding tree matters as he judged that they would be scrutinised adequately by the District Tree Officer. He had not responded to Application ref. DC/22/04982 for an extension at 2, Flint Cottages, Flatts Lane on grounds that the proposals were not of a scale or nature to justify the calling of an Extraordinary Meeting of Council.
  - 13.3 A Planning application for the installation of solar PV units at Linnet House gave no rise to objection from Councillors present and no comment would be made.
  - 13.4 The Chairman undertook to ensure that Planning applications, as necessary and appropriate, would appear on the next agenda.
- 22.10.14 The date of the next meeting was scheduled as 23<sup>rd</sup> January in the Village Hall beginning at 7.30pm.
- 22.10.15 The Meeting closed at 8.55.

**NB. THESE MINUTES ARE IN DRAFT FORM AND FOR INFORMATION ONLY  
UNTIL RATIFIED AT A SUBSEQUENT MEETING OF COUNCIL**