MINUTES OF TROSTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING held on Tuesday 14th January 2025 7.00pm at Troston Village Hall

Present: Cllrs D Bilverstone (Chair) J Moffat, S Rose, P Riddick, D Pugson & WS D. Cllr A Speed. 2 member of the public.

**1. Apologies for absence**

The Parish Council received and accepted apologies for the absence from Cllrs P Walton and R Hopfensperger.

**2. Co-option of new Parish Councillor** N/A

**3**. **Members Declarations of Interest and Dispensations:**

3.1 To receive declarations of interest from Councillors on items on the agenda. None.

3.2 To receive written requests for dispensations for disclosable pecuniary interests. None.

3.3 To grant dispensations as appropriate under Section 33 of the Localism Act. None.

**4.** **Minutes** The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 5th November 2024 were agreed and approved as correct records

**5. Report from RAF Honington:**

The Clerk reported that RAF Honington have not appointed a liaison Officer. The Clerk will continue to send the agendas and minutes.

**6. Meeting open for questions from the public** It is politely requested that this session does not exceed 15 minutes in total.

No matters were raised in the public session.

7. Village Hall report

To receive any report from the Village Hall, including any update regarding the roof repairs. Brenda Burridge gave the report which advised:

VH management Committee met on 7th January 2025

The Hall continues to be in regular use and is appreciated by hirers. Sue suggested we review our Bookings arrangements to make our way of working more user friendly. She is asking Des to help with this.

Financially, over the past year, our expenses have exceeded income. Total receipts for the year were £3,323.80 and expenses were £6,781.30. The latter includes £1,573 to Bright Sparks for electrical work and £970 to Waldo’s for external painting. Our Insurance Renewal is due in March and Cathy will consult with our existing insurers and research alternatives. We considered the cover we have and whether this is still appropriate.

Maintenance issues were discussed. The outside lighting along the drive is not working and the lights attached to the building trip out from time to time. We are waiting for news regarding funding for the work needed on the roof.

Our next meeting will be Tuesday 25th February at 2.00 pm

**8.** **Report from County Councillor:** R Hopfensperger.

To receive updates regarding possible signage at the playing field and confirmation of any grant towards VAS.

Cllr Hopfensperger was unable to attend the meeting, there were no updates.

**9. Report from B. Councillor:** A Speed

Cllr Speed reported on the Devolution progress for Suffolk.

The government’s recent English Devolution White Paper outlines plans for broader and deeper devolution, coupled with a programme of coordinated local government reorganisation.

On 9th January, following an invitation from government ministers, Suffolk County Council’s Cabinet agreed to recommend Suffolk for inclusion in the government’s Devolution Priority Programme (DPP). Whilst concerns about the potential reduction in local democracy were expressed, the overwhelming feeling was that Suffolk should aspire to engage and participate proactively with the proposals. It is likely that Suffolk will see the creation of a directly elected Mayor - covering Suffolk and Norfolk - and the replacement of existing council structures with a streamlined unitary council being set up. He added that the elections planned for 2025 will be postponed until 2026.

**10. Finance**

10.1 Council discussed and agreed to the national pay award for the Clerk.

10.2 The Clerk provided a schedule of payments which were agreed and approved unanimously.



**10.2a** The Clerk had circulated the bank reconciliations and actual spend to budget reports. There were no questions.

**10.3** Council to considered and agreed unanimously to pay staff salaries by standing order each month. The Clerk will organize with Unity Trust Bank. **Action Clerk**

**11. Budget planning 2025/26**

Council confirmed precept figure agreed at meeting on 5th November 2024 to be final at £20,000. The Clerk will complete Precept demand and process. **Action Clerk**

12. Play Area/Field to include:

**12.1** Play area inspection report, there were no actions to be taken from the report.

**12.2** **Goal sleeve update**, Cllr Pugson advised he is in ongoing discussions with Peter Kerry and will update Council once final figures are obtained. **Action Cllrs Pugson**

**12.3** **To receive any update on the application for Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) for the children’s play area.**

The clerk update Councillors and it was decided to apply for the PSPO later in the year so it runs inline with West Suffolk Councils review processes meaning only 1 set of paperwork needs to be completed. **Action Clerk**

**12.4 Update on the play area survey**

Council discussed the finds of the survey. It showed that a replacement zipline was the most popular option. It was agreed to obtain an additional quote for the equipment. **Action Clerk**



**12.4a** **To consider the Capital funds grant from West Suffolk Council.**

The Clerk advised the Council has been successful in there bid for a grant of £5000 for use in the play area.

**13. Village Maintenance/matters**

**13.1** **To confirm purchase of new VAS, following confirmation of funds from SCC Cllr R Hopfensperger**

Confirmation of funding is yet to be received from Cllr Hopfensperger. The purchase of a new device will be put on hold until this confirmation has been received. The Clerk has emailed the quote as requested**. Action Cllr Hopfensperger/Clerk**

**13.2 To receive any updates regarding the village website.**

Bios still to be finalised Cllr Pugson will assist those that needing writing. It was agreed no photos to be attached. There are still some functionality issues but less frequent. Current project is on file retention structure (council meetings, etc.) and removal of out-of-date/out-of-interest items. The Troston Economy page is 80% complete, awaiting confirmations from some of the businesses before publishing. The missing newsletter files have been updated. Awaiting better weather for photographs to help with the Gallery page, currently empty. Work in progress on the Troston News page. **Action Cllr Pugson**

13.3 To discuss potential use for the decommissioned phone box.

Councillors discussed and agreed to trial a seed swap starting in the spring. A small noticeboard will be installed where people can put a note if they have any plants that needed homes. For those people who do not have seeds to swap it will be possible to make a donation for seeds that will be put towards Village projects. Cllr Bilverstone will coordinate. Action Cllr Bilverstone

**13.4 To discuss plans for the grass cutting tender:**

Council discussed the existing supplier and expressed their satisfaction with them. Cutting of the hedge leading into the play area from Pear Tree Close has been added and the Clerk will discuss with the supplier. Council agreed not to tender to other suppliers this year.  **Action Clerk**

**13.5 Electric Vehicle charger scheme:**

The Clerk had circulated details of the scheme run by Suffolk County Council which offered fully funded installation of an electric vehicle charging point with a means to earn an income. The position of the unit would need 24/7 access. Council considered the play area carpark but felt with no electrical supply close to the area it would be to costly to bring a supply to the area and it would not be funded by Suffolk County Council. It was agreed that the pub would be a great place for this and the Clerk would forward all information so they can proceed if they wish. **Action Clerk**

**13.6 Council to consider representation as a trustee for Troston Poor Estate**

Graeme Norris attended the meeting as Chairman of the Troston Poor’s Estate and explained a that the organization has been in existing under various names from 1666. As 2 trustees have/are retiring he asked if any Parish Councillors would like to join. Councillors Pugson and Riddick agreed.

**14. Clerks Report.**

**14.1** The Clerk confirmed that from 15th Janaury 2025 the new clerk@troston-pc.gov.uk email address will be used. Cllr Pugson will amend the website. **Action Cllr Pugson**

**15.** **Planning** To also include any applications/decisions received since the agenda was posted.

**15.1** planning application DC/24/1790/TPO | TPO 127 (1970) tree preservation order - One London Plane - overall crown reduction of 4 metres (T1 on plan G3 on order) | Old Rectory Hammers Lane Troston Suffolk IP31 1ET was discussed and Councillors unanimously agreed to support the application and would take the lead from West Suffolk Tree Officer recommendations.

16. Councillors reports and items for future agendas.

16.1 Cllr Riddick asked if a new resident welcome letter had been delivered to recent new residents, It was decided that the letter needing amending.

16.2 Cllr Pugson enquired about replacement speed signs stickers previously discussed with Cllr Hopfensperger, the Clerk will chase. Action Clerk

16.3 Cllr Rose asked if the post has been reinstalled yet on the playing field marking the developer’s boundary, it was agreed this would be done when the ground was easier to work with.

16.4 To add to March 2025 agenda – Troston Wood group meet up Action Clerk

**17.** **Correspondence for action or information**

**17.1** The Clerk also advised Councillors that she has resigned from being Clerk at Great Barton Parish Council.

**17.2** The Clerk advised that the BT contract for the Village Hall wifi has expired. Cllrs discussed briefly, new quotes should be obtained before a new contract is confirmed. **Action Clerk**

**18.** **Date for next meeting**.

The clerk presented a meeting schedule for 2025 which was agreed. Next meeting will be Tuesday 14th January 2025 7.00pm

With no further business the meeting was closed at 9pm