

Present: Cllrs G Norris, P Johns, M Merchant, R Anderson, J Moffat, Sqd Ldr M Fixer, and C.Cllr R Hopfensperger. W.S. Cllr Brown arrived later in the meeting.

1. **Apologies for absence.** Cllr B Burridge & Indi Saunders

2. **Co-option of new Councillor**

Sue Rose was welcomed and co-opted on to the Parish Council. The Clerk will ensure the relevant paperwork is completed. **Action Clerk**

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

3.1 To receive declarations of interest from councillors on items on the agenda.

3.2 To receive written requests for dispensations for disclosable pecuniary interests.

3.3 To grant dispensations as appropriate under Section 33 of the Localism Act.

4. **Minutes** The minutes of the Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2020 agreed and approved as a correct record.

5. **Meeting open to the public**

Representatives from Troston Farms attended the meeting to discuss their planning proposals for the piggery site in the village. They presented two options for consideration. The principle difference between the proposals is how the development would link to the rest of the village. Option 1 sites all the houses on the left hand side, as you leave the village towards The Jackdaw. This would give a single frontage along part of The Street from Beechwood until the end of the development, at the piggery. A majority of the development would be located on the current piggery site. There would be a large area of open land behind the houses along The Street, however the view of the land will be blocked by the new houses. The Second option sees the same density of houses on the piggery site but the link to the village being on the opposite side of the road. This would be between the old slaughter house and Lower farm. This option would leave a slightly larger area of open land which could still be seen from The Street. The owner would like to see this open land accessible to the public and being left fallow as a nature reserve, perhaps with a footpath running through it. It is currently the home to a Barn owl. If the development were to go ahead Troston Farms would like to retain 2 cottages to rent out to local young people. They would also possibly like to use one of the houses as a community shop with additional office rooms to rent. The Parish Council are keen to see the piggery site developed and there is a preference for option 2 at this stage. These are still very only days and the site is not currently in the village envelop, although it has, in part, been put forward for inclusion in the Local plan. We have a long way to go before an official application is even made and so we were grateful to Troston Farms for including us at such an early stage of discussions.

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

Cllr Hopfensperger provide the Councillors with a general report. This included details about SCC welfare help scheme, £228,000 for tree-planting, protecting hedgerows and verges across Suffolk as well as other news from SCC. The full report is available upon request from the Clerk. The Cllr discussed the quiet lanes project currently being promoted by SCC. There is money set aside for new signage. It was agreed that there would be no real benefit in pursuing this for Troston.

## 7. Report from B. Councillor: S. Brown

Cllr Brown joined the meeting part way through. It was agreed that Cllr Norris would make time to speak to Cllr Brown about the discussion that took place earlier regarding the potential development in Troston.

**Action Clerk**

Cllr Brown made the following report.

Water Softener – funds

I will follow this up with the Families and Communities Team and confirm funding.

The West Suffolk Local Plan Issues and Options Consultation

As you will be aware, we are preparing a new local plan for West Suffolk and consultation on the first stage, the West Suffolk Issues and Options Local Plan, will take place from 13 October – 22 December 2020.

The West Suffolk Issues and Options Local Plan document is set out in three parts:

Part one sets out the spatial vision, strategic objectives and issues, a new draft settlement hierarchy and options for the distribution of growth.

Part two sets out local issues concerning climate change, housing, employment, retail, leisure, wellbeing, transport, support for rural communities, the natural and historic environment and horse racing. Responses to this section of the document will help inform the preparation of the development management policies used in the day to day determination of planning applications.

Part three sets out a settlement profile for those places which could potentially be allocated sites for various uses in the plan period. There is a short introduction to each settlement along with a constraints map and details of those sites that are 'included' in the council's 2020 Strategic 11 Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment (SHELAA) and which therefore could be suitable for future development. It is important to stress that no site allocation decisions have been made. Sites will be assessed throughout the evolution of the West Suffolk Local Plan.

In accordance with government guidelines we are unable to run the usual type of exhibition in village halls, supermarkets and markets, so we have a virtual exhibition that is running throughout the consultation period which can be seen at <https://westsuffolk.exhibition.app/> from the start of the consultation period.

We are encouraging people to send submit their views online via our consultation portal as it is the most effective and efficient way to comment. They will need to register first <https://westsuffolk.inconsult.uk>

We would appreciate comments, representations and submissions being made online as with Covid-19 precautions in place we are aiming to minimise the handling of paper and packages. However, written responses can be posted to: Planning Strategy, West Suffolk Council, West Suffolk House, Western Way, and Bury St Edmunds, IP33 3YU.

Parish & Town Forum

I am emailing as a final reminder for the Parish and Town Forum on the 4<sup>TH</sup> November, please could you email [families.communities@westsuffolk.gov.uk](mailto:families.communities@westsuffolk.gov.uk) to confirm your attendance if you wish to join the meeting.

Census 2021

Census 2021 is going ahead on Sunday 21 March 2021, and we as a council will be playing various roles to support the best possible Census outcome, given the Covid-19 restrictions. General information about Census 2021 can be found on this website: <https://census.gov.uk/>

Troston parish council are keen to know how the Governments planning white paper could potentially have an effect on housing allocations in West Suffolk. It is understood that the Government used a different algorithm to determine housing numbers and we were wondering how these numbers differ from current plans and expectations for West Suffolk. This matter will be investigated.

**Action Clerk**

## **8. Report from RAF Honington**

Our youth club and ben play club are running socially distanced activities.

Scouts have resumed activities, outdoors at the moment.

Our baby toddler group run by Homestart are also running outdoor forest school style activities.

Coffee shop is open for takeaways.

We have received funding to refurbish the outdoor space at the nursery which will provide new sheds and fencing, an extra "outdoor classroom" canopy, new play surfacing and a "story-time" shady area.

The Spitfire fly past went well. There will be a firework display on Thursday at 18.45. There will be an increase in flying, between the 16<sup>th</sup> 19<sup>th</sup> November. There has been two nature trails set up on the base, unfortunately they are not open to the public at the moment. There is a profusion of flora and fauna which is lovely to see.

## **9. Progress reports. For information, from:**

### **8.1. Chairman.**

#### **8.1.1 Remembrance day wreath.**

Cllr Norris will lay the wreath, on behalf of the Parish Council. The details of this are still to be confirmed. It was agreed a donation of £30.00 will be made to the Royal British Legion.

Sam and Ben Davenport are the new owners of The Bull. They would like to meet with the Councillors to discuss their plans.

It was noted that now the pub is open again (Covid permitting) that we can re-list it as an asset for the Parish. The Clerk will contact West Suffolk regarding this.

**Action Clerk**

#### **8.1.2 Re-wilding, information from Risby.**

Cllr Norris has made contact with Sophie Flux, from Risby, and she would be happy to come and discuss what they have been doing there. Cllr Norris was unsure that she would be able to add anything to what we were already doing in the village, with the village planting. It was considered that re-wilding may be an option for the open land at the piggery if the development were to go ahead.

### **9.2 Clerk:**

#### **9.2.1 Boundary Commission consultation on division of boundaries for Suffolk County Council**

The Parish Council strongly object to the proposal to move Troston out of the current Thingoe North Ward in to the Brandon Ward. This move would put us in a different ward to our close neighbours, with whom we have built close relationships over the years. In particular we work closely with Gt Livermere, and have recently completed a footpath project together and we are still working on a new footpath link between the villages. We share common issues with our other, rural, neighbours that we would not necessarily share with the more urban areas that we would find ourselves linked in with in the Brandon ward. Our current County Council, Cllr R Hopfensperger supports our objections as the communality she currently experiences between her parishes enables her to peruse shared solutions to shared issues. This would not be the case if we are moved in to the Brandon Ward. We object to being moved in to a ward to 'make up the numbers' rather than to best meet the needs of our residents.

#### **9.2.2 SCC Quiet lanes, deadline for applications.**

After discussion with Cllr Hopfensperger The Parish Council agreed not to pursue this matter. See also under item 6.

## 10. Finance.

### 10.1 To consider payments.

Admin		£556.78
Dissigns	play area	£57.60
Kallkwik	Newsletter	£185.40
G Norris	play area	£17.00
Royal British Legion	Donations	£30.00
Tramar	Grass cutting/Playing Field	£270.00
Kallkwik	Troston history book	£30.58
Kallkwik	Newsletter	£54.72

### 10.2 Bank reconciliation and accounts update.

The Clerk provided details of the transaction for approval and up to date bank reconciliations.

### 10.3 2019/20 AGAR queries raised

Queries were raised by the external auditor and have been dealt with by the Clerk. The queries mainly related to issues with sending the variation form as a pdf, which meant some data could not be scrolled through. The Clerk has provided the data and resolved the issue.

### 10.4 To discuss budget for 2021/22

The Clerk provided the Councillors with some budget figures for consideration. It was agreed that more needed to be given to this matter and so a separate meeting will be held. This will be on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> November at 7.30 via zoom.

**Action Clerk**

## 11. Footpath Leaflet

11.1 A1 mounted display board. This has been ordered but not yet received.

## 12. Play Area to include:

12.1 Signage for play area following Government advice.

Cllr Johns has put the permanent Covid advice signs up at the play area.

12.2 To confirm the agreement for handover of the field to the Parish Council, to include arrangements for replacement of dead trees near the car park.

The final resident has now moved in to Pear Tree Close, which means Burgess Homes will be finishing the top coat of tarmac through the site driveway down to the pub/road during November. This estate road is not adopted by the council and falls under a formal resident's management company. This will be handed over from Burgess Homes to the residents once the tarmac is finished. The residents will then manage the shared areas with joint responsibility. Simon Burgess will let us know, formally, once he has handed over the Management Company to the residents, albeit it is not an area which the village have any control or responsibility over (save the safety of the footpaths) as it is all privately owned.

The footpath link from Ixworth Road is complete and is now being used.

Burgess homes have added additional wildflower seed to the area between our site and the playing field. This will take a couple of years to establish well and only needs cutting at the recommended times during the year. Simon Burgess has said it has been a pleasure working in the village and they have received great support from the Parish Council, which they really appreciate. After the work and effort from both the parish and their company, it is truly satisfying to see all the new facilities up and running.

**The Parish Council formally agreed to take on responsibility for the playing field and will be wholly responsible for its maintenance going forward. The maintenance for the area is set out in our Playing Field contract, currently held by Tramar Trees.**

The Councillors will discuss the replacement of the dead trees at the Budget meeting in a fortnight's time.

**12.3** To discuss and confirm agreement of use of the field for a boot camp.

The Parish Council were approached by Luke Reinman about running a boot camp on the playing field. The Clerk contacted the Parish Councils insurance providers and was reassured that this activity would be fine as long as the organiser had the correct insurance in place. Mr Reinman provided satisfactory insurance details, further information about the class and his experience, including his Covid arrangements. This gave the Parish Council the confidence to agree to the proposal and we wish him well with his endeavour.

**12.4** To discuss option to improve the BMX area with support from residents.

Members of the Parish Council met with a resident of RAF Honington to discuss options for a pump track on the playing field. The suggestion was to build up earth works to develop an intermediate level track. This would only really be suitable for adult sized bikes. It was agreed that the costs involved, combined with the fact that the track would be unsuitable for younger residents meant that this project could not be supported.

**12.5** To note the reseeded of the wildflower area.

See under item 12.2.

### **13. Village Maintenance/matters**

**13.1** To discuss refurbishing/replacing village sign.

The Clerk met with Phil Chapman to discuss refurbishing the village sign, the bench at Troston Woods and repairs to the zip wire post. He has given an approximate figure of £1000, this would include removing the concrete round the post, which he doesn't think is rotten and replacing partly with brickwork and removing and refurbishing the finger posts. This does not include the recycled timber for the bench. This will be approx. £100. It was agreed to discuss this matter further at the budget meeting.

**13.2** To discuss actions taken over smells from the piggery.

The Clerk contacted Public Health at West Suffolk Council to inform them that residents were suffering with excessive smells from the Piggery. They requested that a log be kept of the smells. Cllr Anderson, with information from other residents, kept a record and this was submitted. The Public Health department have made a note of this information but no enforcement action is being taken. In order for West Suffolk Council to take enforcement action, in the form of service of an abatement notice on someone, they need to be of the opinion that they are causing a statutory nuisance. In order to determine if smell from a farm causes a statutory nuisance they have to take into account a number of considerations. These are how the disturbances of smell affect someone at their property, how often the incidents of disturbance occur, the duration of the disturbances and the activity giving rise to the disturbances. They have been in contact with the farmer and will keep the information we have submitted on file. If the residents want to make a formal complaint they can contact the Public Health department at West Suffolk. If the farmer informs West Suffolk about action they take regarding the lagoon they shall update us.

**13.3** Update on meeting with SCC Officer to discuss moving the speed restriction and new VAS post

The Chairman and Clerk met with Fran Clarke to discuss the possibility of moving the 30mp zone out towards Gt Livermere. We are waiting for a response from the SCC Speed and Safety team.

**13.4** To note and agree bins added to schedule for emptying and associated costs.

It was noted that two bins were to be added to the West Suffolk emptying schedule, at a potential costs of £3.02 per bin per empty.

## **14. Planning**

### **14.1** WS Local Plan Issues & Options consultation, to discuss any submission to be made.

Cllr Norris is working on a response to West Suffolk regarding the sites submitted to West Suffolk for potential inclusion in the local plan. If the support of the Parish Council is to be gained, for WS175 –The piggery site, then we believe that only the part of the site currently used as a piggery should be included in the final SHELAA document, with perhaps a small link to the current settlement boundary (maybe along The Street) to ensure it remains adjacent to the current settlement boundary. The Parish Council continue to support the inclusion and development of site WS176 on the Playing Field.

### **14.2** Government White paper. 'The Future of Planning'

The Clerk submitted a response to the above consultation. The Parish Council do not support the proposal for a change to planning zones in its current form and would not support the suggestion to remove and or alter S106 agreements as a this could have a detrimental effect on facilities, including affordable housing, that can be gained through development. A copy of this submission is available on request

## **15. Councillors reports and items for future agendas.**

The bench and shelter for playing field will be discussed further at the budget meeting. Cllr Johns will seek more information prior to the budget meeting.

## **16. Correspondence for information**

16.1 West Suffolk Parish and Town Forum – 04 November 2020 presented via Microsoft Teams. Noted.

17. **Date for next meetings.** 16<sup>th</sup> November 2020 7.30 Budget meeting. 11<sup>th</sup> January 2021 7.30pm

18 **To consider the exclusion of the public and press in the public interest for consideration of the following items:** 18.1 Personnel Issues. Potential increase in hours, noted. 18.2 Legal Issues.