

MINUTES OF TROSTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING Monday 5<sup>th</sup> July 2021 at Troston Village Hall

Present: Cllrs G Norris, P Johns, R Anderson, J Moffat, S Rose, C.Cllr R Hopfensperger & W.S. Cllr S Brown

1. Apologies for absence. Sqd Ldr M Fixer

2. Members Declarations of Interest and Dispensations:

2.1 To receive declarations of interest from councillors on items on the agenda. None.

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

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

3. Minutes The minutes of the Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2021 Annual Parish Council meeting agreed and approved as a correct record.

4. Report from RAF Honington: Sqn Ldr M Fixter

Sqn Ldr M Fixter was unable to attend the meeting but sent a report to be included in the minutes: RAF Honington awaits the changes to Covid-19 restrictions and to see how they will change our events in reality. Our training tempo has stayed high throughout the past year and we hope very much to see an increase interaction across the communities nearby and across the region. There is no Families day in 2021 yet we strive to deliver our #Kick-start programme across the Station as we are able to conduct more and more social activities.

5. Meeting open for questions from the public 4 members of the public present.

It is politely requested that this session does not exceed 15 minutes in total.

The Parking at Pear Tree Close was discussed. A group of residents went to the pub to discuss their concerns. It was suggested that the pub have some signage to say additional parking is available at the playing field car park. The pub suggested that the residents get some signage letting people know that Pear Tree Close is a private road and that parking is not permitted. There was a discussion about parking for the upcoming beer festival. It was reported that the pub have permission from Simon Burgess to use his land, at the side of the playing field. It was suggested that, if this was the case, that the Parish Council could remove a few rails at the bottom of the playing field car park access road, to assist with access. A footpath across the field was also suggested. It was asked why half the pub garden could not be used for additional parking, although it was agreed that this would not create many extra spaces. Cllr Norris and Cllr Rose will arrange to go and visit Sam and Ben at the pub to discuss the above.

**Action Cllrs Norris/Rose**

Since building Pear Tree Close the church sign on the Livermere road appears to be pointing into the Close rather than down the road towards the church. Cllr Moffat will look at the sign to see if it can be turned round or removed.

**Action Cllr Moffat**

6. Report from County Councillor: R Hopfensperger.

Cllr Hopfensperger reported that the village, that Cllr Anderson had used as a comparison for the problems of passing places and the condition of Ixworth Road, received money for the works from a section 106 agreement. Cllr Hopfensperger will ask SCC to look at funding options. Cllr Hopfensperger has received a report, regarding works to Ixworth Road, which she will forward on to the Parish Council. The issue of ownership of the areas under discussion needs to be addressed and the passing places need to be formalised.

**Action Cllr Hopfensperger.**

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

### Grass Cutting

West Suffolk District Council are working through the requirements of grass cutting and Troston is on the roster for this week. Please visit [www.westsuffolk.gov.uk/grasscutting](http://www.westsuffolk.gov.uk/grasscutting) for updates.

### Household Waste and Recycling Centre (HWRCs)

All HWRCs are run by Suffolk County Council as they are the Waste Disposal Authority. They are able to charge for certain types of waste such as 'DIY' materials as these are not classified as household waste for which they have a duty to dispose of for householders.

West Suffolk Council, as the Waste Collection Authority have no authority or direct control over these sites or any charges that they wish to impose. We do however have a statutory responsibility to collect fly tipped materials from the public highway as we are the collection authority. The Clerk will pass the Parish Councils queries, raised at the last meeting, on to Cllr Hopfensperger.

**Action Clerk**

### Rural Housing

This week is Rural Housing Week. This is a national campaign and an opportunity to highlight the importance of supporting rural communities.

As you know we are working on a new local plan for West Suffolk Council and there have been discussions with Troston on this. West Suffolk Council policy requires developments of 10 homes or more must include 30 per cent affordable housing.

West Suffolk have also recently supported the new Eastern Community Homes Hub which will provide expertise advice, support and practical resources for groups including Parish Councils interested in affordable community-led housing projects.

We are keen to work with Parish Councils and communities to investigate housing need and would welcome an opportunity to discuss affordable housing in more detail. If you are interested in knowing more about neighbourhood plans, rural affordable housing or exception schemes, please contact [housing.development@westsuffolk.gov.uk](mailto:housing.development@westsuffolk.gov.uk)

### Supportive free activities for young people

An initiative to provide a summer of free activities is available for young people. Delivered by Abbeycroft Leisure, there are a range of activities including archery, campfires, orienteering, terrible-tales, fresh pizza making (and eating) amongst others and holiday camps. Please visit [www.infolink.suffolk.gov.uk](http://www.infolink.suffolk.gov.uk) or Families can book via an interactive map at Holiday Activity and Food (HAF) programme | Community Directory ([suffolk.gov.uk](http://suffolk.gov.uk)) If they have any queries they can email [families.communities@westsuffolk.gov.uk](mailto:families.communities@westsuffolk.gov.uk)

## 8. Finance.

8.1 The following accounts were approved, either at the meeting or by prior consultation with the Chairman.

Grass cutting	Tramar	£350.00
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newsletter	KallKwik	£288.00
Tap	JSS Plumbing and heating	£852.00
repairs to village sign	Steve Palmer	£215.00
Wi-Fi	BT	£35.99
Wi-Fi	BT	£35.99
service charge	Unity bank	£18.00
Admin	Various	£614.20
Bench repair	Tramar	£75.00
new gate and fence first payment	Tramar	£801.30

## **8.2 Bank reconciliation and accounts update.**

The Clerk provided and up to date budget report, schedule of payment for July and a bank reconciliation.

## **8.3 AGAR update**

The Clerk has received confirmation that the AGAR has been received by PFK Littlejohn. She has uploaded all the required documents to the website.

## **9 Play Area to include:**

### **9.1 Update on water pipe and tap for Playing Field**

The pipe has been installed, although it has not been tested yet, it should be working.

### **9.2 To discuss replacement trees for playing field and options for Wildlife Meadow on the Playing Field.**

We are waiting for a date to meet with Natasha, from Sicon, to discuss the project further.

### **9.3 Installation of new fence and gate**

This work is scheduled for the 13<sup>th</sup> July.

### **9.4 New equipment ideas**

The Clerk has circulated some details to the Councillors. It was proposed to go ahead with a triple balance beam and 5 balance water lilies. The Clerk will investigate similar options for a price comparison.

**Action Clerk**

## **10. Village Maintenance/matters**

### **10.1 To discuss refurbishing/replacing village sign**

The work to the sign has been completed and the sign looks good.

### **10.2 Update on option to move the speed restriction, request for speed survey and signage.**

Cllr Hopfensperger will arrange for a traffic survey in September, once the children have gone back to school.

**Action Cllr Hopfensperger**

### **10.3 Update on issues regarding bin emptying and grass cutting.**

There is a price increase of 2% for the emptying of the bins. There was a problem recently, with bins not being emptied, but the bins have since been emptied. Due to Covid, West Suffolk have been experiencing problems with grass cutting. They are now sending out a weekly bulletin with a schedule for cutting. Troston is due to be cut this week.

### **10.4 New VAS post, Troston Road**

A new post has been erected on Troston Road. Some new brackets are required for the post, the Clerk has ordered these. Once these have been received Cllr Johns will put them on and site the VAS here on occasion.

**Action Cllr Johns**

### **10.5 Bench at Troston woods.**

The bench at Troston Woods has been repaired.

### **10.6 Passing places on Ixworth Road, update on progress.**

See under item 6, Cllr Hopfensperger's report.

### **10.7 Emergency Plan, to discuss options**

This item was not discussed and will go on the next agenda.

## **11. Website**

### 11.1 New website host.

The new website is up and running. There are some minor issues that need addressing. The site is showing as not secure, this can be addressed with a one off fix by adding SSL costing £36.00 including VAT. The badge on the home page needs moving and one of the photos on the home page carousel is blurry and needs replacing. The Clerk will action these matters. **Action Clerk**

The invoice from Suffolk Cloud, for the time they were still hosting, has been delayed, the Clerk will pay it as soon as it arrives. **Action Clerk**

## **12. Boundary Commission reviews**

### 12.1 SCC Boundary review, update on proposals.

Following an update from the Boundary Commission, showing another option, the Clerk made the following submission

The Parish Council are pleased to see that Great Livermere are being recommended to stay in a ward with our close neighbour Troston. We have built a close relationship over the years. In particular, we have recently worked closely completing a footpath project together and we are still working on a new footpath link between the villages. In addition both Great Livermere and Troston employ the same Parish Clerk.

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.

Transport links in our area are with Bury St Edmunds and we have little connection with the Brandon Area. We feel that the most appropriate placement for both Gt Livermere and Troston would be in the Blackbourne ward. Both are served by their main hub at Ixworth which currently sits and is proposed to remain in the Blackbourne ward.

Our County Council, Cllr R Hopfensperger supports our recommendations to keep Troston and Great Livermere in the same ward. The current communality she experiences between her urban parishes enables her to peruse shared solutions to shared issues. This would not be the case if we were 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.

In summary we would like to see Great Livermere and Troston stay together and be included in the Blackbourne Ward.

### 12.1 2023 Review of Parliamentary constituencies

There is a proposal to change the parliamentary boundaries. The Clerk will share the link so the Councillors can look at the proposals. A zoom meeting will be held to discuss any submission to be made. Cllr Norris will include a piece in the newsletter for residents who may want to respond.

**Action All.**

## **13. Planning**

13.1 DCON (A)/21/0452 | Application to discharge conditions 3 (foundation type) and 4 (tree protection plan and arboricultural method statement) of application DC/21/0452/HH | Tanglewood Ixworth Road Troston. Noted.

13.2 Custom Bikes Site. Approval was only given in principle to the development of houses on the site of Custom Bikes. No development is to commence until the risks associated with the possible contamination of the site are thoroughly investigated and any remedial action approved by the Local Planning Authority. A walk-over survey is insufficient. It is understood the site has gone back to auction.

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

Cllr Burridge reported that the village hall had their AGM last week and there was no changes. However, the current secretary would like to step down and as such the Village Hall Committee are looking for a replacement. Anyone interested in the role should contact the Village Hall Committee. PAT testing has been carried out and the committee are looking at options to increase their outside space. The next TVH meeting will be at the end of August.

Cllr Norris reported that On 11 February 2021, the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) published its legislative proposals for a new Health and Care Bill, "*Integration and Innovation: working together to improve health and social care for all*" (the White Paper). The plan is to implement these proposals in 2022. There are three key messages in the proposals: 1.working together to integrate care; 2.reducing bureaucracy; and 3.improving accountability and enhancing public confidence.

Ixworth Surgery is facing another re-organisation within the NHS West Suffolk Commissioning Group. There will be integrated services between local partnerships, Social Services, Primary Care GP's, Charities and private organisation. The care will be more place based. This would mean Ixworth will become part of West Suffolk. However Ixworth Surgery does not want this and so have written to object. They will possibly hold an event in the village hall about this.

#### **15. Correspondence for information**

None received.

#### **16. Date for next meetings.** 6<sup>th</sup> September 2021

#### **17 To consider the exclusion of the public and press in the public interest for consideration of the following items:**

17.1 Personnel Issues. None.

17.2 Legal Issues. None