

MINUTES OF TROSTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING Tuesday 8th November 2022 7.00pm at Troston Village Hall

Present: Cllrs J Moffat, S Rose, R Balaam, P Walton & Suzy Woodward.

Cllrs P Johns has decided to step down as a Parish Councillor. His experience and input on the Council will be greatly missed.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies received from: Cllr R Balaam, SCC Cllr R Hopfensperger and WS Cllr S Brown.

2. Co-option of new parish Councillor

Peter Riddick was co-opted on to the Parish Council. The Clerk will ensure the relevant paperwork is completed and sent to West Suffolk. **Action Clerk**

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 Monday 5th September meeting and Thursday 6th October Extraordinary meeting 2022 were agreed and approved as correct records.

5. Report from RAF Honington: Sqn Ldr M Fixter

To discuss request for funding towards replacement of VAS at RAF Honington.

Following discussion at the budget working party meeting it was agreed that a contribution, of up to £3,000 would be made towards the cost of a new VAS for RAF Honington. Sqn Ldr M Fixter will liaise with the Chair of Honington Parish Council and ask him to take the project forward. The recent firework display was a success. There is a station restructure across the Airforce. These are in-house changes and will not change the long-term future of the base. Gliding will start on the airfield at weekends and during the summer holidays. It is good to see that the airfield being used. The RAF Honington Voluntary Band headlined the Festival of Remembrance at the Apex in Bury St. Edmunds and SSAFA Honington in Service marched with pride at the Cenotaph in London on Remembrance Sunday. Remembrance Wreaths were also laid in over 20 local towns and villages. There will be a veterans Christmas dinner held in December.

6. Meeting open for questions from the public

No matters raised.

7. Report from County Councillor: R Hopfensperger.

Cllr R Hopfensperger was unable to attend the meeting.

8. Report from B. Councillor: S. Brown

Cllr S Brown was unable to attend the meeting.

9. Finance.

9.1 The following accounts were approved for payment:

Various	administration office	£654.60
Kalkwik	Newsletter	£41.04
Tramar	Grass cutting/Playing Field	£510.00
BHIB	insurance	£612.90
BT	BT	£35.99

9.2 Bank reconciliation and accounts update.

The Clerk provided a bank reconciliation and a schedule of payments for the Councillors information.

9.3 To discuss outcomes of the budget 2023/24 working party meeting.

We have historically paid a grant to the church for the maintenance of the churchyard and grant to the Village hall. The Councillors would like confirmation from the church and Village Hall on what these grants pay for and if they continue to meet the needs of the organisation in the current climate. The Clerk will contact the Church and Cllr Woodward will make enquiries at the next Village Hall meeting to secure this information.

It was agreed to re-tender for the village grass cutting as this had not been done in the previous year.

Action Cllr Woodward/Clerk

9.4 To discuss precept for 2023/24, to include WS proposed changes.

It was proposed to precept for £14,000 again this year and make a donation of £3,000 towards the VAS for RAF Honington. This would represent an increase of £3.08, 6.38% on the same amount for last year.

The Clerk is investigating why this is such a large % increase on last year.

Action Clerk

West Suffolk Council is seeking views on some potential changes to its Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme (LCTRS) to support low-income working-age residents, in light of the current pressures on the cost of living. The council is considering an increase in the maximum discount to either 95 per cent or 100 per cent (from the current 91.5 per cent). If the maximum discount was increased to 95 per cent, those households benefitting from the change would pay £42.14 less in Council Tax over the year, on average, depending on the banding of their property. If the maximum discount was increased to 100 per cent, those households benefitting would pay an average of £103.32, depending on banding. The Councillors supported the option to increase the maximum discount to 100%. The Clerk will submit the response to West Suffolk.

Action Clerk.

10. Play Area to include:

10.1 To receive update on memorial bench for the playing field.

The slabs have been laid, unfortunately, the resident supplying the bench, thought that they did not cover a large enough area to accommodate the bench. Cllr Walton has some spare time and he will have a look and install the bench if he is able to.

Action Cllr Walton

10.2 To confirm replacement requirements for new trees.

Cllr Moffatt will pick this project up and liaise with Natasha from Sicon, regarding our requirement for additional trees for the village.

Action Cllr Moffat/Clerk

10.3 To confirm position and required works to wildlife area.

As Cllr Balaam was unable to attend the meeting it was agreed to postpone any discussions until the January meeting.

Action Clerk

10.4 To confirm works required for damaged posts in play area.

Tramar has provided quote to replace the damaged posts in the children's play area. This was for 2 posts and came in at £282. It was agreed to go ahead with this replacement.

Action Clerk

10.5 To confirm new play area rota.

The new play area inspection rota was confirmed and will be circulated.

Action Clerk

10.6 The white lines on the football pitch.

The white lines, marking the football pitch, have washed away in the rain. It was understood that a new process was being tried and it would appear that this was unsuccessful. The Clerk will ask Tramar to re-do the lines.

Action Clerk

11. Village Maintenance/matters

11.1 Update on planting Oak saplings, Troston Woods.

Cllr Moffat has found a suitable clearing in Troston woods for the offered Oak saplings. These should be planted this weekend.

11.2 Green Ixworth Winter Energy Campaign, launch event on Saturday 3rd December.
This information was noted.

11.3 Rural Coffee Caravan, Winter Warmth and Warm Suffolk information, SCC information
Jane Harland has applied for a grant to provide a room for people to use in the village Hall. This would be for residents to come and have a hot drink and play board games, if they wished to do so. Currently no one has volunteered to run the event. The Clerk has been given some useful information regarding support available over the winter months. She will see if she can secure some hard copies for the village hall and notice board, and find an electronic version that can go on the website and Facebook.
Action Clerk

11.4 VAS, to agree ongoing responsibility for the device.

As Peter Johns has resigned from the Parish Council Cllr Walton has agreed to take over the management of the device. Cllr Balaam will offer guidance to Cllr Walton if required.

Action Cllr Walton

11.5 To agree design for anti-dog pooh posters.

The Clerk has prepared some anti-dog pooh posters for display. These will be laminated and put up.
Action Clerk

11.6 To confirm donation for Royal British Legion and laying of Remembrance Day Wreath.

It was agreed to make a donation of £30 to the Royal British Legion. Cllrs Rose/ Riddick will ensure the wreath is delivered.

Action Cllrs Rose/ Riddick

11.7 Emergency Plan, to discuss requirements going forward.

It was agreed to revisit this document. The Clerk will share some information ahead of the next meeting.
Action Clerk

11.8 To consider request the use Troston Woods for a parent and toddler group.

The item will be discussed at the January meeting.

Action Clerk

11.9 Village Website, to discuss concerns raised over viewing options.

Cllr Woodward will see if her son is able to help with any issues we are experiencing.

Action Cllr Woodward

11.10 Care Directories

A new care directory is available. This booklet offers lots of helpful information for anyone looking for care in Suffolk. The Clerk will obtain some copies for distribution. The Clerk will divide the village into areas so the Councillors can distribute them.
Action Clerk

12. Village Hall report Circulated.

For first time this year (excluding grants) in the last two months income has exceeded expenditure. Income from bookings, Pilates and coffee mornings since end of August totalled £450, whereas expenses for same period were £304.30, including the annual fire extinguisher service and PAT testing, plus cleaning and quarterly water bill. This means that at the current point in time we have total reserves of £22,720.68. £10,000 has been transferred from the current account to a One Year deposit during the period.

The external doors have been painted and the bill paid. Woodwork and some paint in the main hall has been touched up. We are aware that some other repair work will be necessary and we are also considering having all internal paintwork refreshed as this has not been done for 20 years. We will put up the Christmas decorations on 5th December and our next meeting is on 3rd January.

13. Lottery

To discuss future arrangements for the village lottery.

The Clerk was contacted by the previous Clerk asking that she be removed from the banking mandate. Cllr Woodward has been spending a great deal of time trying to sort out issues with the bank. Cllr Woodward will liaise with the old Clerk in a bid to address the situation as there is a threat to close the account on the 2nd December. The Clerk will share the contact details of the old Clerk with Cllr Woodward.

Action Cllr Woodward/Clerk

14. Planning

14.1 DC/22/1768/FUL external wall insulation of 44 properties at Woodside View 97-140 Woodside View RAF Honington. Noted.

14.2 DC/22/1764/HH two storey front extension b. detached cart-lodge. Green Lane House, Green Lane Ixworth Thorpe. No objection.

15. Councillors reports and items for future agendas.

Cllr Moffatt will be added to the banking mandate so he is able to authorize payments.

Action Clerk

16. Correspondence for action or information

16.1 West Suffolk Parish and Town Forum – 16/11/2022. Noted.

16.2 Rural Mobility Survey, the Clerk will complete this on behalf of the Parish Council.

Action Clerk

17. Date for next meeting.

It was proposed and agreed to change the regular meeting night to a Tuesday. The Clerk will update the Standing Orders and inform the village hall of this decision. Therefore the next meeting will be held on Tuesday 10th January 2023.

Action Clerk

18. To consider the exclusion of the public and press in the public interest for consideration of the following items:

18.1 Personnel Issues. None.

18.2 Legal Issues. None.