

MINUTES OF TROSTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING Monday 5th September 2022 7.00pm at Troston Village Hall

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

Cllr B Burridge has decided to stand down as a Councillor on the Parish Council. Her input at meetings will be greatly missed. The Clerk has informed West Suffolk Council of her decision and the vacancy will be advertised as required by law. The Councillor were asked if anyone would be able to attend the Village Hall meetings and report back to the Parish Council. Cllr S Woodward would be happy to take on this role. **Action Woodward/Clerk**

Report for the newsletter. Graeme Norris is still happy to carry on producing the newsletter, for as long as the Parish Council are willing to fund it. He would however appreciate a report for inclusion or a summary of the minutes for inclusion. Cllr P Johns will provide Graeme Norris with a brief report of the meetings for publication. **Action Cllr Johns**

1. Apologies for absence

None received.

2. Co-option of new parish Councillor

Paul Walton has expressed an interest in joining the Parish Council. Unfortunately he was unable to attend the meeting but was happy to be co-opted on in his absence. It was agreed to Co-opt Paul Walton on to the Parish Council. The Clerk will make the necessary arrangements.

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 4th July and 19th July 2022 Parish Council meetings were agreed and approved as a correct record.

5. Report from RAF Honington: Sqn Ldr M Fixter

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

The Chairman from Honington Parish Council has been in contact about the possibility of purchasing some new vehicle activated signs (VAS) to replace the signs, currently outside the camp, as they are no longer working. Prior to this request the Parish Council were in the process of looking to fund an additional device for the village. It is unlikely that Troston Parish Council can afford to fund two separate devices so they are exploring the logistics of a device that could potentially be moved. They discussed this as an option with Sqn Ldr Mark Fixter and have currently agreed to carry out some further investigations. In addition to this they are holding their annual budget meeting at the beginning of November and after that they will be in a better position to know how best they can proceed. It is certainly something they are keen to support and are just exploring the best way forward. The Clerk will keep Honington Parish Council apprised of progress and this item will be revisited at the next meeting. **Action Clerk**

The Families day was not held on the airfield this year. It took the form of a fete, outside of the wire, with a couple of flying displays. It was a great success. Investment continues at RAF Honington, works are going to be undertaken to the married quarters, which is good to see.

6. Meeting open for questions from the public

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

Tree overgrowing the highway. A resident raised concerns about a tree overgrowing the highway in church Lane. The Clerk will report this to Suffolk County Council. **Action Clerk**

Grit bin placement. SCC have not given permission to move the grit bin as they consider there is still some dispute over land ownership. The bin will remain in situ until this matter has been resolved.

Flooding in Paddock Way. Although the work carried out by SCC has improved the situation, there is still a problem with flooding in very heavy rain. A request for additional drains in the hammerhead was made to SCC via Cllr Hopfensperger.

A request to plant some Oak saplings in Troston woods, to commemorate a 70th birthday, was received. In principle the Parish Council are very supportive of any initiative to increase the numbers of trees in the village. However when planting trees certain things need to be taken in to consideration, this include the placement of the tree, being mindful to future growth, and making sure plans are in place to nurture the tree until it is able to support itself. To this end Cllrs Moffatt and Balaam will contact the resident, making the request, to offer some advice and take the idea forward. **Action Cllrs Moffat & Balaam**

A resident asked what the Parish Council were able to do to help residents during the current financial climate, particularly regarding the increase in energy costs. Unfortunately Parish Councils are unable to help individuals directly with bills but there are potentially other things that could be done. The Clerk will investigate other options. In the meantime the Clerk will share information from West Suffolk regarding help that is available. It was suggested that the Coffee Caravan might be able to offer some help, although it was unsure what the current status is of the project. The resident who raised these concerns will investigate this further. **Action Clerk**

7. Report from County Councillor: Cllr Hopfensperger did not attend the meeting.

8. Report from B. Councillor: S. Brown

Cllr Brown did not attend the meeting but had sent the following correspondence.

£75 is no problem for the litter-picking equipment. The sum of £1,497.50 is a sizeable amount and is a single nature, more than one would give as a District Councillor generally, in particular as it is a Highways related request which sits with County. A proportionate amount between Beccy and I would be more appropriate. Noting the recent email re: Green Lane Speed Signage, there may be a further request for funds. In addition, there are still a number of months left of the current financial year and other requests for support that will come to me and I shall need to be prudent for these. I can therefore provide £998, which is 1/3 of the overall cost. With Beccy giving £1497.50 it leaves a sum of £499.50, which I'm sure the Parish Council would be open to funding. This information will be taken in to account when considering the request under item 5.

9. Finance.

9.1 The flowing accounts were noted/approved for payment.

Willowserve ltd	Village Hall	£3,720.00
Troston Village Hall	Other	£3,100.00
BT	BT	£35.99
ICo	GDPR	£35.00
BT	BT	£35.99
Tramar	Grass cutting/Playing Field	£980.00
Kallkwik	Newsletter	£75.00
HMRC	HMRC	£96.00
Admin	Various	£654.68
Unity Bank	Bank charges	£18.00

9.2 Bank reconciliation and accounts update.

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

9.3 To begin discussion for the 2023/24 budget.

To include potential purchase of online file storage, continued funding for the newsletter and the VH WiFi. Cllr Woodward will look at alternative options for the Village Hall WiFi. The meeting to discuss the budget will be held via zoom on Tuesday 1st November. **Action Cllr Woodward/Clerk**

10. Play Area to include:

10.1 to receive update on request for memorial bench on the playing field.

This matter is still in hand.

10.2 To confirm replacement requirements for new trees.

We have been offered some walnut trees by Cllr Moffat. The Clerk will contact the Sicon Charity to see if they are able to provide some more trees, we will plant them. The Councillors thanked Cllrs Moffat and Balaam for the tree watering they have been doing during the hot weather.

A discussion was held about the number of cuts Tramar have undertaken of the grass, on the Field and in the village. It was suggested that no more cuts would be required this year but the field would benefit from a good weed kill. The Clerk will contact Tramar about this. **Action Clerk**

10.3 To confirm position and required works to wildlife area.

This matter was discussed and Cllr Balaam felt that we would need to do some work to prepare the ground before planting any wildflowers. A wild flower mix can be purchased, Cllr Balaam will confirm the cost of this to inform the budget meeting in November. Cllrs Balaam and Moffat will look for a suitable site for the area and report back to the Council. **Action Cllr Balaam/Moffat**

A post in the children's play area needs replacing. The Clerk will contact Tramar about this.

Action Clerk

It was reported that the recently installed balance beams are splitting quite badly. The Clerk will contact the manufacturer about this.

Action Clerk

11. Village Maintenance/matters

11.1 To discuss relocation of the grit bin outside The Forge.

As discussed under item 6 SCC have not given permission to move the grit bin as they consider there is still some dispute over land ownership. The bin will remain in situ until this matter has been resolved.

11.2 Update on litter picking equipment purchase and an additional VAS

Following the discussion under item 6 it was agreed to ask if the monies already allocated could be reallocated towards the cost of a new VAS rather than be used for litter picking equipment.

Litter picking equipment should be available on request from West Suffolk. Cllr Johns has been doing some litter picking in his area of the village, this is much appreciated. **Action Clerk**

11.3 dog pooh posters

The Clerk will source some dog pooh posters to put up in the village.

Action Clerk

12. Village Hall report

The Village Hall Committee met on 30th August. Our regular bookings for Pilates, Dance classes and Coffee Mornings continue along with a steady trickle of other bookings. We have paid for the new oil tank and the oil to fill it. This means that outgoings once again exceed income but much of this is due to one off payments.

As the outside doors are in poor condition a local painter and decorator is being engaged to strip them down ,repair and paint them. With price increases to accommodate we are grateful for the Government grants received to tide us over

while bookings build up.

Items for future consideration include providing screening for the new oil tank and depositing some of our money into a Lloyds Deposit account for up to 12 months whilst keeping sufficient to cover the painting and outgoings for one year.

13. Lottery

To discuss future arrangements for the village lottery.

Cllr Woodward and Balaam will continue to work on this.

Action Cllr Woodward and Balaam

14. Planning

Public Inquiry into the St Josephs development between the Ortwell Road roundabout in Bury St Edmunds and Great Barton. To consider any representations to be made.

This item was discussed and noted but it was not considered that any further action would be taken at this time.

15. Councillors reports and items for future agendas.

Concerns have been raised again about vehicles parking on the pavement opposite the old Skids garage development. The Clerk will contact the contractors about this again.

Action Clerk

16. Correspondence for information

16.1 Police, public meetings. Noted.

17. Date for next meetings.

1st November for budget meeting, via zoom and November 8th November for the next Parish Council meeting.

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.