

MINUTES OF TROSTON ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING TUESDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2021 @ 7:30 VIA VIDEO LINK

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

**1. Election of Chairman**

Cllr Anderson proposed Cllr Norris for the position of Chairman. Seconded by Cllr Rose. Cllr Norris accepted the position.

**2. Chairman's Declaration of Acceptance of Office**

Cllr Norris signed the acceptance of office.

**3. Election of Vice Chairman**

Cllr Norris nominated Cllr Johns for the position of Vice Chairman. Cllr Johns accepted the position.

**4. Apologies for absence**

Cllr B Burridge.

**5. Resignation of Councillor** Sadly Cllr Merchant has decided to resign from the Parish Council. Increased work and family commitments mean that she felt she could no longer contribute affectively. The Parish quite understand this and appreciate the time she has given.

**6. To elect Council Officers and Representatives to outside bodies**

Cllr Burridge was elected to represent the Parish Council on the Village Hall Committee.

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

7.1 To receive declarations of interest from councillors on items on the agenda. Cllr Rose declared an interest in item 14.1 on the Agenda

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

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

**8. Minutes** The minutes of the Monday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2021 agreed and approved as a correct record.

**9. Report from RAF Honington:** Sqn Ldr M Fixter

Things are very quiet on the Base with everyone looking forward to confirmation, on the 17<sup>th</sup> May, of things moving forward on the roadmap out of lockdown. It is too early to commit to a family day so we will wait and see what happens in the following weeks.

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

It was reported that the hedge, going toward Gt Livermere, on the LHS is growing out into the road. The resident reporting this was giving information on how to report this using the SCC reporting tool.

## **11. Report from County Councilor: R Hopfensperger.**

### **Ixworth Road/Heath Road**

I've reported the state of the passing places on the road and have passed Roger's document onto the head of highway assets for comment, I haven't had an answer yet but given they've only just got back of bank holiday I wouldn't expect one. I would have thought that we will get some feedback after the elections.

### **Mobile VAS**

We're awaiting a new post to be placed outside Ken Cutmore's house and then the mobile VAS can be put there.

### **Troston Road**

As we were unsuccessful in convincing Highways to extend the 30 mph speed limit to encompass the entrance to the playingfield, there are two options we can take. We can pay for a speed survey which will provide evidence of volume and speed of traffic at this entrance. We can also look at what signage we could put in the area to warn motorists of the entrance to the playing field.

### **Church Lane**

As there has been issues with speeding and HGV's along this lane with Sat Navs directing people down it, we could look at putting signage up at the entrance which states not suitable for HGVs, do not follow sat nav, local access only.

### **Highways Reporting**

As ever much of my work is dominated by highway issues, if you have any issues ai would suggest you report them on line using the highways reporting tool a link is below:-

[Suffolk County Council - ReportIT](#)

If you feel that you are not getting the answers you'd expect and or action is not being taken please do not hesitate in letting me know I can then escalate the issue.

## **12. Report from B. Councillor: S. Brown**

### **Friday Supper**

I hope the village has become aware of the subsidised Friday Supper available to them and taken up the offer. It would be good to hear feedback on this. I will gather information from Sapiston/Honington Village Hall on any data they have on Troston residents.

### **Community Engagement**

Following the general success of the Friday Supper initiative, I'm keen to see what we can do in Troston itself. Noting the One Bull pub is open, that it is a great focal point for the village, with Troston previously having a good community, it would be good if we can create a joint community initiative of the Parish Council, Village Hall and One Bull. Something that helps bring the village and residents together. Where possible, I'm happy to look at funding for it.

### **Fly Tipping**

Picking up on Peter John's email and fly-tipping. This piece from a local farmer is pertinent: A frustrated farmer says he has had to spend £10,000 fortifying his land against fly tipping and littering and has urged people "Don't be a tosser." George Gittus of Symonds Farm, Great Saxham adds that "As far as big items go, the council will take away 99.9 per cent of these so I don't understand why people go to all that effort of fly-tipping, which costs everyone money, including themselves, in the long run."

It would be interesting to see if local farmers in Troston had similar direct cost implications. The more we can push on this, the better to keep constantly vigilant and aware. West Suffolk Council do a lot, but, there is still 0.01% that costs all of us that we need to continue eradicating.

Additional Local Business Grant Funding. The Councillors feel that that the charging regime at the waste recycling centre is a big disincentive for many. Until this regime is looked at, and changed then this issue of fly tipping will continue. It was asked if charging was an EU directive or if it was a

decision made at local level. Is it cost effective to clear up after fly tipping opposed to charging at the waste site? Cllr Brown will take these questions and comments to Cllr Peter Stevens and report back his response at the next meeting.

**Action Cllr Brown**

West Suffolk Council has launched a new grant to support businesses not benefitting from the Government restart grant, with £1.8million made available. Titled ARG Restart Grants, it is part of continued efforts to support local business.

Cllr Brown can provide funding to local groups looking to hold a community event. It was suggested that the Parish Council, pub and village Hall might like to put on a Summer activity.

### **13. Finance.**

#### **13.1 To consider payments.**

Tramar	Grass cutting/Playing Field	£20.00
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Kalkwik	Newsletter	£154.20
T Brown	Internal audit	£210.00
Admin		£586.85
SALC	subscription	£341.32
The Community Heartbeat Trust	Defibrillator	£162.00
Community Action Suffolk	Website	£60.00
Countryside Management Services	play area	£2,820.00
BT	BT	£25.86
Tramar	Grass cutting	350.00

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

The Clerk provided a schedule of payments and a bank reconciliation.

#### **13.3.1 To discuss the Report by the Internal Auditor**

The internal auditors report was circulated and approved. The recommendation made, regarding signing cheques was noted. Ico has been updated with the change of contact details. The claim for VAT is in hand. We will ensure the asset register and Clerks contract is reviewed during the year. In future the external audit result will be recorded.

#### **13.3.2 To approve and sign section one and two of the AGAR**

Parts one and two of the AGAR was approved and signed and the Council as was the certificate of exemption. The Clerk will ensure that the publication requirements, under the Transparency act, are met.

### **14. Play Area/Playing Field to include:**

14.1 To discuss and record a maintenance agreement for Pear Tree Close, to include works to be carried out by the Parish Council.

A meeting was held between residents of the Pear Tree Management Committee and members of the parish Council. The Parish Council agreed to:

1. Help maintain the hedge on the Playing Field boundary. Pear Tree residents would help with the watering.

2. Erect a simple single-rail fence behind the hedge to increase security.

Replace the access-bollard with a gate - similar in design to the other gate to the field by the car park and recycling bins

3. The footpath would be a shared responsibility between the Parish Council and Pear Tree Close maintenance committee.

**The Pear Tree Management agreement was recorded as follows:**

**Pear Tree Close Maintenance**

The Management Company funds and organises estate services for the Close. It is run by the residents of Pear Tree Close who have contracted the work to Tramar.

The following map shows in grey the private driveway, in yellow the footpaths and in blue the grass verges that are the responsibility of Pear Tree Close. The x's show the whips planted by Burgess Homes between the Playing Field.

to create a hedge  
Close and the Parish



**The Estate Services in the Covenant Document are:**

12.11.1 To repair and maintain to a reasonable standard and where necessary renew those parts of the Private Driveway and any verges fences and all other areas of the Development which fall within the Common Areas.

12.11.2 To provide if reasonably necessary lighting to the Common Areas and to undertake routine maintenance of and be responsible be payment for energy for all street lights laminated signs within the Common Areas.

12.11.3 To maintain public liability insurance in respect of the Common Areas and Private Driveway.

12.11.4 To inspect repair maintain cleanse reinstate renew as necessary the Service installations within the Common Areas.

#### 14.2 Update on water pipe and tap for Playing Field

The payment of £1,507.20 to Anglian water has been made. Tramar will be helping the plumber, JSS Plumbing, to dig the trench and install a tap on the playing field - for £200. The Clerk will chase the plumber up about a date to start the work.

**Action Clerk**

#### 14.3 Report on meeting with Sicon to discuss replacement/new trees for playing field

Following the meeting with Sicon it was proposed to put a few fruit trees in the corner, they will have a few other trees behind them as well to protect the fruit trees from the elements a bit. Perhaps a couple of silver birch and maybe some flowering cherry? We will then have to see how the maybe dead trees are getting on. If they have not pepped up a bit over the summer we can take them out and put new ones in. The side by the houses, we are planning to put some trees in there. We are still discussing options for the wildflower meadow.

#### 14.4 Update on new shelter in the children's' play area.

The shelter has been built and we are very pleased with it. It was well received and being well used.

#### 14.5 Cllr Burrige felt that the roundabout was sticking a bit. Cllr Moffatt will have a look at this.

**Action Cllr Moffatt**

14.6 It has been asked if we could we have some more, simple equipment, for young children like a balancing-plank and stepping-stone obstacle course. This will be discussed further at the next meeting.

**Action Clerk**

### **15. Village Maintenance/matters**

#### 15.1 To discuss refurbishing/replacing village sign

The owners of the Bull are arranging for a local carpenter to do the work on the village sign. The Clerk will chase this up.

#### 15.2 to discuss condition of bench by phone box

This has been removed for repair.

#### 15.3 Update on works to bench at Troston woods

The bench slats will be sent directly to the contractor in Gt Livermere once this has been confirmed with him.

**Action Clerk.**

#### 15.4 To confirm additional areas for grass cutting

The Clerk has prepared a new contact, including the additional areas, for approval. It was asked if we can also add the area around the bench at Troston woods as this needs the brambles cut back on occasion.

**Action Clerk.**

#### 15.5 Update from Chairman on Church Road Ditches and overgrown hedges/brambles at The Old Rectory

Work was carried out at both locations, unfortunately the outcome was less than satisfactory.

15.6 The issue of parking at the Bull was discussed. Currently the staff are parking at the playing field car park, which is helpful as this frees up parking at the pub. An eye will be kept on the parking situation as the pub becomes busier.

**16. Planning**

None received

**17. Website.** To discuss change of website host.

Our existing host cannot accommodate the history book on the website, due to its size.

Community Action Suffolk is half the price of our existing provider and they can upload the history book on to the website. It was agreed to swap over to CAS. The Clerk will organise this.

**Action Clerk**

**18. Councillors reports and items for future agendas.**

Cllr Anderson has put together a document looking at and comparing the problems of Ixworth Road with a road in Capel St Mary. This document looks at the condition of the Ixworth Road, in particular the passing places. This document has been passed on to Cllr Hopfensper, who in turn has passed it on Mathew Fox, an asset manager for SCC. It was agreed that clarification of landownership and the status of the passing places needs to be sought. If we are to see further development in Troston then the condition of this road is of utmost importance as it is a fundamental link between us and our 'hub' at Ixworth.

**Action Cllr Hopfensperger.**

**19. Correspondence for information**

None received.

**20. Date for next meetings.** The High Court has dismissed the application by Lawyers in Local Government (LLG), the Association of Democratic Service Officers (ADSO) and Hertfordshire County Council and stating that primary legislation would be required to enable virtual meetings to proceed once the current Regulations expire on 6<sup>th</sup> May. Therefore we need to prepare to resume physical meetings once Step 3 of the Government Roadmap is implemented which hopefully will be from 17<sup>th</sup> May as planned. There are still concerns regarding this but they should hopefully be sorted out by the time we meet again in July.

Date for next meeting Monday 5<sup>th</sup> July 2021

**21 To consider the exclusion of the public and press in the public interest for consideration of the following items:** 21.1 Personnel Issues. 21.2 Legal Issues.