

MINUTES OF TROSTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING Monday 11th January 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. Apologies for absence. Cllr B Burridge, M Merchant & Indi Saunders
2. Members Declarations of Interest and Dispensations:
 - 2.1 To receive declarations of interest from councillors on items on the agenda. Cllr Rose declared an interest in item 13.2 on the agenda.
 - 2.2 To receive written requests for dispensations for disclosable pecuniary interests.
 - 2.3 To grant dispensations as appropriate under Section 33 of the Localism Act.
3. Minutes The minutes of the Monday 16th November 2020 agreed and approved as a correct record.

4. Report from RAF Honington: Sqd Ldr M Fixter
The base is still working where there is deemed an unequivocal need. All areas are being reviewed and ensured to be Covid compliant before activities continue. The base is preparing for the arrival of the new station commander, Commander Holland. Sqd Ldr Fixter has been thinking about events for this year. Unfortunately, due to the current situation, it is not really possible to plan ahead at the moment. There was no update from Indi Saunders regarding community matters, which is unsurprising in the current times. The in house test and trace is working well, which makes things easier. A report of a noise, coming from the base, has been reported on 'Nextdoor'. A screen shot of this will be sent to Sqd Ldr Fixter to investigate. **Action Cllr Johns**

5. Meeting open for questions from the public
A resident asked 'as the vaccine rollout is under way, can the people of Troston, many of whom are over the age of 80 and even more over 65 have clarification as to how they will be contacted to make an appointment. We have been told not to contact our GP surgery and there seems to be no other information available. This is particularly important as there is virtually no postal service in the village at the moment.'

Cllr Norris replied that 'Lucky residents who are eligible to be at the front of the queue for the vaccine, and are registered with Woolpit or Swan GP Surgeries, have received their second jab! Woolpit are also vaccinating patients registered with Stanton and Botesdale GPs who are part of the Blackbourne Primary Care Network based on the West Suffolk Hospital. Ixworth Surgery chose not to be part of this local network and is part of the East Suffolk Clinical Commissioning Group run out of Ipswich & Colchester Hospitals.
Until now, most GP Practices in Suffolk have been unable to vaccinate due to problems storing the Pfizer jab, which requires -70C freezers only available at Colchester. The first vials of the Oxford/Astra-Zeneca vaccine, however, arrive in Suffolk on Monday, with NHS staff at West Suffolk hospital set to receive doses of both jabs in the coming days. Vaccine supply, however, has so far been limited and targeted on towns with large populations - which, frankly, puts Troston way down the list!

"At the moment, we are only able to start to vaccinate people who are 80 years old and over. Please be rest assured, that even if you are 80+ and haven't received a call from your GP surgery, you will eventually get that call. The position is that we still haven't had enough vaccines to vaccinate everybody in that cohort, so we are having to do it on a priority basis i.e. the older you

are, the more likely you are to be called forward first. If you have pre-existing medical conditions that pushes you up the list as well.”

By the middle of January, it is hoped that across Suffolk there will be 16 vaccination centres and 20 GP surgery hubs, alongside the two hospital sites.

Cllr Hopfensperger reported that there is a problem with the supply of vials for the vaccine which is also holding things up.

6. Report from County Councillor: R Hopfensperger.

Cllr Hopfensperger sent a full report from SCC, the headlines of which are below, a full copy of the report is available on request.

As of Monday 4 January, Suffolk is in line with national Covid-19 Restrictions – Moving into a national lockdown. Testing capacity has increased in response to demand.

More than one third of Suffolk's total confirmed coronavirus cases were recorded in the last two weeks, government data has shown. A total of 15,643 people have tested positive for the virus in the county as of January 2 – with 5,321 people testing positive from December 20 to January 2, making up 34% of all cases recorded in Suffolk by that point. While the figures show cases are significantly on the rise, testing has vastly increased in recent months when compared to the first wave of the coronavirus pandemic. Mobile testing has increased countywide, while a walk-in test centre has also opened at Portman Road, Ipswich, alongside the permanent test centre at Copdock.

Support payments available for those told to self-isolate on low incomes

As of the 24th December, more residents on low incomes or benefits can now get financial help if they are told to self-isolate due to COVID-19.

Suffolk 2020 fund projects to deliver over £2.5 million in new community-focused initiatives across the county

On the 18th December, new projects were announced as part of the Suffolk 2020 fund to support residents and improve the county for years to come.

The announced initiatives and projects are as followed:

New booking system and automatic number plate recognition at Household Waste Recycling Centres –

Adult Digital Learning - Developing new virtual learning tools and techniques and setting up a laptop loan scheme to strengthen and extend access to the Adult Learning Service for those living in digital and/or rural isolation.

Youth Work - Developing and supporting growth of grass roots organisations to deliver accessible, high quality provision for youths across Suffolk. Includes creation of a virtual ‘Centre of Excellence’ to share best practice and provide a ‘one stop shop’ of support for youth groups across Suffolk.

Discovering Suffolk – raising awareness of Suffolk’s countryside and the county’s rights of way network, promoting local (Covid-safe) outdoor activities across all of Suffolk with the development of a smartphone outdoor app and QR codes to engage new audiences.

Automated Number plate Recognition Speed Indicators – Devices will be installed at the roadside to tackle localised problems with speeding drivers.

Virtual Reality therapy - Engagement and coproduction with people living with dementia and their carers to explore and develop interactive and therapeutic experiences to support wellbeing.

Mobile Community ‘Care Hubs’ - Digitally equip and staff selected community vehicles accessing rural communities within Suffolk.

EV Vehicle Charging Points – Making grants available to install around 100 vehicle charging points throughout the county.

Tree Planting - Increasing tree cover, through rural and urban planting schemes, planting approximately 100,000 trees over the next 18 months, establishing ‘healing woodlands’ to remember those lost to Covid-19, and increasing biodiversity along roadside verges.

Quiet Lanes - Encouraging the use of non-motorised vehicles and more considerate driving at lower speeds along a range of the community's self-selected rural lanes, with a view to adding 200 new lanes across Suffolk.

Proposed changes to Sizewell C application are step in right direction

On the 18th December, Suffolk County Council welcomed EDF Energy's movement towards reducing the number of additional heavy good vehicles on Suffolk's roads.

As part of its response to EDF Energy's latest community consultation on its application for Sizewell C, Suffolk County Council has welcomed the energy provider's movement towards reducing the number of additional heavy good vehicle movements on Suffolk's roads and increasing the use of rail and marine freight deliveries during site construction

Help shape guidance for new housing developments in Suffolk

On the 17th December, Suffolk County Council launched the Suffolk Design: Streets Guide, and is asking members of public for feedback in shaping new residential developments

Suffolk wins the Most Innovative Family Information Service award

On the 16th December, Suffolk won the Most Innovative Family Information Service award at the National Association of Family Information Service Awards (NAFIS), 2020.

Green light given for Council's new housing joint venture company

On the 9th December, Suffolk County Council's Cabinet gave the go ahead to create a joint venture company to lead new housing developments on some of its own land.

New cycle parking installed thanks to Government's emergency Active Travel Fund – Bury St Edmunds and Haverhill

In Bury St Edmunds two cycle parking racks have been installed on St Andrew Street South.

New public health report focuses on improving health for everyone

On the 3rd December, a new report was published by the director of public health which set out a blueprint for improving health for Suffolk residents, following the coronavirus pandemic

7. Report from B. Councillor: S. Brown

Housing Development in Troston – Following an informal meeting with the Chairman and Parish Cllr Roger Anderson I have arranged a meeting with a Planning Officer to discuss options in Troston. A site visit is on hold until restrictions are amended, but Cllr Brown shall arrange a Teams video meeting if desired. Cllr Anderson noted that notification has been received from Troston Farms saying that they had withdrawn the meadow from a bit of the site.

Suffolk's Police and Crime Commissioner, Tim Passmore has just published his proposals for the policing element of the council tax precept for the next financial year. The details are here:

[PRECEPT SURVEY: PCC proposes more officers for the county through policing precept - Suffolk PCC \(suffolk-pcc.gov.uk\)](https://www.suffolk-pcc.gov.uk/Precept-Survey)

He is asking Suffolk residents for their thoughts on his proposals through an electronic survey which can be accessed through the website link above. It includes the key question:

Do you agree with my proposal to increase the policing element of the council tax for 2021/22 by 30p a week?*

(* based on a Band D property)

The survey is open until **9am on Thursday 28th January**.

Fraud Alert – Covid 19 vaccinations

Further to the information provided before Christmas, West Suffolk Council has received further information regarding a Covid-19 Vaccination scam. I have attached a flyer highlighting the text message which is being sent to people asking them to fill in their information on a fake NHS website. This has received national attention but please do share such information within your communities to continue to promote awareness of these scams.

Cllr Brown suggested that these matters may be good to include in the parish newsletter.

8. Progress reports. For information, from:

8.1. Chairman:

8.1.1 Meeting with Ward Councillor on Lower Farm development plans.

Following on from the discussion above, Cllr Norris agreed he would be happy to meet with the planners to discuss the application for Lower Farm. We do not know what has been submitted as we have not had sight of the application. It was asked if Cllr Brown could arrange for us to have sight of the current application. Cllr Brown will speak to West Suffolk about this.

Action Cllr Brown

Helmut Claas, owner of Troston Farms and Chairman of the CLAAS group, died on January 5 at the age of 94. He made Troston home in 1961 and is fondly remembered by the village for his generosity and kindness. Sincere condolences are sent to his family.

8.2 Clerk:

8.2.1 Review of financial and standing orders.

The Clerk circulated updated financial and Standing orders.

It was agreed to adopt the updated standing and financial standing orders.

Action Clerk

9. Finance.

9.1 The following accounts were approved for payment.

	Administration office	£671.72
Tramar	play area	£766.50
Tramar	play area	£130.00
Tramar	play area	£50.00
Tramar	Grass cutting/Playing Field	£289.85
Suffolk County Council	Walks guide	£35.00

9.2 Bank reconciliation and accounts update.

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

9.3 Updated budget 2021/22

The Clerk presented a revised budget, following discussion at the November Budget meeting.

9.4 Precept update.

West Suffolk Council has received a grant from central Government to offset some of the impact Covid 19 has had on the tax base this year. They have passed this down to the Parishes and have asked if we want to adjust our precept request accordingly. Troston has been awarded £27.00 in grant. It was agreed that this would not make a significant difference and therefore we would not be altering our precept request.

Action Clerk

10. Footpath Leaflet 10.1 Update display board for leaflet.

Cllr Anderson has received the footpath poster for the display board. Once conditions allow he will get together with other members to put it up in the bus shelter.

11 Play Area to include:

11.1 Access post at Pear Tree Close.

The post at the entrance to the playing field has been knocked over on a number of occasions. It can be stood back up but is not very sturdy. It was agreed that Cllr Rose would keep an eye on the situation. Cllr Rose will liaise with the Clerk and if this is causing a problem they will seek a more permanent repair or replacement. **Action Cllr Rose/Clerk**

11.2 Quotes for shelter on Young Children's Play Area.

Four tenders for the new shelter in the children's play area were received. After discussion it was agreed to go ahead with the quote from Jeff Redgrave. As well as being competitive in his pricing he also went in to a good amount of detail producing a thoughtful design that is in keeping with the play area. In addition to contacting Jeff Redgrave to inform him that he was successful with his bid the Clerk will contact all those who sent in tenders to thank them for their time. **Action Clerk**

11.3 Quote for water pipe for Playing Field NWC 0108385

Cllr Norris has received a quote, from Anglian Water, for a new water pipe on the Playing Field at £1507.20 (including VAT). They will only do the work once the tap has been installed. Cllr Norris has contacted 2 plumbers who will give estimates for the work. The exact position of the tap is still to be confirmed. **Action Cllr Norris/Johns**

11.4 Replacement trees for playing field

The Clerk has been in contact with a new charity, being set up by Sicon, a software provider based in Bury St Edmunds. During lockdown the founders of Sicon decided to set up a charity foundation to provide trees. They would be able to provide, plant and look after, until established the trees we want replacing on the Playing Field. There would be no cost to the Parish Council. They just need to know what trees we want there and to come to an agreement about when the Parish Council would take over responsibility. The idea of having some fruit trees was discussed. The Clerk will arrange a site visit to discuss this option. **Action Clerk**

11.5 To note repairs to play equipment

Tramar have repaired the zip wire and slide. The slide was a bigger job than first anticipated but the Parish Council were very satisfied with the work.

12. Village Maintenance/matters

12.1 To discuss refurbishing/replacing village sign

The work to the village sign have not begun yet. The Clerk will chase the contractor up to find out when work will be undertaken. The Clerk is still trying to get prices, which are not ridiculous, for the replacement bench slats. **Action Clerk**

12.2 To note efforts made by The Bull regarding Christmas tree and lights

The Parish Council are really pleased by the efforts being made by the new owners of the Bull. Over Christmas the tree and lights were a big hit in the village. They are planning on to start doing takeaways, if they can. The Clerk will contact them to thank them for the efforts they are making. **Action Clerk**

12.3 Update on option to move speed restriction

Suffolk County Council have informed us that It would be difficult to support extending the 30mph speed restriction further into open countryside. Suffolk County Council's accident database has been investigated and there have been no recorded personal injury accidents within the past 5-year period (01/08/2015 – 31/07/2020), therefore there is no collision history to justify an extension. They assume that the new access has been constructed with adequate visibility splays

for the current speeds on Livermere Road and suggested that perhaps a speed survey could be funded by the Parish Council or Ward Councillor to confirm what the actual speeds are at the entry to the 30pmh speed restriction. SCC think if the parish wishes to pursue the speed limit extension that we need to provide evidence that there is a problem so as suggested perhaps you would consider a speed survey to start with. With this in mind it was agreed that we would use our existing speed device to collect data to confirm there is a problem with speeding before going to the expense of a speed survey. It was further agreed that a play area sign, on the road near the entrance could be funded by Cllr Hopfensperger.

Action Clerk/Johns

12.4 To discuss and confirm additional areas for grass cutting e.g. path next to King William After meeting with the Land Registry Department within Suffolk County Council, it was confirmed that the path alongside King William was not a public right of way/public footpath, but a permissive path within the boundary of King William House. The owners has no issue with the path being used, however, they do require a formal agreement stating that if any maintenance was to be carried out on the path by the Parish Council it would not affect our ownership of the land. An agreement to this end was agreed and will be held on file.

13. Planning

13.1 DC/20/2130/HH Tanglewood Ixworth Road Troston conversion of existing garage to annex With a single storey link extension to dwelling. No objections.

13.2 DC/20/2005/FUL The Garage Livermere Road Troston. Four dwellings with demolition of existing former petrol filling station b. associated access and parking area.

Troston Parish Council have no objections to the above application. They did however express three concerns over:

1. Where the bin storage, for waste collection, would be sited?
2. The limited visibility of traffic emerging from the development?
3. The safe removal of possible contaminated material from the excavation of the site?

It is anticipated that waste bins would need to be brought up to Livermere Road for collection. Waste bins are already left at the entrance to Pear Tree Close by both residents of Pear Tree Close and The Bull. The entrance to Pear Tree Close is adjacent to the proposed access for the development and concerns were raised about the loss of visibility, for traffic and pedestrians, if additional bins were also left there.

The development is sited on a bend - so lines-of-sight need to be checked and warning signs need to be considered.

The Parish Council note only desk research on possible contamination has been done. The Parish would like to seek written reassurance that the removal of any contaminated materials and subsequent reinstatement of the land would be carried out in a monitored and appropriate manner.

Action Clerk

13.3 Confirmation of submission to West Suffolk Local Plan re submitted sites for Troston.

The Clerk confirmed that a submission to West Suffolk Council has been made regarding sites identified in Troston.

13.4 To note correspondence regarding high fences.

Correspondence around high fences have been received by the Parish Council, these were noted. Residents need to be aware that there are rules over fence heights that are close to public highways and that if erecting a new fence it is worth seeking advice from West Suffolk Council.

14. Councillors reports and items for future agendas.

14.1 Cllr Burrige was unable to attend the meeting but sent the following report. I've taken a look at the playground and field this week. Pleased to see the work completed. There is no tape on the mound now. It is very muddy but the children playing did not seem to object! The whole area generally looks good.

Also, we are keeping a careful eye on the Village Hall. It is cleaned fortnightly but we don't feel we can make any plans as you don't know what is round the next corner.

The lottery is still on hold. We'll get it going again one day.

14.2 The wildlife meadow on the playing field was discussed again. It was suggested that this may be a project that the community might like to get involved with. It was agreed to put this on as an agenda item for the next meeting and that in the meantime all the councillors should consider what they would like see done with the area. **Action All**

15. Correspondence for information

15.1 Email from John Browning (Lord of the Manor) on use of field next to Playing Field

The parcel of land next to the playing field, was offered to the Hall Farm shooting syndicate to manage as it could hold a fair amount of game and myriad other species. They thought this to be a good idea but soon changed their mind as so many people walk their dogs where they shouldn't. It will, from now on, be managed by the farm manager, Andrew Maddever, with the remit of keeping it reasonably tidy and, when possible, pretty! Last year sun flowers were planted and every single one was eaten, we think by pigeons, as it emerged.

16. Date for next meetings. 1st March 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. 17.2 Legal Issues.