

MINUTES OF TROSTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2020 @ 7:30 VIA VIDEO LINK

Present: Cllrs G Norris, P Johns, M Merchant, R Anderson, J Moffat, Sqd Ldr M Fixer and C.Cllr R Hopfensperger

1. Apologies for absence  
Cllr B Burridge & Indi Saunders
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 13<sup>th</sup> July 2020 2020 agreed and approved as a correct record. Notes from zoom meetings agreed for information.

4. Meeting open to the public 2 members present.  
The Chairmen welcomed the 2 residents who joined us via zoom.

5. Report from County Councillor:

Cllr Hopfensperger provided the Councillors with a general report from Suffolk County Council. Cllr Hopfensperger met with Cllr Norris and the Clerk at the end of last week to look at the possibility of extending the 30mp speed limit out of the village towards Gt Livermere. It is appreciated that this is not a straight forward procedure but we think it is important that it is achieved. Following the introduction of the play area, the village entrance gateway now sits at the entrance to the play area. This means the current placement of the 30mp limit is no longer appropriate and it is clear to see how this is dangerous. By moving the speed limit out, towards Gt Livermere, it will not only make this entrance safer but it will also enable the VAS to be sited closer to the entrance to act both as a speed deterrent and to also enable speed data to be collected there. The first step is to ascertain where exactly the current Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) covers. If this extends to the village sign, located further out of the village towards Gt Livermere. it will be just a case of moving the 30mph sign. If this is not the case we would need to change the TRO, this is a costly legal exercise and further consideration will need to be given to this option if it is required. In addition to moving the speed limit we discussed the possibility of having some signs indicating that there is a play area there. We are conscious that this is a rural area and a proliferation of signs would not be welcome so a balance will need to be found.

**Action Clerk**

We also discussed having an extra VAS post erected on the road towards the Jackdaw. The Clerk will make the application for this on line. If this is successful Cllr Hopfensperger will cover the costs from her locality budget.

**Action Clerk**

The repair/replacement of the fingerposts on the village sign. It was felt that West Suffolk would be responsible for this. The Clerk will look into this.

**Action Clerk**

It was reported that the sign, damaged sometime ago - near Ampton, has had the post replaced but not the sign. The Clerk and Cllr Hopfensperger will investigate this.

**Action Cllr Hopfensperger/Clerk**

Cllr Hopfensperger met with David Falk, who helped the Councillors recently in the production of footpath leaflet. He is trying to develop an app, with a QR code, that will enable users to link maps and have a more interactive experience. He is looking to encourage more families and children out walking and provide advice on how to behave and enjoy the countryside safely. If the funding is forthcoming he is hoping to roll something out before Christmas and would potentially be using Troston in the pilot.

6 Report from WS. Councillor: S. Brown  
No report or apologies received.

7. Report from RAF Honington

Sqd Ldr M Fixer reported that everyone is gradually adapting to the new restrictions required to be Covid 19 compliant. Training is still taking place and there is likely to be more flying activity at night. On the 17<sup>th</sup> September there will be a 7pm sunset ceremony to commemorate eighty years since the Battle of Britain. This will be mainly represented by a fly pass as current restrictions mean that large parades are not possible. There will also be Church services held at both Thetford and Bury St Edmunds.

8. Progress reports. For information, from:

8.1. Chairman.

8.1.1 Information on digital health care and CLIMB studies

Cllr Norris has been working with the Ixworth Patient Association trying to encourage patients to fill 'my care records' and to encourage them to take part in the CLIMB study. This is a study run by Cambridge Uni to gain peoples' views on consent and information sharing between NHS services, via an anonymous survey at <https://www.climbproject.org.uk>. The survey takes about 10 minutes to complete.

8.2 Clerk:

8.2.1 To discuss documents for review

The Clerk is still working on the documents and will send them out for consideration soon.

8.2.2 Training, update on planning training, session 1

The Clerk enjoyed the first session but it was very whistle stop and she was not sure how 'user friendly' it was for those new to planning. She felt that her previous planning knowledge was definitely helpful. There are still 3 sessions to go and the information about the new government white paper will be included. This is proposing a change in planning laws to zonal planning. There are 3 zonal areas: Growth, which will include things like hospitals, school etc. Renewal, urban and brown field and Protection, Greenbelt and AONB. We are not entirely sure where we fit into this currently but somewhere between Renewal and Protection is likely. The Clerk will keep the Parish Council up to date with any important developments.

**Action Clerk**

8.2.3 Update on website improvements and website accessibility statement.

We need to do some work on our website to make it as accessible as possible for all. We also need to produce a statement of accessibility before the 23<sup>rd</sup> September.

**Action Clerk**

9. Finance.

9.1 To following accounts we approved for payment.

Tony Crabbe	Bus shelter	£30.00
Suffolk Pest Control	Bus shelter	£58.80
Tramar	Grass cutting/Playing Field	£270.00
SALC	Training	£7.50
Suffolk County Council	Walks guide	£420.00
BT	Village Hall Wi-Fi	£35.99
ICo	GDPR	£35.00
Admin	Admin	£394.28
Came and Company	insurance	£660.58

## 9.2 Bank reconciliation and accounts update.

The Clerk provided the Councillors with an up to date bank reconciliation, a budget report and a breakdown of payments for August and September. It was agreed that it would not be necessary to hold a separate budget meeting this year as the accounts are being presented in a different way which should make agreeing a budget slightly simpler this year. The clerk will prepare some budget figures for consideration before the November meeting.

**Action Clerk**

## 9.3 2019/20 AGAR

The external audit data has been received and logged by PFK Littlejohn.

## 10. Footpath Leaflet

### 10.1 Update on the holders for the footpath leaflet and a display board.

Anna McGowan cannot get to the Perspex holders held in their storage at the Council Offices, as this is considered a non-essential reason for making a journey into the offices. The Clerk has asked Cllr Hopfensperger if she visits the office could she pick some up for us.

**Action Cllr Hopfensperger**

The Clerk obtained a price for a print of the footpath leaflet at A1 size with postage, for £35. This will be ordered to be put up in the bus shelter.

**Action Clerk**

Cllr Norris took some copies of the leaflet to RAF Honington for distribution.

Cllr Norris will contact the landowner again about joining up a permissive path between Troston and Gt Livermere.

**Action Cllr Norris**

## 11 Play Area to include:

### 11.1 Signage for play area following Government advice.

The signage is on order at £25.50 per sign. The Clerk will pick them up when they are ready. Cllr Johns will put them up. The Clerk will be asked for the corners to be pre-drilled.

**Action Cllr Johns/Clerk**

### 11.2 To confirm agreement for placement of advertising sign.

It was confirmed that the Parish Council were happy for the grass contractors, Tramar, to erect a sign advertising their services.

### 11.3 To discuss arrangements for access and the key for the bollard from Pear Tree Close.

The Clerk has requested that the grass contractors only access the play area/field from the end by the bottle banks and not through Pear Tree Close. A combination lock will be purchased for the dropped bollard at the entry from Pear Tree Close onto the field.

**Action Cllr Norris**

### 11.4 To look at options for a seat and shelter.

Cllr Johns and the Clerk have found some details of benches and shelters for the play area. It has been suggested we look at a seat in the children's play area and a shelter with seating near the football pitch. It was agreed that recycled material would be a good choice. The Clerk and Cllr Johns will continue to look at options.

**Action Cllr Johns/Clerk**

### 11.5 Condition of trees in the car park.

The tree planted in the area near the car park are now dead. The Clerk will speak to both West Suffolk Council and Simon Burgess about this.

**Action Clerk**

## 11.6 Field maintenance

Some complaints have been received that the white lines at the football pitch are not being renewed and are disappearing. Apparently there is a football match on Saturday. The Clerk will contact the contractors about this and see if there is any chance they could be renewed before then?

**Action Clerk**

It was commented how good the field and children's play area is looking.

## 12. Village Maintenance/matters

### 12.1 To discuss refurbishing/replacing village sign

The condition of the village sign was discussed. It was agreed that some work needed to be done to the fingerposts but on the whole the condition of the sign was satisfactory at this time. It was agreed that we will look again, at the possibility of having a new, more ornate sign in the future. The Clerk will look at getting the fingerposts repaired/replaced. See also under Cllr Hopfensperger report.

**Action Clerk**

### 12.2 To note The Bull is under offer and that the Customer Bike site is up for auction.

The above information was noted.

### 12.3 To note concerns again over smells from the piggery

Cllr Anderson contacted Piggy Green about the smell in the village. In November last year a problem with excessive smells from the pig farm was reported. Following this Mr Green came to a meeting and following a discussion, where no reason for the increased smells was found, it was agreed that Cllr Anderson would monitor the situation and report any excessive smell. This was the situation again in August and Cllr Anderson sent an email to Piggy Green to report our concerns. At the time of the meeting Cllr Anderson had not received a reply. A resident, who attended the meeting, who lives in Paddock Way is of the opinion that some of the smell comes from the lagoon down the road from the pig farm. In the past environmental health have come out and monitored the situation. It was suggested that the Clerk contact the Environment Agency so that they can check if the lagoon is being properly maintained.. Cllr Norris will also discuss this with Edward Vipon.

**Action Cllr Norris/Clerk**

### 12.4 Update on meeting with Cllr Hopfensperger to discuss moving the speed restriction.

See under item5

### 12.5 To note and agree bins added to schedule for emptying and associated costs.

West Suffolk currently empty bins 3 bins in the parish. There are two further bins not on their schedule. This is the bin at the bottle bank and the bin by the bus shelter. West Suffolk are reviewing bin provision at the moment and if we do not have emptying schedules in place for these then they would need to charge us for adding them to their emptying for Troston, at the current rate of £3.02 per empty, per bin. This was agreed. The Clerk will ensure these two bins are added to the schedule.

In addition to this it was agreed that a new bin should be purchased and, once installed, added to West Suffolk's schedule. Cllr Norris will send a plan to show exactly where the new bin should go.

**Action Cllr Norris/Clerk**

## 13. Planning

None received.

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

The bench slats on the bench at Heath Wood need replacing. It was suggested that they were replaced with some recycled material. We would need to make sure that slats are of a high enough grade that does not warp. The Clerk will speak to Park Fencing in Gt Livermere to see if he would undertake this work as well as installing the new bin. See under item 12.5.

**Action Clerk**

Cllr Anderson asked how soon the new Government white paper is likely to have an impact on the local plan currently under review. The Clerk is currently undertaking some planning training, which will include information about the new white paper and she will speak to West Suffolk about the effect the white paper is likely to have on the Local Plan. Cllr Anderson will send the Clerk a summary of concerns he has, especially around the timing for the potential site for development at the pig farm.

**Action Cllr Anderson/Clerk**

Cllr Moffat asked about re-wilding areas in the village. There was a segment on Country file recently showing Risby as an example of successful re-wilding. Cllr Norris will ask if the person who appeared on the programme if they would be willing to speak to the Councillors about her experience.

**Action Cllr Norris.**

15. Correspondence for information

15.1 SCC Suffolk Minerals and Waste Local Plan, adopted.

**16. Date for next meetings.** 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2020

16 To consider the exclusion of the public and press in the public interest for consideration of the following items: 16.1 Personnel Issues. 2020/21 pay increase was noted. 16.2 Legal Issues.