

TOSTOCK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 14th September 2021 at Tostock Village Hall beginning at 7.30pm

Present Cllrs Johansson, MacDowell, Richardson (Ch), Turner

Attending Mr Peter Dow
16 members of the public

MINUTES

21.09.01 **Resolved: That Peter Dow be appointed Clerk to this meeting.**

21.09.02 **Noted:** The following when Apologies for Absence were invited.

- 2.1 An apology for absence from Cllr Boland which was accepted on grounds that the meeting was unscheduled.
- 2.2 An apology for absence from Cllr Mellen which was accepted on grounds that the meeting was unscheduled

21.09.03 **Noted:** The following when any Members' declarations of Local Non-Pecuniary Interest and/or Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in subsequent Agenda items were invited and any additions, deletions or alterations to the Council's Register of Interests noted:

- 3.1 Cllr MacDowell declared a Non-Pecuniary Interest in any matters arising from Agenda item 8 which might pertain to Tostock Village Hall as he was Chairman of the Village Hall Committee of Management.

21.09.04 **Resolved: That, the Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of 30th July and of the Extraordinary Meeting held on 31st August be agreed, respectively, as true records of those meetings.**

21.09.05 **Noted:**

- 5.1 That the meeting received a written report from District Council Ward Member Cllr Wendy Turner.
- 5.2 That the meeting received a written report from District Council Ward Member Cllr Harry Richardson.
- 5.3 That the meeting received a written report from County Council Ward Member Cllr Andy Mellen.
- 5.4 The following points raised from the public when the Meeting was opened for question and comment, with any Chairman's response italicised:
 - 5.4.1 The matter of possible personal liability, as highlighted recently, might act as a bar to public consideration of standing for co-option to Council *Current sub judice matters make uncertainty a strong possibility, although Council membership per se carries no personal liability. Advice will be sought from MSDC Monitoring Officer towards an appropriate clarification of the current extra-ordinary position. And any advice proffered will be publicised.*
 - 5.4.2 The matter of overgrown hedges generally should be added to any discussion at 8(g) and consideration given to outstanding highway repairs although Church Road has had some attention.
 - 5.4.3 Could the public have hard copies of Ward Members' Reports?
These will be posted on the notice board.
 - 5.4.4 As recent events have demonstrated, the tasks undertaken by Councillors, as volunteers, are not easy. Perhaps a regular agenda item, 'What has been achieved by this meeting', might help focus minds on what actually matters. *Agree. This meeting is called in part to deal with 'real' day-to-day issues, such as Insurance renewal which cannot be allowed to be lost in the recent somewhat troubled proceedings.*

5.4.5 Councillor training should feature as soon as possible on a future agenda.
Agree

- 21.09.06 **Noted:** The Chairman's confirmation that Mid Suffolk have advised that the process of co-option can begin, the aim being to advertise the posts available next week towards the possibility of co-option at the next meeting. As membership is thus augmented, the Mid Suffolk Section 91 appointees will cease to serve once quorum is reached, either en bloc or piecemeal dependent upon the rate that co-optees assume office.
- 21.09.7 **Resolved: That Council's General insurance policy be renewed with the current provider so as to provide continuing cover.**
- 21.09.8 The Meeting considered the scheduled list of matters arising from previous meetings and other business as follows:
- 8.1 Funding for Jubilee event - *matter pending*
 - 8.2 Advertising for tenders for a litter picker – *refer to a later meeting noting that the matter must be resolved by January.*
 - 8.3 CIL funding – first tranche - *matter pending*
 - 8.4 Tree survey on Parish Council land - *matter pending*
 - 8.5 Memorial bench for Jull Masters of Tostock – *Detailed proposals to come back to a subsequent meeting.*
 - 8.6 Flooding and erosion on The Green – *A persistent problem but currently not urgent as always properly notified to SCC Highways. Any long-term solution for future consideration.*
 - 8.7 Overgrown hedge on Church Road – *Woodland Trust have applied for a Road Closure to harvest trees at Christmas. Refer to next agenda.*
 - 8.8 Update to village website - *matter pending*
 - 8.9 It was confirmed that there will be a fireworks party at the Village Hall on 6th November.
 - 8.10 The matter of a sound system / hearing loop for the village hall might be CIL funded and remains a live issue.
 - 8.11 The next agenda should include the possibility of the purchase of a Christmas Tree with a guide price of £50.00.
 - 8.11 Much of the above, and other matters of community concern, might best be dealt with once the Council is better constituted in terms of input from local residents as Members.
- 21.09.9 **Noted:** That the date of the next scheduled meeting was 11th October at 7.30 in the Village Hall.
- 21.09.10 **Noted:** That the Meeting closed at 8.13.