

TOSTOCK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of an Ordinary Council Meeting held on Monday, 23rd January 2023 at Tostock Village Hall beginning at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs O Boland, Johannsen, MacDowell, Mellen (Ch), Richardson

Attending: Mr Peter Dow
7 members of the public

MINUTES

23.01.01 **Resolved:**
That Peter Dow be appointed as Clerk to this meeting

23.01.02 **Noted:**
An apology for absence was noted from Cllr P Boland

23.01.03 **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 Local Non Pecuniary interest in any matters related to the village hall as he was Chairman of the Village Hall Committee.

23.01.04 **Resolved:**
That the Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 10th October 2022, as circulated and posted, be agreed as a true record.

23.01.05 Cllrs Richardson and Mellen tabled written reports as Ward Members of BMSDC and SCC respectively.
5.1 Cllr Richardson spoke to confirm the implementation of the Council tax Reduction scheme, being a 95% reduction across all elements of the tax available to all in receipt of Universal Credit. Loss of revenue will be effectively covered by the increase in the Tax Base.
5.2 Cllr Mellen confirmed that the SCC budget to go to Council for ratification proposes an uplift of 3.99%, 2% of which is predicated to Social Care.
5.3 Both Ward Members made mention of the recent County Deal which seeks to create an elected leader of SCC and attracts money and powers to the region, although detail is, at the moment, sketchy.

23.01.06 **Noted**
That when Public comment or question on any matter on the Agenda was invited, none were forthcoming,

23.01.07

Noted:

The following matters brought forward from previous meetings and any resulting action determined:

- 7.1 Cllr MacDowall, having followed-up the visual tree safety audit carried out by a member of the public, confirmed that no action is necessary at the moment but that a watching brief should be kept on 2 dead trees identified.
- 7.2 A progress report from the volunteer team administering the Speed Indicator Device confirmed that, after some successful sessions, it is now suffering an intermittent fault and the installer is to attend under the warranty terms. Expenses are to be presented in terms of padlocks and Council will be asked to consider the purchase of a bluetooth data logger in the sum of £350.00
- 7.3 Cllr Mellen provided feedback from SCC Highways re flooding at Flatts Lane and confirmed that all indications are that the problems are solved.
- 7.4 Cllr MacDowell confirmed continuing difficulties in re-establishing Council's status with NatWest Bank to the extent that cheques cannot currently be honoured or Statements accessed.

Resolved:

That former Tostock Parish Councillors David Blundell and Julian Kearsley be confirmed as being no longer signatories to the Council's account with NatWest Bank and that Cllr Andrew Mellen and Cllr Harry Richardson be, forthwith, appointed as authorised signatories to the account.

- 7.5 In the matter of due process and consequential costs involved in the proposed variation in access arrangements serving the Old Post Office over the Green, Cllr Mellen confirmed that he had secured pro bono advice from SCC legal officers suggesting that de-regulation of the areas concerned might present a way forward. The Meeting agreed that, due to the complexity of the matter, resolution might best be left in the hands of a more representatively constituted body following the forthcoming election in May.
- 7.6 Cllr MacDowell confirmed that he had spoken to a recommended local contractor regarding grass maintenance at The Leys and that a Proposal for appointment might come forward to the next meeting.
- 7.7 The Meeting agreed to note the apparent lack of Council's Standing Orders and that the matter should be addressed at the next meeting.

23.01.08

Cllr MacDowell, as RFO tabled a Financial Report, as previously circulated, which, although not informed by Bank Statements, the meeting noted represented an accurate fiscal position.

23.01.09

Resolved:

That the following payments made be noted and agreed:

- 9.1 31st Oct £ 68.74 to village litter picker
- 9.2 31st Oct £ 20.91 to Community Action Suffolk for parish insurance
(top up to previous payment)
- 9.3 5th Dec £ 65.63 to village litter picker
- 9.4 5th Dec £ 306 to Gipping Press - printing costs for the Tostock Chronicle

23.01.10

Resolved:

That the following be authorised for payment:

- 10.1 £86.25 to Oliver Holland for contracted hours worked to date as litter picker
- 10.2 £81.00 to Mr Howells against invoices related to administering the SID
- 10.3 £317.60 to Tostock Village Hall as the balance of the recent
Locality Award

- 23.01.11 The Meeting agreed to carry over to the next meeting the matter of insuring the tractor mower and registering it for road tax.
- 23.01.12 There was discussion regarding the possibility of funding from CIL money-in-hand fees accrued in securing architectural services for the village hall improvement project.
Resolved:
That the sum of £2,462.75 be made available to Tostock Village Hall against architects' fees for work carried out on the proposed refurbishment project.
- 23.01.13 The Meeting agreed to refer to the next meeting the matter of recent and on-going damage to The Green caused by vehicular traffic.
- 23.01.14 **Resolved**
That Tostock Parish Council directs Mid Suffolk District Council to pay over the sum of £9,920.00 (nine thousand nine hundred and twenty pounds) being this Parish Council's Precept requirement for the financial year commencing 1st April 2023.
- 23.01.15 **Noted:** The following Planning decisions as determined by MSDC:
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|------|-------------|-------------------------------|--|-------------------------|
| 15.1 | DC/22/04982 | 2 Flint Cottages, Flatts Lane | Construction of a single storey rear garden room extension | MSDC granted |
| 15.2 | DC/22/04985 | The Old School, New Road | Notification of work to trees in a conservation area | MSDC raise no objection |
| 15.3 | DC/22/04362 | Linnet House, Leys Road | Installation of photo-voltaic panels to roof slope | MSDC granted |
| 15.4 | DC/22/04713 | Flinders, The Green | Application for works to a tree subject to a TPO - pruning | MSDC granted |
- 23.01.16 **Noted:** The following Planning applications as forwarded by MSDC for comment and to which no comment was deemed by the Meeting to be necessary.
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|------|-------------|-------------------------------|---|
| 16.1 | DC/23/00038 | Livingston House, Flatts Lane | Notification of works to trees in a conservation area |
| 16.2 | DC/23/00131 | Beech Tree House, Leys Road | Notification of works to trees in a conservation area |
- 23.01.17 **Noted:** That when public comment or question on any matter of Council business was invited, none was forthcoming.
- 23.01.18 **Noted:** That when any other business from Councillors or the Meeting Clerk for information, to be noted or for inclusion on a future agenda was invited, none was forthcoming
- 23.01.19 **Noted:** That the date for the next meeting was scheduled for 22nd May in the Village Hall beginning at 7.00pm.
- 23.01.20 **Noted:** That the meeting closed at 9.05.

**THESE MINUTES ARE NOT AN OFFICIAL RECORD OF THE MEETING
UNLESS AND UNTIL FORMALLY RATIFIED BY RESOLUTION
AT A SUBSEQUENT MEETING OF THE COUNCIL**