

TOSTOCK ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 14 April 2026 at 7.30pm in Tostock Village Hall

Present: Parish Councillors: Cllr Jane Storey (Chair), Cllr David Blundell, Cllr Paul Callow, Cllr Roger Cross, Cllr Julian Kearsley and Cllr Andy Sharkey (Footpaths Officer);
District Councillor: Cllr Harry Richardson;
12 residents; and
Parish Clerk: Doug Reed (who took the minutes).

26.01 Welcome and Introductions

Cllr Jane Storey, Chair of the Parish Council, welcomed those present and noted the meeting process which would include formal reports by elected representatives followed by the opportunity for village bodies and organisations to address the audience.

26.02 Apologies for Absence

Received from County Councillor Andy Mellen, District Councillor David Bradbury, Parish Councillor Michael Baulby, Doreen Buckle (Carpet Bowls Club), Elizabeth Dunn (Tennis Club), Graham MacDowall (Village Hall Committee), John Parnum (Past & Present Society) and Ben Smith (Tree Officer).

26.03 Minutes of the Last Annual Parish Meeting

It was proposed by Roger Cross, seconded by Julian Kearsley, that the minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting, held on 8 April 2025, be approved as a true record and duly signed by the Chair. The proposal was carried.

26.04 County and District Councillors' Annual Reports

04.1 County Councillor: Cllr Mellen was not in attendance but had provided a written report (held with the minutes and published on the village website).

04.2 District Councillors: Cllr Bradbury was not in attendance. Cllr Richardson referenced his written report (held with the minutes and published on the village website). He spoke, in particular, to update residents on local government reorganisation and changes to bin collections scheduled for implementation from 1 June. He answered questions and also kindly agreed to pursue one particular query concerning brown bin collections in Flatts Lane.

26.05 Parish Council Annual Report

Cllr Storey reported on the activities of the Parish Council which had met six times in the last year. She confirmed that Council finances were now well under control and, in response to a question from the audience, said that the significant loan taken out by the previous Council had been completely cleared. She noted that the Council was represented on two village organisations with Cllr Roger Cross being on the Village Hall Committee, and Cllr Mike Baulby and Cllr Sarah Cobbold representing the Council on the Tostock Poor's Charity. She maintained that the Council was transparent in its handling of its business with all Council agendas, reports and minutes posted on the village website. Two new speed indicator devices had been purchased during the year and another was being progressed for potential installation in Leys Road.

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26.06 Current Issues

Cllr Storey added to her report in relation to four areas which had arisen during the year:

06.1 "Tostock Chronicle" - she thanked Kim Mars for his editorship of the publication, a role he had undertaken for over three years. She and Kat Bauly had now taken on the position and were beginning to get to grips with the role. She added that the cost of production over advertising income had been substantially reduced such that it had almost broke even over the last year. New distributors of the publication were still needed in certain parts of the village and she asked if any volunteers who might be willing to help would contact the Parish Clerk.

06.2 Website - a fairly new resident, Roy Alexander, had offered to take on the management of the website and was introduced to those present. Cllr Storey indicated that he was keen to develop the facility and, in particular, to seek more involvement from village bodies and organisations. All being well, more details would be available in the near future.

06.3 Speedwatch - while a speedwatch group as such had not materialised, Cllr Storey noted that the Parish Council initiatives to curb speeding via the installation of extra monitoring devices was proving worthwhile, with a further Speed Indicator Device (SID) in the pipeline.

06.4 Defibrillator - following a successful 'Basic Life Skills' course in March 2025, attended by a dozen residents, two volunteers had emerged to look after the defibrillator which was now scheduled to receive a much-needed software upgrade.

26.07 Village Organisations

The meeting was able to hear brief reports from a number of organisations, thereby evidencing the wealth of opportunities and activities which existed in the village. As well as verbal reports, those unable to be represented in person at the meeting had offered written accounts of their work and activities. In all, the following spoke and/or provided reports (written reports provided are held with the minutes and published on the village website):

- ◆ Book Club (Kathleen Lord)
- ◆ Carpet Bowls Club (Doreen Buckle)
- ◆ Knitting and Crochet Group (Sarah Reader)
- ◆ Past & Present Society (Adrian Malcom)
- ◆ Poor's Estate (Sharon Markell)
- ◆ St Andrew's Church (Jeanne O'Reilly)
- ◆ Tennis Club (Elizabeth Dunn)
- ◆ Tostock Chronicle (Jane Storey)
- ◆ Tree Officers (Becky Smith)
- ◆ Village Hall (Rosemary Lister)

26.08 Any Other Matters

None.

26.09 Thanks

Cllr Storey concluded the meeting by thanking everyone who had attended and contributed.

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26.10 Next Meeting

It was noted that the next Annual Parish Meeting would be held on Tuesday 13 April 2027.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.38pm.

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