

TOSTOCK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the full Council held on 12 November 2024 at 7.30pm in Tostock Village Hall (Approved 14.01.25; minute 25.01.03 refers)

Present: Cllr Jane Storey (Chair), Cllr Michael Bauly, Cllr David Blundell
Cllr Paul Callow, Cllr Roger Cross, Cllr Julian Kearsley, and
Cllr Andrew Sharkey.

In Attendance: Five members of the public; and
Parish Clerk: Doug Reed.

24.11.01 Apologies for Absence

Accepted from Cllr Sarah Cobbold who was unable to attend due to work commitments and Cllr Glenn Lebbon who had a health issue.

24.11.02 Declarations of Interest and Dispensations

02.1 Interests: None.

02.2 Dispensation Requests: None.

02.3 Dispensation Decisions: None.

24.11.03 Minutes of the Last Parish Council Meeting

It was resolved that the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council, held on 10 September, be signed as a true record.

24.11.04 County and District Councillors' Reports

04.1 County Councillor: Cllr Mellen was not present. His written report, as circulated to all councillors, was duly noted.

04.2 District Councillors: Both Cllr Bradbury and Cllr Richardson had sent apologies.

24.11.05 Public Comment and Questions

Several matters regarding footpaths were brought up by residents which raised a number of important questions. It was agreed that these be reviewed by Cllr Sharkey, as Footpaths Officer, and the subject would be put on the agenda for the Council meeting in January.

24.11.06 Correspondence

Cllr Storey reported on items both sent to and received by the Council. She noted the following in particular:

♦ There was a need to reduce the costs of the "Tostock Chronicle" by restricting the size of each issue to 16 pages. Accordingly, she had written to those bodies which had hitherto been substantial contributors to seek their co-operation by limiting the size of their articles. It was hoped that this would not detract from the value of the newsletter whilst being fairer to all those who sought space.

♦ The Tree Officers had sent a report to the Council outlining recent activities in which they had been involved. This would be forwarded to councillors for information and placed on the village website.

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24.11.07

Finance

07.1 Responsible Financial Officer: It was noted that the NatWest current account stood at £6,999.59 and the reserve account at £62,874.96 further to which it was resolved that the reconciliation be approved.

07.2 New Pay Scales: The Council resolved to adopt the newly agreed NJC pay scales, as contractually applicable to the Council post of Clerk, to be applied retrospectively from 1 April 2024 with the resultant salary implication (increase of £0.63 per hour).

07.3 Litter-Picker: As the Council litter-picker had now passed 18 years of age, the Council approved an increase in the rate of pay per hour from £7.50 to £8.60 (National Minimum Wage for those aged 18-20) and agreed that this be backdated to 1 April 2024.

07.4 Payments and Income: It was resolved that the schedule of payments be approved. The schedule comprised the following:

- ◆ Gipping Press Ltd: "Tostock Chronicle" (October/November) - £315.00;
- ◆ HMRC: PAYE (September) - £83.20;
- ◆ Business Services at CAS Ltd: insurance renewal - £500.51;
- ◆ Cllr Roger Cross: reimbursement of mower diesel - £29.80;
- ◆ Clerk: salary (August) + homeworking allowance (£26.00) - £359.32;
- ◆ Clerk: salary (September) + homeworking allowance (£26.00) - £359.32;
- ◆ Mr O Holland: litter-picking (including arrears) - £105.45;
- ◆ Clerk: salary (October) + homeworking allowance (£26.00) - £346.50;
- ◆ HMRC: PAYE (October) - £86.40; and
- ◆ Clerk: salary (November including arrears) + homeworking allowance (£26.00) - £424.98; and
- ◆ HMRC: PAYE (November) - £106.20.

Income received was duly noted as follows:

- ◆ NatWest: reserve (deposit) account interest - £73.04;
- ◆ NatWest: reserve (deposit) account interest - £71.58;
- ◆ Mid Suffolk District Council: precept (October-March) - £6,161.50;
- ◆ Mid Suffolk District Council: Community Infrastructure Levy (April-September) - £3,417.12; and
- ◆ "Tostock Chronicle": advertising - £1,100.00.

07.5 Community Infrastructure Levy: It was noted that the funding total had risen to £59,130.99 following receipt of a further £3,417.12 in October.

24.11.08

Defibrillator Training

Further to previous discussions, it was agreed that a Basic Life Support (including CPR and defibrillator awareness) training session would be held in the Village Hall on Saturday 15 March for up to 12 interested residents. This would be delivered by the Woolpit, Elmswell, Norton, Tostock Community First Responder Group.

24.11.09

Ongoing Matters

09.1 Wayleave (The Green): Cllr Kearsley offered a brief update and reported that the matter would be discussed in more detail by the Finance Working Group at its meeting on 2 December.

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09.2 Land Registry Tribunal: Cllr Storey confirmed that, currently, there was no further news.

24.11.10 Planning

10.1 New Applications:

None.

10.2 Decisions: The following application results were noted:

DC/24/03753 Oak Cottage, The Green - erection of single garage.

GRANTED;

DC/24/03825 2 Wood Close - erection of single storey rear extension and construction of rear dormer extension in conjunction with loft conversion (following removal of conservatory). GRANTED;

DC/24/04407 Livingstone House, Flatts Lane - works to trees in a Conservation Area - crown raise willow tree on rear boundary to 4.5m to clear neighbour's studio roof. GRANTED; and

DC/24/04408 Ojemba, Flatts Lane - works to trees in a Conservation Area - coppice stem of one white poplar (T1) leaning over boundary, pollard at 3m. Fell one horse chestnut (T2) with significant basal stem rot to ground level. Fell one sycamore (T3) in decline, with significant basal stem rot to ground level. Remove fractured bough and other damaged branches of one monterey cypress (T4). GRANTED.

10.3 Applications Awaiting Decision:

None.

24.11.11 Matters for the Attention of the Council

♦ Cllr Cross asked about any feedback from the Arboricultural Officer at Mid Suffolk District Council to whom the removal of a 150-year-old oak tree at the eastern end of Perkins Way had been reported. The Clerk would pursue a response.

♦ Further to a request from the Crochet Group to erect Christmas structures on the Village Green, councillors were very pleased to give permission and noted that they looked forward to seeing what the Group would be placing there for the festive season.

24.11.12 Next Meeting

It was noted that the next Ordinary Meeting of the Council would be held on Tuesday 14 January at 7.30pm in Tostock Village Hall.

Meeting dates for 2025 were confirmed for March 11, May 13 (Annual Parish Council Meeting), June 10, August 12 and November 11; and April 8 (Annual Parish Meeting).

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.01 pm.