

STUSTON ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held at 7pm on Tuesday 23 May 2023 at Diss Golf Club.

Present: Roger Greenacre (Chair for first part of meeting), Cllr. Tim Weller (Chair for election of Chair and Vice-Chair), Cllr. Jessica Fleming, Matt Herbert (Financial Officer), Philip Gerrie (Clerk then Chair) and 26 residents.

1. Welcome and apologies for absence: The Chair opened the meeting, welcomed all present and introduced Cllr. Tim Weller. Apologies were offered on behalf Darren James-Harley, Nicky James-Harley, Maryann Meadows, Rob Meadows, Peter Mendham, Valerie Mendham and Shirley Pass.

2. Minutes of previous meeting held on 26 May 2022: Acceptance of these minutes as a correct record was proposed by Steve Leigh and seconded by Richard Dear.

3. Parish financials year ending 31 March 2023

The Financial Officer gave his report, presenting the required documents.

3.1 Annual Governance Statement 2022/23: Approval was proposed by Steve Leigh and seconded by Clive Allen.

3.2 Final Accounting Statement 2022/23: Approval was proposed by Sue Leigh and seconded by Richard Dear.

The Financial Officer thanked Roger Lay for completing the internal audit.

4. Report from the Parish Clerk and Planning Committee

The Clerk's Report is attached to these minutes. Some key points were referred to in the meeting.

4.1 Neighbourhood Community Infrastructure Levy: Following investigation with the Infrastructure Team at Mid Suffolk District Council, it has been confirmed that previous proposed allocations noted on their website were errors. These had arisen due to there being a number of planning application numbers assigned to the Alverstone development in the past. The amount of Neighbourhood CIL awarded was now confirmed as £6,483.06. There was no CIL charge for developments on the BP site. £5,101.60 has already been spent or committed on priority projects identified by Stuston Parish Meeting, leaving a balance of £1,381.46. Cllr. Burn was thanked for allocating funding for the purchase of a second Speed Indicator Device for use on Old Bury Road from his Locality Award budget.

4.2 Liaison with Suffolk Highways: A new Highways Engineer had visited Stuston on several occasions. A resident reminded the meeting that discussions had previously taken place about making the B1077 one way from the Devil's Handbasin to the A143 roundabout to increase safety. Cllr. Fleming reported that there would be a new highways contractor from October and it would be worth revisiting previous proposals after then, as there would be a different management structure and priorities. This also linked with discussions on creating a path for walking a cycling along the B1077 from the Devil's Handbasin to the bridge over the River Waveney.

4.3 Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan: Cllr. Fleming stated that this project was being led by the District Council but Suffolk Highways were also heavily involved.

5. Nominations and election of the Stuston Parish Meeting Committee

Roger Greenacre thanked Phil and Faye Gerrie, Matt Herbert, predecessors Rick Dear and Tara Darrall plus all the members of the Social Committee for all their work and support since the Stuston Parish Meeting started. He commented on the good attendance at Parish Meetings and social events and stressed the importance of keeping the meeting going to pull residents together. He then stood down

and handed over the chair of the meeting to Cllr. Tim Weller.

Cllr. Weller congratulated and thanked Roger for his role and work over the last eight years. He explained that he would chair the next stage of the meeting in accordance with standing orders.

5.1 Election of new Chair: Two nominations had been received.

David Laurie was proposed by Mike Archer and seconded by Kim Archer.

Philip Gerrie was proposed by Steve Leigh and seconded by Sue Leigh.

In accordance with Standing Orders, Cllr. Weller organised a vote by secret ballot. The count was independently adjudicated by Cllr. Fleming. Phil Gerrie was elected by a majority.

5.2 Election of Vice Chair: Two nominations were received.

David Laurie was proposed by Tara Darrall and seconded by Avril Laurie.

Steve Leigh was proposed by Phil Gerrie and seconded by Sue Leigh.

Cllr. Weller organised a vote by secret ballot. The count was independently adjudicated by Cllr. Fleming. Steve Leigh was elected by a majority.

5.3 Election of Parish Clerk: One nomination was received.

Faye Gerrie was nominated by Sue Leigh and seconded by Phil Gerrie.

The previous Clerk had sought advice from Mid Suffolk District Council about a Chair and Clerk being related. The response was read to the meeting. In the absence of any other nominations the meeting agreed that Faye Gerrie would be elected Clerk, with the proviso that finance matters were dealt with by a separate officer and the Vice-Chair checked all minutes before circulation as a draft to ensure transparency.

5.4 Election of Financial Officer: Matt stated that he was willing to undertake the role for one further year and was elected unopposed.

6. Report from County Councillor: Cllr. Fleming had sent her report to the Clerk and highlighted key points. A copy is available on the Stuston village website. She commented how positive it was to see so many people at the meeting. She thanked the officers for volunteering.

7. Report from the Social and Welfare Committee: Tara Darrell, on behalf of the Social Committee, reported that there had been a successful village walk, litter pick and Coronation picnic so far this year. She thanked James Laurie for cutting the grass on the Common. The next event was a concert by Hexachordia with mini afternoon tea on 17 June and a new venture of a coffee morning and chat in the church on 30 June and 28 July. All committee members were thanked for their hard work organising and publicising these events.

8. Any other business

8.1 Diss and District Neighbourhood Plan: Steve Leigh reported that the Plan had now been collated between all 7 parishes and the District Councils involved and presented to the Independent Examiner. His report is on the village website. The Examiner has commented that the multi-parish approach carried out by the Group has been highly innovative, as well as being carefully and professionally presented.

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8.2 Speeding: Residents again expressed concern about speeding in the village and signs being obscured by vegetation. Cllr. Fleming reminded residents that there was a Community Self Help Scheme for councils who wanted to carry out minor highway maintenance within their communities. This may be an option for Old Bury Road but not for busier roads. The Clerk would circulate details of the scheme. Any concerns should be reported on the Highways reporting tool.

9. Date of next Parish Meeting: The next meeting would take place in October 2023