

## STUSTON PARISH MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held at 7pm on Thursday 25 October 2018 at Diss Golf Club.

**Present:** Roger Greenacre (Chair), Matt Herbert (Financial Officer), Philip Gerrie (Clerk), District Councillor David Burn (joined the meeting at item 6) and 15 residents.

1. **Apologies:** Were offered on behalf of Councillor Fleming, Paul Cumber, Maria Cumber, Jayne Dear, Marcus Freeman, Sarah Freeman, Steve Leigh, Sue Leigh and Shirley Pass.
2. **Approval of previous minutes:** Acceptance of the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting was proposed by Dick Pass and seconded by Pamela Scott.
3. **Chair's Address:** Roger Greenacre welcomed residents to the meeting. He thanked the Financial Officer and Clerk for their work during the year. He gave special thanks to Colin Paris and his worthy band for their excellent work on the village pump and Book Swap area. All agreed that this was a great improvement. £280 was left from the original grant received from Cllr. Burn and window box type planters had been suggested to improve the appearance of the railings. The Chair reported that it was proposed that the Book Swap role be extended in the spring to include a plant swap, as residents thinned their plants or had excess seedlings. The Clerk would send out a flyer nearer the time.
 

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A resident reported that CDs and DVDs had been stolen from the Book Swap and asked that such items were no longer donated.

The Chair reported that the Summer Fete had been well attended. One thought for future events was to plan for residents to be able to mix more, rather than have to sit in separate groups.
4. **Parish financial status:** The Financial Officer reported that £280 remained in the accounts from the grant allocated by Cllr. Burn. He forecast that £1020 would remain in the main Parish fund at the end of the financial year, even though an audit fee of £240 had to be paid for the first time this year. Good practice indicated carrying forward no more than £500. No precept would be required next year, unless any additional planned expenditure was agreed in this current year. A precept would however be required for 2020/2021. The Financial Officer would contact the Parochial Church Council treasurer to establish how much remained from funds previously allocated to maintain the churchyard.
 

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5. **Report from County Councillor:** A copy will be placed on the Stuston Village website when received.
6. **Report from District Councillor:** Councillor Burn arrived later in the meeting due to attendance at a full Council meeting and responded to questions. The Chair reported that Councillor Burn had indicated that he was pleased with the way his grant to Stuston had been spent and had further funds available this financial year. A bid could still be submitted.
 

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7. **Diss and District Neighbourhood Plan:** The Chair reported that Mike Bootman, Chair of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group had resigned. Cllr. Burn is Interim Chair until a new Chair is appointed. The traffic census related to the A1066 had been completed and results were expected within the next 2 weeks. An alternative route for through traffic was needed but this was unlikely to be funded without very significant housing development in the area. The Chair reported that the District Councils did not seem to be committed to the aims of the plan to develop wider infrastructure. New housing development was likely to be restricted to areas

that already had an infrastructure and there were no plans to develop in Stuston. Stuston had not contributed funding to the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group. Notes from Steve Leigh and the last minutes of the Steering Group are available to view on the village website <http://stuston.onesuffolk.net/parish-meeting/>

## 8. Implementation of the General Data Protection Regulations:

The Clerk reported that the new arrangements come into effect on the 25<sup>th</sup> May 2018. This had involved contacting all persons held on the data base to seek permission to use their personal data in all future contacts. The Clerk reported that this basic work had been completed to ensure compliance, and that he was in touch with the Suffolk Association of Local Councils to ensure that all aspects of the new regulations were covered. Also that previous people on the data base who had not re-registered and those people moving into the village were being contacted by delivering relevant forms to each household.

## 9. Items from previous meeting

**9.1 Village pump and surrounding area:** The Millennium Bench has now been renovated and discussion took place on placement. One suggestion was on the green next to the pump. Another suggestion was to site the bench on the Common, now that the Parish Meeting pays for this to be mowed. Dick Pass offered to donate another bench and this was welcomed. The meeting agreed to locate the benches on the Common, subject to permission from the land owner. Further information would be sought regarding any possible role the District Council would have in such permissions. Benches would need to be securely fixed to the ground. Discussion took place about renovation of the village pond. The meeting heard that this had been done previously but the area was not well used and ongoing maintenance was required.

RG

**9.2 Traffic volume and speed:** Discussion again took place on possible traffic calming measures on Stuston Lane. Residents felt that a flashing Speed Indicator Device could be effective. The Clerk reported that Palgrave Parish Council had speed watch equipment that they were willing to loan out but this needed a team of at least six volunteers who were willing to form a Community Speed Watch Scheme and undertake training. The Chair again asked if anyone would be willing to join a small working party to investigate options.

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**9.3 Neighbourhood Watch and Tree Warden:** Sue Leigh felt that she was not in a position to take on the role of Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator. Residents were asked if anyone else was interested, particularly due to concerns expressed in recent months.

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Mike Archer confirmed that he was willing to take on the role of Tree Warden for Stuston. He confirmed that he is willing not only to become the link with the Suffolk Tree Warden Scheme, but our link with UK Power Networks. The Clerk confirmed that a meeting with all interested parties would be arranged in the near future.

**9.4 Maintenance of trees and ditches on common land:** Discussion took place on continuing concerns over responsibility for issues related to the common land in the village. A resident suggested that a meeting be held with a representative from the District Council to clarify the extent of the common land, the rights of commoners and areas of responsibility. It would be important to know who has overriding control. Cllr. Burn agreed to investigate further. It was confirmed that the Parish Meeting has the power to put the owners of common land under notice where health and safety concerns are raised. The Chair and the Tree Warden would walk round common land and identify any dangerous trees.

RG/MA

A resident suggested that the Parish Meeting empower a standing committee of officers to act if required. This was proposed by Dan Scott and seconded by Colin Paris.

The Chair would draft a standard letter of notice to be used if required. Cllr. Burn asked to be

notified if a letter of notice was ignored.

RG

**9.5 Dog fouling.** The Clerk had obtained 5 warning notices from the Council. These had now been put up in the village. The cost of dog waste bins was not felt to be justified at the present time. If funding became available this would be reinvestigated.

**10. Report from Planning Committee:** An update was given on the application DC/18/03188 related to a BP filling station. The Chair has written to Mid Suffolk District Council to express concern about safety exiting the site during the development phase. The results of planning applications can be viewed on <https://planning.baberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk/online-applications/> A planning application had been received related to change of use of a piece of land at the rear of 4 Talbot Close. The owners of this property reported that although the application indicated that the land would be for their use this was not the case. The Chair asked them to contact the Clerk if they received any further information related to that piece of land.

**11. All Saints Church:** The Chair reported that the result of the application for lottery funding for repairs to the church was not likely to be received until January. The Parochial Church Council was optimistic, as a significant grant had already been received for the investigation phase. Wider use of the church would not be possible without the next phase of funding, so the Chair advised that further discussions be postponed until the result of the application was known.

**12. Activities of the Village Social and Welfare Committee:** Dick Pass reported that attendance at the summer fete had been good and this was now an annual event. The next village litter pick would take place on 4 November and would concentrate on Stuston Lane. Fly tipped items would not be collected. Residents can report fly tipping on the District Council website.

<https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/environment/street-care-and-cleansing/fly-tipping/>

The Winter Supper would take place on 23 November at Diss Golf Club and tickets were now on sale.

Dick reported that he had only agreed to act as co-ordinator of the Committee until the end of the year, following resignation of the previous co-ordinator. He stated that he was willing to stay on the Committee but would step down as co-ordinator. Residents were asked to think whether they would be willing to join to bring fresh ideas.

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Dick thanked Val and Paul Buckland who were planning to move away. Val had been a stalwart on the Committee for 3 years and Paul always participated in any work parties. All present echoed his sentiments.

Residents were asked for suggestions for future events. Ideas included a table games night at the Golf Club and music on the Common to include a local folk group or similar, drinks and possibly dancing. A resident suggested inviting the Coffee Caravan to visit once or twice a year.

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<http://ruralcoffeecaravan.org.uk/>

**13. Any other business:** Cllr Burn reported that the Council were participating in the Tree for Life scheme. Parents of a new born baby in Mid Suffolk could claim a fruit tree for planting in a place of their choice or in a community orchard.

The Clerk reported on concerns about the condition of School Lane. He had contacted Highways again but had not yet received a response. He had also asked previously about making the exit from School Lane onto Stuston Lane 'No Entry'. The Highways Department had advised that the required formal process could cost up to £10,000 and they did not have a budget for this. The only option was for local councillors to seek funds.

**14. Dates of future meetings:** The next meeting would be held in January 2019. The Annual Parish Meeting would be held in May 2019.

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