

TOSTOCK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the full Council held on 21 July 2026 at 7.30pm in Tostock Village Hall

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

In Attendance: District Cllr Harry Richardson; and
Parish Clerk: Doug Reed.

26.07.01 Apologies for Absence

Accepted from Cllr Glenn Lebbon who had an unavoidable prior commitment.

26.07.02 Declarations of Interest and Dispensations

02.1 Interests: None.

02.2 Dispensation Requests: None.

02.3 Dispensation Decisions: None.

26.07.03 Minutes of the Last Parish Council Meeting

It was resolved that the minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council, held on 12 May, be signed as a true record.

26.07.04 County and District Councillors' Reports

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

04.2 District Councillors: Cllr Richardson presented and addressed his report, as circulated to all councillors. Cllr Bradbury was not present.

26.07.05 Public Comment and Questions

None.

26.07.06 Correspondence

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

- ◆ An issue involving problems with the repeated appearance of Anglian Water tankers in Norton Road. The Clerk would investigate.

- ◆ Resident feedback received concerning the potential location of a speed indicator device in Leys Road as result of which councillors would revisit the chosen position and review any other options.

- ◆ The very pleasing news that a bid by the Village Hall Charity for a grant towards the Hall improvement project from the Mid Suffolk District Council Community Infrastructure Fund had been successful to the tune of £100,000.00.

- ◆ Concerns regarding the pond, grass and "Suffolk's Best Kept Village" sign at The Leys further to which it was agreed that a working group of Cllr Callow, Cllr Cross and Cllr Sharkey would meet to produce a plan of action to be enabled with the help of volunteers on Sunday 25 October.

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26.07.07 Finance

07.1 Responsible Financial Officer: It was noted that the NatWest current account stood at £7,811.72 and the reserve account at £64,792.40 further to which it was resolved that the reconciliation be approved. Of the total £54,452.01 was Community Infrastructure Levy funding.

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

- ◆ Clerk: salary (May) - £357.48;
- ◆ HMRC: PAYE and NI (May) - £93.65;
- ◆ Clerk: homeworking allowance (May) - £26.00;
- ◆ Heelis & Lodge: internal audit fee - £190.00;
- ◆ Atkins Dellow: legal fees - £720.00 + £138.00 VAT;
- ◆ Gipping Press Ltd: "Tostock Chronicle" (June/July) - £267.00;
- ◆ Clerk: salary (June) - £357.48;
- ◆ HMRC: PAYE and NI (June) - £93.65;
- ◆ Clerk: homeworking allowance (June) - £26.00;
- ◆ Clerk: travel expenses (internal audit) - £25.20;
- ◆ O Holland: litter-picking - £81.38;
- ◆ Mr K Seeley: reimbursement of cost of mower diesel - £41.01; and
- ◆ Information Commissioner's Office: data protection fee - £52.00.

Income received was duly noted as follows:

- ◆ Mid Suffolk District Council: cleansing grant (2026-2027) - £1,321.84;
- ◆ NatWest: reserve (deposit) account interest (May) - £43.69;
- ◆ NatWest: reserve (deposit) account interest (June) - £48.25; and
- ◆ "Tostock Chronicle": advertising - £55.00.

07.3 Community Infrastructure Levy: The funding position was noted.

07.4 Internal Audit 2025-2026: The internal audit report carried out by Heelis and Lodge was welcomed and reviewed. It was agreed that it evidenced an excellent result with Council finances and governance judged to be sound and no matters identified as requiring remedial action.

07.5 Limited Assurance Review 2025-2026: Confirmation had been received from PKF Littlejohn LLP that the Council had been certified as exempt from a limited assurance review ('external audit') for the financial year 2025-2026.

07.6 Notice of Public Rights (2025-2026 Accounts): It was noted that the statement of accounts 2025-2026, the accounting records and all books, deeds, contracts, bills, vouchers, receipts and other documents relating to those records were formally made available for inspection by any person interested between Wednesday 3 June and Tuesday 14 July 2026 inclusive and that no requests had been forthcoming.

26.07.08 Flood Plan

Further to an enquiry from the Mid Suffolk District Council Emergency Planning Support Officer, it was agreed that no formal flood plan was needed but that identified areas of the village at risk of flooding would be made known to the officer by the Clerk.

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26.07.09 Ongoing Matters

It was noted that the Clerk was continuing to pursue CityFibre regarding the potential installation in Flatts Lane of the promised upgrade to full-fibre broadband. Plans had been promised but they had not materialised yet alone resulted in any action.

26.07.10 Joint Local Plan Scoping Consultation 2026

The Council considered the above. Cllr Storey offered to compile a response on behalf of the village.

26.07.11 Planning

11.1 New Applications:

DC/26/02942 4 Perkins Way - erection of a single storey, orangery infill extension. The Council had NO OBJECTION; and

DC/26/02765 The Court House, Tostock Place, Church Road - application under Section 73 of The Town and Country Planning Act 1990 - variation of condition 2 (approved plans and documents) DC/26/00434 dated:

10/04/2026 - erection of a driveway entrance gate and fencing along the property boundary. The Council had NO OBJECTION.

11.2 Decisions: The following application results were noted:

DC/26/01624 Livingston House, Flatts Lane - works to trees in a Conservation Area - reduce canopies of three maple (T1-T3) to five metres and remove branch from one tree (T4). GRANTED;

DC/26/01597 The Old Post Office, The Green - works to trees in a Conservation Area - remove one oak tree (T1); and reduce the height of one holly tree (T2) to approximately five metres. GRANTED;

DC/26/02679 The Lodge, Norton Road - works to trees in a Conservation Area - fell one goat willow (T1) to ground level. GRANTED;

DC/26/01019 Glentor, Norton Road - erection of a single storey extension. GRANTED; and

DC/26/01745 Gable End, Leys Road - erection of double garage and workshop/workroom and associated external works. REFUSED.

11.3 Applications Awaiting Decision:

DC/26/01840 The Medieval Barn, Norton Road - erection of single storey pitched roof outbuildings. The Council OBJECTED (with comments).

26.07.12 Tostock Archives

The Council was pleased to approve the scanning and publishing of the "Tostock Chronicle" archive such that it could be added to the new Past and Present Society website (tostockarchives.org.uk).

26.07.13 Matters for the Attention of the Council

It was noted that the northern side of the road near Ticehurst Farm had become very overgrown to the extent that it obscured the view and was a danger to vehicles, walkers and horse-riders. Cllr Storey offered to report the problem to Suffolk Highways.

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26.07.14 Next Meeting

It was noted that the next Ordinary Meeting of the Council would be held on Tuesday 8 September at 7.30pm in Tostock Village Hall.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.27 pm.

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