

Informal Notes of the Trimley St Martin Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 9th April 2009 at the Memorial Hall, Trimley St Martin following the Annual Parish Meeting

Present: Chairman John Barker, Vice Chairman Berridge Eve, Councillors Keith Slaughter, Ian Cowan, Carol Garrett, Frank Bell, Dave Pither, Peter Waller, Joe Smith, Heather Rodwell.

Clerk: Mrs Tracey Hunter

By Invitation: Suffolk Coastal District Councillor Graham Harding

Apologies: Suffolk Coastal District Councillors Richard Kerry and Sherrie Green Suffolk county Suffolk County Councillor John Goodwin, Parish Councillor John Sills.

Declarations of Interest:

Councillor Cowan – Personal Interest – Local Development Framework
Councillor Bell - Personal Interest – Local Development Framework
Councillor Garrett – Prejudicial Interest (Applicant known to councillor) - Planning Application CO9/0341

County Councillor Report:

- Annual report read at earlier APM meeting.

District Councillors:

- Annual report read at earlier APM meeting.

Public Questions:

- Clerk read a letter received from the public about the state of the High Road, clerk to forward copy to SCC. Matter raised of a residential property alleging to be buying/selling and repairing vehicles. Clerk to contact SCDC regarding this.
- A report of raised bolts on the wooden timbers at the Grimston footpath crossing made, Clerk to report to authorities

Minutes of the parish council meeting held on the 3rd March, which had been circulated to councillors, were duly signed and dated by the Chairman as a true record. *(Council Cowan queried the item 122 Highways and Footpaths stating that he thought an agreed amount to be set aside was made in respect of the replacement bus shelter, but the Clerk advised that it had instead been discussed that once the estimate had been received this would be circulated to councillors but no decision made until the next parish meeting.)*

Matters arising from minutes.

Suffolk County Councillor John Goodwin /Parish Councillor Ian Cowan Incident March 2009 meeting

The Chairman commenced matters arising by reading the following statement to councillors:

I refer to an incident that occurred at our March 2009 Parish Council meeting

As part of a verbal report, Suffolk County Councillor John Goodwin was explaining his decision to abstain from a recent Felixstowe Town Council vote; he ended this explanation with a personal comment directed to Parish Councillor Ian Cowan (in relation to Ian's capacity as a member of STAG).

Both the clerk and I were completely unprepared for what we were hearing, as were all those present. I used the gavel to bring this matter to an end. Councillor Cowan asked for the right of reply, this was refused as I deemed the incident came about as a result of business discussed at a meeting of Felixstowe Town Council and the content of subsequent emails between unknown third parties (in Mr Cowan's capacity as a member of Stag) directed about, and as I understand, copied to County Councillor John Goodwin and his wife Felixstowe Town councillor Angel Goodwin. Councillor Cowan then asked for the details of the incident to be recorded. I put this matter to a vote, this was taken, and the result indicated that members did not wish details of the incident to be recorded.

I was advised the next day that Councillor Cowan had made a formal complaint regarding the incident to the Monitoring Officers of both SCDC and SCC.

I was subsequently advised "the incident" would be dealt with by the SCC Monitoring Officer as John Goodwin attended our March Parish Council Meeting in his capacity as a Suffolk County Councillor.

My current understanding is that the matter is still being dealt with by the SCC Monitoring Officer and therefore is still "sub judice".

If a similar situation arises again, I would hope to be quicker on the gavel. This council will not/should not tolerate such behaviour.

Following the reading of this statement, Councillor Ian Cowan stated that he felt that by describing the incident that took place at last month's meeting, as a 'personal comment' made by CC John Goodwin, (*see March mins*) undermined the seriousness of the statement directed at him. Councillor Peter Waller pointed out that however much CC John Goodwin felt he had been provoked, it was no excuse for such a personal attack to be made and whilst councillors were in general agreement of this, it was still felt that since it related to matters outside the concerns of the Parish Council and also, as pointed out by Vice Chairman Berridge Eve, it would be impossible to record verbatim all that was said in the heat of the moment by all parties, that the matter should remain as previously minuted, as per the vote taken at the March meeting. However, following further discussion it was proposed by Councillor Ian Cowan and seconded by Councillor Peter Waller that the comment made by Suffolk County Councillor John Goodwin should more accurately be described as "one of a threatening nature". A vote of four in favour, one against and five abstentions meant that the vote was carried.

- a) **LDF Framework** – The Clerk advised that the parish council's LDF consultation responses had been validated and were now available to view on the SCDC website. The Clerk also advised that she had received correspondence from SCDC asking the parish council to identify the site as put forward in their consultation response and this had been duly completed and returned to them.
- b) **Schools Consultation** – The Clerk advised that since she had received only two completed councillor consultation replies, these had been forwarded as individuals and thus no response from the parish council as a whole was submitted.
- c) **Port of Felixstowe Liaison Meeting** – Chairman Barker gave brief details of the matters covered at the recent Port Liaison meeting, which was also attended, by VC Eve and the Clerk.
- d) **Rural Planning Seminar** – Councillor Peter Waller gave brief details of this event to councillors.
- e) **Boundary Review** – The Clerk advised that the Boundary Commission had now put forward two slightly revised drafts for unitary authority for Suffolk. Further consultation responses can be made up to the 15th May and this item has been deferred to the May meeting for further discussion.

Correspondence:

- a) **Boundary Review** – The Clerk gave out details of an information event being held by SCC on the 20th April at the Oaks Children Centre, Felixstowe and also gave out a special edition of the SCDC Parish Bulletin magazine.
- b) **Parish Council Insurance** – The Clerk advised that a broker who was offering alternative quotations with Norwich Union for parish insurance had contacted her. The Clerk is to obtain a quotation, which will be considered by councillors prior to the renewal of the policy.
- c) **Age Concern** – Lunch Clubs – article to go in the next Parish Pump.
- d) **ESTA** – Councillors considered the contribution request and an amount of £25.00 was put forward and agreed.
- e) **Suffolk Acre membership** – It was agreed to take out membership at the cost of £25.00.
- f) **SCDC** – The Clerk advised that she had been written to by SCDC regarding the theft of a computer, which held name and address details of all persons who had taken out licences with SCDC. Protection has been provided for twelve months to prevent possible identity fraud.
- g) **Suffolk Family Carers** – Councillors considered the contribution request and an amount of £50.00 was put forward and agreed.

Planning Applications:

- **C09/0341 Location:** The Gatehouse, 3a Grimston Lane, Trimley St Martin. - Proposal: Two storey front extension, first-floor rear extension and replacement conservatory no objections
- **C09/2111 Location:** 258 High Road, Trimley St Martin- Proposal: Erection of single storey dwelling – the council were concerned about the manoeuvring and parking arrangements.

Planning Decisions:

- **C09/0063 Location:** 63 Mill Lane, Trimley St Martin - Ground and first floor rear extension forming new bedroom and enlarged kitchen/dining room. **Granted**
- **C08/0127 Location:** Land and buildings off High Road, Trimley St Martin - Retention of café area, included roofed structure and associated self kitchen unit together with retention of other roofed structures for use in connection with farm shop/garden centre. **Granted**

Street Lighting:

The Clerk to report faulty lamps

Highways and Footpaths:

- a) The Clerk advised the roundabout agreement with Gosling Farms had been renewed for a further year.
- b) A request was made that white lines be painted at the exit of Grimston Lane into Thorpe Lane just adjacent to the railway crossing. Clerk to write to SCC regarding this.
- c) Reports were made of grass banks/verges being destroyed by large HGV's, clerk to report to East Area Highways.
- d) It was suggested that Footpath One should be re-surfaced along the section from the High Road to the railway line. Clerk to make enquiries with SCC.
- e) A report was made of old loose electrical cable along the loom-pit river wall, clerk to report.
- f) Manhole cover surrounding green box still damaged in Old Kirton Road, clerk to report.
- g) Phone box and bus shelter covered in graffiti, clerk to report.

Any Other Business:

- a) Memorial Hall – New doors are needed at the Hall, a quote has been obtained, a comparison quotation will be obtained. The Clerk was also requested to ask JAS landscapes to cut the grass at the back of the Hall and also remove any debris.
- b) Parish Pump – It was proposed that the next edition be distributed at the end of May.
- c) The next meeting of the parish council would be the Annual Council Meeting whereby the Election of Officers and Committees would take place.