

Informal Notes of the Trimley St Martin Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 2nd December 2008 Memorial Hall, Trimley St Martin at 7.45pm

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

Clerk: Mrs Tracey Hunter

By Invitation: Suffolk County Councillor John Goodwin, Suffolk Coastal District Councillor Graham Harding

Apologies: Councillor Peter Waller, Suffolk Coastal District Councillor Richard Kerry

Declarations of Interest:

- Councillor Cowan – Personal Interest – Local Development Framework
- Councillor Bell - Personal Interest – Local Development Framework

Community Police Report:

- **Police crime report for October and November** – The Clerk read the crime report for both these months.
- **Safer Neighbourhood Meeting – 18th November.** The Clerk advised that quarterly SNT meetings would be taking place with the Trimley/Kirton/Falkenham parishes and these would take the form of a public Community Panel Meeting one week followed by a private Tasking Meeting a week later to discuss the three main issues brought forward from the Community Panel Meetings. These meetings would take place in February, May, August and November.

County Councillor Report:

- John Goodwin gave a verbal report to councillors. The Clerk thanked CC Goodwin, on the council's behalf for his help in securing further funding from SCC for the car park resurfacing

District Councillors Report:

- The Clerk read a written report to councillors, which had been received from District Councillor Richard Kerry.
- District Councillor Graham Harding gave a verbal report to councillors.

Minutes of Meeting Held Tuesday 4th November:

- Minutes of the parish council meeting held on the 7th November had been circulated to councillors but were not signed at this meeting due to a query raised by Councillor Cowan regarding the item Local Development Framework Councillor Cowan pointed out that a comment he had made about the conduct of the District Councillors at the SCDC Cabinet meeting on the 21st October (of which he had attended in the public gallery) had not been minuted as had been requested, since his remarks had been an agreed common consensus at the parish meeting. The Chairman advised that he had been contacted by the Clerk who had felt uncomfortable at including these comments about individuals in the minutes and she had duly consulted the Monitoring Officer to obtain advice on the subject. The Clerk had been advised that the minutes should be a record of decisions made by the council and that they should be kept impersonal and a summary of the main points. The Clerk had also consulted the Local Council Administration handbook which states under Chapter 7 MINUTES Section Q, that minutes of the proceedings of councils "*are intended to be formal records of official acts and decisions, not reports, still less verbatim reports, of the speeches made by councillors*". On this basis and with this advice in mind, the Clerk had omitted the comments made by Councillor Cowan in the November minutes. Vice Chairman Berridge put forward the proposition that if the

parish council wished to either praise or criticize a particular District Councillor, then the minutes were not the place to do this, but that the parish council should write to the District Councillors directly with their views. However, after much prolonged discussion it was decided by a vote of the councillors present (with the exception of Chairman John Barker and Vice Chairman Berridge Eve) that the November minutes be amended to include the comments made by Councillor Cowan.

- District Councillor Graham Harding who had been present for this debate, with permission to speak from the Chairman, advised that the criticism of which he was being accused (*see November minutes*) was in fact both unfair and unjust, since he advised that he **had** in fact spoken up for Trimley St Mary when the LDF panel were discussing the point of infrastructure, since he felt that the village was already under pressure in this regard. He pointed out that Councillor Cowan (and V. C. Berridge Eve who had also gone along to the Cabinet meeting) had already left the Cabinet meeting by this point and therefore the criticism of his actions were unfounded. Councillor Cowan accepted his word that DC Harding had spoken at the meeting, but his criticism had been that he had not supported his fellow District Councillor Sherrie Green, earlier in the meeting when the Trimleys as a whole were discussed in regard to potential housing development. DC Harding replied that he and his fellow councillors reserved the right to nominate one person to speak on behalf of all three District Councillors at such meetings.
- The Clerk then advised that the November minutes could not be signed in their present form and that she would seek further advice as to how the minutes should be amended and these would then be signed at the January meeting.

Matters arising from previous minutes:

- a) **Memorial Hall Car Park Re –surfacing** – The Clerk advised that she had received two quotations from contractors for the re-surfacing work and on the basis of their competitive price, DW Surfacing were chosen to carry out the work. The Clerk advised that she would contact the contractors to arrange for the work to be carried out, as per the unanimous decision by councillors for the work to proceed at the price quoted of £8600.00.
- b) **LDF** – The Clerk advised that the consultation period for the next two documents from SCDC would be from the 5th December to February 16th and that these would be circulated to councillors. Chairman Barker advised councillors that he had been informed that SCDC had in fact appointed an independent firm of consultants to look at the proposals that had been put forward at the LDF meeting in August. They would be consulting with town and parishes along with the single-issue lobby groups but that they would be carrying out their report independent of any input from SCDC and the planners involved in the LDF process.

Correspondence:

- **Freedom Of Information** – The Clerk advised that the Information Commissioner's Office has produced a new model publication scheme, which must be adopted by all public sector organizations. The Clerk had completed the new template and had circulated this to councillors. Parish councillors duly adopted this. Details of the new scheme will be displayed on the notice board and a copy of the model scheme would be placed on the website.

Planning Applications:

CO8/2012 Location: 52 Mill Lane Trimley St Martin - Proposal: New dormer window to rear of house and alterations of existing flat roof dormers at front of house to pitched Roof dormers - **No objection**

Highways and Footpaths:

- a) **Parish Trees Scheme** – The clerk had received details of the SCDC Parish Tree scheme and these were given to the Highways and Footpaths committee to deal with.
- b) The Clerk was advised that there were still problems in Thorpe Lane with regard to agricultural vehicles bringing mud onto the road from the fields and that flooding due to blocked gulleys in Church Lane were also occurring. The Clerk will contact the relevant authorities.

Any other business:

- a) **Reeve Lodge Carols 17th Dec.** – The Clerk advised that a number of the Saints Players would also be attending this event. Food was to be provided by this parish council and a number of councillors volunteered to bring something and the Clerk was authorized to use petty cash funds to supplement provisions. (Section 137.)
- b) The next meeting scheduled for the parish council is Tuesday 6th January followed by a Finance and General Purposes meeting on Wednesday 28th January to discuss and set the precept for the coming year and to discuss those items identified by the external audit.