

Informal notes of the Trimley St Martin Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 6th Februar 2007 in the Memorial Hall

Present: Chairman John Barker, Vice Chairman Joe Smith, Councillors Nigel Smith, Keith Slaughter, David Beale, Julie Pither-Jones, Dave Pither, Berridge Eve, Ian Cowan and Carol Garrett.

Apologies: Heather Rodwell

In attendance: Suffolk County Councillor John Goodwin, Suffolk District Councillor Mary Dixon and PCSO E Lake

Vice-Chairman Joe Smith chaired the meeting due to late arrival of Parish Council Chairman.

Declarations of Interest:

- Councillor Ian Cowan - Personal interest under item 87a - Local Development Framework, as a member of STAG.
- Councillor Nigel Smith - Prejudicial Interest under item 92 as owner of Goslings Farm. (No requirement to leave the room, as cheque signed only for payment of Christmas trees supplied)

Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 2nd January 20

- i. **Latest update on LDF:** The Clerk confirmed that the Core Strategy Issues and Options consultation documents had been collected from Suffolk Coastal District Council and the summary documents highlighting key issues were issued to each Councillor. A hard copy of the full consultation draft was put into circulation for those councillors without access to the document via the SCDC website. CD copies will also be distributed once these have been received from SCDC. The Clerk confirmed the date for the Finance and General Purpose meeting to discuss the consultation documents as being the 20th February at 7.00pm. The Clerk also confirmed to councillors that their invitation to attend a public meeting on the 14th March had been accepted by the Leader of the LDF Task Group, Andy Smith along with the Chief Planning Officer, Steven Brown. A recent article based on the parish council press release had recently been published in the local paper, which gave details of the proposed public meeting, and further details will be publicised nearer the time of the meeting, via the local paper and other forms of media. Once the public meeting had taken place, a further G.P and Fin meeting would take place for councillors to compose their response to the LDF document. The Clerk advised that the consultation documents had been accompanied by a Consultation Questions document containing 54 questions about the LDF, which could be completed if required, but Councillors felt that this could detract from the main issues that were of most concern to the parish council. Councillor Cowan who had had the opportunity of briefly looking through the document prior to this meeting, advised other councillors that the consultation document contained a lot of irrelevant details that were not of importance when compared to the two main issues of concern which was the re-classification of the Trimley Villages now being made part of Felixstowe and also the failure of the report to include up to date housing figures. (The figures contained in the table at the back of the report are only current to 2004, nor do they take into account windfall development figures). The Clerk asked councillors to read through the consultation documents during the course of the next two weeks, making note of any points they wished to query and these would then be discussed at the G.P. & Fin meeting on the 20th February and a list of questions would then be put together to ask the LDF Task Group. It was agreed by councillors, that these questions should be sent to Andy Smith and Steven Brown prior to the 14th March meeting in order that they were prepared to give full answers at the meeting, rather than being placed in position of having to 'come back to us' at a later date.

- ii. **South West Liaison Meeting** Councillors Beale and Garrett had attended the South West Liaison meeting on the 5th February on behalf of the parish council. They gave a brief overview of the meeting concentrating on the first agenda item, which was regarding the LDF and the presentation of this by Andy Smith and Stephen Brown. Since the LDF had only been put out to the public domain on the same day, only a brief summary was given by Andy Smith who advised those present that SCDC were a long way from a decision on the LDF and they welcomed all responses, not just to the questions as laid out in the accompanying document. Also discussed at the meeting were Parish Plans, Green issues, Carbon footprints and the Police SMS text service. (The Clerk subsequently sent a full copy of the minutes of this meeting to councillors via email on The 7th Feb.)
- iii. **Transport and Works Order** – The Clerk confirmed that the letter received from Andrew Cann at HPUK, copy of which had been circulated to all Councillors, had been replied to and this was read out at the meeting. With regard to the Grimston Lane crossing, Councillor Slaughter advised that he was aware that some residents did not wish to see the crossing remain open due to the possible dangers of children running over the proposed dualled tracks and felt it safer that they should cross at the controlled Thorpe Lane crossing. The Clerk advised that, having contacted Andrew Cann, a reply to our letter should be received by the end of the week and she would circulate this to councillors for their comments before replying to the Planning Inspectorate by the due date of the 16th February with our final written response to the Transport and Works Order. A member of the public present at the meeting advised councillors that she had recently observed Ian Chadney of HPUK at the Thorpe Lane crossing, who was thought to be checking on the reported ‘phantom’ barrier down times. He in fact witnessed the barriers going down for the passing train and then raising, but that they then came down again! He then rang the signal box operator from the phone at the crossing who advised him that the travelling train was going so slowly that it was triggering the barriers to be lowered again. Councillors agreed that it was not acceptable for this problem to remain and that action needed to be taken. Previous conversations with Ian Chadney had revealed that the Port would address the problem if and when the proposed dualling took place and the track could be re-aligned so that trains would be able to speed up after passing through the Thorpe lane crossing which would alleviate the problem but councillors felt that this was a far too serious a problem to be left and the Clerk has been instructed to write to Railtrack and the Railway Inspectorate to alert them to the potentially life-threatening problems at this crossing. Councillor Cowan believed that those responsible for the safety of the crossing would be liable to charges of criminal negligence if they ignored the warnings made and the parish council were not prepared for the problem to continue whilst both the Transport and Works Order decision and the dualling took place some time in the future.

Community Police Officer's Report

- The Chairman welcomed PCSO Elizabeth Lake to her first meeting who then proceeded to read the monthly crime report to councillors. Three of the incidences of criminal damage in the village had been linked to one set of youths and they had been duly dealt with.
- Councillor Garrett reported a problem vehicle that was parking too close to the junction of Mill Lane/High Road, which was causing problems for vehicles using the junction. PCSO Lake advised she would deal with this matter.

County and District Councillor(s) Report

- i. **Suffolk County councillor John Goodwin** gave a brief verbal report to Councillors about meetings he had attended which included subjects such as unitary status in Ipswich, Pathfinder status and the County Council projected savings in respect of gas/elec, mobile and landline phone costs and postage costs.
- ii. **Suffolk Coastal District Councillor Mary Dixon** reported that the LDF currently out for consultation, was not expected to come into use until 2009 and until that

time, planning decisions would be based on the current local plan. However, this was being simplified by the proposed deletion of planning policies which were no longer considered relevant or were covered by other policies, one such being AP172 which refers to the opposition of any third port access route across AONB land. However, at the Development Control Committee meeting on the 31st January, Mary had pointed out that whilst there were no current proposals for a third route access, it could not be assumed that there would not be future ones and therefore this policy AP172 should not be deleted. The proposal to delete AP172 was therefore removed but this still does have to go to full cabinet and Mary had briefed her colleague Sherrie Green about the reasons for retaining this policy and she in turn will make sure that this view is put forward at the next cabinet meeting. The Clerk is also to write to Ray Herring with a copy to Sherrie Green and Stephen Brown to convey our strong concern that this planning policy should stay. Mary also confirmed to Councillor Cowan's enquiry with regard to current planning policy in the village that the current restraints to the village envelope remain.

- iii. Public Questions: A member of the public present advised she was pleased to see that the pavement opposite the Sausage Shop had been cleared following her complaint about this at the last meeting. The Clerk confirmed that SCC Highways had cleared these.

Planning Applications

CO7/0025/ful Proposal: Erection of single storey rear extension and conversion of garage to garden room.- Location: 45A Old Kirton Road, Trimley St Martin.

This application had been circulated to councillors between meetings and concerns had been raised with regard to adequate off-street parking.

CO7/0089/ful Proposal: Erection of single storey side extension to form annexe - Location: 36 Grimston Lane, Trimley St Martin.

Looked at by Councillors who had no objections to planning permission being given.

Planning Decisions

CO6/2200/ful Proposal: Erection of single storey rear extension. - Location: 19 Meadow Close, Trimley St Martin - **refused**.

Highways & Footpaths

1. Following the recent closure of the port following high winds, Operation Stack had been put into force but this had not been operated successfully as HGV's were queuing in both lanes of the A14, bringing traffic to a standstill and subsequently sending much of it through the village. The Clerk has been requested to write to Inspector Gallant inviting him to the next parish council meeting to explain why Operation Stack did not operate correctly and how the police propose to ensure that it will on future occasions.
2. The Clerk advised that following a telephone conversation with SCC East Area Highways, the work to repair the Mill Lane/Mill Close damaged section of road, will take place at the end of February, due to emergency work taking place elsewhere.
3. Councillors brought to the attention of the Clerk that number of vehicles that are continually parked outside Seamark and Nunn and they felt that this was contravening their conditions under their recent planning permission given for the extended premises. The Clerk has been asked to write to the planning officer at SCDC to see if this condition can be properly enforced.
4. Councillor Garrett reported that two of the wooden footpath signs in the village had not been replaced with the new green ones and the Clerk will make enquiries regarding this

5. Councillors were concerned at the amount of litter in the village, especially outside the Sports and Social Club and the Clerk is to contact SCDC to see if this can be cleared.
6. The poor condition of the village sign was brought to the attention of Councillors and the Clerk is to make enquiries as to obtaining a quotation for this to be refurbished. It was also put forward that a litterbin be placed near to the benches next to the village sign and the Clerk will obtain prices for this.

AOB

1. **Haven Gateway** – Councillors Nigel Smith and John Barker gave a brief mention of the Haven Gateway meeting they had attended and full minutes of this meeting will be circulated once they have been received.
2. **Parish Pump** – It was decided that a Parish Pump would be published at the end of March.
3. **Speed Sign** – Councillor Slaughter advised councillors that he had been approached with regard to the possibility of a speed sign being put up in connection with the access road that runs alongside the Hall to the Bowls Club. However, after discussion, councillors felt that this was not needed, as most vehicles would not travel much more than 10mph on this piece of road.
4. **The F & GP meeting** would commence at 7pm at the hall and that the next parish council meeting would be at 7.30 on March 6th.