

**Informal notes of the Parish Council Meeting
Held Tuesday 5th February 2008 in the Memorial Hall Trimley St Martin**

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

Clerk: Mrs Tracey Hunter

By Invitation: Suffolk County Councillor John Goodwin, Suffolk District Councillor Richard Kerry, Suffolk Coastal District Councillors Graham Harding, PC Raoul Pidgeon

Apologies: None

Declarations of Interest:

- Councillor Cowan - Personal Interest LDF - Public Questions
- Councillor Bell - Personal Interest LDF - Public Questions
- Councillor Eve - Prejudicial Interest (Neighbour) - Planning Application

Community Police Officer Report

- a) PC Raoul Pidgeon gave the police report for the month of January.
- b) The Clerk and Chairman gave a brief summary of the Safer Neighbourhood Liaison meeting they attended on the 22nd January, the main focus of which was the subject of visible policing within the village. Since the meeting, policing in the village had been much more apparent and included visits to schools at dropping off and picking up times, regular patrols and speed checking.

The chairman also asked D.C. Graham Harding if there was any further developments regarding locating premises for a satellite police base within either village, but it would appear that this has not yet been taken further forward. Chairman Barker is to attend the Port Liaison meeting on the 11th March and will speak to representatives at Trinity College about the possibility of using premises at Get Street Farm.

Suffolk County Councillor's Report

- John Goodwin gave a verbal report to councillors regarding the recent Operation Stack developments, which mainly centred on the recent closure of the Port following the high winds and Operation Stack being implemented. Following the criticism that had been voiced at the previous parish council meetings, CC Goodwin had taken these comments to those in charge of managing Operation Stack, namely the Leader of SCC Jeremy Pembroke and Roads and Transport Portfolio Holder Guy Pembroke. The Chief Constable was also contacted and following a meeting of the Steering Group on the 24th January, a new system was put together which is to come into effect from 1st March. This will include stacking lorries in three phases with a ticketing system in place for access to the Port once it re-opens.
- Due to high winds on the 1st February and closure of the Port, Operation Stack was once again put into operation, however since on this occasion all agencies were working together (Port, Port Police, Suffolk Police, SCC, Highways, Atkins and SCDC), the operation seemed to be vastly improved in that lorries were stacked along the old A45 and the Trimley High Road was relatively unaffected, which has been the main aim of the parish council. However, criticism was made that proper 'comfort' facilities were not provided for the lorry drivers and this point was addressed by several parties in emails received after the event. Councillor Cowan also made the point that using the old A45 for

- stacking lorries had been in the pipeline for some months, so why had 'comfort' facilities not been actioned? He further stated that for Operation Stack to work effectively it needed the co-operation of lorry drivers and denying them basic facilities was not the way to achieve this.
- John Goodwin advised that Levington Parish Council were particularly concerned about this aspect and also the matter of litter although SCDC were deployed to the old A45 area immediately after the area had been cleared, to carry out a thorough litter pick. Chairman Barker voiced his concerns that the current stacking areas would not be enough and also made the point that the bus service to and from Ipswich was not able to pick up passengers in the Levington area, although it was stated that this was a minor inconvenience in the larger scale of things. A suggestion was made that a permanent notice placed at the bus stops effected advising that whilst Operation Stack was in force, buses would not be accessing these stops would be appropriate. The general census was that on this occasion, Operation Stack had worked relatively effective in that access to the Port and through the village was available to non-haulage traffic, but there were still a number of important issues that needed to be addressed. John Goodwin advised that each agency would be holding their own 'post' Operation Stack meetings, culminating in a further full meeting of the Steering Committee.

Suffolk Coastal District Councillors' Report

- a) Richard Kerry firstly gave a brief verbal report to councillors regarding SCDC matters including the new choice based housing scheme, which included a 'bid to rent' policy which was for Suffolk residents only.
- b) Discussion then took place with regard to recent Local Development Framework matters. Councillor Cowan firstly stated that he attended the last LDF Task Group meeting (in the public gallery) and was severely disappointed to note that none of our District Councillors had attended this meeting, in particular our District Councillor who is a member of the LDF Task Group; especially since bearing in mind parish councillors had made their feelings very apparent at the last parish council meeting whereby they had urged the District Councillors to speak out on behalf of residents of the village with their concerns regarding potential areas for development. Richard Kerry stated that he had a prior engagement on the day of the LDF meeting and that furthermore he did not feel that this particular meeting held the importance that parish councillors deemed it to have. He further advised that following input from himself, Suffolk Coastal District Councillor Graham Harding and the Trimley Parish Councils, this had resulted in the current LDF document that was out for consultation being on the basis of putting forward five potential sites for development and not just two or three as could have been the case.
- c) With regard to the LDF Potential Directions for Strategic Housing Growth, Councillor Cowan felt that the maps contained within the document were misleading and gave no idea of any real details and the infrastructure that was needed to support such developments. Furthermore, it was felt that any previous correspondence and consultation with the parish council had been ignored when putting together the latest document for public consultation although a letter of reply from SCDC Leader Ray Herring who had attended the last LDF meeting and to which the parish council had set out their concerns, stated that he felt the parish council had been properly consulted. (Councillors disagreed with this point and a reply is to be made to Ray Herring in respect to other points made in his letter). It was also put forward that a special edition of the Parish Pump be put out at the end of February to publicise the LDF document and ask residents to respond to this. The Clerk issued copies of the LDF consultation document to councillors for their perusal and a Finance and General Purpose meeting was arranged for the 27th February such that a response to the consultation document can be composed.

Public Questions

- A member of the public commented on the increased police visibility in the village, especially in respect of their presence in the local post office.
- Resident Rosemary Gitsham advised that she had attempted to clear the gulleys in a part of Grimston Lane but the ditch was blocked and the Clerk is to contact SCC to arrange for this problem to be dealt with.

Correspondence

- a) Suffolk Coastal District Litter Action/Spring Clean - The Clerk gave details of this event but advised councillors she would have to check if the parish council insurance provided public liability cover should councillors and volunteers wished to participate in the scheme and would report back at the next meeting.
- b) Email from Inspector of Railways re: Phantom Barriers - The Clerk read to councillors the email she had received from Don Wilson in which he advised that Network Rail had carried out work to the timings on the line, such that slow moving trains would have more time to clear the signals and hence alleviate the problem of 'phantom barrier' closures at the Thorpe Lane crossing.

Planning Applications

07/2350 Felixstowe South Reconfiguration

Councillors had been circulated the basic planning application papers and discussion took place as to whether the council could support the application in its present form. However, there were a number of issues that councillors feel should be addressed before permission should be given by SCDC and these included improvements to the Dock Spur roundabout, a solution to the problems of Operation Stack, in particular, with regard to providing permanent lorry parking on the Port, general road traffic capacity and the dualling. The Clerk is to request that an extension to the response period of 21 days is given by SCDC, to allow the parish council the appropriate time to provide SCDC with a full response. It was felt that the parish council could not support the application in its present form.

Planning Appeals

07/1512 Location: 57 Grimston Lane, Trimley St Martin

Proposal: Erection of front first floor bedroom extension and ground floor rear/side conservatory.

Consultation on Proposed Guidance on the Validation of Planning Applications - The Clerk read the email she had received from Paul Coffey in respect of parish council's consultation on the new online planning applications; paper copies are still to be sent for the parish council to comment on.

Street Lighting

- A reminder that one of the streetlights is out on the A14 Trimley slip road was made, the Clerk is to ascertain which one this is and inform SCDC.

Highways and Footpaths

- a) **Warning Sign for footpath at Howlett Way** - The Clerk advised that she had received an emailed reply from Angie Rapley at SCC in respect of our request for the warning sign and a site visit is to be made. The Clerk advised that she had also been in contact with Tim Collard at SCDC with regard to the gorse bushes being cut down near to the footpath to improve visibility of oncoming traffic.

- b) **Broken fencing on A14 Trimley Footbridge** - The Clerk advised that she had received an answerphone message from Terry Loveridge to say metal fencing had been put on the Trimley side and the wooden fencing had been repaired on the Kirton side.
- c) **Exposed telephone cable** - The Clerk reported that the exposed telephone cable which was exposed on the verge in Thorpe Lane was an old redundant cable and no longer in use.
- d) **River wall Footpath** - The Clerk read to councillors the email she had received from the Fly Fishing Association with regard to the poor state of the river wall footpath. The Clerk has been instructed to write to SCC regarding this matter and councillors will speak to representatives at Trinity College when they attend a forthcoming meeting at the college in March.
- e) **Dog Bin Request** - A local resident had requested that a dog bin be put in place somewhere along the end of Grimston Lane, councillors agreed to the cost of this and the footpaths committee will advise the Clerk of exactly where the bin should be placed.
- f) **Seamark & Nunn** - Councillor Garrett felt that the white line alongside the premises at Seamark and Nunn should be re-done as vehicles were parking with their wheels on the pavement preventing pedestrians from using the path and thus having to venture into the road. The Clerk was also asked to contact SCC Planning with regard to the parking conditions for Seamark and Nunn following their extension to the premises last year, as adequate parking was not being provided. However, it was stated that vehicles parked along this stretch of road, meaning that traffic in one direction had to give way to the other, meant that this acted as a 'traffic calming' exercise.
- g) **Overgrown foliage** - A report of an overgrown holly bush was given, the Clerk is to contact East Area Highways.
- h) **Morston Hall Road** - The clerk was advised that the posts along this stretch of road were missing many of the reflective markings and some of the lay-by signs had been damaged. The Clerk is to contact the relevant authorities.
- i) **Damaged Phone Box** - A report of a damaged phone cable box in Old Kirton Road was made and the Clerk will contact the relevant authorities in respect of this.

Any Other Business

- a) **Port Liaison Meeting** - The Clerk advised that this would be held at Trinity College on the 11th March and would be attended by the Chairman, Vice Chairman and Clerk.
- b) **Memorial Hall Insurance** - Councillor Rodwell had received the insurance renewal for the hall and had felt that the premium was excessive and that possibly the parish council were also insuring the buildings of the hall. The Clerk did not think this was the case but would make enquiries and would report back at the next meeting.
- c) **Poors Charity** - Councillor Joe Smith advised that following the retirement of both Reverend Terry Wells and Nigel Smith from the Poors Allotment Charity Committee, they were looking for at least one other member to replace them. Councillor John Sills volunteered to join and will attend the next meeting.
- d) **Trimley St Martin Primary School -Young Engineers Club** - Councillor Berridge Eve advised that pupils at the Trimley St Martin School had won a national Young Engineers Event
- e) **Ray Howlett Award** - The Clerk advised councillors that in the past, the parish council had given out a Ray Howlett award at the school along with book tokens for pupil achievements and councillors briefly discussed re-instating this again. The Clerk is to look into this matter further and will report at the next meeting.
- f) **Next Meeting** - The Clerk advised the next parish council meeting to be on Tuesday 4th March