

Informal notes of the Trimley St Martin Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 7th January 2007 in the Memorial Hall

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

Apologies: Suffolk District councillor Sherrie Green

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

Declarations of Interest:

- Councillor Ian Cowan - Personal interest under item (a) of Matters Arising from the November Meeting - Local Development Framework as a member of STAG.
- Councillor Nigel Smith - Prejudicial Interest under Planning Item.

Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 6th December 2006:

- a) Latest update on LDF - The Clerk advised that the date of 20th February had been earmarked for the proposed public meeting (see December minutes) whereby an invitation to the Leader of the LDF Task Force, Andy Smith, to attend would be extended. The Clerk has contacted Trimley St Mary Parish Council who will be discussing the proposal of jointly hosting this meeting at their next parish meeting on the 8th January. If in agreement, the aforementioned invite to Andy Smith would be made and details of the meeting would be made public via a press release prepared by both Clerks. In the event that the invitation to attend was not accepted, the meeting would revert to a joint two parish council meeting to discuss the Core Strategy Consultation document, although written each council would make responses to this document separately. The Clerk advised that the consultation document should be made available to towns and parishes in early/mid January and that a meeting for Councillors to discuss the document had been arranged for the 30th January.
- b) Haven Gateway meeting - Councillors Nigel Smith and Joe Smith had attended this meeting, which involved attendees being split into working groups to identify the most important issues affecting the local area. Re-development of the south seafront was classed as the most important but issues put forward including improving access to the AONB in the Trimleys and cycle ways were also highly prioritised and it was felt by councillors that this would help to 'sell' Trimley St Martin in particular as a green access area. The next meeting will take these identified issues further.
- c) Transport and Works Order Objectors Meeting. - Chairman John Barker and Councillor Nigel Smith attended this meeting on behalf of the parish council involved and they gave a brief overview of the meeting. It had transpired that there had been some confusion with regard to Footpath 1, which HPUK had been calling Thorpe Common Lane crossing and it was made clear that the current whistle boards in place are for Footpath 1 as there are currently warning lights at the Thorpe Lane crossing. A suggestion of putting warning lights in place at Footpath 1 and keeping Grimston Lane open with new whistle boards in place was taken away by Port representatives as this may be a solution which could result in the withdrawal of current objections to the scheme currently being made by local residents who also attended the meeting and further communication on this is awaited from HPUK. The problem of the phantom barriers down time was also raised although the Port representatives advised that this could not be sorted out until the dualling work had

taken place. Councillor Ian Cowan expressed his extreme disappointment at the reaction by HPUK representatives to this issue since he had witnessed on a number of occasions, queues of vehicles waiting at the barriers for non-existent trains to pass and since they are only half barriers, there was always the possibility that drivers, thinking this was yet another phantom downtime of barriers, would try to cross the track with possible tragic consequences. Councillors attending the Port New Year reception would raise the matter again with port representatives, to express their concerns regarding this issue.

Community Police Officer's Report:

- PC Gledhill advised that the New Year period had been a quiet time although this had followed a spate of criminal activity, which had occurred in early December. It had also been disappointing to record a higher than expected number of drink/driving incidences.
- Councillors questioned PC Gledhill on the recent newspaper reports that the expected funding for the neighbourhood policing schemes had been severely reduced by government and he advised that whilst this would naturally affect the plans that were to be put in place, it was not as drastic as first thought. A Sergeant in charge of two beat officers, 4/5 police officers and 2/3 PCSO's would still serve the area including the Trimley villages. However, the scheme, scheduled to commence in Feb/March was still being finalised and he advised that parish councils would be formally written to once the final details were confirmed.

County Councillor's Report

County Councillor Goodwin gave a brief verbal report to Councillors including details of the Debt Networking Partnership of which is was a committee member and proposed cycleways as part of the Local Transport Plan, further details of which would follow when available.

Suffolk District Councillor's Report

- i. District Councillor Mary Dixon advised councillors that further documents had been added to the Core Strategy consultations documents which were about to be issued, in respect of environmental issues, and she felt that this would be important for councillors to be aware of when they were compiling their responses to the consultation document, especially in respect of the AONB and shoreline. Mary Dixon also informed councillors that she would be attending a presentation regarding the Housing Needs Survey which would provide details of up to date housing numbers required for the SCDC area. Councillors were somewhat surprised that this information was being presented after the LDF Core Strategy documents had been compiled and put out for consultation.
- ii. Councillor Cowan questioned District Councillor Dixon as to whether the LDF Task Group were aware of the imminent presentation of these figures and whether their action not to include these in the LDF documents was defensible. Whilst it was pointed out that Mary Dixon is not on the LDF Task Group, as a District Councillor of SCDC, she replied that she understood the LDF task group would have been aware of the imminent publication of the housing figures and felt that their action not to include them in the Core Strategy documents was 'unsatisfactory'. Councillor Nigel Smith commented that Mary Dixon had worked tirelessly to put forward the views of the parish councils within her ward to the LDF task group and that she should not be made to feel accountable for the actions of a task group that she was not a member of, however aggrieved councillors may feel. The Clerk has been asked to write to Stephen Brown, the planning officer at SCDC, to ask both why these up-to-date housing figures were not used when compiling the Core Strategy and also when the housing figures would be available to parish/town councils.

Public Question Time:

- A member of the public commented on the poor state of one of the footpaths in the village and the Clerk is to report this to the appropriate authority.
- Richard Kerry who also attended the meeting advised councillors the he would be putting himself forward as a candidate for district councillor at the forthcoming elections in May.
- Mary Dixon also then advised councillors that she would in fact not be standing for re-election and the Chairman then thanked Mary for all her hard work over the years and especially for being the 'peoples councillor' and wished her a happy retirement.

Correspondence:

- i. Haven Gateway - A14 corridor study briefing on the 10th January. Clerk read details of this to councillors and Councillor Slaughter indicated he might be able to attend this on behalf of the parish.
- ii. Transport and Works Order - The Clerk gave details of the Pre-enquiry meeting which takes place on the 16th January 2007. Councillor Cowan advised he would be attending as a private objector to the Order.
- iii. DLA Piper - Transport and Works Order - The Clerk gave details of the locations where further documents, not included in the original Statement of Case, could be viewed, the most local being the Felixstowe Library.
- iv. Optua - Donation request - councillors declined to donate on this occasion.
- v. SCC - Temp closure of U3112 Thorpe Lane crossing on 13/14 January.
- vi. SCC Minerals Core Strategy - The Clerk advised that the final issues and options document was available for inspection on the Internet.
- vii. SCDC email - The Clerk read out details of the South West Parish Liaison Meeting which was to take place on the 5th February and Councillors Eve, Garret and Beale expressed an interest in attending and would confirm this with the clerk in due course.

Planning Applications:

CO6/2260/ful Proposal: Erection of first-floor side extension, single-storey rear extension and porch - Location: 22a Grimston Lane, Trimley St Martin.

Discussed by councillors who were concerned about the lack of off-street parking and a suitable entrance being provided to the property in respect of access.

CO6/1669/ful Proposal: Erection of one and half storey dwelling and detached garage. - Location: Land adjacent Shetland Cottage and Caravan Site Area, Thorpe Lane.

Discussed by councillors - no objections made. (Councillor Nigel Smith left the room whilst this item being discussed - see Declaration of Interests)

Planning Decisions

CO6/2036 Proposal: Erection of detached single garage and erection of single-storey rear extension - Location: 2 St Martins Green, Trimley St Martin - **granted**

CO6/2045 Proposal: Erection of single-storey side extension - Location: 11 Capel Close, Trimley St Martin - **granted**

Planning Appeals:

Co6/1387/FUL Proposal: Erection of first floor side extension - Location: 1 Red House Close, Trimley St Martin.

Street Lighting:

- Street light out in Grimston Lane, clerk to report.

Highways and Footpaths:

- i. Hand in Hand Bus shelter - The Clerk advised that the anti-graffiti paint had been ordered. Volunteers would be sought at the next meeting to paint the bus shelter.
- ii. The Clerk gave details of the Connect scheme as a possible avenue for funding for the new footpath maps which need replacing outside the Memorial Hall and at the Capel picnic site. The footpath committee are to invite resident and past councillor Doug Hart to join them on this project.
- iii. Councillor Beale advised that he had been approached by a resident who had complained of the large puddle which forms right in front of the pedestrian island opposite Reeve Lodge, in heavy rain. Councillor Beale had contacted CC Goodwin who had spoken to SCC who was to arrange inspection of the part of highway concerned.
- iv. Councillor Slaughter raised the issue of the difficulty in exiting from Church Lane, due the number of vehicles parked outside the post-office, which caused obstruction of oncoming traffic. The Clerk is to write to SCC Highways with a view to requesting a convex mirror be put in place opposite Church Lane.
- v. Councillor Garrett advised that the footpath between the Sausage Shop and the roundabout continues to be in poor state with much of the tarmac disintegrating. The Clerk is to contact SCC Highways regarding this.

Any other Business

- HPUK Reception evening - The Clerk took names of those councillors attending the event on the 9th January.
- The Clerk reminded councillors of the GP&F meeting on 30th Jan to discuss the LDF.
- The next parish council meeting was confirmed to be on the 6th February.