

**Informal notes of the Parish Council Meeting
Held Wednesday 9th January 2008 in the Memorial Hall Trimley St Martin**

Present: Chairman John Barker, Vice-Chairman B. Eve, Councillors 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 Coastal District Councillors Sherrie Green, Richard Kerry, Graham Harding and PCSO Liz Lake.

Apologies: Councillor Heather Rodwell

Declarations of Interest:

- **LDF & Public Question Time (iv)-** Personal Interest - Councillor Ian Cowan
- **LDF & Public Question Time (iv)-** Personal Interest - Councillor Frank Bell

Community Policing Report

- a) PCSO Liz Lake read to councillors the monthly crime report for December. She also advised that there had been a recent spate of burglaries in the area during the first week of the New Year, particularly thefts from garages and outbuildings in the Felixstowe and Trimley St Mary area.
- b) The 'Meet the Police evening' was confirmed to be the 23rd January at the Memorial Hall. This is an opportunity for the public to come along and put forward any concerns that they may have. It was hoped that representatives from other authorities would attend, such as the County Council and Fire Service.

Public Question Time

- i. **County Councillor Report** – John Goodwin firstly gave a verbal report to councillors on recent matters he had been involved with including the Fire Service and SCC Waste Management. Councillors then asked about the latest developments with regard to Operation Stack. This scheme had been put into effect just the day prior to this meeting, due to closure of the Port following high winds. However, since there is still currently no clear plan as to how Operation Stack should operate, traffic merely became gridlocked in and around the Trimley Villages and on the A14 towards the port, with some lorries taking detours through the village. It was pointed out that there was no appropriate signage or police presence and the basic principle of lorries occupying just the outside lane was not being adhered to. Councillors confirmed that they were angry at the complacency being shown by the Operation Steering Group and their ineffectual handling of the situation. A fully Operational Stack plan should have been in place towards the end of last year but with each agency holding the other responsible, there seems to be no end in sight as to a resolve to this matter. Both the County Councillor and District Councillors were unanimous in their criticism of the handling of this matter and urged those responsible to come up with a solution to the problem. The Clerk has been instructed to write to the Steering Group in the strongest terms to express their extreme disappointment that matters have been allowed to drag on with no real plan being put in place.
- ii. **District Councillors Report:** Sherrie Green reported that the Crime Disorder Reduction Partnership of which she was a member were coming to the end of the three year community strategy and that figures, whilst not reaching their targets, were more promising than first thought. DC Graham Harding advised that the Planning Department were to offer an online planning application service from April 2008 but councillors were unsure of how this would work in respect of the parish councils being consulted on plans. Further details of the scheme are to follow.
- iii. Richard Kerry advised that following the failed Ipswich Borough Council Unitary bid, the Government Boundary Commission were now looking into a number of District Councils joining together to become one larger Unitary Council.

- iv. **Local Development Framework** – Councillors questioned the district councillors on the latest developments within the LDF. The parish council had downloaded copies of the appendix documents which were to be discussed at the next meeting of the Task Group on the 17th January and these included maps showing the potential locations of Strategic Housing Growth for inclusion in future preferred options. This was accompanied by a table showing issues to be considered in respect of each area including such headings as their current land use, impact on road network, public transport links, access to services and facilities, proximity to employment etc. Councillors questioned why all the areas for potential development were on the Trimley/Felixstowe peninsular, which was served only by one major road, which was already at its maximum usage. District Councillors advised that they had been instructed by EERA that housing development must take place in the Suffolk Coastal District Area and in places near to large employment opportunities such as the Port and Adastral Park in Martlesham. However, councillors argued that the Port was not providing new employment opportunities and that the Task Group were blinkered in their view of where to place housing. Councillor Cowan put forward that there were a large number of sites which could be used for a number of small scale housing all over the SCDC area which were not being considered by the Task Group, since their focus seemed to be on one predominantly large scale development, such as that put forward by the Trinity Estate Masterplan. Parish councillors argued that the Trimleys were small villages with a single narrow High Road and could not possibly take large-scale housing. There was no infrastructure to support such a development and being sandwiched between the A14 and railway track either side, no room to create the infrastructure that would be required. (The recent Operation Stack debacle also illustrated the fact that the villages suffered badly in this kind of situation with regard to access to the village and this was particularly worrying in respect of the fact the emergency services would not be able to get to the Trimleys and Felixstowe when urgently needed, due to the limits of access routes). Parish councillors urged the District Councillors to strongly object to the proposals being put forward by the Task Group and speak out on behalf of the residents who had elected them. The Clerk has been instructed to write to the LDF Task Group reiterating their concerns and also copy this to Ray Herring, leader of SCDC and also to MP John Gummer.
- v. A resident confirmed that she had sent in an objection to planning application CO7/2201 (see item 85.) A report of blocked gulleys in Grimston Lane was also reported, the Clerk to contact the appropriate authorities.

Matters Arising From December Minutes

No matters Arising

Planning applications

CO7/2201 Location: 48 Mill Lane, Trimley St Martin

Proposal: Erection of replacement dwelling.

Circulated to councillors prior to the meeting, no objections in principle as long as SCDC Planning Dept happy that existing property is beyond refurbishment.

CO7/2336 – Location: 258 High Road, Trimley St Martin

Proposal: Use of land for the erection of one single storey dwelling (re-submission)

Councillors who were split in their opinions, however a majority vote resulted in the application being rejected on grounds of unacceptable provision of access, parking and ability to manoeuvre vehicles..

CO7/2303 – Location: Gun Cottage, 2 Gun Lane, Trimley St Martin

Proposal: Erection of conservatory.

Councillors, no objections made.

It was discussed that monthly parish council meetings did not always allow the time needed for councillors to properly peruse and discuss applications and it was proposed that a planning committee be formed and those members would look at applications received prior to the

parish council meeting and then report to full council at the monthly parish council meetings. Those elected to this committee were Keith Slaughter (Chairman), Dave Pither, Peter Waller and Carol Garrett. The clerk would also be in attendance. The planning committee would provide their views on each application at the parish council meetings and full council would ratify the decisions.

Planning decisions

C07/1522 Location: 17 Cavendish Road, Trimley St Martin.
Proposal: Erection of detached house. **Granted (with conditions)**

CO7/1994 Location: 21 Mill Close, Trimley St Martin
Proposal: Erection of two-storey front extension. **Granted**

Co7/1930 Location: 258 High Road, Trimley St Martin.
Proposal: Erection of two single storey properties. **Refused**

Highways and Footpaths

- a) The Clerk is to request from SCC, that signs should be erected at the top of Howlett Way to warn approaching vehicles of the possibility of pedestrians/horses crossing from the footpath that leads from the copse over to the Barrett Estate. This crosses very close to the exit from the roundabout and councillors are concerned that motorists are unaware of this.
- b) The wooden fencing across the A14 footbridge has been severely damaged on both sides and the Clerk is to contact the relevant authorities in respect of this.
- c) Councillors commented on the poor state of cross-field footpaths over local fields and the Clerk is to contact SCC Rights of Way to instruct each landowner to re-instate the footpaths to their proper condition.
- d) A report was made of an exposed telephone cable in Thorpe Lane. This has been reported to BT by councillors but remains un-dealt with. The Clerk is to make further enquiries with the supplier such that the matter may be sorted.
- e) Councillors are concerned that the river wall footpath remains in a precarious state following high tides and the Clerk is to contact SCC regarding this matter. Enquires will also be made to the Fly Fishing Association who are believed to have carried out some preliminary work.

Any Other Business

- a) Finance and General Purpose Meeting held on Wednesday 9th January at 7pm – Councillors ratified the decisions made at this meeting in respect of the Clerks Salary and the Precept for 2008/2009, full minutes to be documented.
- b) Next meeting – The Clerk confirmed the next meeting to be Tuesday 5th February.