

Informal Notes of the Trimley St Martin Parish Council Meeting Held Tuesday 5th June in the Memorial Hall Trimley St Martin

Present: present: Chairman John Barker, Councillors Heather Rodwell, Berridge Eve, Carol Garret, Dave Pither, John Sills, Peter Waller, Keith Slaughter, Frank Bell (late arrival - apologies received)

Clerk: Mrs Tracey Hunter

In Attendance: Suffolk County Councillor John Goodwin, Suffolk Coastal District Councillors Richard Kerry and Graham Harding, PCs Paul Smith and David Logan

Apologies: Suffolk district Councillor Sherrie Greene

Declarations of Interest.

- LDF - Councillor Cowan - Personal Interest (STAG member)
- LDF - Councillor Frank Bell - Personal Interest (STAG member)
- Planning - Councillor Peter Waller - Prejudicial Interest declared (Neighbouring property)

Community Police Report

PC Smith read the May report.

County & District Councillors Reports

- Suffolk Coastal District Councillor Graham Harding raised the matter of the cars for sale on the Reeve Lodge roundabout. There appeared to have been a number of vehicles parked for sale by the same local resident. This was causing a problem when the vehicles were being parked with their wheels on the grass verges. DC Harding had been liaising with County Councillor Goodwin and also with Trading Standards who had visited the resident in question but to date, the matter had not been resolved. PC Smith was to look into the legality of selling vehicles on the public highway and enquiries were to continue with Trading Standards to see if the matter could be dealt with via this avenue.
- Suffolk Coastal District Councillor Richard Kerry advised that he had attended a meeting in respect of the Ipswich Unitary bid and briefly outlined the "fors and againsts" of the proposal. He also advised that he had been elected onto the Environment and Housing Scrutiny committee and also to the Local Development Framework Task Group.
- Suffolk County Councillor John Goodwin also spoke about the Ipswich Unitary Bid and issued consultation postcards to all councillors, which could be completed with their views. Issues were then raised with John Goodwin from parish councillors including the problem of cars parking too near to the junction of Mill Lane/High Road and CC Goodwin advised he would enquire as to whether double yellow lines could be painted along a section of this road. Road surfacing was also taking place on certain roads in the village and complaints were made that notification to individual householders of this, to remove their vehicles, was too late and CC Goodwin advised he would check that if there was some sort of statutory time limit to advise householders.
- Public Questions - A member of the public queried as to when the Hand in Hand bus shelter was to be painted and the Clerk advised that work would be carried out during the course of the next month or so once the window space had been put in.

Matters Arising from May 2007 Minutes:

1. **Model Code of Conduct** - The Clerk explained that the new Code of Conduct for members came into force on the 3rd May and must be adopted by councils by the

1st October. The Clerk further explained that the Standards Board recommended that parish councils consider adopting the code including paragraph 12(2) which gives members with a prejudicial interest the same rights as members of the public to speak to a meeting on the issue and then leave before the main discussion and vote. Parish councillors agreed unanimously to adopt the code including paragraph 12(2). The Clerk will contact the Standards Board accordingly.

2. **Thorpe Lane Crossing** - Councillor Cowan queried as to whether any further correspondence had been received in respect of the problems at Thorpe Lane crossing and the clerk advised she had received notification that the matter was being dealt with at a local level.
3. **Trimley Foreshore** - The matter of vehicles accessing the foreshore area was also brought up from the last meeting and Chairman John Barker advised he had spoken to the local farmer who had advised that he was in contact with the Rights of Way Officer about this matter and would advise the parish council further, once he had received advice from SCC.
4. **Alleged SCDC LDF Task Group Incompetence** - Councillor Cowan referred back to the item 98 under Matters Arising from the 6th March minutes. He felt that the decision made by councillors, not to take legal advice in respect of contacting the Standards Board with a view to reporting the SCDC LDF Task Group for incompetence, was made under the impression that it was the opinion of the SCDC Monitoring Officer Hilary Slater that such expenditure could be construed as a misuse of public funds. However, the Clerk firmly replied that she had at no time advised that this was the case, merely that she had consulted Hilary Slater for advice on this matter and that Hilary Slater had in fact advised that it was the parish councillors who should consider whether they could be accused of misusing public funds by pursuing the matter of taking legal advice (as minuted in the March 07 minutes). Councillor Cowan then requested that the Clerk should contact Hilary Slater to ask her, in her opinion, did she feel it would be a misuse of funds but the Clerk stated that it was not for Hilary Slater to make that decision, that it was a decision for the parish council, as already advised by Hilary Slater. The Clerk illustrated the point by saying that whatever expense the council was considering be it legal advice, grass cutting, repair work etc, it was always the parish council's decision as to whether an expense was in keeping with the precept and the interests of its residents. Councillor Cowan felt that the subject of 'misuse of funds' may have overshadowed the discussion as to whether taking legal advice was the appropriate course of action and he called for a General Purpose and Finance meeting for this to be further discussed along with other matters relating to the Local Development Framework. Councillors agreed this to and a provisional date of the 27th June was agreed.

Correspondence

- a. **Suffolk Coastal Services** - The Clerk outlined the changes to the refuse collections since from July, new blue bins would be delivered to households in the village along with instructions as to the new collection days.
- b. **Suffolk County Council Highways** - The Clerk advised that notification had been received of road surface dressing to be carried out to a number of roads within the village.
- c. **Felixstowe Town Council** - The Clerk gave details of the Felixstowe Civic Service invitation that had been received; Councillor Slaughter is to attend on behalf of the council.
- d. **Citizens Advice Bureau** - Clerk gave details of the date of the CAB AGM.

Planning Applications:

- **C07/0845/ful - 29 Cavendish Road, Trimley St Martin** - Erection of two storey side extension- no objection
- **C07/0896/ful - 4 Mill Lane, Trimley St Martin** - Erection of two-storey extension and garage. - no objection (See Declaration of Interests)

- **CO7/0953 - 36 Grimston Lane, Trimley St Martin** - Erection of detached garage and car port - no objection

Planning Decisions:

O7/0591/ful - 13 Grimston Lane - Replacement pitched roof over flat roof -13 Grimston lanes, Trimley St Martin - granted

Highways & Footpaths:

- Footpath Committee** - Vice Chairman Eve had prepared an initial report regarding a formal review of the responsibilities of the Footpath Committee. An initial meeting will be arranged and the first item of business will be to decide upon a location for the new bench seat to be installed. The Clerk circulated details of Whitehouse Enterprises who manufacture benches from recycled materials and it was decided that once a location was decided upon, an order for a bench be made.
- SCC Review of public rights of way** - The Clerk advised that the SCC had produced a new Rights of Way Hierarchy for all the footpaths in the area and the Clerk is to provide a copy to the footpaths committee.
- Small grass area** - It was brought to the council's attention that the small area of grass beside the footpath leading from the High Road to Cavendish Park was overgrown and full of litter. The Clerk will contact the appropriate authorities for these matters to be dealt with.
- A report of overhanging foliage was reported at 414 High Road.

Any Other Business

- Felixstowe Futures Group/David Lock Meeting - Councillor Slaughter gave a brief report of this meeting.
- The Clerk obtained signatures to complete the Memorial Hall Dispensation form.
- Operation Stack - Chairman John Barker advised that he would be attending the next Operation Stack meeting, to be held on the 6th June.
- Councillor Rodwell advised that the system of billing the Bowls Club for their share of the electricity and water bills needed to be reviewed. This matter would be discussed at the next Memorial Hall meeting with the proposal that the Bowls Club install subsidiary check meters.
- Councillor Garrett advised that a resident had encountered problems with accessing a local bus in her wheelchair. The Clerk will email Bryan Frost, the local ESTA representative about this.
- The Clerk reminded members that the next meeting would be the General Purpose and Finance meeting on the 27th June at 7.30pm, with the next full parish council meeting following on Tuesday 3rd July.