

TRIMLEY ST MARTIN PARISH COUNCIL **ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

Minutes of the Trimley St Martin Annual Parish Council Meeting held at the Memorial Hall on Tuesday 5th April 2005 at 7.00pm

Present: Chairman Nigel Smith, V. Chairman John Barker, Berridge Eve, Heather Rodwell, Carol Garrett, David Beale, Keith Slaughter, Andy Church, Julie Pither-Jones, Dave Pither.

Clerk: Mrs T. U. Hunter

By invitation: Mary Dixon, Sherrie Green, Sgt. Mick Richardson

Apologies: Patricia O'Brien, Joe Smith

MINUTES

- 1) Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 6th April 2004 which had been circulated were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

MATTERS ARISING

- 2) Matters arising – There were no matters arising from the minutes.

The following Annual Reports were then read out:

The Chairman of the Parish Council
The County Councillor
The District Councillors
School Governors from Trimley St Martin and Trimley St Mary
The Memorial Hall Committee

The Clerk presented a copy of the Parish Council accounts to the year end 31.03.05

Copy of the Memorial Hall Accounts also available for inspection.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 7.25 pm

Trimley St Martin Annual Parish Meeting 5th

April 2005 Chairman's Report

All parish councils are required to hold an Annual Parish Meeting at which reports are given by those, who in their different way, represent the village. Other reports will be made tonight but we start with a general review of the parish activities over the past twelve months. Assuming brevity is to be encouraged then please forgive any omissions in its pursuit.

We started and end the year with a full compliment of councillors all of whom have remained throughout. Hopefully this is a sign of a relatively focused and cohesive council.

As regard the parish finances for the year 2004/2005 the Council raised £12,000 as part of the council tax you pay. This was a sum of £1,500 above the sum raised in the previous year.

Apart from the usual domestic planning applications once again this area of Council work has been dominated by the vision for the future of Trimley St Martin. This vision depends greatly on whose eyes you are looking through. Trinity College's vision has been well publicised, but the eyes of this Council and it's parishioners see a different vision. However it is becoming increasingly clear that the vision for the future of the Trimley's and the surrounding area that will really matter is the one drawn up by the Felixstowe Peninsular Masterplan as this will undoubtedly form the basis of the Local Development Framework as it affect this area. As a Council we have, and will continue to be as involved as best we are able.

The link road landscaping has finally been completed and should become really established throughout this spring and summer. Howlett Way is now a far more inviting entrance to the village than a few years ago, though litter still remains a problem.

At Christmas time the carol service and tree light switch-on took place for which we thank the Memorial Hall Committee and the Christmas visit to Reeve Lodge was another successful event. The Memorial Hall has also had to address the issue of disabled access, thought was then given to taking the opportunity to combine this with a general upgrade of the Hall by applying for a lottery grant and our thanks goes to Keith Slaughter for all his work on this to date.

The Council continues to be represented on the Dock Liaison Committee. The public enquiry into the South Reconfiguration took place last autumn with a decision due

later in the year. On the assumption that the Port of Felixstowe does get approval then much mitigation work stems from this, namely the full signalisation of the dock spur roundabout and dualling of the railway line through to Nacton. I am also particularly pleased that the Port have agreed to pay for acoustic barriers throughout much of Trimley St Martin on it's boundary with the A14. It is apparent that there is massive expenditure planned for Felixstowe Dock over the next 5-10 years and the effect will be apparent to all residents which I believe makes our ongoing liaison with the Port even more important in an effort to lessen the impact.

The Parish Pump has become the mainstay of our communication within the village. The Council's thanks goes again to John Barker for his publishing and editing skills.

I would like to thank our two District Councillors especially Mary Dixon who manages to attend nearly every meeting and our County Councillor Patricia O'Brien. I am also very grateful for the help and support of my fellow parish councillors throughout another year.

Finally thanks to Tracey Hunter who is now in her second year as Parish Clerk. Most clerks do not have to cope with globally based companies and major seat of learning and power but Tracey has risen to the challenge while still dealing with the more usual work expected of her position. Thank you.

NIGEL SMITH

Annual County Councillor Report 2005

This has been a good year for SCC. In a recent government Comprehensive Performance Assessment it 'gained an excellent' rating, achieved, principally as a result of the improvement in its Social Care Services. SCC also gained Beacon status for its good practice in the area of Crime and Disorder Partnerships. Education in Suffolk is to be given a boost with a University based, primarily, on the Suffolk College site.

Trading Standards chose Doorstep Crime as an issue to focus on in 04/05 and has been successful in bringing together: Neighbourhood Watch, Help the Aged, fire, police, district and borough councils into a project, Safe & Sound, which alerts the vulnerable to unscrupulous traders. It has also raised awareness of under age sales of alcohol and prosecuted retailers who have failed to obey the law.

One of the major concerns in education is pupil exclusions. Suffolk has the highest number of children excluded from schools in the country. This is an urgent issue and is to be addressed by setting up pupil referral units and making available one-to-one and small teaching groups. It has also been recognised that it is necessary to identify pupils in primary schools, often as young as 8, who are presenting the kinds of behavioural problems that would lead to their eventual exclusion.

There is a new Director of Public Protection, Lee Howell, former Assnt. Chief Fire Officer, who is charge of Emergency Planning, Trading Standards and the Fire & Rescue Service. The Fire & Rescue Service has published its Integrated Risk Management Plans for 2005/06, that looks at the effectiveness of organisation and opportunities for improvement. Amongst the proposals is a new fire station to be sited in the east of Ipswich.

SCC set a council tax increase of 2.5%.

The boundaries for SCC divisions will change at the county elections on May 5th
There will be 75 councillors (at present it is 80) who will represent approx. 7,332 electors.

My locality grant for Trimley St Martin for 2004/05 was £3,000 and this went towards cost to improve the village hall and for a traffic order at Trimley St Martin school.

Patricia O'Brien April 2005

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2004-2005
Sherrie Green

It has been a busy year with a new Chief Executive taking up post in September 2004 and the Comprehensive Performance Assessment carried out by the Audit Commission last autumn. The CPA result was that of "FAIR" and we have a great deal of work to do to improve the services that they identified needed attention.

The 2 Scrutiny committees have been abolished and 4 have taken their place.

These are Environment & Housing, which includes affordable housing, planning policy, waste management, car parking policy, coastal protection, homelessness and benefits.

Corporate Management includes, strategy and customer service, e-government, finance and asset management, legal services, emergency planning and service delivery partnerships, SCS and DC Leisure.

Community Well Being look sat community safety, crime and disorder, rural sports, the Licensing Act, Social inclusion, Health provision, Young people, Town and Parish council dialogue,

Economy & Service Partnership includes the economy, rural access, community development, Suffolk Coastal Services and DC Leisure, tourism, and the CPA work programme.

I am Chairman of the Environment & Housing scrutiny committee and we have started work looking at how much affordable housing we have achieved so far and what we could achieve further. An audit is being carried out later this year, and we have to draw up a report on how these services can be approved, specifically housing, when the CPA return later this year or early next,

We are also looking at how we can improve the recycling programme and the type of door to door collections we already do in paper and garden waste. We have to work in line with EC directives and as so many more people are asking how they can recycle more household waste if they cannot go to a recycling tip.

The Licensing Act 2003 entered its transitional period from February 7th 2005, to become fully functional in the summer of 2005. We have extended the committee from 6 to 15 members due to the possible extra workload of hearings for license extensions and license renewals, so that there will always be 3 councillors at a licensing hearing. The committees will have 4 objectives to use if a refusal is viewed as necessary and if there have been objections from the public. These are:

- The prevention of crime and disorder Public safety
- Prevention of a public nuisance
- The protection of children from harm

Kirton Ward. Mary Dixon

Since last year's report a new Chief Executive, Mrs Jan Ormondroyd has been appointed. She has taken up her post at a time when the District Council has undergone a comprehensive assessment of its performance (CPA). This is a Government scheme in which every county and district council is rated as excellent, good, fair, weak or poor on the quality of the services it provides and the future plans to maintain and improve them. SCDC was rated as a 'fair' council with many strengths but which could be better in certain aspects including deciding clear priorities and focussing on them, reducing waste quantities, speeding up planning decisions and increasing the supply of affordable housing.

Plans have been put into place to tackle these issues, partly by reorganising and dividing into four the Overview and Scrutiny Committees, which study particular aspects of the Council's work and make recommendations to the Cabinet. I sit on the Environment and Housing Overview and Scrutiny committee, which is only just setting up its work programme. The ways of providing more homes at an affordable cost has to be addressed. A recent piece of information that I obtained highlights one of the issues - apparently between 2001 and 2004 the increase in the number of second homes in Suffolk Coastal District was 848 dwellings. Full details of the report and improvement proposals can be seen in the Spring edition of the District Council's newsletter 'Coastline' as well as many reports of positive progress and activities within the District.

Regarding Council Tax, an increase of 4.95% has been found to be necessary and despite all the financial pressures it is hoped to be able to keep this down in the future, whilst not affecting services. However there is an urgent need to increase the percentage of 'domestic' refuse which is recycled and cut down the amount of waste going into landfill sites. Nearly every house in the District now has a brown bin for recycling garden waste.

My chief council work continues to be the Development Control sub- committee, which meets every four weeks to consider the more complex planning applications as well as making many site visits. About 90% of applications - the more straightforward ones - are decided by Planning Officers but I'm also involved with these as often applicants in the Trimleys and Kirton may still seek my advice about problems. There have been larger planning issues affecting many residents in the villages. Recently Trinity College sought permission not to comply with conditions required before using areas down Blofield Track for container storage as their need was for use of only two of the six areas. At the meeting on March 31st it was agreed that the earth mounds will be put in place to reduce visibility for the nearest residents and for walkers but the maximum noise levels conditioned in 1999 have already been exceeded. This was presented as unavoidable and I could only get the Committee to agree to some mitigating measures being explored to reduce the impact of higher noise levels.

The three Parish Councils have commented on the planning application for the reconfiguration of the old dock basin and the effect of major increased road and rail container traffic. At every opportunity I have made sure acoustic barriers to reduce road noise would not be forgotten, but despite much correspondence etc and promises by Network Rail not to let freight trains stand with engines running where the dock spur line joins the Felixstowe - Ipswich line at Trimley station, that intolerable nuisance still persists. Undertakings to improve the situation cannot be enforced until the result of the planning enquiry is published, probably in the late summer.

The issues of housing allocation in the District, possible development sites and some landowners' ambitious plans for land whose current value is only agricultural will be discussed in more detail in the next few months. The Felixstowe Masterplan

exercise will involve the Trimleys and some hard decisions may have to be faced. Although, as a member of the Development Control sub-committee, I cannot be seen to have made my own mind up before seeing all the details of any eventual planning application, I can and will make sure that I represent the views of Parish Councils and concerned residents whenever possible.

I also serve on the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership, which involves the police, county and district councillors, social services, etc., receiving reports of crime figures, consulting the public and setting priorities of particular crimes needing to be focussed on. Related to this, I also serve on the Ipswich and Coastal Domestic Violence Network.

In these and many other ways you give me the opportunity to affect policies which can make a difference to the lives of local people. I will continue to try to make any differences positive ones.

Table 4.7: Second Homes in Suffolk, by district

	1991 (Census)	2001 (Census)	2004 (Council Tax returns)
Babergh	258	373	546
Forest Heath	88	130	130 (2001 figure)
Ipswich	39	129	298
Mid Suffolk	310	379	382
St Edmundsbury	247	251	294
Suffolk Coastal	1377	1932	2780 = 848
Waveney	1063	1238	1384
Suffolk	3382	4432	5814

4.8 As the overall housing stock has also increased over this time period, the actual proportion of households that are second homes has not increased dramatically (it currently stands at 1.9%), but their concentration in certain towns and villages has, and Suffolk Coastal has seen their proportion increase from 3% of total housing in Census 1991 to 5.1% in 2004's Council Tax returns.

Table 4.8: Housing Stock and Second Homes in the UK and Suffolk

	All household spaces	No of second homes	Proportion of total stock that are second homes
ENGLAND (2001)	21262825	150718	0.7
EASTERN REGION (2001)	2312000	18000	0.8
SUFFOLK (2004)	302487	5814	1.9
Babergh	36887	546	1.5
Forest Heath*	23018	130	0.6
Ipswich	53289	298	0.6
Mid-Suffolk	37994	382	1.0
St Edmundsbury	43820	294	0.7
Suffolk Coastal	54374	2780	5.1
Waveney	53105	1384	2.6

*2001 figures

Source: Census 2001, District Councils.

Memorial Hall Chairman's Report

Since the last AGM on 16.3.04, the Hall committee has met 6 times. We have achieved several projects/objectives, namely:

- A new gas heater had to be fitted, the Parish Council contributed greatly to this
- A new oven hob had been installed, following a report from the Health & Safety officer
- The outside sign has been re-painted
- New wall light fitted & painted
- New outside socket installed, for Xmas tree lights

The committee organised the annual Xmas tree light up + carols, again an event much enjoyed by villagers. The committee is now planning a major project, namely the clearing out and re-furbishing of the kitchen extension, in line with the Disabilities Discrimination Act. Hopefully we will be successful with a Lottery application, and things will get moving then. Thanks must go to Keith for being the driving force behind this project

Many thanks the committee members, particularly Noel as Treasurer, and Heather as Secretary.

ANNUAL COMMUNITY POLICE REVIEW TRIMLEY ST
MARY AND TRIMLEY ST MARTIN MARCH 2004
2005

This has been a challenging year as regards the community policing of both villages, but despite this it has also been a very good year overall. Operational commitments removed Pc Gledhill from his role at intermittent intervals; Pc Kerr suffered an unfortunate but fairly serious leg injury that prevented him from operational policing for several months. We also had the new arrival of three Community Support Officers which caused Pc Kerr to leave the community police team for 3 months and Pc Gledhill to spend less time on the area due to his tutoring of a CSO in the town centre, despite this a fairly high level of foot patrol has been maintained and there have been very few problems involving juvenile related disorder in either village, although it is noted that the odd incident has popped up when neither officer has been on duty. A presence has been maintained outside both primary schools whenever possible and very few problems presented themselves when this was so. Both myself and Pc Kerr are looking forward to continuing our role within the village for the foreseeable future and would like to express our thanks to both Parish Councils for their unswerving support and loyalty

PC 957 GLEDHILL & PC 1210 KERR

TRIMLEY ST MARTIN SCHOOL: ANNUAL REPORT TO PARISH COUNCILS 2005

One of the challenges of reporting on a schools performance to Parish Councils is the difference in our respective calendars. By the time the Parish Council year is ending the school is two thirds of the way through its academic year and gearing up for another set of examinations. This report therefore really reports on the last third of last year and the first parts of this one. I hope to outline some of our changes, our successes and challenges.

There have been a number of staff changes at Trimley St Martin, which all served to invigorate our teaching staff as a whole. On the teaching staff we have been joined by Gemma Waldock, who replaced Jane Kisby in the autumn and by Bea Farrell who joined us at the same time. More recently we have been delighted to welcome Naomi Cordle who will be providing cover for Jo Matthews whilst Jo is on maternity leave. On the support staff we celebrated the retirement of Sheila Lambert from her role in the kitchen. Sheila has seen numerous changes over her long tenure in providing school dinners to generations of pupils and staff. Indeed, Sheila has been with us long enough to have provided school dinners to the Chairman of Governors whilst he was a pupil! Sheila's retirement was very well deserved but short lived since she has now joined the cleaning staff at the school and we are very happy indeed to see her continued presence.

Meanwhile school life continues with the pupils and staff working admirably hard at the tasks set before them. Trimley St Martin continues to provide numerous school trips to broaden the children's' education and the highlight was the week spent in Scarborough, York and the Yorkshire moors. I attended a year six trip to Colchester castle in the spring and I am delighted to report that the behaviour of all the children was exemplary.

Yet again I am proud to report on the achievements of the Young Engineers Club who again progressed to the final stages of the competition only missing out to the team from Amberfield who are, of course, significantly older than our pupils. This was a remarkable effort and I must thank Derek Edwards and Amy Parker for all their hard work in helping the children to yet another achievement. On a more traditional note, the value-added results for the school were again very high and I am convinced that we are second to none in the locality in this regard. This is a true reflection of the hard work put in by Peter Lamb and his staff.

The Governors continue to grapple with some weighty matters. Yet again this year we have been set very challenging budgets by the Local education Authority and the Department of Education. The situation is slightly better than last year (perhaps there is an election in the air!) but yet again the new duties required of us far outweigh the resources that all schools, us included, are provided with. Most challenging of all is the requirement for us to provide each teacher with 10% preparation time away from their class. This is extremely difficult in a large school and nigh impossible in a small school without the provision of significant resources. It is not acceptable for politicians to provide us with the same amount of money relabelled as a new grant. What is required is extra resources - and they are needed by September. The situation is so serious that the Headteachers Association is close to pulling out of the agreement to implement this proposal.

The Governing Body has also started to update the policies that we need to have in place for various situations. These range from Health and Safety to school visits and from those set up to deal with bullying or with behaviour or with abusive actions.

The school was closed for one day this winter when heavy snowfall took place. This decision has to be taken by the headteacher and the Chairman of the Governing Body before 7.00 am to allow for the news to be disseminated by the local media and a number of factors are considered. Particular attention is paid to the ability of staff to reach the school to enable us to have a safe complement of teachers and the safety of pupils is always paramount. We

also consider whether the conditions are set to improve or deteriorate during the day. Access to weather radar is very useful in this respect unless someone has a crystal ball!

Finally I would recommend to everyone the post of school governor which I have found to be the most rewarding way to spend my spare time. At the moment we have some vacancies on the Governing Body. If you feel this opportunity would suit you please contact David Kemp via the school. I will arrange for an informal chat and outline the commitment required. I have never regretted taking this step and I hope to hear from some of you very soon.

DAVID KEMP