

Matters of interest from Trimley St Martin Parish Council meeting held at the Trimley St Martin Memorial Hall on Tuesday 20th July 2004 at 7.30pm.

Present: Chairman Nigel Smith, V. Chairman J. Barker, Keith Slaughter, Joe Smith, Dave Pither, Berridge Eve, Julie Pither-Jones, Carol Garrett.

Clerk: Mrs T. U. Hunter

By invitation: Mary Dixon, PC Jim Kerr

Apologies: Heather Rodwell, David Beale, County councillor, Patricia O'Brien

Declarations of Interest:

No new declarations made.

Minutes of the previous meeting:

Draft copies of the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 1st June had been circulated and were approved as a correct record and the file copy was signed and dated by the Chairman.

Matters Arising:

- a) **Mill Lane Junction** - The Clerk read out a letter, which had been received, from East Area Highways Manager, SCC stating that a high priority could not be put on the proposed alterations from his limited budget in respect of this junction. Funding was unlikely to be forthcoming from any sources available to him but suggested that perhaps Patricia O'Brien could be approached for some Locality Budget funding to put towards the cost of the alterations to the previous works carried out. After much discussion, dissatisfied Councillors agreed that the matter should be referred to a higher level and the Clerk was to write to advise the East Area Highways Manager of their decision. The Clerk would also keep SCC County councillor Patricia O'Brien advised of developments.
- b) **Trimley St Martin School** – The Clerk reported that an email had been received from a resident of Kirton Road concerning an incident, which had occurred on a Saturday afternoon, at the lay-by outside the school in respect of vehicle, which had been parked by a resident's daughter. A Pc informed the daughter that the parking of cars in the lay-b was not allowed and the car would have to move, otherwise a ticket would be issued. The Pc stated that the non-bus stop section of the lay-by was subject to a no waiting restriction. The Vice-Chairman reported that the Chairman and himself had discussed the matter and that the Chairman had asked him to investigate the current parking restrictions pertaining to the lay by. He had visited the site and subsequently discussed the matter with the East Area Highways Manager, who agreed that the sign was ambiguous and that within the non bus stop section of the lay-by there was only a no waiting/no loading/no unloading prohibition from 08.00 to 09.30am and from 3.00pm to 4.30pm on school days only. With regard to the parking outside the school, the East Area Highways Manager is currently in communication with both this Council and Kirton and Falkenham Parish Council regarding the increase in passing bays and the proposed Traffic Order will also take into account any clarification needed to the signs in the lay-by.
- c) **SCC Matters** – The Clerk reported on a letter she had received from SCC in respect of a number of items raised from the previous meeting and she advised Councillors that hedging would be planted in place of fencing on the A14 footbridge, as previous replacement fencing had been vandalised again. Councillors were in agreement with this course of action. The problem of the damage to the road surface in Mill Close was being addressed with temporary material being put down into potholes and permanent repairs being scheduled to take place during the next three months. Councillors were

advised that the request for a mirror to be placed opposite Church Lane to enable drivers pulling out of this lane to be able to see traffic coming from the Ipswich direction was not to be granted since they are deemed to be a distraction to other motorists and not permissible on the Public Highway. Child warning signs were also only permitted in certain situations and the request for one to be placed in Grimston Lane was denied, as this did not fit the criteria.

- d) **Dock Spur Roundabout** – The Vice-Chairman reported on the meeting that he had attended along with the Chairman at the Port of Felixstowe on the 7th June to discuss the proposed changes to the Dock Spur roundabout, which had been put forward by HPUK. It was clear that these changes were designed to cope with the increase in HGV traffic, which would undoubtedly be the result of the proposed Felixstowe South Reconfiguration extension, which is to be the subject of a public enquiry in the Autumn. Proposed amendments included the introduction of two lanes of traffic heading around the roundabout from Ipswich towards the Port, with the filter lane coming from the dock towards Ipswich being made into a Give Way junction. Councillors felt that these changes would do nothing to increase the safety at the roundabout nor to reduce the speed and suggestions were made of traffic lights being introduced at the Trimley entrance to the roundabout and on the roundabout itself in front of the Candlet Road entry to the roundabout, such that traffic heading from here towards Ipswich could then cross the proposed two lanes in safety. It was also pointed out that the flashing speed signs are not having the desired effect in reducing the speed of approaching lorries to the roundabout as by the time drivers have seen the warning signs, they are too near the roundabout to further decrease their speed without the threat of possible jack-knifing. HPUK have taken away suggestions made by Councillors and had agreed to meet representative of the Council again, when these were to hand.

Community Police Report:

Councillors were pleased to hear from PC J. Kerr that there were only two reported incidences during the month of May in the village.

PC Kerr outlined a proposal that a speed radar gun be bought for the use of the local Community Police Officers for use in the villages of Trimley St Martin, Trimley St Mary and the villages covered by Kirton and Falkenham Parish Council. Each Parish Council would pay an equal share of the purchase price and the radar equipment would be used only in those villages and on an average of about twice a month in each area. The primary purpose will be to target persistent offenders who flouted the speed limits and also to act as a deterrent for any motorist tempted to travel above the relevant speed limit. Councillors fully discussed the proposal. The Council agreed to support the proposal with the proviso that the other two Parish Councils were also in agreement.

Public Question Time:

- **County Councillor Patricia O'Brien** – The Clerk read a copy of her report. In this Patricia O'Brien stated that she had no objections to part of the Locality Budget being used for the Mill Close/Trimley High Road junction dropped kerb. Also a further amount to be used towards the improvement to the traffic management scheme in the vicinity of Trimley St Martin Primary School. The Locality budget for 04/05 is £3000 and details of proposed projects were requested. Councillors were asked to make suggestions for its use at the next Parish Council meeting.
- **District Councillor Mary Dixon** – Mary reported that the latest new look edition of Coastline (SCDC publication) was now being issued and that details of summer activities for children were contained within it. Mary had attended the SALC AGM and reported that many of those present had made comment on the high increases imposed on the SALC membership fees. SALC advised that this would be the last of the inflated increases and any future necessary increases would be kept to a

minimum. Councillors bought up the issue of the poor grass cutting to verges and public open spaces in the villages especially in respect of Howlett Way and Reeve Lodge landscaped areas, - Mary will take this matter up with the necessary department and express the Council's dissatisfaction.

- **General Public Questions** – It was brought to the Council's attention that the Bowls Club were unable to locate grant funding for improvements to the parking area situated outside the Club and behind the Memorial Hall as they did not own the Bowls Club and as such any request for funding would have to be sought by the Parish Council. It was advised that since the Parish Council is currently investigating the possibility of seeking funding for improvements (including disabled access) to the Memorial Hall building, that perhaps the car parking area could be included into the whole scheme. There was an amount set aside in the 02/03 locality funding, for improving the side area of the Hall but in the absence of any financial assistance from the Bowls Club towards the total cost, then a grant was deemed to be the only other avenue available to the Parish Council. Further discussion would take place at a meeting to be held with representatives from the Parish Council and the Memorial Hall Committee.
- Doug Hart advised that the 'Walks' board at the Capel Lane Picnic Site had been vandalised but that he would leave this until after the summer to repair and replace. He had cleared the area around the picnic area but reported a large elm tree near to the road that needed to be cut back; the Clerk to contact SCC East Area Highways.

Planning Applications:

CO4/ 1358 - 51 Grimston Lane - Proposal: Erection of one dwelling with detached garage. (Existing bungalow to be demolished) - Revised scheme.

Councillors discussed the revised plans but recommended that these be refused since the roof area of the bungalow was deemed to be excessive and not in keeping with other single storey bungalows in the area. It was felt that the large roof space lent itself to the conclusion that there would be an intention at a later stage to convert this to further living space.

Planning Decisions

C04/0435 – 51 Grimston Lane - Proposal: Erection of one dwelling with detached garage. (Existing bungalow to be demolished). **Refused**

C04/0939 – 2 Mill Lane - Proposal: Erection of first floor rear extension. **Granted**

C04/0795 – 51 St Martins Green - Proposal: Erection of rear conservatory extension. Location: 51 St Martins Green, Trimley St Martin. **Granted**

C04/0708 – 85 St Martins Green - Proposal: Erection of two-storey rear extension. Location: 85 St Martins Green, Trimley St Martin. **Granted**

C04/0857 – Trimley Sports & Social Club, 297 High Rd - Proposal: Erection of new sign. **Granted**

CO4/0890 – 14 Heathfields - Proposal: Erection of single-storey rear extension. **Granted**

C04/0623 – 21 Blue Barn Close - Proposal: Retention of detached dwelling (alternative design to that approved under Planning Application number C02/0985). **Granted**

APPEALS

C04/0130 –1 Meadow Close - Proposal: Erection of two-storey rear extension. Appeal against refusal of planning permission.

Highways and Footpaths:

- A resident had made a complaint that vehicles were being parked outside houses in St Martins Green on the “actual green”. It was unsure if these belonged to persons living at these homes and the situation will be monitored. If this continues in the winter months and the grass was likely to be churned up as a result, then the matter would be discussed further.
- Overgrown banks and hedges were reported in Heathfields, overgrown tops of banks along Thorpe Lane, weeds in gutters within the village and a damaged sign in Cavendish Road were all reported and the Clerk is to deal with accordingly.

Any Other Business:

- 1) The winner of the word search in the Parish Pump will be drawn at the next Parish Council meeting and announced in the next edition of the Parish Pump. The Clerk had received an email enquiring about advertising in the Parish Pump but Councillors agreed that since the Parish Pump had been set up solely to keep residents informed of village related matters only, advertising was not a consideration.
- 2) The Vice-Chairman brought to Councillors attention recent newspaper reports regarding the change in facilities at the Bartlett and Felixstowe General Hospital and the possible moving of the A&E dept, currently situated within the general hospital. The Clerk has been instructed to write to the Suffolk Primary Care Trust to express the concerns of Councillors.
- 3) Councillor Slaughter produced up to date plans in respect of the proposed changes to the Memorial Hall. These were positively received by Councillors and a meeting is to be arranged with representatives from the Parish Council, namely Nigel Smith and Joe Smith along with the Clerk to meet with the Memorial Hall Committee to further discuss the way forward with regard to locating funding and also to finalise the building plans. Councillors agreed to pay the planning permission application fee, which was understood to be in the region of £55.00.
- 4) The next meeting is arranged for 7th September at the Methodist Church.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 10.20pm