

**Meeting Notes – Trimley St Martin Parish Council – 7th September 2004
Held at Trimley Methodist Church Hall**

Present: Chair Nigel Smith, J. Barker, David Beale, Keith Slaughter, Andy Church, Berridge Eve

Clerk: Mrs Tracey Hunter

By Invitation: Mary Dixon (SCDC Councillor), Sherrie Green (SCDC Councillor), Sgt Mick Richardson (Community Police Sergeant), Guy Pearse (SCC Highways Manager – East Area)

Apologies: Heather Rodwell, Carol Garrett, Julie Pither-Jones, Dave Pither, Joe Smith

Guy Pearse addressed the Council on the following problems:

- Mill Lane/Trimley High road Junction
- Parking in the vicinity of Trimley St Martin Primary School

Trimley St Martin Primary School

Following a previous site meeting with the Chair and Vice Chair at 8.30am on a school day; Guy Pearse has recommended that a traffic order be proposed whereby the lay-by outside the school (excluding the bus stop area) be a No waiting or Loading /Unloading area during the hours of 8 – 9.30am and 3 – 4.30pm on schooldays only. He also proposed that the yellow no parking lines be extended from outside 125 Kirton Road to a further distance of three vehicle lengths and continue along this road to the 30mph sign adjacent to the Trimley foot bridge on a basis of 6 vehicle length parking spaces followed by double yellow lines for three vehicle lengths. This would then allow further “pulling in spaces” to allow for oncoming vehicles to pass by. He advised that Kirton Parish Council has requested that two sets of 3 vehicle length no parking areas be imposed on the Kirton side of the school to prevent long queues of traffic building up which were waiting to pass through.

Councillors discussed the proposals and were in agreement with the changes put forward and Guy Pearse is to consult with Kirton Parish Council and the Headteacher at the school to obtain their agreement to the scheme. A timescale of 6- 12 months was indicated before the traffic order could be processed and funding for this is to be met by from Suffolk County Councillor Patricia O'Brien's Locality Budget.

High Road/Mill Lane Junction

Guy Pearse stated that if the Parish Council required the new traffic scheme on this junction to be amended such that kerbing on the corner outside the church would be lowered, the cost would have to be met by the Parish Council. Councillors did not feel this should be the case, as they had not been consulted on the original scheme although Guy Pearse stated a copy of letter had been sent to the Parish Council. The point was made that the council had not received a letter; Guy Pearse agreed that he had not received a response from the council. The cost is estimated at £895 but Guy Pearse advised that possibly a cheaper option would be to remove the high kerbing completely and revert to the original kerb line, he will advise the Parish Council of the cost of this. However, his budget does not permit any funding to be used for this type of work and the Parish Council would further consider their options once the cheaper estimate had been confirmed to them.

Mention was also made to Guy Pearse of the appalling state of the weeds growing in the gutters and through the paths, this being especially bad in Mill Close/Heathfields and he confirmed that the contractors were making a start this week on weed killing procedures on the highways.

Matter arising from the minutes of the Previous Meeting:

- a) The Chair reported on a site meeting that he had attended with the Vice- Chair, the Clerk and Tim Collard and Kevin Postma of Suffolk Coastal District Council with regard to the problems that had been incurred with regard to grass cutting in the village. Tim Collard advised that there had been problems with contractors in the past but that they were now back to full strength and that cutting would be carried out on a regular two-week amenity basis. Since this meeting, the grass cutting had been carried out satisfactorily although Mill Close and Heathfields had been missed in the fortnightly cut following on from the meeting! However, following a telephone call to Tim Collard, grass cutters were back the very next morning. Councillors would be monitoring the situation and any problems would be immediately reported to Tim Collard.
- b) The Clerk advised Councillors that the Chair and Vice Chair would be attending a meeting at Tomline House with HPUK to discuss the proposal for acoustic barriers to be erected along the A14 in the vicinity of Trimley St Mary and Trimley St Martin. Councillors were in agreement that this would be of benefit to residents since this would be an effective measure in reducing the noise emitted from traffic on the A14. There would be a number of issues however to consider not least the high visibility of the barriers in certain areas, along with who would be responsible for the cost and maintenance of the barriers. These points would be discussed at the Port meeting and Councillors will report back at the next Parish Council meeting.
- c) Quiet Lanes – Further to earlier discussions on this matter and having looked at the criteria for Quiet Lane status it was felt that further enquiries could be made to ascertain the viability of pursuing this further. The idea of ‘Quiet Lanes’ is that it focuses on a ‘network’ of roads whereby some of the lanes were given ‘quiet lane’ status leaving them primarily for use by cyclists, walkers, horse riders etc. The scheme does not work well on single roads and it was pointed out that ‘Quiet Lane’ status does not hold any weight in respect of any type of planning issues. Therefore pursuance of quiet lane status should not be sought merely on the basis of preventing any possible planning applications. The Clerk is to write to SCC Highways to ask their advice with regard to Quiet Lanes, as it was understood that a quiet lane scheme was shortly to be tried out in Dunwich.

Community Police Report:

Sgt. Mick Richardson reported on just four incidences that had occurred during the month of August and overall it was a very good month with a distinct lack of youth related problems despite this falling in the school summer holiday period.

Sgt Mick Richardson advised Councillors that the case made at the last meeting of the council for the council to contribute towards the purchase of a radar speed gun for the use of the community police officers was somewhat ambiguous. The option of paying towards the speed radar gun would be offered to every Parish in the area and regardless of whether the particular parish had contributed to the cost, the Community Police Officers based at Felixstowe Police Station would use the speed radar gun in every Parish covered by the Community Police Team. Councillors were still in agreement to support the idea of a speed gun being purchased for the use of community police team but did have reservations with regard to how the cost would be split, especially if there were only a few Parishes willing to pay towards it. It was hoped however, that every Parish approached would take the same responsibility towards sharing the cost and further details are awaited. Mick Richardson has drafted a letter to all Parishes, which would be considered further once it had been received.

SCDC Councillors Report

- It was reported that an Audit Commission team were about to visit SCDC for a week, looking into all aspects of the council's services. A report would be published in December.
- It was reported that the responsibility for licensing was in the process of being transferred from the police/magistrates to SCDC.

Correspondence

- SCDC – The Clerk read a letter to Councillors advising of the transfer of services from SCDC to Suffolk Coastal Services Ltd (SCS) who were a subsidiary of Norfolk County Services, this taking effect from 1st August 2004. It was understood that the transference of services was a money-saving operation but Councillors remained sceptical and would be monitoring SCS services to the village carefully and would report to SCDC if they felt that the changes had in fact been detrimental and not improved as were intimated.
- SCC – Claimed footpath letter – The Parish Council is to write in support of the footpath status.
- SCC – Rights of Way improvement plan – questionnaire. - The questionnaire will be completed by Councillor Keith Slaughter with assistance from Doug Hart.
- SCS – Roadside Litter Picking- The Clerk reported on a letter received from SCS who advised that Howlett Way had been added to the fortnightly check by the Mobile Litter Team, the rest of the village being dealt with on a responsive basis and cleared as and when resources allowed. The Clerk is to ask SCSL to be vigilant in their checking of Howlett Way since it seemed to be particularly susceptible to litter from passing vehicles.
- SCDC – Consultation on Draft Licensing Statement – Councillors to complete by 31st October.
- SCDC Local Strategic Partnership Forum on 8th October- Details given to Councillors.
- Office of the Deputy Prime Minister - Draft Code of Conduct for local govt. employees- Available to Councillors to comment if required.

Planning Applications:

- **CO/4 1491** - Proposal: Erection of single rear extension - Location: 12 St Martins Green, Trimley St Martin. Looked at by Councillors – No objections but consideration should be given to any neighbouring objections in respect of privacy.
- **CO4/1382** - Proposal: Proposed two storey extension to provide covered parking bay with granny annexe above - Location: Alston Hall, Grimston Lane, Trimley St Martin. Looked at by Councillors, no real objections but conditions should include the finished appearance to be in keeping with the existing property. Also enquiry made as to why building not classed as listed, as it is 400+ years old. Clerk is to contact SCDC Planning Department to make further enquiries as to the listed building procedures in respect of this property.
- **CO4/1488** Proposal: Use of the land for the erection of one bungalow/chalet bungalow with integral garage - Location: 25- 27 Mill Lane, Trimley St Martin. Looked at by Councillors and serious objections raised including concerns regarding back building,

access to property, vehicle parking, potential visual and overbearing impact on neighbouring properties.

Planning Decisions:

CO4/1134 Proposal: Erection of extension on rear elevation - Location: 17 Brick Kiln Close, Trimley St Martin. **Granted**

Previous Planning Objection – 21 Blue Barns, Trimley St Martin

The Vice Chair raised the subject of SCDC Planning Department using NHBC in respect of Building Regulations compliance and in particular with regard to the above application since following points brought to the attention of Councillors by neighbouring properties, it appeared that the building work carried out was not as per the application submitted. It was the view of Councillors that ultimately, SCDC should still retain a supervisory role but this is not the case and it is deemed to be the responsibility of NHBC to ensure that contractors comply with building regulations. Councillors expressed their dissatisfaction with this process and the SCDC councillors present took on board their comments.

Highways & Footpaths:

The Clerk reported that she had been in contact with Terry Loveridge of SCC with regard to the overgrown vegetation on the paths and gutters of Mill Close and Heathfields. The collection of debris that had been cleared from the path leading from High Road to Mill Close had now been deposited in one large pile and the Clerk had spoken to Terry Loveridge about this being cleared.

Any Other Business

- **Revised Standing Orders** had been compiled by the Clerk using the existing orders and the new model copy received from SALC. A copy of the up to date Standing Orders had been circulated to all Councillors and they were formally adopted at this meeting and signed by the Chair.
- **Locality Budget** – Ideas for the locality budget were put forward and these included putting this towards the cost of updating the Memorial Hall. Sgt Mick Richardson that perhaps some of the budget could pay for crime prevention/safety initiatives such as further street lighting where needed in footpath/alleyway areas which were not presently provided for from the annual budget. It was decided to defer any decisions to the next meeting when the matter could be discussed further with the Councillors who were absent for this meeting.
- **Howlett Way Planting** – Nigel Smith confirmed that the extra shrub bed planting would take place at the end of this month along with the bulb planting. Suggestions were made that JAS be asked to trim the banks and the presently uncut area of land on the left leading towards the A14.
- **Word Search** Competition – Parish Pump – The draw for the word search competition was made by Sgt Mick Richardson and the winners name was Rosemary Nunn. A £5.00 book token would be sent to her.
- **Next issue of Parish Pump** – It was decided to publish the next issue of the Parish Pump at the end of October. Submissions for this edition should be received by the next Parish Council meeting.

- **Hedgerow Survey** - Councillor Eve reported that the preparations for the Hedgerow Survey are under way although he advised he would be contacting the Suffolk Wildlife Trust to see if any assistance could be volunteered in carrying out the survey.
- **Suffolk Preservation Society** - Councillor Slaughter felt that it would be beneficial for the Parish Council to be members of the Suffolk Preservation Society and it was agreed to proceed with this at a subscription of £20.00