

TRIMLEY ST. MARY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Trimley St. Mary Parish Council meeting held on Monday, 5th December 2005 at the Trimley St. Mary School at 7.12p.m.

Present:

Councillors: Mrs H J Blackshaw, Mrs M J Dixon, E Durrant, D Ellis, B Frost, R Kerry (Chairman), N Mayes, Mrs B Shout, D Southgate and C Storer.

Apologies: D Tyler.

58. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Mrs H J Blackshaw declared an interest in the planning application for 22, New Road; Mrs M J Dixon declared an interest in planning applications (being on the Sub-Development Control Committee at Suffolk Coastal District Council), in the planning application for 22, New Road specifically and in donations to the Citizens' Advice Bureau and ESTA; D Ellis declared an interest in the donation to FACTS; B Frost declared an interest in the donation to ESTA and the planning application for 1, Second Avenue; N Mayes declared an interest in the Port of Felixstowe; Mrs B Shout and C Storer declared an interest in major planning proposals.

59. MINUTES

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting and 'In camera' meeting held on Monday, November 7th 2005, which had been circulated, were approved as a correct record. Proposed, B Frost, seconded, Mrs H J Blackshaw. Mrs M J Dixon remarked that the paperwork being generated by the Council was excessive. She clarified this statement by adding that she was not referring to the minutes produced and it was suggested that next year the agenda be looked at again with a view to cutting the workload on the Clerk.

60. COUNCILLORS' FEEDBACK ON CLERK'S REPORT AND COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

1. Councillors' Feedback. (See Appendix A.1.). D Ellis confirmed that he was not yet ready to make a decision on the committees he would like to join.

B Frost reported to the members a recent article in the RAIL magazine 527 (Nov. 23-Dec. 6) regarding concerns voiced by residents to the Rail Safety and Standards Board about the loud whistling of trains and a resulting meeting of the Board with the Noise Abatement Society. The RSSB had agreed to consider all solutions to resolve the problem. The Vice-Chairman stated that there were two alternatives to this problem: closure of crossings (something, he believed, Network Rail would be in favour of) or a Noise Abatement Order. C Storer stated that he believed that the Port of Felixstowe was doing a survey of all crossings. The Vice-Chairman replied in the affirmative, adding that this was part of the dualling proposals. Councillors considered the number of those who would possibly be affected by the closure of crossings in the Parish. The consensus of opinion was that the footpaths were part of the village's amenities and that the closure of any crossings, which precluded access to the footpaths and bridleways, was against the 'Rights to Roam' policy. The Vice-Chairman stated that should a crossing be permanently closed, which affected the network of footpaths and bridleways, a bridge would have to be built, at a cost of approximately £12.5 million. Mrs M J Dixon advised that the Council seek the granting of a dispensation at night first.

It was agreed that the Finance and General Purposes Committee would meet on Wednesday, 4th January 2006 at 7.00p.m. at Cllr. Dixon's home. The Vice-Chairman offered his home as an alternative venue, if necessary.

With regard to the provision of food for the Reeve Lodge party, Mrs H J Blackshaw offered to produce one of the sets of sandwiches. No further offers were received, so Mrs B Shout offered to produce the other in addition to the ham sandwiches.

2. There were no Councillors' reports.

61. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Correspondence/Circulation Documents Requiring A Reply (See Appendix A.2.):

1.1. (See Appendix A. 2. 1.). Members agreed that no response need be made to this document.

1.2. (See Appendix A. 2. 3.). The Clerk was requested to invite Guy Ackers to the February meeting.

1.3. (See Appendix A. 2. 10.). Members decided that no action need be taken at this time.

1.4. (See Appendix A. 2. 11.). Members agreed that no action needed to be taken.

2. Members' Agenda Items:

2.1. Banking (Mrs B Shout). Cllr. Shout reported that she had sent emails to the bank, in an effort to produce some action from them on the meeting with a Business Manager (she and the Clerk had been waiting since September 28th 2005 for confirmation of this) and the payment of backdated gross interest. She had received a letter regarding the latter but this had not confirmed that the tax was backdated. She was able, on advice from the Clerk, to confirm that the charges detailed for October had not been deducted. The Chairman thanked Cllr Shout for her continued efforts in this matter.

2.2. A14 pollutants (Mrs B Shout). Cllr. Shout advised the members that she had written a letter, as a resident not a Councillor, to Suffolk Coastal District Council's Environmental Protection Department, regarding the stench of diesel fumes on the A14 from the Link Road roundabout down to the Dockspur Roundabout, which she had experienced on several occasions recently. In her letter she had pointed out that she looked forward to their report in April. D Southgate stated that he believed that the atmosphere had been heavier in the last 4 – 5 weeks, which would have caused the diesel fumes to sit lower in the atmosphere and not disperse.

2.3. Railway Dualling (Chairman). The Chairman reported that he and several members of Trimley St. Mary Parish Council had attended a recent meeting, at which representatives of the Port of Felixstowe had provided up-to-date information on the proposed plans for the dualling of a section of the Felixstowe-Ipswich rail line. It had been confirmed that the line would not be bi-directional and that the passenger trains would remain on the same track as usual, which, in the worst scenario, could lead to a problem of standing trains, particularly affecting the Parish of Trimley St. Martin. Councillors from Trimley St. Martin were strongly opposed to any standing trains, fearing that this could lead to little more than a parking area for waiting trains, although the Port had assured them that this would not happen. The Vice-Chairman, however, added that no one could expect everything to run like clockwork. The Chairman also confirmed potentially good news for residents in Chatsworth Crescent and Eaton Close, already affected by standing trains and the resulting noise and fumes. Councillors had learned that, weather permitting, it was proposed to make trains stop 150 metres or so further down the line from the red stop signal. Although the steepness of the track might still pose some problems, it was hoped that this would be a viable solution, ensuring that, by not stopping right outside the estate, fumes and noise would not reach the properties.

3. Items From Strategy Meetings:

3.1. Report from C Storer on last meeting. Cllr Storer stated that a brief note, giving details of the last meeting, had been circulated. It had been agreed to produce a trial newsletter, which D Ellis was working on, and there would be another meeting to review the progress on this and the content. Thanks were extended to D Ellis for taking on this task.

62. The meeting was adjourned at 7.45p.m. to enable Cllr John Goodwin of Suffolk County Council to produce his report. The meeting reconvened at 7.54p.m.

63. FINANCE

1. The monthly financial statement was presented and agreed. Proposed, B Frost, seconded, E Durrant.

2. Expenditure:

Bus Shelters	To 03/12/05 (4 weeks)	55.50
D B Barton	Grass Cutting	40.00
D B Barton	Repairs to Bus Shelter	40.00
Clerk	Xmas Ent. & Remunerations	136.55
Clerk	Imprest Top Up	84.91
Clerk	Salary to 31/12/05	2,224.28
Clerk	Employers' N.I. to 31/12/05	128.96

3. Thanks were extended to Cllr. Shout for purchasing a gift for Mrs M Newman, in recognition of her work compiling the questionnaire comments. Funding had been met by the Clerk's imprest.

4. After some discussion, it was agreed that £10.00 be donated to ESTA (proposed D Southgate, seconded, N Mayes), £60.00 to the Disability Advice Service (proposed B Frost, seconded, D Southgate), £100.00 to the Felixstowe & District Citizens' Advice Bureau (proposed Mrs H J Blackshaw, seconded,

D Southgate), £100.00 to the Suffolk Accident Rescue Service (all in agreement) and £105.00 to FACTS (all, apart from D Ellis, voting in agreement), the cheques to be generated at the next convenient meeting.

5. Locality Grant Use – play equipment/cycle racks. Having received play equipment brochures from Suffolk Coastal Services Ltd., the Clerk had retained one set and passed the others on, these currently being in N Mayes' possession. Problems had been incurred, since most brochures had no costs included. The Clerk, aware that she had the most expensive brochures, had selected several items of equipment, taking into account provision for the disabled, and requested quotes for these. She had, however, ascertained that to replace the matting at Stennetts alone was extremely expensive (the quote coming from SCSL directly and being a discounted offer) and felt that to replace the equipment with new and the matting would require not only the little the Parish Council could afford and Locality Budget funding but also Lottery Funding or similar. A quote had been received for the necessary repairs to the play equipment at Stennetts of £577.00 plus VAT, which was within the budget funding laid aside for the year. C Storer proposed that the repairs be requested, D Southgate seconded the motion and all agreed to pursue this line for the time being. A suggestion was made that the matting be replaced with sand. No quote had been received from Mr Jacobs for the fencing around the play area. D Southgate stated that he would pursue this and the Chairman offered to secure an alternative quote from Mr Cook. Members were reminded that there was another pot of money in the SPG15 funding.

Another suggestion for use of Locality Grant Funding was the provision of cycle racks for the school. The Clerk was asked to discuss this as a possibility with John Goodwin and to ask the school for a quote on the equipment required.

64. PLANNING

1. Applications:

C/05/2102 Erection of entrance porch, single-storey side extension, rear two-storey extension and conservatory (revised scheme), 27, Spriteshall Lane – supported with recommendation.

C/05/2160 Use of land for the erection of two dwellings, land adjacent 1, Second Avenue – supported but concerns registered.

C/05/2221 Erection of single-storey front extension, 22, The Josselyns – supported.

C/05/2235 Erection of rear conservatory extension, 11, Drover's Court – supported.

C/05/2224 Erection of single-storey front extension – 22, New Road – supported.

2. Members were advised of a letter from Suffolk Coastal District Council giving approval for works to protected trees, 12, The Avenue.

65. HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATHS

1. SCC – Notice of temporary closure of Bridleways 12 and 14 (part) and Footpath 30 (part) (Order 2005) – extended to 7th June 2006. The Clerk advised the members that she had contacted Tim Collins of Bidwells regarding this matter, concerns having been raised that the Council had believed that the closure would only be until October 2005, the route had been re-opened only to be closed again within a short space of time and there were no signs up to indicate this new closure. Mr Collins had advised the Clerk that he would pursue the matter of the signs as a matter of some urgency, these having been delivered. He had stated that this was a different phase of the project, not connected with the Maersk development of Plateaux E and F, and, since the only exit route for the earthworks was by means of the underpass, whenever there was a live scheme, this would lead to temporary closures of the bridleways and footpaths. Hopefully the closures would not run consecutively or last 6 months at a time. He had assured the Clerk that there were no plans for permanent closure of these routes. The Vice-Chairman pointed out that the 'phase' order was the same as the last order and stated that he would like to see a transcript of the SCDC South Development Control Sub Committee meeting from March 2005, where he believed that it had been stated that the work would take a maximum of 26 weeks, finishing in October 2005. He added that he had thought the Secretary of State might have had the courtesy to let the Council know what was going on. The Clerk agreed to revert to Mr Collins for a further explanation on the 'phase' issue and report back to the Vice-Chairman. If he then deemed it necessary, she would attempt to get hold of a copy of the required transcript.

Mrs M J Dixon advised the members that cyclists were leaving the bridleway gates open.

2. Members agreed that, since parishioners had indicated their concerns, by means of the questionnaire, about the speed and volume of traffic passing through the village, the Clerk should contact Suffolk

County Council to see if it would be possible for someone to have a look at the situation and give the Council some advice.

3. Mrs M J Dixon expressed concern about overhanging vegetation at one particular location in the village. The Clerk assured her that this had been actioned and was now in the hands of Suffolk County Council.

4. E Durrant reported that wooden stakes had been placed in the grass verges at St. Mary's Close. The Clerk was asked to ascertain who was responsible for this action and why.

5. Mrs H J Blackshaw reported that the telephone box outside the Alms Houses had been damaged.

66. EMERGENCY ISSUES

1. Mrs B Shout asked if the Clerk had received any response to the Council's request to be placed in Category 4 of the Settlement Hierarchy Document. The Clerk replied in the negative. Since the Councillors were also concerned that they had received no feedback from David Locke Associates on the Felixstowe Masterplan, despite an assurance that they would return in the early autumn, the Clerk was asked to invite Steve Brown of Suffolk Coastal District Council to attend a Parish Council meeting to provide an update on progress.

2. Mrs M J Dixon expressed concern that, since the school gates were open at the beginning and end of the school day, parents were driving in and out of the school over the footpath, posing a severe danger to the children. The Clerk was asked to take this matter up with the school.

3. Cllr. Dixon reported reversing vehicles removing ballast at the station at 10.00p.m. on a Sunday night, with no courtesy note having been received by any of the residents to advise them of this inconvenience. The noise had been appalling. D Ellis clarified that the ballast was being used for a piece of the track complained about previously by the Council. The Clerk was asked to pass this complaint on to Ian Cleland.

67. NEXT MEETING

Monday, 6th February 2006 at 7.00p.m.

The meeting closed at 8.40p.m.

_____ Chairman

_____ Date