

TRIMLEY ST. MARY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Trimley St. Mary Parish Council meeting held on Monday, 25th July 2005 at the Victoria Hall Memorial Pavilion, Stennetts Field at 7.22p.m.

Present:

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

Apologies: C Storer.

22. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Chairman and D Tyler declared an interest in planning application C/05/1351; N Mayes and D Tyler declared an interest in matters relating to the Port of Felixstowe; J Newman and Mrs B Shout declared an interest in major planning proposals.

23. MINUTES

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday, 6th June 2005 and the minutes of the Finance and General Purposes meeting held on Monday, July 4th 2005, which had been circulated, were approved as a correct record. B Frost proposed the motion for the Council minutes and Mrs M J Dixon seconded the motion. B Frost proposed the motion for the Finance and General Purposes minutes and N Mayes seconded the motion.

24. COUNCILLORS' FEEDBACK ON CLERK'S REPORT (see Appendix A. 1) AND COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

1. Councillors' Feedback. Mrs M J Dixon confirmed that Trimley St. Martin Parish Council was pursuing alternative quotes for the cutting of the Link Road. Mrs B Shout enquired whether the Clerk had received a response from Eleanor Keating of Suffolk Coastal District Council regarding Blofield. The Clerk responded in the negative and Cllr. Shout stated that she would pursue the matter.

2. HP (UK) – Dualling of Railway Line (Vice-Chairman). The Vice-Chairman confirmed that there had been no further developments in this matter, apart from the acknowledgement of comments received.

3. Suffolk Coastal Local Development Framework Workshops (Mrs B Shout) (see Appendix B 1,2,3&4). Cllr. Shout commented that she had found the meeting very interesting, adding that a lot had been cancelled through lack of support from Councillors. Mention was made that the SCDC suggested ratio for affordable housing was 1 in 3. The Inspector has disagreed and set limits of 1 in 9 for villages and 1 in 15 for towns. This was to replace the current figures of 1 in 15 for villages and 1 in 25 for towns. SCDC is to have a meeting in September to decide whether to overrule the Inspector and stay with its own suggestion of 1 in 3.

4. Newmarket-Felixstowe Corridor Study (Chairman). Documentation received by the Chairman at this meeting was circulated for the members' interest and information. The aim of the meeting was to consider a draft report and for attendees to provide their comments and inputs to the findings, in order that a Draft Final Report might be submitted on July 1st 2005. The day included a presentation by one of the consultants on the draft strategy, question and answer sessions and the opportunity for one-to-one discussions with the consultants. The upgrade of the A14 was discussed and the need to remove the problems causing bottlenecks and other traffic related problems. The findings would be submitted to the East of England Regional Assembly. The Chairman continued that improvements to the Dock Spur Roundabout had been one of the matters discussed and that it had been stated that this would be looked at only if the Port South Reconfiguration was to go ahead. Councillors were already aware of the proposed plans to install traffic lights on both approaches to the roundabout, to facilitate the flow of traffic from Candlet Road, there having been numerous meetings with the Port on this matter. Whilst advantages could be seen for the users of Candlet Road and the village, not all Councillors were satisfied that traffic lights were the answer, seeing these causing problems of their own. It was commented that whether the Port South Reconfiguration went ahead or not, the Port might well be full by 2023 and it could not expand forever.

25. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

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

1.1. (Reference Appendix A.2.1.). The Vice-Chairman gave brief details of the letter sent to Suffolk Association of Local Councils (all members having received a copy of this). In the letter he had confirmed that the Council had agreed to continue its membership for the current financial year but would be reviewing the situation for the coming financial year, the Parish Council envisaging increased pressure on its own budget and very much aware of the need to demonstrate value for all monies spent from the precept. Cllr Frost had also addressed the problems inherent in the implementation of the revised salary scale, due to the complicated nature of the paperwork distributed, the lack of notice and one significant omission, which would affect the overall cost. Cllr. Frost had intimated in his letter that the Parish Council might feel the need to voice its discontent directly to the National Association of Local Councils. Being aware that the SALC office was under-resourced, he had offered to discuss the future of the Association, providing an input at a SALC area meeting or with the Chief Executive of SALC itself. A reply had been received confirming that SALC were indeed in need of extra resources and inviting Cllr. Frost to attend the Suffolk Coastal Area Meeting on Monday, 12th September 2005 at Stratford St. Andrew Riverside Centre and to speak to the Area Chairman, Cllr. John Hurn (also the Chairman of the SALC Executive Committee).

1.2. (Reference Appendix A.2.4.). The Vice-Chairman offered his apologies for the Local Authorities Liaison Committee Meeting. It was confirmed that the Chairman, the Clerk and Mrs M J Dixon would be able to attend.

1.3 (Reference Appendix A.2.6.). The Chairman drew attention to this new communication, received since the publication of the agenda, reading out the letter for them members' interest and information.

2. Members' Agenda Items:

2.1. Future of Felixstowe Hospitals (Vice-Chairman). The Vice-Chairman, in the light of the current discussions regarding the Felixstowe Masterplan and other major planning proposals, suggested that some action be taken by the Parish Council, indicating the Council's feelings on the possible closure of the Felixstowe General and/or The Bartlet hospitals. Concerns were voiced about the loss of beds and the fact that a minor casualty unit was being closed, which was not emphasised. Reference was also made to the 'walk in centres' being set up elsewhere. All Councillors agreed that both hospital facilities were well-used and much-needed by the local communities and that a letter should be sent to the Rt. Hon. John Gummer M.P. expressing the Council's displeasure at any such possible move. This should be copied to the PCT. Members were advised of an action committee already set up, Mike Ninnmey of Felixstowe Town Council being involved in this project.

2.2. Trimley Marshes and Nature Reserve (Mrs B Shout)- see Appendix C. Cllr. Shout had produced this paper for the information of the Councillors' only. Mrs M J Dixon provided the history for the creation of the managed retreat, which had come about following a further expansion of the dock, where, due to the dredging requirements, a compensatory provision had been made for the mudflats lost. The retreat had quickly become a rich environment. Councillors were, nevertheless, astounded by the phenomenal costs to the Port and the fact that the land, being low-grade agricultural land, was by no means of this value. The astronomical costs also jeopardised schemes like this happening elsewhere.

3. Items From The 'Think Tank' Meetings:

3.1. Whilst there were no items from the 'Think Tank' meeting, the Clerk requested that consideration be given at the next meeting on Monday, August 15th 2005 at 7.00p.m. for all minutes etc to be sent out via e-mail to those on the loop. All members agreed to this practice being adopted.

26. FINANCE

1. The monthly financial statement was presented and agreed. Proposed, B Frost, seconded, D Southgate.

2. Receipts:

Nat West	Refund Bank Charges	21.10
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3. Paid Since Last Meeting:

Bus Shelters	To 02/07/2005 (4 weeks)	60.00
G Gibbs	Cleaning the sign at Reeve Lodge	5.00
D B Barton	Grass Cutting	65.00

4. For Approval:

Bus Shelters	To 30/07/05 (4 weeks)	60.00
D B Barton	Grass Cutting	100.00

Clerk	Imprest Top Up	17.80
SALC	Clerk's Course	6.06
Nat West	Charges 30/04 – 03/06 2005	11.11

5. The Clerk was unable to confirm the deduction of the last item, not having received the relevant statement at the time. Mrs B Shout advised the Council that she had been approached by the Clerk, on account of her knowledge of banking procedures, to attend an appointment at the bank on Wednesday, 27th July 2005 to discuss the problems incurred with regard to interest and bank charges. Cllr. Shout was adamant that the bank was duty bound to pay the interest requested, although, since interest is accrued on a daily basis, the amount owing would be difficult to calculate. She advised the Council that she would be looking at the figures and suggested that the Council might accept a 'one-off' payment, in accordance with her calculations. Councillors agreed to this and various suggestions about the sum to be requested were made.

6. The Chairman read out a letter from J Goodwin, Suffolk County Councillor, regarding the new procedures for Locality Budgets. In previous years, this had been calculated according to the population. The Chairman reminded the members that last year's grant had been used towards additional street lighting in Station Road, something which, Mrs M J Dixon added, was for the benefit of all users of the station, not just the residents of this road. Councillors agreed that this Council had always used the funding fully, wisely and for the benefit of all. Nothing further having been heard about the installation of the lights in Station Road, despite the Clerk's pursuance of this matter, the Vice-Chairman stated that another reminder would not be amiss. The Clerk agreed to contact Suffolk County Council again. Members understood that grants had possibly been reduced to 75% of the sum received previously and the new procedures required the production of schemes and then enquiries into the availability of funding. It was agreed that possible schemes for funding would be discussed at the 'Think Tank' meeting on Monday, 15th August 2005 at 7.00p.m.

27. PLANNING

1. Applications:

C05/1297/FUL Erection of terrace of 3 two and a half storey three-bedroom dwellings with construction of vehicular access and parking area (revised scheme), Land adjoining 132, High Road – supported with recommendations.

C/05/1307 Retention of container and alterations in connection with use as garden implement store within grounds, Seven Oaks, 2, Church Lane – supported with recommendations.

C/05/1351 Erection of a first-floor rear extension, 6, Second Avenue – supported. (The Chairman and D Tyler left the room during the discussion of this item).

C/05/1392 Erection of extension to form granny annexe and 1.8m boundary wall, 27, Dains Place – site visit to take place and Clerk advised of Council's findings.

C/05/1403 Two-storey side extension with integral garage and single-storey rear extension, 3, Carriage Close – supported with recommendation.

2. C05/1014 Erection of one two-storey dwelling, Part side garden 55, Cordy's Lane – application reviewed by Suffolk Coastal District Council's South Team Development Control Sub-Committee on 21st July 2005 – Mrs M J Dixon in attendance. Cllr. Dixon stated that the Sub-Committee agreed with the Parish Council's statement that there was space for the proposed application. The meeting, however, was not satisfied with the design, feeling that the building was taller than necessary. Negotiations were taking place.

3. The Vice-Chairman enquired whether the Clerk had received any notification of the appeal for Station Nurseries. The Clerk confirmed that there had been no further news since her last report, namely that this might not take place until the end of the year. Mrs M J Dixon added that this was because of the number of appeals being submitted.

4. Tree Preservation Order No. 183 – 2005, 12, The Avenue – confirmed.

Work to protected trees at 12, The Avenue – refused.

5. Members were advised that the Suffolk Preservation Society was appearing at the East of England Plan Draft Regional Spatial Strategy for the East of England Examination in Public. A request had been made for comments by the end of July. Since the society was addressing 'the district level apportionment of regional growth, particularly in regard to Mid Suffolk, Forest Heath and St. Edmundsbury', the Chairman stated that he did not feel that it was necessary to respond, this not being in the Parish's area.

28. HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATHS

1. Reports from the footpath walks. Members provided details of the footpath walks, indicating to the Clerk areas which had become overgrown and where signs were missing, in order that she might report them to the relevant authority.

2. Resident's concerns via Cllr. J Goodwin. A report had been received from a resident, via Cllr. Goodwin, about the length of the growth on Footpath 11 outside the resident's property and a request for the street light outside the bedroom of that property to be switched off from midnight or 1a.m. onwards. The Clerk agreed to approach D B Barton with regard to the former. Councillors agreed that the switching on and off of streetlights was not within the Parish Council's domain.

3. Bus Stop Flag. The Vice-Chairman advised the members that, under new Health and Safety Regulations, British Telecom were removing all bus stop flags and other road safety signs from the telegraph poles, without waiting until new signage had been put up. This was already the case with the bus stop flag in front of 430, High Street. Cllr Frost had reported the matter to Gary Trotter of Suffolk County Council, requesting a replacement sign as soon as possible, otherwise buses would be stopping everywhere. He had also written to the Manager of the BT Head Office in London, stressing that the removal of the sign caused safety issues and requesting that relevant Authorities be allowed to replace signs, which were to be removed, before removal.

4. Standing trains at Blofield crossing. The Vice-Chairman reported problems crossing the railway line to the North Terminal, during the footpath diversion, due to standing trains on the track. Those wishing to cross either had to wait up to 25 minutes, until the train cleared the crossing, or cross the line in front of the engine with the driver's permission, using a rather hazardous route. Cllr. Frost had passed on these concerns to the Port of Felixstowe and one particular train, identified as a potential problem, had been diverted. The Safety Manager from the Port had carried out a site inspection and had also made suggestions to the site manager for the improvement of security and to prevent the public accessing Bridleway 14 through the construction site (some fencing erected to prevent pedestrian access to the site having been taken down with a sledge hammer). The Port had spoken to FDRC and Freightliner, ensuring that they were aware of the issue and were considering other measures to improve the situation, if at all possible. Councillors expressed a wish to know how long the diversion would be in place.

5. SCC & Residents – Proposed Traffic Island, High Road. The history of the application for a pedestrian refuge on High Road and the various proposals and reasons for them, dating back to January 2003, were explained at some length. Although the initial request had come from elderly parishioners, wishing to cross the road at the mini-roundabout nearest to Felixstowe to gain access to the bus stop in the Ipswich direction, it had not been possible to place the refuge at this location and a suggested site further up the road towards Felixstowe had been suggested instead. This would also benefit those wishing to cross the road from the McManus estate to catch the bus in the Felixstowe direction. Recent communications with Suffolk County Council had indicated that the revised position was not suitable and a third location had been proposed. This had caused considerable concern among the residents, who had met with Angela Rapley of Suffolk County Council and Cllr. J Goodwin to put forward their objections. As a result, the Clerk had received a letter from Angela Rapley, listing the parishioners' concerns and her responses to them. The Parish Council had been asked to make a decision on this matter, since the resurfacing of the road would not take place, until an agreement, one way or the other, had been reached. Councillors agreed that there was a value in providing some safety stop for the slow, the elderly and school children crossing the road, particularly since High Road was becoming busier and busier all the time, but recognised that most of those who had initially requested this refuge had moved or passed away. Whilst safety was a priority, the representations from numerous concerned parishioners at the meeting, who envisaged problems getting out of their driveways and felt that this would be a hazard, had to be taken into consideration. It was appreciated that a zebra or pelican crossing was not an alternative, these being provided according to population. Possible suggestions of looking at another location or some form of temporary indication of where the refuge would be were made. The Council, therefore, agreed to a site visit on the next evening at 19.30, following which the Clerk would be advised on the course of action to be taken.

6. SCC -Forthcoming Bus Service Changes. The Clerk provided details of the forthcoming changes to the bus service and invited the Vice-Chairman to expand on the information received. Cllr. Frost advised the members of the imminent closure of the Felixstowe bus garage and the cancellation of two morning bus

