

## Tuddenham St Martin's Parish Council

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2016 commencing at 7pm at the Village Hall.

Present: Mr W Pipe, Mrs J Kelm, Mr H Brightwell, Ms P Procter, Mr D Lugo, Mr P Hodge, Mrs J Ellinor, Mr R Whiting (District Councillor), Mrs G Cruikshank (Village Hall Chairperson), Mrs B Powell (Corner Club Representative), Mrs C Frost (Clerk).

- 1. Chairman's Welcome and Apologies.** Apologies were received Mr C Denny, Mr R Soames (Carpet Bowls Representative, Mr J Punton & Mrs M Pipe (both of the Parochial Church Council). The Chairman welcomed every one present to the meeting.
- 2. Minutes of Meeting held on 19th May 2015.** The minutes for the meeting were approved.
- 3. Matters arising.** There were none.
- 4. Chairman's Report.** The Chairman presented his report, which was as follows:

Following the Council elections last May we welcomed back David Lugo as a replacement for Mike Trotman, and as a replacement for Erica Lopez we have co-opted on to the Council Jean Ellinor.

One of our duties is to consider and comment on planning applications within the parish, and this year we were consulted by Suffolk Coastal District Council who were carrying out an update of the village Conservation Area Appraisal. This involved an extra meeting with residents invited to contribute, and lead by Peter Scrimgeour Senior Design and Conservation Officer from Suffolk Coastal District Council.

A joint meeting with Great and Little Bealings, and Westerfield Parish Councillors was held last year to consider a joint approach to Suffolk County Council Highways, with a view to ensuring that adequate infrastructure is planned for the existing villages in the light of the Ipswich Northern Fringe proposed development. Peter Hodge drafted a letter on behalf of the villages, which has resulted in a response from Councillor Finch detailing some of the current assessment being undertaken.

With the assistance of Community Action Suffolk we have taken the first step in assessing the possibility of producing a Neighbourhood Plan. The public meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> April as the initial review was attended by over 40 residents, and the feedback is now with us to consider how we may take it forward. This will require a considerable amount of work and needs involvement of people outside the Parish Council.

Traffic and highways seem to take up an inordinate amount of our time at meetings. However on a positive note I can report that Speed Watch is active and thanks to Tony Alcock a speed monitoring device is regularly deployed in various locations within the village. Thanks to the intervention of our District Councillor Robert Whiting, we have recently had a meeting with David Chenery Assistant East Area Manager from the highways department Suffolk County Council. This has proved helpful in identifying possible improvements within the village and we will be discussing these later.

The playground now fully our responsibility, is maintained thanks to Clive Denny and David Lugo. The grass cutting, partially funded up to this last year, was not totally satisfactory and becoming increasingly expensive. As a result Clive and David have volunteered to carry out this work for which we are very grateful. Regrettably this facility is currently under-utilised and some items of equipment are reaching the point where they need to be removed for safety reasons.

As in previous years, the Parish church receives a grant from our funds to help pay for the upkeep of the churchyard, and we also pay Suffolk Coastal contracts to maintain various small areas of grass within the village. The street lights are also our responsibility. The village hall refurbished the kitchen during the year and the Parish Council contributed the cost of a hot cabinet.

With the demise of the Tuddenham Tattler, communication within the village has become a bit of an issue. As an interim measure and thanks to Jean Ellinor and helpers, an occasional In Touch leaflet has been distributed around the village, and Jean is investigating the inclusion of more information on the village web site.

With continuing pressure on our expenditure, we have had to increase our precept from £5,350 to £5,650 with any shortfall funded from reserves.

I regret to report the recent death of our County Councillor Peter Belfield who has regularly provided support to us over the years since his appointment. Our new District Councillor Robert Whiting has supported us well over the year and with Peter's ill health, provided cover for County matters. Thank you Robert. Thank you also to Ian Watson for carrying out our internal audit of accounts as required under the regulations.

Finally, as you may appreciate, the work of our Parish Clerk becomes ever more onerous. However we have a very efficient and enthusiastic Carol Frost serving us as Parish Clerk and handling the ever increasing workload thrust upon her. A very big thank you from us all Carol. And finally of course thank you to my fellow Councillors for their continuing support and contribution to the wellbeing of the village community.

- 5. Report of County Council and District Council Representatives** Mr Whiting's annual report had been written on behalf of the County and District Councils when Peter Belfield was ill and a copy of the report, which is as follows, had already been emailed to the Parish Councillors:

Many of you will be aware that because of personal issues and major health problems Peter Belfield has been unable to attend and carry out his duties this year. I am sure he would want me to begin by expressing his apologies for his absence.

I have endeavoured to provide support to you as one of the parishes that I have been covering on his behalf in addition to my own County Council Division of Kesgrave and Rushmere St Andrew. During the year I was very pleased to be able to help various people and organisations with financial assistance. I have been pleased to provide the following grants from the Locality Budget for the Carlford Division

Westerfield Parish Council	Speedwatch Camera	£1,014.00
Playford Parish Council	Speedwatch Camera	£700.00
Swilland & Witesham Parish Council	Improvements to Witesham Play Area	£3,000.00

### **Council Tax**

Suffolk County Council's share of council tax is to be frozen for a sixth year in a row. This means that Suffolk residents will not pay any more than they did in 2010/11.

The council has made savings in excess of £170 million since the Government's deficit reduction programme began in 2011/2012 and faces the need to make further savings of over £80 million during the next two years. The budget passed for 2016/17 saw a 0% increase in base Council Tax. The Administration decided to implement the 2% National Adult Social Care Levy to support the implementation of the National Living Wage.

### **Children's Services rated 'Good' by Ofsted**

Suffolk County Council's Children's Services has been rated Good by Ofsted following the publication of its inspection report on 15 February 2016. The report praises the work of the council in protecting and looking after children and young people, with some areas of outstanding practice highlighted in the report. The inspection was carried out between 23 November and 17 December 2015.

Suffolk now sits in the top 22% of local authorities in the country. 78 councils have been inspected so far under Ofsted's new framework.

### **Education attainment in Suffolk**

There has been a 4% rise in the number of students getting five or more A\*- C grades, including English and Maths. It means that 56% of Suffolk's year 11s got the expected level of attainment. The validated figure for 2014 was 52%. Suffolk's results have increased by 2.6% from last year's provisional results and see Suffolk rise 17 places in the overall league table, going from 124<sup>th</sup> to 107<sup>th</sup>

77% of 11-year-olds achieved level 4 or higher in their SAT tests in the three subjects in 2015 – up from 73% in 2014.

This is the third consecutive year the gap between Suffolk and the national figure has closed. Suffolk was 7% points behind the national average in 2012 - the results show Suffolk as the most improved local authority in the entire Eastern region, with a higher percentage rise than the other 10 local authorities in the area.

### **Third crossing at Lake Lothing in Lowestoft and the Wet Dock crossing in Ipswich**

As part of the Chancellor's budget announcements, Suffolk featured strongly with the green light being given for both Lowestoft's third crossing over Lake Lothing and the new Wet Dock crossing in Ipswich.

With this pledge of £70 million the County Council finally has the funding firmly in place to press ahead with the detailed planning required in order to bring about a third crossing over Lake Lothing. This is a massive piece of work and is estimated to cost in the region of £80-100 million, but in addition to the £70 million pledged by central Government, SCC will work to source the remaining money from local funding sources.

In addition to the third crossing in Lowestoft, the go-ahead has also been given for a new wet dock crossing in Ipswich, which will span the waterfront area of the town to connect communities with a new road infrastructure that will also serve a business and innovation centre based on an island in the dock.

### **Broadband rollout on target**

Work on the Broadband rollout continues and the first phase of rollout will be shared onto a map on the SCC website, and the second phase will be added within the next couple of months. To date, 35 cabinets have been enabled and reached over 3,000 premises under the Superfast Extension Programme, towards a target of over 1,000 cabinets, and over 50,000 premises by the end of 2019.

For more information and updates please visit [www.betterbroadbandsuffolk.com](http://www.betterbroadbandsuffolk.com)

Please feel free to telephone me on 07714 598155 or e-mail on [robert.whiting@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:robert.whiting@suffolk.gov.uk) for any assistance you may require with the County Council.

### **District Councillor's Report for 2015/16**

#### **Introduction**

I was delighted to be elected in May 2015 to the newly created Fynn Valley seat, having been a District Councillor for Rushmere St Andrew since May 1999. Many of you will be familiar with how I rejoice in the fact that this is such a lovely Ward taking in Playford, Westerfield, Tuddenham St Martin, Swilland, Winesham and the village part of Rushmere St Andrew.

In unexpectedly having to cover the County Council responsibilities for these parishes, I have out of necessity spread myself more thinly than I would have liked with regard to District Council matters. However, during the year I was very pleased to be able to help various people and organisations with financial assistance. I have been pleased to provide the following grants from the Locality Budget for the Fynn Valley Ward.

Westerfield Village Hall Trust	Replacement of side cheeks to Dormer windows at the hall	£1500.00
Tuddenham St Martin Village Hall Committee	Replacement noticeboard and improved signage for the village hall	£1200.00
Winesham Village Hall	Replacement of the electric heating system at the hall	£1000.00
Playford Parish Council	Installation of a remotely controllable system for the heating	£1000.00
Swilland and Winesham grouped Parish Council	Replacement ropes, scramble net and climbing panel	£800.00

### **Council Tax**

The SCDC Council Tax bill has been increased by 1.99%. This increase will be less the £3 (or about 25p a month) for a Band D property.

### **East Suffolk**

Suffolk Coastal and Waveney Cabinets have agreed that officers should develop a business case to explore the benefits of Suffolk Coastal and Waveney formally merging. However, before any merger takes place it would have to be agreed by both Full Councils, as well as there being public consultation and the Boundary Commission being involved. This would not be implemented before the 2019 elections.

### **East Suffolk House**

The work to build Suffolk Coastal's new headquarters, opposite Melton Railway Station, is progressing well, with the intention of moving into it during the autumn. The move will reduce running costs, saving £8million of tax payers' money over 20 years.

### **Brown bins**

Brown bins will continue to be collected for free in Suffolk Coastal. In 2013/14 Suffolk Coastal were in the top 10% of local authorities in the country (coming 19<sup>th</sup> out of 352 authorities) with a recycling rate of 57.44%.

### **Felixstowe**

The Seafront Gardens were officially completed in December last year. Work to Martello Tower P has also been finished at Martello Park. Work to create an outdoor events area at the boating lake has now started and is due to be completed during the summer.

## **New website**

The website is currently being updated. The [www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk](http://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk) website will incorporate both Suffolk Coastal and Waveney websites onto one platform and aims to be clearer and more accessible through smartphone devices and tablets.

## **Part Night Street and Footway Lighting**

Work to install an 'intelligent lighting system' to all Suffolk Coastal street and footpath lights has now been completed. This will enable part night lighting (switching off the majority of lighting between midnight and 5.30 am), in line with Suffolk County Council and other District and Boroughs in the county.

Further detailed information will be available ahead of implementation during the summer months, as well as a press release and information on the website.

Please feel free to telephone me on 07714 598155 or e-mail at [robert.whiting@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk](mailto:robert.whiting@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk) for any assistance you may require with the District Council.

Mr Whiting added that Peter Bellfield, who had recently died, had been a Councillor since 2003 and had been a perfect gentleman, always caring and polite.

In addition to the report Mr Whiting stated that there were still opportunities for improvements in the Broadband rollout and reminded the Parish Council to consider use of funding from the District Council Community Enabling Budget for improvements such as those possibly needed at the playground.

Mr Whiting was asked if the District Council benefited from income on brown bins. Mr Whiting reported that there was no income benefit and that this remained a subsidised service. Mr Whiting was thanked by Mr Brightwell for his continued help in the follow up of the still incomplete improved broadband service to the whole village. The majority of homes in the village have telephone numbers beginning 785 and these had benefited from the improved broadband service. Other homes in the village, which were serviced by a different exchange, had not so far benefited from these improvements in spite of some of them being located very close to the new satellite radio transmitter. Mr Whiting was asked if the idea of merging the two District Councils was being well received, as well as being asked about reports of the County Council purchasing land for building new homes. Mr Whiting replied that the merger was being well received in some quarters but perhaps a referendum would be needed if the merger continued. He also reported that Barley Homes Group Ltd is a joint venture between Forest Heath District Council (25% of shares), St Edmundsbury Borough Council (25% of shares) and Suffolk County Council (50% of shares) to develop affordable housing.

**6. Presentation of Accounts to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016.** The Clerk presented the Accounts for the year ending March 2016. These would go forward to the meeting of the Parish Council.

**7(a) Report from the Parochial Church Council** Mr Pipe read the report on behalf of the Parochial Church Council as follows:

The Church of England continues to flourish in the village. Attendances at the regular 0930 services remain steady at 15-20, with around 7 at the once a month Holy Communion service at 0800. In keeping with recent years the Christmas services were well attended. Our Electoral Roll currently stands at twenty nine members. The fabric and churchyard are in generally good order. Andrew Offord continues to tend the grass and hedges in the Churchyard, and David Lugo has undertaken various additional tasks which have much improved the appearance of the churchyard. Thanks also to the Parish Council for their continued financial support for the maintenance work which is much appreciated. During the last set of works on the outside of the church it was discovered that the roof on the south face of the Chancel will need further repairs in the next few years. The newly sculpted lion on the south side of the west door has been much admired. Fundraising - This is a continuing and essential process. This year the Fete will be held on 11th June at Poplar Farm – for which we thank Monica and Bill Pipe – followed by a Gift Day in late October. It is always gratifying to those organising these functions, and to the Church Officers, how well the village supports them.

**7(b) Report from Village Hall Committee.** Mrs Cruikshank presented her report, which was as follows:

Since my AGM report in October the village hall has run well and without major or significant events. The kitchen continues to be much appreciated by the users and they particularly welcome the hot water heater and the dishwasher. The hall is well used and we now have Pilates classes every Tuesday morning, and some more use at the weekends. As a result our finances are at present stable, with an operating surplus of £516 so far this year, and a capital reserve of £8,700. We were very grateful to Suffolk coastal District Council for a Community Enabling grant of £1200. The plan is to upgrade our notice board. The plan for a new village hall sign appears to be the responsibility of Suffolk County Council. We also need to replace the stage doors, which are in poor repair and not fit for purpose. Future plans include putting double glazed windows in the kitchen to reduce the problems of condensation. The floors are also due for resanding and polishing. The next area to be improved will be the toilets if we can fund it. We had a successful Burns Night supper in January, raising £500. This is our regular biennial fund raiser. The committee continue to give generously of their time, in order to keep our costs down. David Lugo has done a wonderful job improving the outside area of the hall and gives his time freely and generously. We hope the Parish Council will continue to support the village hall.

Mrs Cruikshank was then asked a few questions about the village hall bookings. Mrs Cruickshank reported that regular weekly users included the Corner Club, Bowls Club, the Art Class, Simply Paws (dog training class) and the Pilates class. The hall was also being used by the WI for meetings, the pantomime group and was the venue for an annual village quiz. Weekends continued to be a popular time for birthday and anniversary parties, but these were vetted by Mrs Jackson for suitability beforehand and Tuesday evenings at the village hall were usually kept clear of bookings for use by the Parish Council or WI. Mrs Cruickshank also reported the Community Action Suffolk had provided advice to the committee on village hall management and she would be attending one of their training sessions to see if the committee could benefit further from their information.

**8. Date of Next Annual Parish Meeting.** 2nd May 2017.

The meeting closed at 7.35pm.

Mrs C Frost  
Parish Clerk. Tuddenham St Martin