

Tuddenham St Martin's Parish Council

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 2nd May 2017 commencing at 7pm at the Village Hall.

Present: Mr W Pipe, Mrs J Kelm, Mr H Brightwell, Ms P Procter, Mr D Lugo, Mr T Beckett, Mrs J Ellinor, Mr R Vickery (County Councillor) and Mrs C Frost (Clerk).

- 1. Chairman's Welcome and Apologies.** Apologies were received Mr P Hodge, Mr J Punton & Mrs M Pipe (both of the Parochial Church Council) and Mrs J Bloomfield (Chair of Village Hall Committee). The Chairman welcomed every one present to the meeting.
- 2. Minutes of Meeting held on 3rd May 2016.** 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:

Over the year our activities tend to revolve around highway and traffic issues, planning, and the ongoing upkeep of the playground, together with support for the village hall, church and community at large.

Highways matters as always takes up a considerable amount of time at our meetings, and this year we have been able to have a site meeting with the Highways department and police to pursue the areas of concern we have identified. Progress has been disappointingly slow, however we have been advised that an advisory 20 mph speed limit sign is to be erected on the main road into Tuddenham from Ipswich, on the approach to the bend at the top of the hill. Other possibilities under investigation are, a SLOW marking on the hill coming in from Grundisburgh near the Clopton Road junction, renewing the faded white lines through the village, and possible 'gates' at the 30 mph signs coming in from Ipswich and on Westerfield Lane.

Speed monitoring in conjunction with SAVID continues thanks to Pauline Procter and her volunteers, when the equipment and volunteers are available. Volunteers are still needed, and we are fortunate in having Tony Alcock willing to deploy the VAS device when available. It is anticipated that an alternative more permanent device will become available in the near future with three deployment positions in the village.

We continue to receive and comment on planning applications within the village. This year has seen the publication of the updated village Conservation Area Appraisal, and also the revised Village Review, carried out by Suffolk Coastal District Council in consultation with us and the village as a whole. It has been proposed that we carry out a housing survey, to assess future housing needs within the village, and to this end Jean Elinor is preparing a suitable survey for distribution in the village. We continue to maintain a watching brief on the Ipswich Northern Fringe development. It is hoped that the work over the next two years on the East Anglia Offshore Wind Farm cable route will not have any significant adverse impact on the village.

During the year we have welcomed on to the Parish Council Trevor Beckett to replace Clive Denny who sadly is leaving the village. A particular thank you to Clive, who along with David Lugo, has been looking after the maintenance of the playground over the past year. I am pleased to report that Trevor is now involved with the Playground maintenance with David and work is in hand to replace the football goal nets. Thanks to a competitive quote from Suffolk Coastal Norse Ltd., the grass cutting will be carried out by them, with David monitoring the situation and if required he will carry out any additional cuts.

We continue to support the village hall committee, who have been working on tidying up the front of the village hall site. The other regular contributions are towards the upkeep of the churchyard, and Suffolk Coastal Norse Ltd for the maintenance of various small areas of grass within the village.

We endeavour to maintain some form of contact with the local police, however we are informed that we no longer have a dedicated PCSO for Tuddenham. Sadly there are incidents of one sort or another over the course of the year, some of which are never reported. It is important that incidents are reported, to ensure that the Police have a true picture of the situation.

With no replacement for the Tuddenham Tattler, we have relied heavily on Jean Elinor and helpers to produce an occasional In Touch leaflet for circulation in the village in an effort to keep residents aware of what is going on in the village.

In reviewing the precept for the coming year we have carefully considered our likely expenditure, and reluctantly agreed an increase to £5820, which is equivalent to a 2% rise on a band D property.

Following the death of Peter Bellfield, we now have Robin Vickery as our County Council representative. Prior to Robin's election we have relied on our District Councillor Robert Whiting to keep us apprised of County Council matters, which has been much appreciated, along with supporting us as our District Council representative.

As with everything else these days, the amount of administration involved in running the Parish Council seems to increase every year, and we are very fortunate in having Carol Frost as our Clerk, who in her enthusiastic and efficient way just gets on with it regardless. A big thank you to you Carol from us all. And finally to my fellow Councillors, thank you for your continuing support and contribution to the village community.

.5. Report of County Council Representative Mr Vickery reported that his time since being elected had been mainly spent dealing with highway issues. The Locality and Highways Budgets had both been used to help alleviate highway problems in the Carlford area, this included tackling speeding issues and helping purchase SID devices, including the one currently being considered by the SAVID group. Other schemes benefiting from these budgets have been the repair of the bridges at Bealings and Grundisburgh, the purchase of defibrillators around the Carlford area and the Bredfield Millennium Garden. The work connected with the East Anglian windfarm was progressing. Trenches for Archaeological digs were being carried out before the cabling trenches begin. Work was also being carried out to set up the working compounds needed for the cabling work and improvements being made to the road network to prepare for windfarm cabling connected traffic. This work will include establishing additional passing places, but it is understood that there is the possibility of these passing places remaining in situ after the work has completed if it meets with village requirements and in such cases Parish Councils should contact East Anglia Offshore Windfarm. Mr Vickery also reported that he was now the Suffolk County Council Armed Forces covenant champion. Mr Vickery was asked about the agreed decision taken about the removal of large mature trees in connection with the cabling trenches as there was anecdotal evidence of some mature trees having been bulldozed. Mr Vickery reported he understood that any trees removed would be replaced on a 2 for 1 basis and that the East Anglia Offshore Windfarm representative should be contacted about any issues of concern. Mr Vickery was also asked about the likelihood of the central white line being repainted on roads in the village as this was one of the highway issues being pursued by the Parish Council with the Highways Dept. Mr Vickery informed the Parish Council that he understood that the decision by the Highways Dept. was now to only repaint central white lines where resurfacing work had been carried out.

Mr Vickery gave his apologies and left the meeting due to other commitments.

6. Presentation of Accounts to 31st March 2017. The Clerk presented the Accounts for the year ending March 2017. These would go forward to the meeting of the Parish Council.

7 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. Although general attendances are slightly down, Festival services are very well supported. All the Christmas services were well attended, with the church particularly full for the Carol Service and the Childrens' Service on Christmas Eve. The Harvest Lunch in the Village Hall following the Harvest festival in church was much enjoyed by the wider community. Our Electoral Roll currently stands at 31 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. The financial support given by the Parish Council for the maintenance work is much appreciated. We have just had our Quinquennial inspection, which has highlighted various issues which need attention. The south side of the Chancel roof needs repair and this will need doing in the near future.

Fundraising - this is a continuing and essential process if we are to maintain our lovely old building and continue to worship there. The annual Fete will be held on 10th June at Poplar Farm, and we are hoping for better weather than last year! There is also a Quiz in May, and Gift Day will be later in the autumn. We are very grateful for the support given by the village for all these events, which also give us the opportunity for genuine fellowship and the fostering of community spirit.

8. Report from Village Hall Committee. Mrs Frost read the report on behalf of the Village Hall Committee as follows:

Since the report in December the ground around the village hall has been cleared by Mr Lugo, quotes are being obtained for the toilet refurbishment, the noticeboard has been repaired by Mr Williamson and applications to the Community Enabling and Locality Budgets are being considered to help with funding to the necessary refurbishments.

Mrs Frost passed on thanks to the Parish Council for the donation made to help with the work carried out last year.

9. Date of Next Annual Parish Meeting. 1st May 2018.

The meeting closed at 7.55pm.

Mrs C Frost
Parish Clerk. Tuddenham St Martin