

Tuddenham St Martin's Parish Council

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 1st May 2018 commencing at 7pm at the Village Hall.

Present: Mr W Pipe, Mr H Brightwell, Ms P Procter, Mr D Lugo, Mr T Beckett, Mrs J Ellinor, Mr P Hodge, Mr R Vickery (County Councillor), Mr R Whiting (District Councillor) and Mrs C Frost (Clerk). A maximum of 10 members of public were present over the duration of the meeting.

- 1. Chairman's Welcome and Apologies.** Apologies were received from, 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 2nd May 2017.** The minutes for the meeting were approved.
- 3. Matters arising.** Mrs Ellinor reported that the email distribution list, which was independent of the Parish Council, to inform residents of local events had expanded and that a Tuddenham St Martin community Facebook page, also independent of the Parish Council, was now also available for villagers to join.
- 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. This year we have discussed at great length the problem we have in the village with on street parking, but without any satisfactory resolution. Unfortunately in this respect, the highways department have not seen fit to assist us with the repainting of the white line outside Brickfield House.

SAVID and Speedwatch are ongoing thanks to Pauline Procter, although Speedwatch activities have been limited by the availability of volunteers. We do however have SID, currently installed on the main road to Ipswich and we are very grateful to Tony Alcock for managing this for us. The data collected will hopefully be useful in the future, when we are pressing for road improvements. Interestingly, the highest speed recorded is over 70 miles per hour!

We continue to receive and comment on planning applications within the village. This year we have been involved in discussions with Suffolk Coastal Planning department regarding the current planning review. It has been proposed that we carry out a housing survey, to assess future housing needs within the village, and to this end Jean Ellinor 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.

We are very grateful for the continuing supervision and maintenance of the playing field and playground undertaken by David Lugo and Trevor Beckett. Suffolk Norse Ltd. Continue to cut the grass, both for these areas and the various small areas within the village.

We continue to support the village hall committee, and are registering the village hall site with the Land Registry. We have also registered the piece of land behind the Old Stores, which was leased to the chapel prior to its closure, and subsequently was leased to the Old Stores to provide additional parking for what has turned out to be a well used facility.

We provide funding to the church as a contribution to the maintenance of the churchyard. We also make small donations to, the air ambulance, Suffolk Accident Rescue Service and Grundisburgh News.

Contact with the local police is somewhat limited these days and sadly there continue to be incidents from time to time. It is important that all incidents are reported to the police, even if it is unlikely that they can be followed up, as this does help to show the overall picture.

With no replacement for the Tuddenham Tattler, we continue to rely heavily on Jean Ellinor 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. At our September meeting our tree warden, Trevor Wright, who lives in the village, and works for the Forestry Commission, talked about the trees in the village and in particular about the impact of ash dieback, stressing the importance of removing young diseased trees and any debris from them.

After careful consideration, we have agreed to set the precept at £6,000 for the 2018/19 year. This is set against a budget figure of £6,920, however this does include a significant contingency provision and our reserves are more than adequate currently.

Robin Vickery our County Council representative and our District Councillor Robert Whiting, keep us apprised of County Council and District Council matters, which has been much appreciated.

The administration involved in running the Parish Council continues to increase every year, and we are very fortunate in having Carol Frost as our Clerk, who in her quiet and efficient way just gets on with it regardless. I, and I am sure the rest of my fellow Councillors fully appreciate just how much time she devotes to the task. A very 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 and District Council Representatives

Mr Vickery presented his report which is as follows:

Since your last Annual Parish Meeting I have been re-elected as your County Councillor for Carlford Division, and my first task was to attend numerous mandatory training sessions, covering such things as Health and Safety, Corporate Parenting, IT, Emergency Planning, my role as your councillor and courses associated with committees I have been appointed to.

The councillor appointments I was given following the election in May were:-

Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service Pension Board

Suffolk Armed Forces Community Champion

East Anglian Army Reserve and Cadet Assn Representative

Cabinet Committee for Health and Wellbeing Issues

Joint Advisory Committee for Areas of Natural Beauty

Suffolk County Council Observer on the Boards of The New Wolsey Theatre and Eastern Angles Theatre Group

I have also been appointed to the Lord Lieutenant's 2018 Committee for Commemorating the Centenary of the Signing of the Armistice. We have been planning 5 major events across the County, as well as encouraging other events being organised by other organisations within the County. I am also encouraging the Planting of Oak Trees across the County as a living memorial to all those who paid the ultimate sacrifice, especially members of the Suffolk Regiment. Your Parish Council may like to participate.

I have also been on the interviewing Panel to find a replacement for our retiring Armed Forces Commissioner, and our choice has been ratified by the Suffolk Leaders Board, and Lt Col John Ogden Ret. has been appointed.

In addition to attending all the main Suffolk County Council meetings, I have also attended as many Parish Council meetings as possible, and numerous fetes, coffee mornings and social events throughout the Division, in order to meet as many Parishioners as possible.

Most of the concerns I have encountered at Parish Council meetings are issues relating to Highways, whether it be potholes, speeding through villages, speed restrictions, hedge cutting, footpaths or signage. I wasn't allocated a local highways budget this financial year, which has meant I haven't been able to achieve much due to lack of finance to resolve these issues. However, I have been able to finance various projects, such as defibrillators and improvements to village halls, and a bench in memory of Peter Bellfield from my Locality Budget.

Apart from the Education Budget, the two main areas of expense are Children and Young People and Adult Social Care. Both those budgets have overspent in the last year, and the shortfall has had to be made good from the Council's reserves. As a result, Suffolk County Council's basic council tax rate has been ring fenced for Adult Social Care.

Suffolk County Councillors have had some very difficult decisions to make, and as Councillors we are having to find different ways of providing services in a very difficult economic climate.

Mr Whiting reported that at a meeting on 30th April 2018 the East Suffolk merger was ratified and that District Councillors would reduce from the existing number of 90 to 55. Major Planning developments for the district included those at Melton Hill and Adastral Park. A big decision taken by the District Council in the last year had been to introduce a charge for the brown bin collection service, and Mr Whiting also reported that the refurbishment of the Woodbridge leisure centre was progressing and due to open September 2018. The refurbishment of Leiston leisure centre was to be started.

Mr Whiting reminded the Parish Council to consider worthwhile projects in the village that would benefit from a donation from his Community Enabling Budget (totalling £6,000 for the Fynn Valley Ward).

Mr Whiting was asked when there would be an outcome from the consultation of the Review of the District Council Local Plan. This was expected to be in the latter part of the year.

6. Presentation of Accounts to 31st March 2018. The Clerk presented the Accounts for the year ending March 2018. These would go forward to the meeting of the Parish Council.

7 Report from the Village Hall Committee. The Clerk read the report on behalf of the Village Hall Committee as follows:

- Mr Williamson has completed replacing the strip lights in the main hall.
- The toilet refurbishment was expected to be completed in the week after Easter. Unfortunately the kitchen/bathroom fitter was taken ill just before he was due to start and we have had to postpone the refurbishment.
- The windows in both toilets and in the store room have been replaced with double glazing units. The electric hand dryers and room heaters will be fitted soon. I am waiting to hear from the electrician.
- I should like to thank both the Parish Council for the donation of £500 and Robert Whiting for funding of £2300 from the Community Enabling Budget.
- The rot found in the window frame has been dealt with and the exterior rear wall of the hall has been repainted.
- We have asked for a quote to paint the interior of the hall. This will be done during the Christmas holidays all being well.
- The sealing and sanding of the hall floor will take place after the refurbishment. No quote has been sought yet.
- A successful Burns Night Supper raised £536. Thanks to Monica for all her hard work.

8. Report from Parochial Church Council. The Clerk 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 are hoping to get the repairs to the south side of the Chancel roof done this year

Fundraising - this is a continuing and essential process if we are to maintain our lovely old building and continue to worship there. We have already enjoyed a Soup 'n Sweet lunch, and are looking forward to a Quiz in the near future followed by the annual Fete which will be held on 9th June at Poplar Farm. In the autumn we will have a Harvest Festival followed by lunch in the village hall and also Gift Day with Jackie Lugo's ever popular Bring 'n Buy. 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 which we are so lucky to enjoy.

9. Date of Next Annual Parish Meeting. 7th May 2019.

The meeting closed at 7.29pm.

Mrs C Frost
Parish Clerk. Tuddenham St Martin