

Minutes of the Tuddenham St Martin Parish Council meeting held on 4th September 2018 commencing at 7.30pm at the Village Hall.

Present: Ms P Procter, Mr D Lugo, Mr T Beckett, Mrs J Ellinor, Mr R Whiting (District Councillor) and Mrs C Frost (Clerk).

1. Chairman's Welcome and Apologies. Apologies were received from Mr Pipe, Mr Brightwell, Mr Hodge and Mr Vickery. It was unanimously agreed that Mrs Ellinor would chair the meeting in absence of Mr Pipe and Mr Brightwell. Mrs Ellinor welcomed everyone present to the meeting.

2. Public Forum. There were no members of the public present.

3. To receive declarations of interest. There were none.

4. Minutes of Meetings held on 17th July 2018 and 21st August 2018. The Minutes for the meeting of 17th July 2018 were approved. It was unanimously agreed to amend the penultimate paragraph of the Minutes for the meeting of 21st August 2018 by removing the wording 'an alternative site, which had better access to the main road and for a smaller number of dwellings' and replace it with 'the proposed number of dwellings on the site was excessive and would alter the character of the village, and that additional or alternative sites, which had access to the main road and for a smaller number of dwellings'.

5. Matters arising. Mrs Procter reported that the concerns raised in the meeting of 17th July 2018 of a property in the Conservation Area had been reported to Planning Enforcement following advice from the Planning Dept. Mrs Procter would report the response of Planning Enforcement when received.

6. Report of District Council Representative. Mr Whiting had emailed his report prior to the meeting to the Parish Council and it was as follows:

Garden Waste Scheme Goes Hi Tech: Suffolk Coastal's successful Garden Waste Scheme will shortly go hi tech. Special ID tags - similar to the staff security badges some companies use to allow entry to buildings - will be embedded in the new, bigger green bins, before they are delivered to scheme members who have opted in for the upgrade. The hi-tech tags - radio-frequency identification (RFID) tags, to give them their official name, work in a similar way to barcodes and smart labels. A small amount of data (a unique identifier) is encoded in each tag which can be "read" by a special device that the bin lorry crews will have. We will record which bin has been delivered to which property using the unique identifier. Staff will also be going round to fit the ID tags to the smaller brown bins where people have not opted for the upgrade and want to stick with their existing bin.

The main delivery of the new larger green bins will start in October and will be carried out area by area, to households that have subscribed to the garden waste scheme and opted for the upgrade. These bins will already have had the tags fitted and an address/bar code sticker fixed to them. We will also be carrying out a phased 'retro-fit' of the tags to the brown bins, where people have joined the garden waste scheme but have not opted to have one of the new larger green bins.

Detailed rollout plans for the delivery of the new bins and retro-fitting of ID tags to brown bins will be publicised in September. So people do not have to do anything at this time We will publicise the plans on our website once they have been finalised.

Councils Call For Power Companies to Coordinate: Suffolk local authorities have used the response to Scottish Power Renewables current consultation to call for energy firms to co-ordinate their work plans better – to reduce the disruption of their project on local communities.

In a joint response, Suffolk County Council and Suffolk Coastal District Council have highlighted the power company's plan to site a substation in Friston, despite fierce local opposition, as an example of the piecemeal approach to the planning of these projects – and how local needs are being ignored.

To read the full joint response to the consultation, see: <https://tinyurl.com/y92r3llo>

Rat Issue in Felixstowe – Update: We have reviewed our plans for taking further action on the rat problem in the Sea Road area of Felixstowe. Having looked into the issue in more detail and taken expert advice, we have been informed that poisoning the rats, by inserting gas pellets into the nests, is not a practical or safe option. The proximity of the treatment to human activity would create a health risk to people and their pets in the area.

As such, our colleagues at Suffolk Coastal Norse are implementing a series of changes in the short-term. They will be carrying out a late night sweep of the area, emptying the bins and cleaning the Promenade, between 8pm and 10pm each day – to ensure there is no food waste left in the bins, or on the Promenade, overnight to attract rats and seagulls.

Twelve extra, large lidded wheeled bins have also been placed in the area, to try to reduce the ability for seagulls and rats to access food waste in the bins in the area.

We will also be running a poster campaign in the area to actively encourage people not to discard their food waste, and to make sure they treat food waste like other litter and put it in the bins provided. These posters will emphasise the need for people to ‘Respect our Resort’ by not dropping food waste that attracts vermin. This will be supported by a social media campaign.

These measures are in addition to those we had already carried out to address this issue, including carrying out extensive work to remove much of the low level vegetation along the Sea Road Gardens (near Manning’s fish and chip outlets) which provides cover for rats to nest in.

Norse has also placed 20 bait trap boxes along the Sea Road area, which are checked regularly by our pest control officer. These pest control efforts are being increased as a result of the recent rat sightings.

We have also bolstered our street cleaning efforts, in response to the thousands of visitors who have flocked to Felixstowe during the recent hot weather. Norse employs a team of street cleansing operatives in Felixstowe, which include both pedestrian sweepers and vehicle-based cleaners.

The cleansing services are provided seven days a week, with each team patrolling an area and litter picking around the Sea Road Garden, Felixstowe Seafront Gardens and Town centre. There are continuous litter picks carried out daily along the Felixstowe sea front, with staff starting from 6am onwards, with some litter bins being emptied 2-3 times per day (as required).

We continue to monitor the situation, while we look at longer-term solutions, and are also liaising with commercial pest control experts to see if a more resilient solution can be found.

We continue to work to be responsive to these issues. Anyone wanting to report an issue with rats or litter bin collections should contact, Suffolk Coastal Norse on 01394 444000 or email: scs@ncsgrp.co.uk

Felixstowe Seafront Gardens wins prestigious award: Felixstowe Seafront Gardens have been awarded a Green Flag Award for the third year running and is officially one of the best parks in the world.

A record number of parks and green spaces in the UK will be flying the Green Flag this year, and the gardens sit among 1,883 others who have received the award.

Helen Greengrass, Felixstowe Forward Change Director, said: “This is fantastic news for the North Seafront. There is a real buzz in Felixstowe at the moment, and the gardens are the jewel in the crown of our vibrant seafront.

“We have spent a lot of time and money restoring the gardens, so they can be enjoyed by locals and tourists alike, and it is great to see it being recognised for being of the very highest quality.

“Particular congratulations should go to the Friends of Felixstowe Seafront Gardens and Suffolk Coastal Norse, whose continued hard work ensures that the gardens are maintained and looking their very best.”

The international award, now into its third decade, is a sign to the public that the space boasts the highest possible environmental standards, is beautifully maintained and has excellent visitor facilities. The gardens have also received the much coveted additional Green Heritage Site Accreditation for the management of the historic features.

7. Report on Community Policing. Minutes from the July Woodbridge ASB meeting had been emailed to Parish Councillors prior to the Parish Council meeting. The next Woodbridge ASB would be 6th September 2018 but no-one from the Parish Council was able to attend.

8. Clerk's Report, Financial Report, Authorization of Payments and correspondence

(a) The Clerk reported that since the meeting of 17th July 2018 the time charged for work carried out was 21 hours to date.

(b) The Clerk requested approval, and it was agreed, for the following payment which was still to be made:
(1) Clerk's salary from 17th July 2018 to date £216.00

(c) The amounts held by the Parish Council accounts as at 4th September 2018 were £1195.35 (Current Account) and £17,142.31 (Savings Account). The Financial accounts for the period 1st April 2018 to date were submitted, accepted and approved by the Parish Council.

(d) Parish Councillors had been emailed prior to the meeting the request to add the SAVID website link on the Tuddenham St Martin Parish Council website. It was agreed.

(e) Parish Councillors had also been emailed prior to the meeting with details of the District Council consultation on the Gambling Act 2005 Revised Statement of Principles. No comments were put forward.

(f) The Parish Council had been contacted to raise concern at the state of the trees on the boundary of land at the village hall and a neighbouring property. Remedial action had been agreed and taken by landowners but further investigation was needed which the Clerk would follow up.

(g) The Clerk had received revised details from Suffolk County Council Highways on the new procedure for new grit bin applications and would put these into action for the grit bin requested at the village hall location.

9. Planning Matters including:

It was unanimously agreed to move the order of Planning Matters Items for ease of the meeting.

(a) Appeal APP/J3530/W/18/3202724 made against the decision of Suffolk Coastal District Council to refuse planning permission for Outline application DC/18/0013/OUT – Land adjacent Fynn View – Erection of two dwellings. Decision – No additional comments.

(b) Applications DC18/3410/FUL & DC18/3411/LBC – Church Farm House – Replacement of existing metal gate with Suffolk gate. Decision – These applications replace withdrawn application 18/2112/LBC and the comments from the Parish Council remained the same. The Clerk was instructed to send a copy of the Parish Council comments to the property owner and advise that although set back the property provides part of the lovely scenery in that part of the village and gates similar to the ones suggested by the Parish Council would still afford improved security.

(c) Parish Council comments to the Suffolk Coastal District Council Local Plan First Draft consultation. Comments received from the information meeting held 21st August 2018 were discussed and after much consideration it was agreed that the Parish Council response should include the following points:

- the additional housing allocation is out of proportion with the existing housing provision, would significantly impact the character of the small village with a large Conservation Area in a negative way and exacerbate the existing highway issues and problems for village children gaining access to local high schools.
- the consensus of opinion from villagers attending the recent information meeting was that additional or alternative sites which had access to the main road and for a smaller number of dwellings would be looked upon more favourably.

It was agreed the response should start with reference to the 2016 Village Review, followed by the Parish Council comments to the Issue and Options consultation being ignored. Details should then be included of the information meeting held 21st August 2018, and finally also include details of the allocation used for Brandeston as a comparison. It was agreed the Clerk would email a draft of the response to Parish Councillors for approval before being submitted to the District Council.

10.Highway Matters including an update on the SAVID scheme and the Speedwatch scheme Ms Procter reported that more Speedwatch volunteers were being sought, including someone to help position and maintain the village SID. Data from the SID was being shared with the Speedwatch coordinator and the Safer Neighbourhood Team. The SAVID scheme was now benefiting from the appointment of a new chairperson and a new body of people getting involved with the scheme. The AGM for SAVID would be in the autumn. Ms Procter also reported that funding was expected to be authorised soon by Robin Vickery for a SID to be shared by scheme participating villages. A question arose about the ownership of the overgrown hedging at Oak View and the Paddocks. The Clerk was instructed to contact Robin Vickery to ascertain ownership via Highway Officers and to use the Highway reporting tool to request the overgrown hedge be cut back from The Paddocks to Keightley Way and in front of Oak View.

11.Management of the playing field and playground Mr Lugo & Mr Beckett were continuing to carry out inspections and maintenance at the playing field and playground and the ROSPA inspection was due to be carried out later in the month. It was unanimously agreed the Clerk should purchase a litter stick on behalf of the Parish Council to aid maintenance of the area and Mr Beckett agreed to retain the litter stick when it had been acquired. It was also agreed the Clerk should check the cost for replacement swing seats in view of their damage from bird droppings and the cost for replacing the floor for the swing area. The Parish Council would seek possible funding for both projects from the Tesco Bags of Help scheme and the District Council Community Enabling Budget. Mr Whiting gave his apologies and left the meeting.

12.To consider co-option of a Parish Councillor It was agreed the Clerk would draft a flyer to advertise the vacancy.

13.Items for next Agenda.

- (a) Road and speed awareness strategy.
- (b) An update on enforcement issues in the Conservation Area.

14. Date of next meeting: 4th December 2018.

The meeting closed at 9.20pm.

Mrs C Frost
Parish Clerk. Tuddenham St Martin