

Minutes of the Tuddenham St Martin Parish Council meeting held on 24th September 2019 commencing at 6.30pm at the Village Hall.

Present: Mr W Pipe, Mr D Lugo, Mrs J Ellinor, Mr J Bird, Ms P Procter, Mr C Hedgley (District Councillor) and Mrs C Frost (Clerk).

1. Chairman's Welcome and Apologies The Chairman welcomed every one present to the meeting. Apologies were received from Mr Brightwell. They were also received from Mr Hedgley (District Councillor) as he would be arriving later in the meeting due to already attending another meeting.

2. The Co-option of 2 Parish Councillors to fill 2 vacancies The co-option of Mrs H Hollier and Mrs T Weller to fill the current vacancies was proposed by Mr Pipe, seconded by Mrs Ellinor and unanimously approved. Mrs Hollier and Mrs Weller then signed their Declaration of Acceptance of Office forms and joined the Council for the rest of the meeting.

3. Public Forum No additional issues were raised.

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

5. Planning Matters – including:

(a) Application DC/19/3502/FUL – The Street Tuddenham St Martin. A proposal for a partially submerged double garage in the curtilage of an existing dwelling. The application was considered and discussed at length and the applicant was asked questions about the proposal. The applicant confirmed that the apex of the garage would be no higher than the existing fence line, as set out in the plans. The applicant also confirmed that there would be no structure positioned on the roof of the garage and it was hoped that work to complete the project involved would be finished the following year if the application was permitted. The Parish Council considered the application further, including advice from Mr Hedgley. It was agreed there were no objections to the plans submitted.

(b) Mrs Ellinor gave a brief report following her attendance at sessions on the District Council Local Plan Hearings. The Parish Council had submitted written statements to the Local Plan Hearings and Mrs Ellinor had made an additional verbal statement on behalf of the Parish Council to support the written statements. The verbal statement was as follows 'Tuddenham is a small village of 176 houses and although close to Ipswich it has a rural character. It sits in the beautiful Fynn Valley and the village centre is a Conservation Area. It is accessed by C roads which are single track in places. Because of this the village has traffic and parking problems.

There has been development over the past 40 years, but on a small scale – 5 – 8 houses at each location.

We do not have a Neighbourhood Plan but held a Village Review Meeting in 2016 (facilitated by Community Action Suffolk) – a copy of which was sent to the Planning Dept. Residents made clear that, whilst in favour of future development; due to size of the village and the roads & parking issues, they wished to have only small developments with adequate parking.

The original Local Plan proposal, which put forward of 35 houses for the Keightley Way site (SCLP 12.67 - referred to as site 135 on SHEELA) , was totally unacceptable as it would change the character of the village (contrary to the strategy in the Local Plan for small villages) . 35 houses would be a huge development for the small village of Tuddenham and would severely impact on the roads & traffic issues in the village.

After holding public meetings the Parish Council proposed an alternative plan of adopting only part of the Keightley Way site (substantially reducing the number of houses proposed) and adding 2 smaller sites at different parts of the village - thus giving 3 small development sites rather than 1 large site, as history has shown that smaller developments are better absorbed into the village with less disruption in regard to traffic and parking issues.

Importantly, spreading development on three sites instead of one with less than 10 houses on each site, would lessen to impact on the road network. The additional sites proposed were SHEELA reference sites 216 and 1155.

The SHEELAs for these sites deemed them to be ok for potential development and the Parish Council felt that this was a very viable solution. We were therefore amazed that without any communication or discussion (contrary their obligation under the Statement of Community Involvement) East Suffolk District Council have ignored our proposal and merely reduced the number of dwellings on site SCLP12.67 from 35 to 25.

25 houses is still a very large development by Tuddenham standards – it would alter the character of the village and severely impact the traffic flow on Westerfield Lane (which is a C road and single track in places).’

6. Items for next Agenda

- Budget / Setting of precept for 2020 - 2021
- Highway Matters, including an update on the SAVID and Speedwatch schemes
- Management of the playing field and playground
- To consider the village environment, especially in relation to the Conservation Area

7. Date of next meeting 3rd December 2019

The Meeting closed at 7.15pm.

Mrs C Frost
Parish Clerk. Tuddenham St Martin