

Minutes of the Tuddenham St Martin Parish Council virtual meeting held on 22nd May 2020 commencing at 4.02pm on the Zoom platform.

Present: Mr W Pipe, Mrs J Ellinor, Mr J Bird, Mr D Lugo, Mrs T Weller, Ms P Procter, Mr H Brightwell, Mrs H Hollier, Mr T Fryatt (District Councillor), Mr C Hedgley (District Councillor) and Mrs C Frost (Clerk). Mr M Hicks (County Councillor) arrived later in the meeting. There was 1 member of the public present. The meeting was quorate but there was a slight delay for 2 Councillors arriving at the start, and a slight absence by 2 Councillors at different times of the meeting due to technical difficulties.

1. Chairman's Welcome and Apologies The Chairman welcomed every one present to the meeting and let them know that the meeting was being recorded. This was for Minute taking purposes and the recording would be deleted immediately after the Minutes were written. He thanked the District Councillors for their efforts and their reports. He also made a note of thanks to Mr Hicks for the County Councillor report. Apologies were received from Mr Hicks as he would be arriving later in the meeting, and would need to leave before the end due to him needing to be at other meetings at the same time.

2. Public Forum No additional Items were raised.

3. To receive declarations of interest There were none.

4. Authorisation of payments The details of payments made since the last meeting and payments still to be made on behalf of the Parish Council had been emailed to Parish Councillors prior to the meeting. These details had also been stated on the Agenda associated paper which had been put on the Parish Council website with the Agenda. The Chairman reiterated the Items as follows:

A. Approval was requested, and it was agreed, for the following payments which had been made:

1. Suffolk Association of Local Councils – 4 th module of new Councillor Training (Modules 1-3 authorised at March 2020 meeting. This module was taken and billed at later date)	£36.00
2. Mr Alcock – reimbursement for purchase of 2 new SID batteries	£61.66
3. Suffolk County Council – Annual street lighting	£156.21
4. CGM Group – Grass cutting (including playground and playing field) for 6 th March 2020	£49.80
5. Suffolk Association of Local Councils – Annual membership renewal	£186.18

B. Approval was requested, and it was agreed, for the following payments to be made:

1. Clerk's salary from 3 rd March to 5 th May 2020 (25 hours)	£264.00
2. SAVID – a one off donation specifically for the financial year 2020-21. (requested by SAVID, considered and approved at the December 2019 meeting).	£100.00

5. Planning Matters including:

a) application DC/20/1582/FUL – The Street – Erection of a single storey annexe within the rear garden of a property. An FOI request had been made for the Parish Council to view the pre-application advice from East Suffolk Planning. The application and pre-application advice had been considered and comments at the meeting included:

- Pleased that pre-application advice had been sought from the District Council and happy to support application subject to limitations set in the pre-application advice.
- Concern to be noted that permission of this application could set a precedent for future similar applications.
- Appropriate advice had been given at pre-application stage and it would be good to support this application.
- Mr Fryatt reported that it would not be a planning consideration for future similar applications to be permitted based on this application, but the Parish Council could still make a statement that it did not wish to see this as a precedent for the village.
- This application was appropriate with the definite condition that the annexe could not then become a separate dwelling of any sort, and that it must remain linked to the existing property.
- The new replacement structure will look more cohesive and aesthetically pleasing than the number of existing structures.

- Pleased that pre-application advice sought and no objection to this application as all recommendations and guidelines given in pre-application advice have been followed by the applicant.
- Good for the Parish Council to support an application which allows a village resident of a number of years to remain in the village.

It was agreed to support the application providing that the condition was included that it remains solely part of the existing dwelling. The applicant was invited to put forward his comments and he gave a brief background and reasons to the application and thanked the Parish Council for the support of the application.

b) application DC/20/1678/FUL – The Street – Two storey side extension and porch reconstruction.

The application had been considered and comments at the meeting included:

- Too heavy a density on an existing site in a Conservation Area.
- Block Plan submitted with application papers are incorrect as they show no outbuildings at the rear of this property. They instead show that the outbuildings at the rear of this property are incorrectly ancillary to a different dwelling. This gives the wrong impression of the site and is an important factor in an application seeking a side extension.
- There has already been an additional outbuilding added at the rear which is an overload of the site.
- Whilst proposal seems a logical improvement to the house, it is inappropriate for the size of the plot as currently developed.
- There have been problems at this site, and the highway at the front of this site, prior to the application. There has been congestion with vehicles parked on the highway and cluttering the front of the site.
- The proposal potentially restricts the amount of parking onsite.
- There is a question of access to the back of the property which will become restricted. Will this mean for instance that refuse and recycling bins will be kept at the front of the site? Which is detrimental to the Conservation Area.
- Will this development result in the owner's private and business vehicles being parked on the front garden?
- This is an overload of the site.
- Mr Fryatt reported that an important issue for planning consideration of the overall site would include whether any of the backland development is cramped.
- The property is included, with a photo, in the Street by Street Appraisal of the Conservation Area Appraisal. The proposed development would significantly alter what is an attractive Victorian cottage which forms part of the Conservation Area in Tuddenham and would be unhappy to see that.
- The plan for a workshop and blocking /restricting access to the rear would mean that everything else would have to happen at the front of the building.

There was a brief pause to admit Councillor Hicks to the meeting. Mr Pipe welcomed Councillor Hicks and gave a brief explanation of the Item being considered. The meeting continued and further comments included:

- Mr Hedgley asked the Parish Council if it was known if there would be access to the rear of the property if the proposed alterations went ahead. It appeared from the plans that access to the rear would be restricted.
- This 2-storey side extension would remove the beneficial external access to the rear of the property and would have a negative impact on the Conservation Area. It could be considered as an over development of the site.
- A Material Planning consideration is the potential noise disturbance resulting from the use of the proposed workshop depending on what the workshop is used for.
- The loss of off-street parking is a possible issue of concern.
- The property is already cramped at the rear and any further development which removes further space will result in too much development for a site of this size.
- Is a business being run from this property, or likely to be run if this development proceeds?
- Mr Fryatt reported that if a proper business is being run from the property then they must have planning consent to run that business from the property but in this case, it is a separate issue from the planning application.
- Concern raised at alterations that have already taken place without planning permission in the Conservation Area.

It was agreed to object to this planning application. An overview of the objections was given by the Chairman and it was agreed the Clerk would draft a response based on the overview and comments. The draft would be emailed to Parish Councillors for approval prior to it be submitted to the Planning Dept.

Councillor Hicks gave his apologies as he needed to attend another meeting. He let the Parish Council know to contact him in absence of Councillor Vickery, who was unfortunately ill.

6. To consider and approve the replacement of the swing safety surface Parish Councillors had been emailed the options of the replacement swing safety surface prior to the meeting. They had also been informed that £910 from the District Council Community Enabling Budget had been secured for the project, with help from Mr Hedgley. The grant had been credited to the 2019-2020 accounts. It was agreed to proceed with the option of overlay the existing tiles with Matta safer surface at a cost of £1260.63 plus VAT. It was also agreed to apply for funding from the village play space fund, held by the District Council, for the difference between the £910 grant and cost of the replacement surface. Mrs Ellinor proposed Mr Lugo should choose the colours of the replacement surface as he carried out most of the work at the playground. This was seconded by Mrs Weller and agreed. A mix of blue and green tiles had been suggested by the contractor as working well. Mr Lugo let the Parish Council know that from maintenance experience at the playground over a number of years, including of the existing surface, it should be stressed that the existing and replacement tiles should be well glued or jointed together as the existing tiles have had a tendency to come apart over time and there could be movement of the replacement tiles if there are gaps underneath.

7. Highway Matters including, an update on the SAVID and Speedwatch schemes and the village SID Details of SID, Community Speedwatch and SAVID related costs for the years 2018 to date had been emailed to Parish Councillors prior to the meeting. Ms Procter had also provided a Highway Report to Parish Councillors prior to the meeting. The extract relating to Speedwatch and SAVID was as follows:

- **Speedwatch** Owing to current constraints we are still unable to operate this and I am waiting to hear of news about when this may be possible. In the meantime, I am noticing a tendency for a significant number of vehicles to be speeding within the street area which is concerning when there are more pedestrians and cyclists on the roads. I have asked that our SID is set up again so this will act as a reminder to some motorists.
- **SAVID** has not held any meetings since 'lockdown' and I am checking with member villages whether we should set up a virtual meeting or wait for significant changes to the advice about proper meetings.

Ms Procter gave a brief overview of this section of her report and added that two new batteries had been purchased for the village SID and it was now up and operating again. There had been a few village SID related costs in the last few years but these had been kept to a minimum and this had been helped due to the extensive time and effort put in by the volunteers. It was considered if it was necessary to authorise a minimal amount, perhaps up to £100, for the occasional necessary SID related purchases. Mr Pipe reported that the existing controls allowed minor item expenditure authorised by the Chairman subject to ratification by the Parish Council at the next scheduled meeting. It was agreed that SID related expenditure in between meetings should continue to be agreed by a member of the Parish Council. It was Ms Procter's intention to stand down from the Parish Council at the July meeting, although Ms Procter hoped to continue with community projects such as Speedwatch and/or SAVID. It would be helpful for another Parish Councillor to take over the lead role on highway matters such as SAVID or Speedwatch when Ms Procter stands down.

Mr Fryatt gave his apologies and left the meeting.

Mrs Hollier requested the possible purchase of another village owned SID was added for consideration at the next meeting and that the data from the existing village owned SID was made available to Parish Councillors prior to the next meeting.

Ms Procter had emailed concerns raised by a villager and neighbours in the vicinity of the junction of High Street, Main Road and The Street. Exasperation had been expressed at what villagers were being asked to tolerate, and the response from Suffolk County Council Highways following the complaint of the noise and structural impact resulting from large HGVs and other loaded vehicles going over the metal drain grills and water hydrant points near their properties. These had become increasingly sunken into the carriageway from heavy vehicle use over recent years. Significant tremors had been experienced in the properties when large vehicles had driven over the grills and points and there were reports of cracks in internal walls as a result. It was agreed that Ms Procter would draft an email to Councillor Hicks for help in resolving the matter and ask what is the position in respect of the kind of problems experienced by people living close to roads where the clattering grills were causing noise nuisance as well as damage to property.

8. Items for next Agenda

- An update on the District Council Local Plan

- To consider village traffic and the possible purchase of an additional village owned Speed Indicator Device
- To consider online only planning applications, with the possible acquisition of associated technical equipment
- To consider the frequency of Parish Council meetings

9. Date of next meeting The next scheduled meeting is 7th July 2020. There will however be a meeting before that date to consider comments on the Suffolk Coastal Local Plan Consultation on Main Modifications. The deadline for comments to this consultation is 10th July 2020 and the date of the meeting was still to be agreed by the Parish Council.

The Meeting closed at 5.25pm.

Mrs C Frost
Parish Clerk. Tuddenham St Martin