

Minutes of the Tuddenham St Martin Parish Council virtual meeting held on 18th January 2021 commencing at 7.00pm on the Zoom platform.

Present: Mr W Pipe, Mr D Lugo, Ms P Procter, Mr J Bird, Mrs H Hollier, Mr H Brightwell, Mrs J Ellinor, Mr C Hedgley (District Councillor) and Mrs C Frost (Clerk). Mrs T Weller (Parish Councillor) arrived later in the meeting. There were no members of the public present.

1. Chairman's Welcome and Apologies Apologies were received from Mrs Weller, who would arrive later in the meeting. 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. Mr Pipe also explained that the meeting would stop for a short time, and participants would need to re-join using the same link as for the start of the meeting, in the event of it stopping due to the time constraints of the Parish Council current Zoom package.

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

3. To receive declarations of interest There were none.

4. To consider the request from Swilland & Winesham grouped Parish Council to support their designation of Tuddenham Lane (aka Sandy Lane) as a Quiet Lane Discussion included the following comments:

- Ms Procter, in answer to a question, gave details about the number of lanes already established as part of Quiet Lanes Suffolk.
- Ms Procter gave background of the Quiet Lane scheme and an overview of her communication with Bromeswell Parish Council, as they were the part of the first Quiet Lane designation. Their aim in participating in the original scheme had been to encourage the safe use of the village lanes by pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders and their feedback to Ms Procter was that it had achieved what they had wanted and established the rural nature of their designated road.
- Mr Pipe proposed that that Parish Council may wish to support the proposal with an indication that this would be without any funding contribution.
- Mrs Ellinor indicated support of the request from Swilland & Winesham subject to it not adversely impacting on an application from Tuddenham St Martin for designated roads, should any go ahead.
- Ms Procter, in reply to questions, reported that there was not a limit to the number of roads a village could propose for Quiet Lane designation consideration, and that the request for designation would come from the parish which had the major part of a lane in it, if a lane crossed over parish boundaries.
- In reply to a question, the Clerk reported that Swilland & Winesham Parish Council had leafleted all homes in their parish, plus the residence in Tuddenham Lane in the Tuddenham St Martin parish, about their proposal for the designation of Quiet Lanes in their village. A copy of the leaflet, which had given contact details of the Quiet Lane Lead and details of the meeting being held 20th January 2021 by Swilland & Winesham Parish Council had been forwarded to Parish Councillors prior to Christmas 2020. The Clerk was unaware of any negative feedback to the proposal in the leaflets.
- The Clerk read from the FAQ page on the Quiet Lane Suffolk website, which stated that both parishes must support the nominations and hold a joint public meeting in the event of a Quiet Lane crossing into another Parish.
- Ms Procter understood that the scheme was progressing on the basis that the parish with the major part of a lane to be designated was taking the lead role, subject to consultation with the neighbouring parish and residents.
- A discussion followed about the consultation for Tuddenham Lane and Ms Procter reported that views put forward would be taken into account but objections would need very sound reasons to obstruct the process.
- **Mr Pipe proposed that Tuddenham St Martin Parish Council was prepared to support the application from Swilland & Winesham Parish Council designating Tuddenham Lane for Quiet Lane status, subject to no objection from the Tuddenham residents in that lane, and to indicate that at this stage Tuddenham St Martin**

Parish Council were unable to guarantee any financial support for Tuddenham Lane being designated a Quiet Lane. A discussion followed about the suitability of the wording to ensure that residents views were taken in to account. **Mr Pipe's proposal was unanimously approved.**

5. An update on the Quiet Lanes project – including the possible consideration of Westerfield Lane and/or Fynn Lane for inclusion in the scheme

Ms Procter had emailed a report to Parish Councillors before the meeting. For a copy of the report, please see the Additional Notes on Minutes of this meeting, which are viewable on the Parish Council website www.tuddenhamstmartin.onesuffolk.net

The matter was discussed at length and included the following comments:

- There was a personal opinion opposed to Fynn Lane being considered for inclusion in the scheme.
- Opinion followed that the first stage of the process should be a consultation to seek villager feedback on whether to proceed with the scheme for either lane.
- Westerfield Lane was a good example for the proposal as it was used by pedestrians, had no footpath and the feedback from Bromeswell had been that their lane, which was now included in the scheme, was no longer used as a cut through.
- Question arose about whether Quiet Lane status would make any difference.
- No evidence seen from previously allocated Quiet Lanes that the designation had reduced traffic or speed.
- The aim of the project was not to reduce traffic, but to pay special attention to the needs of walkers, cyclists, horse riders and other vulnerable road users, and to offer protection from speeding traffic on single track roads which are rural in nature.
- At this stage it's worth following through the project and to seek village views as part of the consultation process.
- An opportunity for dialogue around the Quiet Lane project as a principle will be lost to the Parish Council if the Parish Council made a decision to go no further ahead with the scheme.
- The Quiet Lanes project is an opportunity to highlight an aspect of road usage and money has been allocated towards the project from County and District Councils in order to reduce Parish Council costs.
- Signage costs for Parish Councils could be additionally reduced by the use of existing posts.
- The go ahead for the next stage of the process for both Westerfield Lane and Fynn Lane, which is a full village consultation, has been given the go ahead by the Quiet Lanes programme.
- The cost of the scheme will be borne by villagers as rate payers, which at this time is questionable.
- If funding for the scheme has already been allocated and will not impact further upon rates, then Tuddenham St Martin should make use of the funds available.

Mrs Weller arrived at the meeting.

- Positive opinion expressed about an existing Quiet Lane in that the signage makes drivers more aware that other road users are around. Experience in Fynn Lane for instance, has been that motorists are sometimes inconsiderate of pedestrians and other road users.
- The Quiet Lane road signage could help instil with everybody that there is an equal right to use the road.
- Westerfield Lane is presently used as a rat run and it would be good to encourage more use by cyclists and pedestrians.
- Expression was made that it was worth at least taking the project to the next stage to get feedback from the village to ascertain there was no major objection and no significant cost to the Parish Council.
- It was proposed to take the project to the next stage of the process and organise a full consultation with the whole village. The Clerk did not have time to give to the project. Mrs Ellinor, Mrs Hollier and Mrs Weller agreed to assist Ms Procter (Quiet Lanes Lead Volunteer for the Parish Council) if there was agreement with the consultation process of the project.
- A vote was taken as to whether to proceed to the next stage – a full consultation with the village on Westerfield Lane and/or Fynn Lane being designated Quiet Lanes. **There were 7 votes in favour and 1 against so it was agreed to proceed.**

Mrs Hollier gave apologies and left the meeting.

6. To consider the completion of the Open Space and Outdoor Sport facilities survey There was agreement to take part in the survey and there was agreement to the answers completed by the Clerk and which had been emailed to Parish Councillors prior to the meeting. Mr Bird reported that the definitive map for the public rights of way in the village needed correction to show an omitted public footpath. The Clerk would forward contact details for the Definitive Map Team at the County Council to Mr Bird so that Mr Bird could report the omission.

7. To consider the 2021-2022 Parish Council precept following confirmation of the Council Tax Base It was **unanimously approved that the precept should remain at £6,200.** This would result in Band D equivalent charge of £37.48 and would show as a -0.82% change on the 2021-22 Council Tax bills against the Parish Council element. In addition to the precept, a one-off grant of £14, as part of the Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme relief, would be received by the Parish Council.

8. Items for next agenda An update on the Quiet Lanes Suffolk project.

9. Date of next meeting. 2nd March 2021.

The Meeting closed at 7.35pm.

Mrs C Frost - Parish Clerk. Tuddenham St Martin