

Minutes of the Meeting of Trimley St Martin Parish Council held at the Trimley St Martin Memorial Hall on Tuesday 1 February 2022 at 7.30 p.m.

Present: Cllrs D'arville, Owen, Parker, Rastrick and Smart

Also present: County Councillor Bird, District Councillor Richardson and one member of the public

1. To receive apologies for absence.

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllr Aguillar-Gomez who was abroad, Cllr Anderson who had work commitments and Cllr Rodwell who was unwell.

2. For councillors to declare any interests in matters on the agenda.

No interests were declared in matters on the agenda.

3. To receive and determine requests from councillors for dispensations enabling them to speak, or speak and vote, on matters on which they have a pecuniary interest.

No dispensations were requested.

4. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 04 January 2022.

The minutes of the meeting held on 4 January were approved and signed as a true record.

5. Public Forum including County and District Councillor Reports and Public Question Time

County Cllr Bird reported back on his disappointment with the recent Ofsted report on Felixstowe High School. As the school is an academy it is not under the control of the Local Authority and little can be done except to raise concerns with the appropriate body.

Cllr Bird also reported on a range of highways problems which had been raised with him and the disappointing news that Suffolk County Council Highways were still resisting taking action on the footpath between the High Road and the brick built bus shelter on Howlett Way. Unfortunately money made available in the SCC budget for footways and drainage would cover only a fraction of the county's problems. Sadly the community self-help scheme presented barriers in itself.

A member of the public stressed the importance of school libraries and expressed disquiet over the removal of the Felixstowe school library under the previous academy trust. Cllr Bird had contributed to the funding of books for the library.

Cllr Richardson reported on his wish to promote the installation of electric vehicle charging points, he would be discussing this subject on Felixstowe Radio.

A member of the public asked the Parish Council if they would consider arranging an exhibition of photographs of the village over the 70 years from 1952 to 2022. It was agreed that this would be discussed at the March meeting of the Parish Council.

6. To receive updates on the following items

- a) Highways issues reported and responses received;**
- b) Provision of a community noticeboard for the village;**
- c) Arrangements for the installation of chat benches;**
- d) Renewal of village sign;**
- e) The Jubilee Oak.**

6a) Cllr D'arville reported on topics which had been raised with Suffolk Council Highways

- i. As mentioned by County Councillor Bird, SCC Highways had declined to take action on the footpath between the brick built bus shelter on Howlett Way and the High Rd.
- ii. Following a report about the overhanging fir trees on Howlett Way SCC Highways were taking enforcement action
- iii. SCC Highways had agreed to take action on the condition of the pavement near the crossing point close to Poppyfields.
- iv. SCC Highways had concluded that no additional work to cut back vegetation on Kirton Rd was warranted at this stage.
- v. SCC Highways had inspected the damaged and missing signs at the passing places along Morston Hall Road but had concluded that the problem was not sufficiently serious for them to take action at present.

6b) In accordance with the Parish Council's resolution in January (January Minutes item 6) an additional noticeboard had been purchased and arrangements had been made for it to be installed outside the Memorial Hall. Members agreed that, in addition to information on the activities of local clubs and societies, organisations hiring the Memorial Hall for their activities would also be able to submit material for display.

6c) Members noted that the chat benches were expected to be delivered and installed during February.

6d) The post supporting the village sign had been a cause of concern, but a further inspection had resulted in advice that the oak post was fundamentally sound and the angle iron supports at each corner were still effective. In the light of this members resolved to proceed with the replacement of the image and maintain a check on the condition of the post to ensure that any problems were identified at an early stage.

6e) Arrangements for collection of a Jubilee Oak were agreed. Members agreed to the purchase of a full size metal tree guard, galvanised and painted. It was agreed that the planting would be best timed for late March and that it would be appropriate to conduct as small ceremony. The arrangements for this would be discussed at the March meeting

- 7. To consider whether concerns about traffic issues such as difficulties for drivers joining the A14 via the J59 onslip and the heavy volume of diverted traffic travelling through the village when an incident occurs – might be usefully addressed by:**
- a) councillors undertaking occasional traffic counts and monitoring and maintaining records of traffic reports.**
 - b) liaison with Trimley St Mary Parish Council to consider joint representations to National Highways seeking a reduction in the speed limit on the A14 between junction 59 and the dock-spur roundabout .**

Member resolved to undertake a traffic count with a view to establishing what proportion of Felixstowe bound HGVs moved to the right hand lane by, or at, Junction 59. The Clerk was asked to contact Trimley St Mary Parish Council and Kirton & Falkenham Parish Council to invite representatives of those councils to join in this exercise.

- 8. To note responses to the questionnaire issued to local venues offering meeting space for hire in order to find out more about what is available within easy walking distance of the centre of the parish and to identify any unmet need and to consider next steps.**

This item was deferred to the March meeting as not all responses had been received.

9. To receive a first draft of the planned welcome pack from members of the communications working party.

Members were pleased to receive the first draft. Cllr D'arville presented a summary of the comments she had drawn up with a focus on the key topics of public transport and refuse collection. With the agreement of members a copy of these was presented to a representative of the Working Party for consideration. Subject to availability a further draft would be considered at the March meeting.

10. To consider advice received in respect of the of the post which supports the village sign at the junction of St Martin's Green and the High Rd and decide on next steps.

This item had been dealt with under 6d

11. To receive a financial statement to 25 January 2022.

Members received a financial statement to 25 January 2022. The reconciliation report was received and signed by the Chairman. Copies of payments made, outturn against budget and bank statements were made available for inspection.

12. To note the following payments made:

The following payments were approved and the schedule of online payments with accompanying documentation was checked and signed.

| Date | Name | In respect of | Amount | Power |
|----------|-------|--------------------------|--------|---------------|
| 31 01 22 | C Ley | Clerk's January salary | 628.05 | LGA1972 s112 |
| 31 01 22 | C Ley | Clerk's January expenses | 44.39 | LGA 1972 s112 |

and to approve the following payments to be made:

| | | | | |
|------------|----------------------|-----------------------|--------|--------------|
| 10 02 2022 | HM Revenue & Customs | Tax on clerk's salary | 123.12 | LGA1972 s112 |
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13. Items for consideration at next meeting

A number of items had already been identified for consideration in March during the course of the meeting as reported above. Further items would be notified to the Clerk.

14. To exclude public and press in accordance with the Public Bodies (Exclusion from Meetings) Act 1960 in view of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted

No members of the public or press in were in attendance and thus this item was not required.

15. To agree the arrangements for interviewing applicants for the post of Parish Clerk

The composition of an interview panel, and reserves, was agreed. The Clerk would send copies of the applications received to panel members once the closing date had been reached.

16. To receive an update on legal advice received.

Members received and agreed the advice received.

17. Close

The meeting closed at 9.00 p.m.