

TUDDENHAM ST MARY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Tuddenham St Mary Parish Council, held in the Cricket Pavilion on Tuesday 19th March 2013

Present:

Cllr R Lawson, Cllr K Soons
Cllr M Dunnett Cllr A Tilbrook
Cllr P Hope

In Attendance:

Mrs L Francis, Clerk, District Councillor Mrs Rona Burt, Mr Guy Smith, Highways Manager, SCC.

Public Forum

No members of the public were present at the meeting.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr. M Lawson.
The parish council agreed to accept his apologies.

2. Declarations of Interest

Cllr K Soons declared an interest in item 3.

3. Highway Matters

At the request of the Parish Council, Mr Guy Smith, Assistant Highways Manager, Suffolk County Council, had agreed to attend the meeting to address various concerns relating to the roads and traffic through the village and the wider area.

Councillors had concerns relating to persistent speeding through the village, parking on the pavement, the classification of the road through the village and the number of HGV's using the road for access from the A11 to the A14. Although speed checks are regularly carried out, the police are very visible which alerts motorists and thus enables them to slow down. The straight road through the village is also felt to be a contributing factor in the speed of vehicles.

It has been noted that the number of HGV's passing through the village has increased enormously since the work on the A11 began. La Farge has been awarded the contract for supplying aggregates and although the drivers of the vehicles have been instructed to deliver them to the site via Kennet, Kentford and Red Lodge, it is feared that they will use Tuddenham as a rat run between the two sites.

Cllr Soons pointed out that the road through the village was a designated Local Access Lorry Route in Suffolk County Council's own literature and she felt that this was inappropriate given the narrow width of the road. Cars are parking on the pavement to get out of the way of the lorries and therefore causing problems for pedestrians.

After much discussion, the following action points were agreed:

Guy Smith undertook to look into the provision of a remote radar device for a 7-day period and to install a pneumatic loop to record the speed and type of vehicles moving through the village. He would ensure that contractors involved in the A11 project are aware of the correct routes to use and to consider a trial of a flashing sign to warn drivers to slow down. It has been noted that that this system has been very effective in slowing traffic in Norfolk.

He agreed to look into all the issues raised in discussion and return to the Parish Council in the autumn to report back.

4. Reports from outside bodies

i. **Mildenhall SNT:** PCSO Dawn Rowan had sent her apologies and had also sent a monthly report.

There had been no new recorded crimes since the last meeting. Councillors were concerned that Dawn often seemed to be unavailable to attend meetings although she had regularly attended them in the past, and they asked the Clerk to inform Inspector Matt Rose of their concerns and ask for an explanation.

- ii. **Suffolk County Council** – No report had been received this month.
- iii. **Forest Heath District Council** - Cllr Rona Burt gave her report. She has been much involved in Cabinet meetings as a result of the changes arising from the merger of the two councils. Village matters – the Christmas tree must be sited nearer to the electric cable so that it can be lit at Christmas. The tree has not yet been planted in its final position.

5. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 19th February 2013

The minutes of the meeting were taken as read, approved and signed by the Chairman.

6. Matters Arising from the minutes

It was agreed that the council would defer the appointment of a Vice-Chairman until the AGM in May. The Clerk asked whether the councillors would like a report of the proceedings of the Parish Council to be sent to the local press so that the public was made more aware of what was going on. This was agreed.

7. Parish Councillor Vacancy

The vacancy for a parish councillor will be advertised on the notice-board and on the website.

8. Correspondence

Suffolk Acre has now merged with other Suffolk organisations to form a new body called Community Action Suffolk. The Parish Council has been invited to subscribe to the new organisation but the offer was declined. It was agreed that the regular playground inspections would continue to be carried out by Forest Heath District Council. The fees would be increasing to £23.13 + VAT with effect from 1st April.

9. Finance

- i. The council confirmed and authorised payments for the current month as detailed on the list which is attached to the minutes.
- ii. It was agreed that Mrs Sue Prigg, who carried out the Internal Audit last year, would be appointed to provide the service again this year.
- iii. The Parish Council reviewed the effectiveness of the internal controls of their accounting procedures and agreed that they were satisfactory.

10. Planning

F/2013/0039/COU. Conversion of barn, to provide classroom. Longwood Farm. The Clerk had received this application after the agenda had been published. The plans were left with the Chairman for circulation to the councillors.

11. Councillors' Reports

Cllr Tilbrook reported that, regrettably, cars were still parking on The Green.

12. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the parish council will be held at 7.30 pm in the Cricket Pavilion at the Playing Field on Tuesday 16th April 2013.

It was agreed that the Annual Meeting would be held on Tuesday 21st May at 7.30 and that the Annual Parish Meeting would follow at 8 pm.

The meeting closed at 9.30 p.m.