

# Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of Trimley St Martin Parish held at Trimley St Martin Methodist Church Hall on Wednesday 24 April 2019 at 7.30 pm.

## **AGENDA – Annual Parish Meeting**

### **1. Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillor Kerry

### **2. To agree and approve the minutes of the meeting held on 1 May 2018**

The minutes of the meeting held on 1 May were agreed and approved as a true record

### **3. Chairman's Report - A brief report on the past year in the Parish**

Councillor Smart presented her report on a busy year. The draft local plan and problems associated with the Felixstowe Branch Line improvements had been dominant issues throughout the year.

Highways issues had also been particularly demanding: the PC had taken active steps to minimise the impact of the A14 diversion through the village and had met with Highways England, SCC Highways and contractors. Road safety issues had been a cause for concern and the PC had asked Suffolk County Council Road Safety Team to work with them on a review of safety. An additional pedestrian crossing linked to the forthcoming development of the land opposite the Hand in Hand would be installed and the Parish Council was working towards the installation of a pedestrian refuge near to the Memorial Hall. A reduction in the bus service had been a disappointment and would be monitored by Felixstowe Travel Watch.

A replacement soakaway had been installed at the Memorial, Hall. Following the separation of the pedestrian route and the vehicular access by the owner of the Mushroom Farm track, both sides of the hedge between the track and the Hall would be maintained by the Corporate Trustee.

The Parish Council had been exploring the possibility of making a neighbourhood plan and it was hoped that there would soon be an opportunity for residents to give their views on the value of a plan for the village.

Information about the work of the Parish Council was routinely posted on the noticeboard and a further board would soon be erected near the foot of the bridge on the Kirton Road side. The website provided up to date information on a range of issues, in addition residents could access the Local Recorder's blog there and view the gallery of photographs of local scenes, most of which had been kindly contributed by Robin Biddle. The addition of some photographs of the village in the past would be welcomed if any resident had pictures which they were happy to share.

Thanks were extended to four Parish Councillors who were stepping down: John Barker, Carol Garrett, Steven Bozier and Roger Clarke. Paul Rastrick and Nicky Southworth had been welcomed to the PC during the course of the year and in May the PC would be welcoming a new councillor, Tanya Anderson. There were still some vacancies on the Parish Council, so anyone interested was encouraged to make enquiries.

Thanks were due to all those who had helped in the village over the course of the year with informal tasks such as litter picking and weed clearance and those who gave their time to organise charity events in the village.

#### **4. Annual Reports from District and Ward Councillors**

County Councillor Bird explained that the ever increasing financial demands associated with social care meant that other services were severely squeezed. The Highways maintenance budget had reduced by 40% since 2010 which meant that it could be extremely difficult to get things done although within their limited budget the Council were committed to resurfacing 1,000 miles of the county's roads by 2021. In order to cope better with the financial constraints the County Council was reviewing its operations in order to ensure that things were done as efficiently as possible and this included taking a more commercial approach where appropriate by, for example, extending some of their services to others for a fee.

#### **5. To receive brief presentations from representatives of local institutions and organisations**

##### **The Governors of Trimley St Martin School**

Lorna Adamson, Vice Chair of Governors at Trimley St Martin Primary School reported on the school's performance. The school was popular and attracted many pupils from outside the village and it was now running near to its capacity of 210 pupils. Lorna explained that, while the senior leadership team, the teachers, the support staff and the governing body all had their different roles, they worked in concert, applying their efforts in support of the school's simple and straightforward vision: "everybody learning". Working together reflected the ethos of the school and the importance placed on involving parents and carers so that the learning continued to be supported at home. The school had been judged good by OFSTED; in a testament to the success of the behaviour policy they had commented on the calm well-ordered atmosphere.

A new building on land next to Reeve Lodge was planned for the school. The target opening date of the new building, which would be able to cater for up to 420 pupils, was September 2022..

More information about the school was available on the school website:

[www.trimleystmartinprimaryschool.com](http://www.trimleystmartinprimaryschool.com)

##### **The Sports and Social Club**

Chris Cushnahan reported on developments at the Sports and Social Club.

- The newly installed play area was available to the whole community and had been installed using funds provided through the play and sport fund held by the District Council.

- The building which had formerly housed facilities for squash was now let to a private provider and operated as a gym and fitness centre with the possibility of a physiotherapy service being considered for the future.
- The 40-year-old boiler had been replaced with a more efficient model and some asbestos had been removed from the building.
- Two burglaries at the premises had prompted improved lighting with motion sensors.
- Stage 1 of the refurbishment had taken place and included the refurbishment of the members' bar and the kitchen. The Club hoped to arrange for old photographs to be framed and displayed in the Members' Bar.
- Stage 2 of the refurbishment would involve improvements to the toilets, football changing rooms and the function hall.
- Work was planned to deal with problems with the surface of the carpark
- The Club supported local charities nominated each year at the AGM. In 2017/18 assistance had been provided for a local child with health problems, in 2018/19 the Stennet's Café had been chosen
- Sadly, the demands of their various projects had meant that the Club could no longer continue to organise the Trimley Carnival; the reins had been handed over to others to keep this tradition alive.

### **Local History Recorder**

Elizabeth Rastrick reported on her role as local history recorder. She had taken over the role from the retiring recorder, Rosemary Gitsham, to whom thanks were extended. A major task had been the introduction of the local recorder's blog which had been published every week since May 2018 and could now be found on both the Recorder's own website and on the Parish Council website.

This had been a huge undertaking – Liz's output now totalled 50 blogs and a massive 100,000 words. Liz explained that she had discovered that her readership was not confined to the village, but also extended far and wide with the result that she had had some interesting contact with a descendant of one of her early subjects - Lydia Rackham - a blog which had also attracted the attention of the curator of the Western Australia Museum who shared an interest in Lydia's history.

Liz explained that she was always on the lookout for new subjects for her blog and would welcome contact from interested people with a Trimley St Martin link.

### **Trimley Methodist Church – Establishing a Memory Lane Group**

Christine Moulton explained how a charity quiz held at the Methodist Hall at Christmas had inspired the Church to plan a Memory Lane group in the village. The Memory Lane Dementia Support Group at the Salvation Army Hall in Felixstowe had been an impressive model, but villagers could not always get to venues outside the village. The need now was for volunteers to help run a local group for those with dementia and their carers. Volunteers were needed to help with teas and cakes as well as general conversation and activities.

### **Trimley Saints Player**

Julie Bellamy, Chair of the Trimley Saints Players, explained that the group had been running since the late 1980s and had 40 members. Each February they would put on a pantomime and each summer there would be a play or a musical. The group also performed at the Christmas tree lighting up ceremony at the Memorial Hall.

The success of the productions enabled the group to make generous donations to local charities. This year they would be performing Agatha Christie's "And Then There Were None" from 19 June to 22 June.

Residents interested in joining the group could make enquiries through the box office telephone number.

### **The Trimley Cranfield Bowls Club**

Gill Haseman, Chair of the Trimley Cranfield Bowls Club spoke about developments at the Club. She explained something of the history of the club which was now one of the largest in the county with membership approaching 150. There were opportunities for new players to join – members paid an annual membership fee of £35.00, but they did not pay per play. Players did not have to be hugely experienced or skilled, but the club certainly had its share of talent with one of its junior members also playing for England. Keeping the green in good order was always a challenge, especially in a dry summer, so the club had been delighted to be able to install a bore hole which would make the task of watering much easier for the green-keeper. The availability of short mat indoor bowls meant that play could continue through the winter.

### **The Poor's Committee**

Yvonne Smart spoke about the work of the Poor's Committee. She explained that the Poores Charity was run by trustees of which there were five: a treasurer, a chairperson, two members of the parish council and a representative of the community. The poor's land had been granted for the assistance of the poor. Nowadays the Charity generated a modest income from allotment rents and, to a lesser degree, from interest paid on bonds. This enabled them to help individuals and families in need who could approach the trustees for assistance. More broadly they had also been able to offer some assistance to the school for books and learning aids including the creation of some raised beds for the pupils' use.

### **The Memorial Hall Management Committee**

Heather Rodwell, explained that the day to day running of the Memorial Hall was the responsibility of the Management Committee which was made up of eight volunteer members and two parish council representatives. Heather had the role of secretary to the committee, a position which she had held for 30 years. The hall was used on most days for a wide variety of purposes and served the needs of a large range of users.

New doors had recently been fitted and in August the interior was to be re-decorated. Users would notice the new pictures which were now on display in the main hall.

## **The Allotments Committee**

Yvonne Smart reported on the work of the Allotments Committee. There were 30 plots, some full size and some half size. Full size plots were let at £20 per annum and half plots at £15. Tenants were required to sign an agreement and inspections were carried out regularly to ensure compliance. Greenhouses and sheds were permitted and the tenants could grow flowers and fruit trees as well as vegetables. It was even possible to keep a few chickens. Residents wishing to have an allotment could put their name down on the waiting list.

## **6. Public Forum**

A local resident explained that KATCAG were in the process of raising funds to cover the cost of instructing a barrister to represent them in their challenge to the soundness of the local plan at the Inspector's hearing. The cost was estimated at around £25,000 and the resident said that Kirton & Falkenham Parish Council had agreed to contribute towards this and he asked why Trimley St Martin Parish Council had not agreed to contribute.

The Chairman of the Parish Council responded that the question of contributing towards the cost of legal representation had been raised by Kirton & Falkenham Parish Council and was on the agenda for discussion at the May meeting of Trimley St Martin Parish Council.

A discussion took place around some of the problems which were currently being experienced by road users and which were expected to be worsened by new housing. Issues included: heavier traffic, excess speed, inconsiderate driving and cyclists riding on the footpath and not making use of cycle lanes. The Chairman of the Parish Council commented that it was hoped that engagement with the Road Safety Team at Suffolk County Council would help in addressing these problems.

## **7. Close**

The meeting closed at 21.30