

**Minutes of Martham Annual Village Meeting  
Held in the Methodist Room, Repps Road  
Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2004 at 7.30pm**

**Present**

Cllr Huxtable Chairman  
Cllrs Huke, Manifold, Wright, Jordan and Woodward  
PC Dick Cook  
Lisa Harold Clerk  
Together with 4 members of the public.

**Minutes of previous Annual Village Meeting**

These were read and signed as a true record. Proposed Mrs Moore, seconded Mrs Julie Beales.

**Play Area**

The Chairman reported that a proposal was underway to improve the play area on Rollesby Road. This had been approved by Martham Parish Council and the Playing Field Committee were getting funding for the project.

The Staithe Road area was still being negotiated with GYBC the lease is pending. Mrs Beales asked why money was being spent on another area when the money was so badly needed for the Rollesby Road play area where there were also more children. It was explained that 106 monies from a development near to Staithe Road were funding the Staithe Road area and the money could only be spent on an area within a certain distance of the development which had funded it. It was suggested by Cllr Woodward that a meeting between the Play area committee and the Parish Council should be arranged after the up and coming elections. All Councillors present were confident that improvement would be seen in the coming months.

**Youth Club**

The Parish Council had become involved in trying to improve matters for the Youth Club following Mr Colin Tungate's plea at a Parish Council meeting during the year. More volunteers had come forward as a result and funding was available to pay for a full time worker. It was asked why there were 2 organisations, namely the Youth Café and the Youth Club who seemed to be miles apart and not working together. It was explained that the split had happened due to different people having different ideas. Attempts were being made to get the two groups to liase and possibly the Youth Café using the Youth Club building.

**Chairman's Summary**

The Chairman read out the following :-

“ The Council, has been engaged with issues concerning the village, some of which are always there. Parking of cars and the nuisance caused by vandalism and all the aggravation arising. Village ponds, which are a central part of the village and should be a pleasure but cause many complaints and planning which takes up a lot of time. These issues continue to cause debate and have done over the past year and probably the coming year.

With car parking, we have liased with County Highways for double yellow lines to restrict parking where possible i.e Rollesby Road outside the new development. We have charged our Policeman to help where he can.

With vandalism, we urge the public to report this to the Police on every occasion and also to this end we are meeting with the Youth Club to lend weight to their efforts to improve attendance. Youths of the village are causing the majority of vandalism and we consider the improvement of youth provision in Martham (which is inadequate) may improve the situation.

Our ponds have too many ducks and any effort to improve the ponds will be a compromise.

Planning has been taking a lot of time as we are currently experiencing a housing boom and the associated urge to build on every available building plot. We have been concerned with the haste from the Borough Planning Officials to push applications through as quickly as possible to the possible detriment of the village. We have met and liaised with Mr Wensack, owner of Polehouse Nurseries on issues which have been amicably resolved. The Council met with the Borough regarding the play area on Staithe Road which will incorporate the Scout Hut.

These and many other issues have been addressed by the Council, the sole object being the improvement to life in the village or at least to negotiate as good a compromise as possible. An example of this is the new surgery on Hemsby Road where the Parish Council has been consulted on all the planning stages.

There has been problems with administration mainly due to office equipment. The website is proving useful and is recognised as necessary for a modern Parish Council. This has contributed to better communications with members of the public generally.

Our various committees have served the Council during the past year and have given regular updates. We have adopted standing orders appropriate to the proper running of the Council and we have deliberated on finance to give good value to the rate payer at reasonable cost. We have advised the staithe committee where appropriate and have alerted requests from village organisations for donations to the trusts charitable status in granting money to such organisations. It has been arranged for the smaller charities be wound up with the agreement of the charity commission.

It is pleasing to see the new playing field beginning to be used and that sporting groups within the village are better served.

We have received a donation from the Carnival Committee for village signs which will soon be erected.

The Parish Plan is now ready for distribution and coupled with other requirements will enable us to achieve "Quality Council Status". Once achieved we anticipate more independence for the Parish Council and the village from the Borough.

We have seen changes in Chairmanship and resignations during the last year. Significant of which was the resignation of our longest serving member Gordon London.

There is ahead of us an opportunity to bring new blood into the Council at the June elections. It is vital that Martham maintains a good Parish Council which represents the village views and its interests fully and at the right level. It could be said we have reached a point in our democracy where the correct decisions are compromised for the sake of expediency resulting in long term problems for the village. This must be challenged and the voice of the village heard through the Parish Council, especially on Borough Planning.

### **Question and Answer session**

It was noted that access to the bus stop on Repps Road was difficult across the green. Quotes for a pathway across to be sought.

AT the end of Peartree Avenue there is an old electricity board area which is not used, it was asked whether it could be adopted by the Parish to be maintained by the residents in that area.

Mrs Banham brought to the attention of Martham Parish Council that Martham Boating Association were in debate with the Environment agency who had recently acquired the riverbank as to the terms of their tenancy. They had been there for 15 years and found the terms of the lease offered unacceptable. She was advised to get sound legal advice on the matter and the Parish Council offered support where possible. Mrs Banham to keep the Parish Council informed.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.45pm.