

**Minutes of Martham Parish Council meeting
Held in the Methodist Room, Wednesday 19th May 2004 at 19.30hrs.**

Present: Cllr Huxtable (Chairman)
Cllrs Woodward, Wright, Hudson, Watson, Roofe, Manifold, Huke
and Jordan
Lisa Harold Clerk
PC Cook
Together with 7 members of the public

Apologies: Borough Councillor Hudson

Due to Cllr Huxtable not being present at 7.30pm it was proposed by Cllr Roofe, seconded by Cllr Wright that the Vice Chairman, Cllr Woodward begin the meeting.

Public Forum

Sue Brady of the Clip asked when the old photocopier would be removed from the Clip offices. Cllr Woodward assured her that it would be gone by Friday. She also stressed her disappointment that the Clip was not being used for Parish Council photocopying as this would help to subsidise the cost of the Clip's new copier. Cllr Huke stated that the current arrangement was not a contractual obligation and would be used for a test period of three months, after which it would be reviewed and if necessary the Clip would be approached then.

David Church, Commodore of the Martham Boating Association asked for clarification on the Parish Council's support for the situation regarding the new lease being offered to the Boating Association at their premises at Cess. The Parish Council offered full support and suggested he contact the legal team at the Town Hall.

Mrs Brown pointed out that the Maple Close sign was broken, that the hedge at the Staithe Road play area was overgrown, the bus shelter on the green had a broken gutter and the Oddfellows footpath was becoming overgrown with nettles. The wooden fence on the co op car park was also broken.

Mrs Beales noted that the Bell Meadow pond was overgrown at the edges, pond committee to view this pond to see what can be done.

PC Cook

Following the incident at the village hall where damage was caused to the fire doors 1 person had been reported and as a result a file was being compiled to be forwarded to the Crown prosecutors. He asked that a copy of the minutes from the meeting regarding the A149/B1152 junction be forwarded to him.

Council Meeting

It was at this point that Cllr Huxtable arrived and took to the Chair. He thanked all Parish Councillors for their hard work and dedication over the previous term and pointed out that 3 Councillors were retiring. Two of these seats had been filled with new members which left one seat for co option.

He then handed the Clerk £20.00 which was additional money given to Martham Parish Council by Gray's Fair for the additional time spent on the green.

He then pointed out that a meeting had not been arranged by the Clerk with the Chairman prior to the meeting. He reiterated to the Clerk that this meeting must be arranged to enable the Chairman to do his/her job properly, and that with a new Chairman this is even more important.

Declarations of Interest

Cllr Jordan, Martham Music for All and Cllr Wright and Roofe as allotment holders.

Minutes of Previous meeting

These being circulated and read before the meeting they were signed as true record. Proposed Cllr Roofe, seconded Cllr Huke, all in favour.

Matters Arising

Photocopier

It was agreed that the final amount of £141.32 should be paid to Rembrand to pay all up to date monies due and to end the contract with them foregoing the required 6 months notice. Proposed Cllr Woodward, seconded Cllr Wright, all in favour.

Cllr Huke defined the current situation as using a company that has the ability to do photocopies from e mails sent to them by the Clerk. They are collated as requested, stapled and returned to the Clerk ready for distribution. The company currently in use has many photocopiers at their disposal and should problems occur with one machine, the copies can be done on another thus eliminating problems with poor equipment. No contract has been signed but a three month trial period was agreed to be reviewed at the August meeting.

Mushroom Farm Site

A reply had been received from Matt Whitton of GYBC saying that should the vehicles which are currently at this site be moved to the Melpac site, as feared by the Parish Council, the same order would be issued to this site. No order can be issued until such time.

Village Signs

Cllr Manifold had been in touch with schools who were keen to take part but this would be after the half term. It was agreed that the Carnival Crew should make up part of the judging panel.

Smees

The Clerk had invoiced for the three Smees for the current year and the previous year. Gordon London to be asked for information regarding other Smees.

Annual Village Meeting

At this meeting it was requested that the Clerk contact the electricity supply company in charge of the area at the end of Peartree Avenue to see if it could be taken over by the residents as it was dangerous and unsightly. However, since then an engineer had visited the site and had spoken with local residents and it had been made a priority to clear up the site.

Charities

Cllr Roofe reported that notices had been posted on all notice boards regarding the winding up of these charities and a reply from the Charities Commission was pending. It was envisaged that the process would take about a month to two months to complete. Cllr Manifold acknowledged the amount of work that had gone into this and Cllr Roofe was thanked by all members of the Council. She volunteered to see the project through to the end even though she had not stood for re-election.

Planning

Planning permissions refused by GYBC Planning

3 Helen Avenue

Planning Permissions Approved by GYBC Planning

41 Hemsby Road, 34 Riverside (with conditions), 33 Oak Tree Close.

Planning Applications received for Parish Councils Comments

10 Grove Road, domestic satellite dish – No objections.

Following the site meeting at 19 Willow Way the planning committee had objected to the repositioning of the fence.

Finance

The Chairman had met with Mr Fields of Black Street and had agreed to Martham Parish Council paying up to £1000.00 towards the brick weaving of the public part of his driveway. This was in accordance with the budget set for 2004/05.

The accounts for the year 2003/04 were approved by the Council for internal and external audit. Proposed Cllr Huke, seconded Cllr Jordan all in favour. These figures to be forwarded to the finance working party for discussion at next budget meeting.

The accounts for the year ended 31st March 2003 had been approved by the external auditors.

It was suggested that a letter be sent to the Kings Arms Public House requesting a VAT receipt for the £100 car park fee so that the Vat could be reclaimed and to also ensure that the agreement would continue with the new managers.

Expenses for May

| | Net | Vat | Total |
|---|----------|--------|----------|
| Village Cleaner Net pay | £50.36 | | £50.36 |
| Clerk Net pay | £507.43 | | |
| Clerk electricity | £4.00 | | |
| Total cheque | | | £511.43 |
| Clerk Pension | £84.54 | | £84.54 |
| AOL connection | £8.27 | | £8.27 |
| Rembrandt photocopier to end contract | £122.43 | £18.89 | £141.32 |
| NB All cheques previously held have been cancelled this covers from October 03 to present | | | |
| P Starling Grasscutting | £135.00 | £23.62 | £158.62 |
| Skippers | £53.72 | £5.28 | £59.00 |
| Water Rates | £10.25 | | £10.25 |
| Kings Arms use of Car Park | £100.00 | | £100.00 |
| Bowls Club start up grant | £250.00 | | £250.00 |
| P Pike footpath cutting | £36.00 | | £36.00 |
| Insurance | £603.40 | | £603.40 |
| Section 137 | | | |
| Martham Music for All | £25.00 | | £25.00 |
| Total for May | £1990.40 | £47.79 | £2038.19 |
| Proposed Cllr Manifold, seconded Cllr Hudson, all in favour. | | | |

Correspondence

None to report.

Ponds

The pond committee reported that work to the pond near the fish and chip shop was 90% complete with the only work outstanding being the slabs beneath the inflows. Once the camber in the road had been corrected water should flow into the pond.

The pond in the middle of the village had had the pot holes and the slope repaired, with only the railings at the slope pending. No payment would be made until the pond committee was happy with the work. Cllr Huke stressed that there was no budget left for the Bell Meadow pond, however it was a designated public open space and hoped money could be used from reserves if approved by the Council. Cllrs Huke and Wright were thanked for their work on the ponds.

Footpaths

Cllr Huke enquired whether weed killer could be used on the Bell Meadow and Oddfellows Hall paths to kill the nettles overgrowing the path. Clerk to ask P Pike. The drain cover at the Oddfellows Hall footpath had still not been replaced. The Clerk had been unable to verify who owned it. Huke to investigate possible repair.

Footways/ Highways

Cllr Wright and Woodward were concerned about the skateboarders who frequently went down the steps at Rochford Road and straight onto the road. Clerk to ask highways for bars and kickboard to stop this.

Following the concerns of the Parish Council a meeting had been held on Friday 14th May with Norfolk County Highways to discuss the proposed changes to the junction A149/B1152. It was noted that Parish Council approval for such a scheme was not required and it was as a courtesy that NCC had attended this meeting. It was hoped that a few changes to the scheme would be made following some points raised at this meeting.

A letter had been received from Hemsby Parish Council asking for support in improving the Hemsby to Martham road as at present it is very hilly and hazardous. The Parish Council offered support as this will be the main route to the new medical centre when it is built at Hall Road. Cllr Watson and Jordan were still waiting to have a meeting with a highways representative to discuss wheelchair access and other issues. Clerk to chase.

Village Green/ Car park

The new tree which had been planted on the green had died.

Representatives reports

Village Hall Support was being given by youths who wanted the youth Café to stay open and they were now reporting incidents. A Car Park meeting was being held next Friday. It was pointed out that some parking spaces had been offered to other users but this had not helped the situation.

Youth Meeting This was not attended by any of the public despite flyers being sent out with the Parish Plan. Penny Clarke is to appoint a Youth Café liaison group.

1st School It has been proposed to save the old school bell and to place it in the new school. The 2 schools will operate on separate sites under one headmaster until the Middle School site is fully up and running, this could take as long as 2008.

Allotments All rents are in, access for wheelchairs is currently being reviewed.

Staithe Cllr Jordan had been to a meeting with the broads authority and it was possible that it could be part of a Staithe preservation order.

Luncheon Club Martham had recruited one new member.

Playing Field Clerk to write letter of support to Mr Ransome and to ask for an update and to suggest a meeting between Martham Parish Council and himself.

Staithe Road play area Cllr Hudson volunteered to continue with this project even though he is not standing for re-election.

The Chairman thanked all representatives for their work.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.10pm.

Martham PC