

Minutes of Martham Parish Council Meeting

Held in the Martham Methodist School Room on 20 July 2005 at 19:30 hrs.

Those Present:

Councillors:

B Wright J Beales T Watson P Manifold M Huke K Jordan T Gates S Warnes M Horrocks

Others: PC D Cook B Cllr J Hudson

Clerk in attendance: Lisa Harold Together with 5 members of the public.

Apologies:

B Carberry (attending Clip meeting on behalf of MPC), B Huxtable (holiday), Borough Councillor B Coleman

PUBLIC FORUM

Mrs Brown once again mentioned that the Oddfellows Footpath badly needed the hedges cut back.

It had been noted that the new disabled parking bay was not being used correctly. Signs stating "Disabled badge holders only" were pending, fly tipping signs were also needed at the bottle banks.

Borough Councillors Report

The Borough Councillor asked for a meeting with the Chairman to discuss outstanding issues relating to the village, the Chairman agreed to arrange a mutually convenient time for this. The Borough Councillor also agreed to check the streetlights in the village and report any outstanding repairs. Cllr Horrocks asked the Borough Councillor to look into the Borough Council cutting the verge at the bottom of Peartree Avenue as they used to.

Police Report

PC Cook reported that the Police Liaison meeting that had taken place since the last Parish Council meeting had been successful. The Chairman reported that the Repps Road bus shelter problems were getting worse and consideration would be given in the near future to removing the sides of the shelter.

COUNCIL MEETING

Declarations of Interest

T Watson, B Wright – Allotment holders.

S Warnes having a planning application submitted on her property.

Minutes of Previous Meeting

These having been circulated previously were ***Proposed*** by T Watson, ***Seconded*** by T Gates, Unanimous, and were duly signed as a true record.

Matters Arising

Litter Pick by Scouts – It was proposed Cllr Huke seconded Cllr Wright that a donation of £50.00 be given to the Scouts for their litter pick in the village. All were in favour and agreed that this could be sent immediately without waiting for the litter pick to take place.

War memorial cleaning – This had been carried out by Mr Warnes and Cllr Wright. The Small Works committee were asked to obtain costs for it's repair ready for the budget meeting in October.

Street Map- Cllr Beales was asked to find out exactly who had been given permission to use the Tourist Information board.

Police Meeting

All Councillors had been given a resume of the meeting.

Archive Storage

The Village Hall Representatives were asked to discuss with the Village Hall committee the possibility of reinstating the storage facility there. Cllr Watson suggested that if this was unsuccessful a permanent storage room could possibly be built at the new Pavilion extension or bowls club in the future.

Car Parking Bylaws

A copy of draft by laws to prevent the parking of vehicles on grass verges etc had been circulated to all Councillors. It was proposed by Cllr Huke, seconded Cllr Watson that a letter be sent to the Borough Council asking for these to be adopted. All were in favour.

Civil Contingencies Act

A brief description of this had been circulated to all Councillors. Cllr Manifold agreed to draft a response ready for the September meeting.

August Meeting

It was proposed Cllr Jordan, seconded Cllr Horrocks not to hold a August meeting. All were in favour. It was agreed that the Standing Orders be amended to reflect this change every year. The Clerk was asked to bring a draft amendment for approval to the September meeting. It was proposed by Cllr Huke seconded Cllr Watson that August expenses be approved by the cheque signatories and reported at the September meeting. All were in favour.

Planning

Cllr Warnes, having declared an interest, left the room whilst the planning application for 4a Somerton Road was discussed, she returned to the room for the discussion on the other planning issues.

Planning Applications Received for Parish Council Comments

Address	Application Type	Comments
4A Somerton Road	Entrance porch and toilet to rear	No objections
Martham Playing Field	2 x mobile classrooms for use as	No objections

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	changing rooms and toilets	
21 Sycamore Avenue	Conservatory	No objections
2 Bailey Close	Over garage extension	No objections
57 White Street	Extension	No objections
Rectory House, Repps Road	Gym	No objections

Planning permissions granted by GYBC

Address	Application Type	Comments
Oddfellows Hall 26 Black Street	Holiday let	Parish Council objected
4 Jubilee Walk	Pruning to Oak Tree	
48 White Street	Porch	

A letter had been received from the Village Hall committee advising of the proposed positioning of new fences to enhance security of the site. It was agreed that whilst the Parish Council did not have any objections to the positioning of fences to the sides and rear of the property the proposed 1.8m fence and gate to the front of the property raised concerns. The letter also stated that the contractor had advised that Planning Permission was not needed which went against what the Parish Council believed. The Village Hall representatives agreed to ask for further clarification of the plans sent to the Parish Council and to forward the PC's concerns. The Clerk was also asked to send a letter.

Section 137 Cruise Bereavement Care

It was proposed Cllr Huke seconded Cllr Horrocks that a donation of £25.00 be sent to Cruise Bereavement Care. All were in favour.

Finance

Item	Net	VAT	Total
Clerk net pay	485.11		485.11
Clerk pension	122.82		122.82
Clerk electricity	6.00		6.00
Clerk telephone	43.77	7.65	51.42
Skippers Stationery	68.73	6.77	75.50
Internet	15.99		15.99
J Hudson Car park bays	155.74		155.74
M Print photocopying	67.10	11.74	78.84
Scouts Village litter pick	50.00		50.00
P Starling Grass cutting	405.00	70.87	475.87
P Pike footpath cutting	50.00		50.00
SSAF signs	28.60	5.01	33.61
P Blake Car park strimming	35.00		35.00
Kirk Tree surgeon etc	294.00	51.45	345.45
Green repairs	7.35		7.35
Section 137 - Cruise bereavement care	25.00		25.00
Total for July	1860.21	153.49	2013.70

Finances to be agreed, **Proposed** by P Manifold, **Seconded** by K Jordan, Unanimous.

Correspondence

A letter had been received from MP Tony Wright enclosing copies of letters from school children attending the Middle School. One letter referred to the poor state of the ponds and the other referred to the play area being moved. It was agreed that the Clerk write to Tony Wright outlining the proposals for the play area and the cleaning program for the ponds. Proposed Cllr Manifold seconded Cllr Jordan, all in favour. It was agreed that as soon as the time scale for the play area was known all schools should be informed.

A letter had been received from the Village Hall Committee asking for the key to the Archive cupboard to be returned. The whereabouts of this key was not known but the Parish Council were aware that the lock had been removed. The Clerk was asked to write to the Village Hall committee explaining this and to suggest a key register be kept in future. The committee also asked if it would be possible to reclaim VAT via the Parish Council. The Clerk referred to VAT notice 749 page 31 where it expressly mentions that Parish Councils cannot reclaim VAT for village halls. The Clerk was asked to include this in the letter to them.

Ponds

Cllr Huke had met with Simon Mutton Environment Strategy Officer Great Yarmouth Borough Council to discuss spring bulb planting on the green. Simon had agreed with the program agreeing that it would enhance the area. Cllr Huke proposed applying for up to £2000 106 open space monies to fund the project with planting help from the gardening club, and to cut a pathway through the verge around the co op car park as a shortcut to the bin, seconded Cllr Manifold, all in favour. Cllr Huke also reported that the bricks in the pond would be removed in the near future.

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Footpaths

Cllr Gates had yet to follow up the possibility that there were 2 footpaths missing on the new map.

It was reported that Sandy Lane was overgrown and the Clerk was asked to contact Raz Woolacott to ask for a stock of footpath signs.

Footways/Highways

A reply had been received from Norfolk County Highways regarding the flooding to Black Street stating that the problem had been identified and work would be carried out in due course. The letter also stated that someone from the Asset Management Team would be contacting the Parish Council in due course regarding the Back Lane Traffic Calming Scheme.

It was reported that the land beside the bungalow on Repps Road had a hedge overgrowing the pathway. The Clerk was asked to trace the owner and ask for this to be cut back.

Village Green/Car Parks

The bottle bank fly tipping had become a major problem with 2 Councillors taking 45 minutes each week to clear the area only to find it back to its former condition hours later. The need for a village cleaner was evident and it was proposed Cllr Huke seconded Cllr Manifold that a litter picker be employed for 2 hours per week for the Car Parks, greens and bus shelters in the village centre. All in favour. Cllr Jordan suggested highlighting the problem to Rob Cole at the Borough Council to ask for guidance with the bottle bank fly tipping problem. Cllr Huke stated that the fish and chip shop should be commended as, on his litter picking rounds on the green, he had not encountered rubbish at this area and assumed that it must be the staff at this site who were making the effort to keep the area tidy.

Representative Reports

Boat Dyke Trust

The litter bin at this site was, once again, not being emptied. The Clerk was asked to look into the legal implications of charging a fishing fee for the trusts side of the dyke. A new clerk had been appointed.

First School

Nothing to report.

Allotments

The allotment which had become overgrown was being cleared at the expense of the lessees. "No dogs" signs had been installed. A letter regarding wheelchair access had been received and the allotment committee were advised to contact the Allotments Association for advice on this matter.

Playing Field

So far the committee had spent £42,000 on installing the bowls green, the water had been installed, electricity was pending, they had been awarded another £5,000 grant. As discussed under planning it was hoped permission would be given for the temporary siting of porta cabins for changing rooms and toilets, permanent structure plans were pending.

NACRO sports carousel would be attending the playing field on 8th and 16th August, this event would be advertised in the village.

There was a dog fouling problem and the trustees were advised to contact the Borough Council legal department. In the meantime Cllr Beales volunteered to put up the Dog Fouling Stickers issued by the Borough Council.

Youth

The Youth Café would be closed for the summer until September.

Village Hall

Nothing to report.

Luncheon Club

Nothing to report.

Transport

Nothing to report.

Village Signs

It was anticipated that these would be installed by next year.

Medical Provision

Nothing to report, however a meeting was pending.

Items for next agenda

The Chairman proposed that 3 main topics/projects be nominated for priority for completion before the next Annual Village Meeting. All agreed to bring suggestions to the next meeting.

The time being 9.44pm the public were asked to leave as the next item was to be discussed in Camera.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 21:54 hrs.

Signed..... Dated.....

(Previous minutes are also available on the Council Website: www.martham.gov.uk).