

# Minutes of Martham Parish Council Meeting

## Held in the Martham Methodist School Room on 16 November 2005 at 19:30 hrs.

### Those Present:

#### Councillors:

J Beales B Carberry T Gates M Horrocks B Huxtable K Jordan S Warnes T Watson B Wright

#### Presiding: M Huke

Others: B Cllr J Hudson B Cllr B Coleman

Clerk in attendance: Lisa Harold

Together with 9 members of the public.

### Apologies:

P Manifold

### PUBLIC FORUM

Jenny Beasley Chairman of the Patient and Public Involvement Forum gave a short presentation on their work and explained that their role was to act on behalf of the patients and public using NHS services in the area. She explained that the PPIF was an independent organisation linked to the Great Yarmouth PCT. The Forum had received many complaints regarding patients not being able to get appointments to see Doctors, as a result of this the Forum would be surveying every GP practice and sub practice in the area, this was expected to take until March 2006. In addition to this the Forum was working hard to prevent the closure of the GP unit at Northgate Hospital and to improve the number of Palliative Care beds as only 1 was currently available. She explained that all meetings of the forum were open and held at the Cobholm and Lichfield Centre, she agreed to send a list of meeting dates to the Parish Council. She also provided a information poster to be displayed at the Clip and on a Parish Notice board. Cllr Huxtable asked if the forum could help with recruiting more Doctors in the area, she explained that this had been part of the "Annual Health Check" of the PCT and it would be followed up.

-Linda Sheridan reported being told by a member of the public that the footpath between Grange Farm and Common Road was Private and to "go away". The Clerk was asked to report this to the footpath officer at Norfolk County Council. The Council were also asked if they had received a planning application regarding 35 dwellings at the First School site, the Chairman reported that, to date, no planning application had been received for the site but that it would be sent by the Borough Council to the Parish Council if an application were to be made.

-Mrs Meakin reported fly tipping in the woodland at Ferrygate Lane. Cllr Coleman explained that this was on private land and therefore was not a Parish or Borough Council matter, he did offer to make enquiries to see what could be done.

-Mr and Mrs Watson asked if barriers could be erected at the end of the footpath between Repps Road and Hyrne Close to prevent cyclists from coming straight out onto the main road. Cllr Watson explained the problem of barriers for disabled users. The Clerk was asked to make enquiries as to a wheelchair friendly barrier system.

-Mr Watson also asked why there had been no mention of the Village Green Dispute and subsequent letters forwarded to the Police in the Mercury. The Chairman explained that the Mercury edited information sent to them and this had obviously been taken out, the Chairman also explained that the letters occurred since the previous meeting and would therefore not be part of those minutes. Mr Watson also asked what was to be done about the orange mesh put along the pavement near 17 The Green, the Chairman explained this was in hand.

### Borough Councillors Report

-Cllr Hudson asked whether the Village Hall received money for the papers collected at the site. The Village Hall representative confirmed this was so although it had declined since the recycling collections had begun. Cllr Hudson also asked if money was received for the bottle banks. The Chairman stated that the Parish Council had been told that the return was so small it did not warrant a transaction, however Cllr Hudson pointed out that additional expense was incurred in keeping the area clean. The Clerk was asked to make enquiries regarding some form of compensation.

-Cllr Coleman reported that the hedge at the Staithe Road allotment site was the Parish Councils responsibility to maintain.

-He had been asked to enquire regarding the "rat run" situation at Hyrne Close where some people were running through the back hedge. He asked that the Parish Council arrange for a representative of the Parish Council to attend a site meeting with residents and the Borough Council to obtain a solution. It was agreed that Cllrs Wright and Watson would attend, Cllr Coleman agreed to arrange a date with Justine Gibb of the Borough Council contacting the Clerk with a date.

-The Clerk was asked to ensure that Hyrne Close was on the priority list for street lighting.

### COUNCIL MEETING

#### Declarations of Interest

T Watson, B Wright – Allotment holders. S Warnes – Planning (owning a property opposite 9 Somerton Road).

#### Minutes of Previous Meeting

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

#### Matters Arising

**Village Green Dispute**- The Clerk had circulated an update to all Councillors. The letter from the Nicholas Jago's giving 30 days notice for the parking bays and notice to be removed had been sent to the Special Commissioners with an explanation of

**Minutes of Martham Parish Council Meeting Cont...**

the history of the case and requesting that they proceed with the registration of the greens. The Special Commissioners Solicitor had requested copies of the Inclosure Award of 1812 in order to do this, to date the Clerk was waiting for a copy to forward to him.

Highways had visited the site to inspect the highway and concluded that the area had been made up by NCC Highways but it did not show on recent maps. They had held a meeting to discuss ownership and access issues which was the same day as the Parish Council meeting and so no further information regarding this had been received. The Clerk had contacted the Commons Commission to update them on the situation.

PC Grosvenor had stated that the case was still ongoing pending further information from Highways. More than 120 letters had been forwarded to the Police from residents in the village stating that the road had always been used as public highways and maintained by Norfolk County Council. These had been largely collected by Mr and Mrs Watson and special thanks went to them. A letter had also been received by a previous owner of the shop and some previous Parish Councillors all stating that the highway was a public right of way.

The Chairman then read a letter received that day (16<sup>th</sup> November 2005) from the Nicholas Jago's which stated that the 30 days notice period was up. It was proposed Cllr Jordan, seconded Cllr Wright that a copy of this be sent to the Special Commissioners Solicitor, all in favour.

**Village Hall Archive Storage-** A letter had been received from the Village Hall committee giving permission for a cabinet for Archive Storage to be placed in the upstairs London Room. The Clerk was asked to purchase one big enough in liaison with the Village Hall Committee and to arrange the transfer of the Parish Plan and other documents.

**Civil Contingencies Act-** Cllr Manifold had completed the document, however it was agreed that this should be typed and distributed to all Councillors for Friday with any alterations and comments forwarded to the Clerk by November 23<sup>rd</sup> 2005.

**May Fair** – Nothing to report.

**Community Centre Rent-** No response from the Norfolk County Council to date. It was agreed that the matter should be left with them.

**Management Agreement for Smea Land** – To date there had been response from the Borough regarding the outstanding queries. Cllr Huxtable agreed to discuss this further with the Borough Solicitor.

**Repps Road bus shelter-** No further problems had been encountered in this area and the graffiti had been removed. It was agreed to review this in three months time.

**Annual Audit** – This had been returned by the external auditor with no outstanding points.

**Playing Field Registration-** It was agreed that Cllr Huxtable, together with the Borough Solicitor, should proceed with the registration of the Playing Field. As the fee for this would be based upon the current value of the land 2 valuations were to be obtained. Cllr Jordan asked that Playing Field Lane be considered as part of the land to be registered. Cllr Huxtable was instructed to ask the Solicitor about this. The Clerk was asked to write a letter of appointment to the Borough Solicitor and to write to Gunther Young to ask him to release the deeds for the Playing Field to Cllr Huxtable.

**Planning**

Cllr Warnes had declared a personal interest in 9 Somerton Road planning application, it was decided that she could remain in the room but not take part in the discussion or any subsequent vote.

*Planning Applications Received for Parish Council Comments*

Address	Application Type	Comments
9 Somerton Road	2 storey side extension	Too close to neighbours boundary, would spoil look of street

Proposed Cllr Jordan, seconded Cllr Huxtable to forward these concerns to the Borough planning department.

*Planning permissions granted by GYBC*

Address	Application Type	Comments
8 Holly Close	Conservatory	
10 Merriman Road	2 story side extension	

It was noted that a full copy of the 106 agreement for The Avenues had been passed to the Parish Council.

-The Borough Council had confirmed that planning permission was not required to use a property for holiday let.

-The Borough Council had reported that the Propane Gas storage facility at the DIY was granted planning permission in 1985 and it could not be reversed. It was agreed that Cllr Watson would pass these comments to Mr and Mrs Watson who brought this to the Councils attention.

-The Clerk had written to the Borough Planning Officer to inform them that a conifer hedge had been planted at 19 Willow Way at exactly the same position as planning permission for a fence had been refused (even after appeal). The Planning Officer had replied stating that he did not feel that the hedge presented a problem. The Chairman had contacted him to ask that he conduct a site visit and review the situation. To date this had not been done but the Chairman would chase in 1 weeks time. All supported the Chairman's suggestion that the matter should be taken to the head of planning if something was not done.

-The Chairman was in receipt of the Core Strategy Development Plan for 2021. He explained that it was a well explained document with some good points. It was noted that the response deadline was 5th December, Cllrs Huxtable and Wright agreed to meet with Cllr Huke to formulate a response.

## Minutes of Martham Parish Council Meeting Cont...

### Finance

Item	Net	VAT	Total
Clerk net pay	388.89		<b>388.89</b>
Clerk pension	98.25		<b>98.25</b>
Clerk electricity	4.80		<b>4.80</b>
J Howard Bulbs for green	1200.00		<b>1200.00</b>
K Jordan Accounts book	15.77		<b>15.77</b>
Internet	15.99		<b>15.99</b>
M Print	108.05	18.91	<b>126.96</b>
NCC Allotment rent	335.00		<b>335.00</b>
Miracle Cleaning	95.00	16.65	<b>111.65</b>
P Starling Grass cutting	170.00	29.75	<b>199.75</b>
P Pike footpath cutting	61.00		<b>61.00</b>
P Pike War memorial	165.00		<b>165.00</b>
M Brooks repair to Village Hall lock	5.00		<b>5.00</b>
<b>Total for November</b>	<b>2662.75</b>	<b>65.31</b>	<b>2728.06</b>

It was noted that Mr Starling's Grass cutting invoice had been reduced by £100.00 as a donation towards legal fees for the Village Green dispute. It was agreed to accept this generous offer and to send a letter of thanks. The Clerk was asked to ensure that the overall cost of grass cutting for the year did not include this reduction.

It was agreed to pay the war memorial planting fees and review all contracts in January.

*Finances to be agreed, Proposed by B Wright, Seconded by B Huxtable, Unanimous .*

### Correspondence

Nothing to report.

### Ponds

The pond committee had been monitoring the pond near the fish and chip shop as it remained half full. The storm gate was in working order and so it was assumed that either the clay lining had been punctured or there had not been enough rainfall. This would continue to be monitored.

### Footpaths

The Footpath officer for NCC had emailed questioning the need for a kissing gate at the Staithe Road to Moregrove Footpath to replace the old stile. It was agreed by all that some form of barrier was needed to prevent walkers from walking out onto the busy road. Cllr Huxtable reported that many ramblers were not happy for it to be removed. Cllr Warnes reiterated this point stating that stiles were a part of history and should be kept where possible. Cllr Huxtable agreed that the stile was exceptionally high and might be made easier to use he proposed that the footpath officer be asked to add another step if possible, seconded Cllr Gates, all in favour.

Cllr Gates had given the Clerk a footpath map outlining the paths which would need regular cutting and hedge trimming in the summer, this would be used to form part of the formal tender in January.

### Footways/Highways

A site meeting at Back Lane had been held and it had been agreed by Highways to pull the island further out near the Mushroom Farm to slow traffic from Somerton Road into Back Lane and to install speed ramps and a 20mph speed limit. The Parish Council had been asked to survey the properties on this road and 106 money had been secured for the project.

Cllr Beales asked if the numbers of the houses at Grove Close could be identified better, the Clerk was asked to write to the Borough Council.

### Village Green/Car Parks

A letter had been received from Norfolk Wildlife Trust regarding the green. A conservation officer had visited the site to ascertain whether it could be deemed as a Country Wildlife Site, however it proved that it was not species rich to warrant this classification. Her opinion was that, to plant bulbs, was inappropriate, and suggested that planting of wildflowers instead. Cllr Huke explained that the Parish Council had decided that the green was to be used as a public amenity and a wildflower area would encroach on this use, he also stated that wildflowers areas can look untidy. Cllr Huxtable reiterated that the bulb planting was experimental to be monitored over the coming two years. Mrs Meakin had also written a letter regarding Flora Locale but this had been received too late to include on the agenda. It was agreed that this should be included in the agenda for the next meeting, together with the planting request forwarded by the Gardening Club.

**At this point the Chairman asked that Standing Orders be moved to allow the meeting to continue past 10.00pm, proposed Cllr Jordan, seconded Cllr Beales.**

### Representative Reports

#### Boat Dyke Trust

Cllr Jordan reported that 60 posts had been purchased and at the weekend the wetter area of the Staithe would be roped off to prevent car parking during the winter months.

## ***Minutes of Martham Parish Council Meeting Cont...***

### *First School*

Cllr Watson circulated an update report on the situation regarding the merger of the First and Middle School.

### *Allotments*

Nothing to report.

### *Playing Field*

A steering committee had been formed to obtain grants to fund the new changing rooms with the possibility of the old changing rooms being used for additional Social club toilets and Pool Room and possible Parish Council office. It was reported that the Social Club accounts were being incorporated into the Playing Field Accounts.

### *Youth*

Nothing to report.

### *Village Hall*

Cllr Beales asked why no notices had been displayed to advertise the AGM? Cllr Wright had been told that 3 notices had been displayed.

### *Luncheon Club*

Nothing to report.

### *Transport*

Cllr Beales had a consultation document which needed to be returned before 16<sup>th</sup> December. It was agreed that she should complete and return it.

### *Village Signs*

Cllr Beales had spoken with NCC Aylsham office but had not managed to get any further forward. The Chairman asked Cllr Beales to forward a resume to the Clerk which the Clerk would then forward to County Cllr Cartiss to ask for his help.

### *Medical Provision*

Nothing to report.

### *Staithe Road Open Space*

It was resolved that the Parish Council write to the Staithe Road allotment tenants giving an explanation as to why, and notice of, termination under their agreements, proposed Cllr Jordan, seconded Cllr Wright, all in favour.

It was resolved that the Parish Council charge a Peppercorn Rent of £1.00 per annum to the Scouts for leased occupation of the West parcel of land at Staithe Road subject to the solicitors recommendations proposed Cllr Jordan, seconded Cllr Wright, all in favour.

It was resolved that the Parish Council write to HKB Wiltshire (Mr G Young) with a letter of Appointment to formulate a draft sub lease or some such document for the proposed Scouts occupation of the West parcel of land, subject to a written estimate of costs for this which fall in line with the Councils' prior sum allotted. This letter to include a highlighted copy of these minutes, a copy of both leases with plans, a copy of the termination notices and a copy of the tenancy agreements, proposed Cllr Jordan, seconded Cllr Carberry, all in favour.

It was resolved that the Parish Council develop the East parcel of land at Staithe Road into a landscaped grassed "Open Space", subject to funds being made available by way of section 106 monies or failing this, from elsewhere, also subject to the terms of the Borough Council lease, proposed Cllr Jordan, seconded Cllr Wright, all in favour.

### *Martham Guide*

Nothing to report

### *Asset Register*

All rough paperwork had been done. The Clerk was asked to provide an office equipment list.

### *Children's Centre*

Cllr Beale had obtained information regarding a proposed Children's Centre in the Village either at the new Primary School site or at the new Medical Centre. It was agreed that Cllr Beales should forward the Parish Councils view that it should be at the school site.

### ***Items for Next Agenda***

Freedom of Information Act

***There being no further business, the meeting closed at 22:34 hrs.***

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

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