

Minutes of Martham Parish Council Meeting

Held in the Martham Methodist School Room on 21 December 2005 at 19:30 hrs.

Those Present:

Councillors:

B Carberry T Gates M Horrocks B Huxtable K Jordan P Manifold S Warnes T Watson B Wright

Presiding: M Huke

Others: B Cllr J Hudson

Clerk in attendance: Lisa Harold

Together with 6 members of the public.

Apologies:

J Beales

PUBLIC FORUM

Mrs Moore complained about the constant flooding to Black Street which had been ongoing for many years. She explained that repairs had been carried out in the past but had not dealt with the problem, it was also felt by other members of the public that the drains were not cleared and serviced properly. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to County Councillor Cartiss. Cllr Horrocks asked that the County Councillor also be asked about the state of the pavements on Deepdale Avenue.

Borough Councillors Report

Borough Councillor Hudson pointed out that the appearance of the new Doctors surgery was quite modern for a rural area. The Chairman did state that, with further landscaping, this should soften. The Borough Councillor and the Chairman agreed to meet after the Christmas break to discuss possible ways for improving its appearance. The Clerk was asked to check the original planning application to find out about the footpath from the village to the new surgery.

COUNCIL MEETING

Declarations of Interest

T Watson, B Wright – Allotment holders.

Minutes of Previous Meeting

These having been circulated previously were proposed by M Horrocks, seconded by B Carberry, unanimous, and were duly signed as a true record.

Matters Arising

Village Green Bulb Planting – Further information had been circulated to all Councillors regarding the planting of a wildflower meadow on the green. The Chairman outlined the background, explaining that the Norfolk Wildlife Trust had visited the green and had found no endangered species of plant, he also stated that there were already many areas of wild meadow land around the village.

Cllr Jordan explained that, since reading the literature, the idea of a wildflower meadow on a small part of the green seemed more appealing but that further tests of the soil would be needed and as a result could mean that, with soil conditioning if required, a wildflower meadow could prove expensive.

Cllr Watson stated that he felt that the green should be left as it was. Cllr Huxtable proposed that small committee comprising himself, Cllr Jordan and Mrs Meakin should be formed to investigate the possibility of a wildflower meadow on part of the green with a site to be discussed at a future meeting, seconded Cllr Jordan, 5 for 5 against the Chairman's casting vote was for, carried.

Village Hall Archive Storage – The Clerk and Cllr Beales had found a fire proof storage cabinet measuring 700mm width, 550 depth and 1950mm height at a cost of £548.00 and, due to the amount of Parish Plan papers, two of these would be needed. One non fireproof cabinet would be big enough at a cost of £199.00. Cllr Wright had discussed the cabinets with the Village Hall committee who preferred one large storage cabinet rather than two smaller ones. Cllr Jordan proposed that further investigations be carried out into the purchase of second hand equipment, seconded Cllr Wright, the Clerk, Cllr Jordan and Cllr Huke were given permission to purchase a cabinet up to the value of £350, even if it was not fireproof.

Civil Contingencies Act- This had been sent to the Borough Council and a copy of the completed form had been circulated to all Councillors.

May Fair- Cllrs Horrocks and Warnes had met to further this project and an update of their work had been circulated. They had looked into the possibility of having the fair at Harvest Time instead of May. Cllr Jordan expressed his concern that Parish Council time was being spent organising events such as this, the Chairman explained that various organisations would take over the running of the various different elements and that the Parish Council would just act as a starting block.

Smee Land Management Agreements- Cllr Huxtable had spoken with Nicola Swann of the Legal Department at the Borough Council who had apologised for the delay. She had agreed to contact the Clerk.

Hyrne Close Allotment Fence- The allotment committee had not been aware of the visit carried out by the Borough Council when they had investigated the fencing. The Committee did not believe that the fence was in a terrible condition and what small gaps were evident could be filled in easily by the planting of hedge plants. The Borough Council had forwarded a proposal that the Parish Council pay £3500, the Housing Department pay £2100 and the two private homeowners pay £700 each towards the installation of a new fence and that the costs could be higher due to accessibility etc. It was proposed Cllr Huke, seconded Cllr Wright that the Clerk write to the Borough Council informing them that the estimated costs were over what the Parish Council could afford and that no additional barrier was need at the site, all in favour.

Footpath barriers for Hyrne Close/Repps Road – The Clerk had contacted Norfolk County Highways regarding the installation of a safety barrier to stop pedestrians walking out into the path of traffic at this site. The engineer had pointed out that the road

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was a byroad and therefore did not have fast moving traffic and also that the installation of certain barriers would impede wheelchair users. He had said an engineer would inspect it when next in the area to see if anything could be done.

Bottle Bank monetary compensation- Cllr Beales had investigated this and an update had been circulated to all Councillors. It had transpired that the emptying of the banks did cost the borough approx £24 per tonne for the collection, however £47 per tonne was then refunded by the Norfolk County Council. She had spoken with Rob Cole of GYBC who was in favour of Martham taking over their own scheme and had also offered a shoe recycling bank on the same basis. It was proposed by Cllr Jordan that Martham Parish Council take on the glass recycling scheme, paying waste recycling and claiming the recycling credit payment from Norfolk County Council for both the glass banks and shoe bank, seconded Cllr Huxtable, all in favour. Cllr Jordan asked for it to be minuted that, yet again, it seemed that the Borough Council had been “economical” with the truth when in the past they had been asked about money made from the banks and they had stated that it cost them money, when in fact they omitted to add that they were then refunded the costs and more from the County Council. This had then meant that the Borough had benefited from thousands of pounds which could have been targeted for use in the Parish.

Village Green Dispute – An update had been circulated to all Councillors which confirmed the ongoing action being taken by both the Police and the solicitor for the Special Commissioners of the Green.

Playing Field Registration- This was being progressed by Cllr Huxtable with the Borough Solicitor.

DIY Entrance – Cllr Watson had passed on the information obtained from Planning regarding the alteration of the entrance to this site. He reported that Mr and Mrs Watson were now in direct contact with the shop and it was hoped that a suitable resolution could be found between both parties.

With permission from the Council the Chairman moved agenda item 17 Village Green to this part of the meeting at the request of a Parishioner.

Village Green/ Car Parks – Plans had been given to all Councillors which outlined the gardening club’s proposal to plant a shrub bed in the middle of the small green outside the Clip office measuring 8 metres in diameter. The Chairman read out a letter from the Chair of the gardening club, Mrs Sue Pickles, stating that as a grant had been obtained for the planting of the bed in this location only, if the scheme was not approved by the Council the grant money would be returned rather than the planting being done in another area of the village. She also pointed out that the site had been chosen with the Parish Plan results in mind. Cllr Warnes stated that she felt that the planting of a shrub bed was not necessary and was out of character. A vote was taken on the proposal to plant the shrub bed at the proposed location on a 12 month trial basis, 5 in favour, 4 against with 1 abstention, carried.

A letter was then read out from John Hudson who had carried out work on the co op car park and village green and had agreed not to charge the Parish Council. It was agreed to send him a letter of thanks.

Broads Authority Middle Thurne Working Group – It was agreed that Cllr Manifold should be the representative on this committee.

Freedom of Information Act- Cllr Jordan asked for this to be carried forward to the next agenda.

Tenders and Contracts for 2006 – The Chairman asked that each working party prepare a list of works for the coming year ready to draw up a comprehensive list ready for tender requests. This was carried forward to the next meeting.

Martham Fun Carnival- The Carnival Crew had forwarded the closing information on their term as organisers. £800 towards the entrance signs and £200 towards the play area had been forwarded and banked by the Parish Council Clerk. They had asked that the Parish Council become custodians of the PA system purchased by them and had asked that, in the event of the new organisers not wishing to carry on with the Carnival, the PA system be returned to the Parish Council for the use of the village. Proposed Cllr Jordan , seconded Cllr Huke that the Parish Council become custodians of the equipment in the event of the Carnival Committee being disbanded, all in favour.

Personal working Party meeting- A meeting had been held at the Parish Clerks house by the personnel working party to discuss some problems and improve some administration issues, a resume of this meeting had been circulated to all Councillors. The Clerk had contacted Parish Clerks in the area to cover her maternity leave but none were interested. It was agreed to discuss this at the next meeting.

Planning

Cllr Watson declared an interest in the planning application for Riverside Boatbuilders, as it was his place of work. It was agreed that he could remain in the room but not be allowed to comment.

Planning Applications Received for Parish Council Comments

Address	Application Type	Comments
Riverside, Cess Road	Removal of building and erection of new in adjacent area	No objections but queried what the newly cleared are would be used for
10 Sycamore Avenue	Conservatory	No objections
Gordon House, 58 Repps Road	Removal of use as residential care home	No objections
24 Sycamore Avenue	Conservatory	No objections
Manor Farm, Back Lane	2 x four bedroomed dwellings	No objections but asked to retain existing wall

Planning permissions granted by GYBC

Address	Application Type	Comments
Former coal yard, Hemsby Road	Plots 4, 9 & 10 approval of res matters	
SSAF Back Lane	2 storey unit	
16 Sycamore Avenue	Conservatory	

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Planning permissions refused by GYBC

Address	Application Type	Comments
9 Somerton Road	2 storey side and rear extension	

The hedge boundary planned at 19 Willow Way had been inspected by the GYBC planning officer. His opinion was that, at present, it did not form a boundary and until it did, nothing could be done. The Planning officer had agreed to review the situation over a period of time.

Section 137 Request

A request had been made by Victim Support for monetary assistance, proposed Cllr Huke to donate £25.00 and to review 137 money use at next meeting, seconded Cllr Manifold, all in favour.

Finance

Item	Net	VAT	Total
Clerk net pay	455.11		455.11
Clerk pension	122.82		122.82
Clerk electricity & stamps	15.00		15.00
PAYE 3 months	542.63		542.63
Vantech Website hosting	155.00		155.00
Internet	15.99		15.99
P Blake Staithe Road hedge cutting	100.00		100.00
Village Cleaning	95.00	16.65	111.65
SLCC subscription	93.00		93.00
Ink Express	12.49		12.49
Audit Commission Audit Fee	250.00	43.75	293.75
Link Subscription	36.00		36.00
Section 137 - Victim Support	25.00		25.00
Total for December	1918.04	60.40	1978.44

Finances to be agreed, **Proposed** by P Manifold, **Seconded** by B Carberry, Unanimous .

Correspondence

Nothing to report that had not already been discussed.

Ponds

Nothing to report.

Footpaths

It was noted that, yet again, the byway sign from the Hemsby Road end of Pratts Loke had been removed, Clerk to report to footpath officer. The footpath officer had emailed regarding the stile at Staithe Road stating that, under the Disability Discrimination Act it would have to be removed. Cllr Jordan believed this statement to be unfounded as the footpath itself was unsuitable for disabled access anyway. It was proposed by Cllr Huke that the situation be left until the stile was removed and then the Parish Council take action to install a gate to prevent walkers entering the fast moving traffic on Staithe Road, seconded Cllr Watson, all in favour.

Cllr Manifold stated that there was still obstructions at the Rose Farm footpath. Cllr Gates reported that someone had been filling potholes on the footpath on Cess Road near the entrance from Repps Road with large pieces of brick rubble making access difficult and dangerous, the arm was also missing on the footpath sign from Cess Road to Common Road. The Clerk was asked to report all of these to the Footpath officer.

Footways/Highways

Back Lane scheme had been outlined by highways. Cllr Huxtable agreed to inform all householders on Back Lane, the Clerk was asked to provide enough copies of the letter and maps for each household. It was agreed that the developer would be written to ask if 106 money could be released early to facilitate the scheme as soon as possible.

Cllr Gates had visited Mr Harper on Black Street regarding his hedge which obscured the street light. Mr Harper had been agreeable to cutting back the hedge but had pointed out that the light was on his land and was obscured more by the telegraph pole in front of it and that the hedge would be completely removed within a year due to planning permission for a "L" shaped bungalow having been granted. It was agreed that a letter should be written to him to ensure that the hedge would be removed within 12 months.

It was pointed out that GPO had carried out work to the highway at the top of Cess Road and had then left the signs in the road without reopening the road. It was noted that no official notice had been received by the Parish Council informing them of the closure and that members of the public had eventually moved the signs to the hedgerow where they remained. The Clerk was asked to write to highways

A hole had been repaired at the entrance to Martham Boatbuilders on Cess Road which had now opened up again and the corner of Low Road at the entrance to Polehouse Nurseries was flooding again. Clerk was asked to write to highways.

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Representative Reports

Boat Dyke Trust

Minutes of the meetings dated 3rd November and 1st December had been circulated to all Councillors.

First School

Nothing to report.

Allotments

The hedge would be cut in January.

Playing Field

Nothing to report.

Youth

Nothing to report.

Village Hall

Nothing to report.

Luncheon Club

Nothing to report.

Transport

Nothing to report.

Village Signs

An update had been circulated stating that Mr Atkinson of Norfolk County Highways had given permission for their installation. Matt Lines the engineer would be arranging a meeting with the working party to discuss where they should be placed

Medical Provision

Cllr Manifold reported that another meeting would be arranged. Cllr Huke asked that the landscaping at the new medical centre be discussed.

Staithe Road Open Space

Cllr Jordan read a letter from Mr Gunther Young, Solicitor who had been asked to draw up the sub lease for the scouts. Mr Young had suggested asking the Borough Solicitor to deal with the sub lease, however the Council believed, as the lease was with them, they would have a conflict of interest. Mr Young also stated that his original concerns about the lease had not led to any amendments, however the Council felt that the leases had been amended with his advice in mind.

Cllr Huke proposed that a letter of thanks be sent to Mr Young for his work and asking for an invoice of work to date to be forwarded to the Council. He should also be asked to prepare the sub lease for the scouts. In the event of him not wishing to carry out this work another solicitor to be approached as soon as possible, seconded Cllr Manifold, all in favour.

Martham Guide

Nothing to report.

Asset Register

The Clerk had forwarded a list of office equipment and this was ongoing.

Items for next agenda

Christmas Dinner 2006

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 21:41 hrs.

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

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