

Minutes of Martham Parish Council Meeting

Held in the Martham Methodist School Room on 18 January 2006 at 19:30 hrs.

Those Present:

Councillors:

J Beales B Carberry T Gates M Horrocks B Huxtable K Jordan P Manifold T Watson B Wright

Presiding: M Huke

Others: C Cllr M Carttiss PC D Cook B Cllr J Hudson Rev J Crafer

Clerk in attendance: Lisa Harold Together with 8 members of the public.

Apologies:

S Warnes

PUBLIC FORUM

Mrs Meakin reported fly tipping in the ditch at Ferrygate Lane, the Clerk was asked to report this to the Environmental Rangers. She also asked if anything could be done to prevent horse riders using the footpath on the riverbank between Martham and Somerton as this churned it up in wet weather and made it un-walk able in places. The Clerk was asked to report this to Raz Woolacott of Norfolk County Council.

J Hudson asked if the coop car park was the best place for the proposed shoe bank and suggested the Village Hall car park instead. The Chairman explained that the Co-op car park was to be discussed later in the meeting and this would be considered. He also asked if he could suggest an area for the proposed wildflower meadow on the green, the Chair asked him to contact a member of the working party.

Rev Crafer brought to the attention of the Council that, in view of the First School Site being sold (which was confirmed by Cllr Manifold) there were only 50 spaces left in the churchyard and expansion of the churchyard for future use should be considered. The Chair asked the Clerk to write to GYBC to ask if a use for the site had been designated.

Mrs Moore reported mud on Black Street near "Cukooburrow" which had been left by farm machinery. PC Cook agreed to speak to the farmer about this.

Borough Councillors Report

Councillor Hudson had nothing to report but would do a village survey of streetlights and report faults to the Borough Council.

County Councillors Report

Councillor Carttiss reported that he had written to Highways regarding the flooding to Black Street. Their reply had been that the work to remedy the situation would be part of a major roadwork scheme, he promised to try to get funding for this, with Highways help, in the new financial year. He had also reported the problems on Deepdale Avenue footways and these were to be done within the next few weeks. Cllr Huxtable asked that Cllr Carttiss look at the road between Martham and Hemsby to be considered for improvements in the new financial year. Cllr Watson asked if, in view of potential spending cuts within Norfolk County Council, the work needed was small would it be shelved? He made specific reference to flooding problems on Low Road. Cllr Carttiss stated that work such as this would not be forgotten and asked for an update of the situation on Low Road.

Police Report

PC Cook reported that there had been a spate of car badge thefts prior to Christmas and as a result 9 youths had been interviewed with 7 facing further action.

COUNCIL MEETING

Declarations of Interest

T Watson, B Wright – Allotment holders.

Minutes of Previous Meeting

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

Matters Arising

Flooding to Black Street – Discussed under County Councillors Report.

Wildflower Meadow on Green – The Working Party asked for this to be forwarded to the Next Agenda.

Archive Storage – The Chairman reported that a fireproof cabinet was proving to be too expensive and that the risk of fire was minimal due to the excellent standards at the Village Hall. The cheapest cabinet now stood at £139.99, however Rev Crafer asked to speak and offered a fireproof cabinet, at present in the vestry, which was no longer used. The Chairman agreed to inspect the cabinet and report to the next meeting.

Management Agreement for Smea Land- The Clerk had written another letter to the Borough Solicitor chasing a reply but to date had heard nothing. Cllr Huxtable agreed to speak to the borough Solicitor to progress this matter.

Bottle Banks- It was proposed Cllr Huxtable, seconded Cllr Watson that the shoe bank be first offered to the Village Hall, all were in favour of this. Cllr Beales agreed to find out about the shoe bank and to forward this information to the Village Hall should they accept the siting of the shoe bank on their car park. She explained that due to wheelie bin installations in the Borough she had not been able to contact anyone to further the Bottle Bank scheme.

Playing Field registration – Mr Duffield of Aldreds was carrying out a valuation of the Playing Field and had been sent a copy of the Youth Club lease to further this.

Staithe Road Footpath Stile – Norfolk County Council had written explaining that this would probably be removed in the near future to be replaced by a buffer barrier.

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Back Lane Calming Scheme- Cllr Huxtable had given copies of the scheme to all residents of Back Lane inviting their comments. A Mr Slater had asked for the third hump to be included, Mr Whittaker had asked for the bollards around his corner to be repaired (the Clerk was asked to report this immediately) and the resident at the new house on the corner near the chip shop had asked for double yellow lines to ease parking on this corner. All residents were in favour of the scheme. It was agreed to support the request for the third hump and to write to Highways reporting this and that all residents were in favour. The Clerk was asked to write to the developer to ask that funds be released early.

Staithe Road leases – The Clerk agreed to contact Mr Gunther Young by phone as no reply had been received from him regarding his intention of proceeding with this issue.

Footpath problems – Cllr Gates confirmed that Mr Woolcott had contacted him to ask where the problems were and this was being investigated. Mr Watson had agreed to break down the larger pieces of rubble deposited on the footpath at Cess Road.

Freedom of Information Act Cllr Jordan asked that this be forwarded to the next agenda.

Tenders and Contracts for 2006 – A small works list had been formed by the working party including all Parish Council owned property. It was agreed that a letter should be sent to the Doctors Surgery asking if the seat installed at the Doctors surgery in memory of Mr Littleworth was going to be moved to the new site and if not that the Parish Council consider adopting it.

It was proposed Cllr Manifold seconded Cllr Gates that seats at Cromwell Close, Grove Close and the churchyard be adopted by the Parish Council and maintained by them, all were in favour.

Working Parties were asked to liaise with the Clerk to draw up a specification list for each area of work and to draw up a contract to put out to tender.

Clerk Maternity Leave – Elizabeth Toll had been recommended to the Council and was in the public forum. It was proposed Cllr Huke, seconded Cllr Huxtable that, pending interview, remuneration and work scope be set by the Personnel Working Party and for them to report at the next meeting.

Cllr Huke advised that he could no longer stand on the personnel committee due to the time taken on the Playing Field project and advised that Cllr Horrocks had agreed to replace him.

Rollesby Parish Council CICAR Concerns – A letter had been received from Rollesby Parish Council outlining concerns that an organisation named CICAR had approached various people with a view to opening a hostel in Rollesby Parish to rehabilitate and house sex offenders. A public meeting had been held which had been attended by the Police, Borough and County Councillors, Rollesby Parish Council and many of the public. During this meeting it was outlined that CICAR was not a recognised organisation and that the probability of such a thing happening was remote and seemed unlikely at this time.

Christmas Dinner 2006 – It was proposed Cllr Watson seconded Cllr Wright that a Parish Council Christmas dinner be arranged, all in favour. Cllr Watson agreed to look into this.

Planning

Planning Applications Received for Parish Council Comments

Address	Application Type	Comments
41B River Thurne Cottages	New boathouse	No objections
8 Sycamore Avenue	Conservatory	No objections

Planning permissions granted by GYBC

Address	Application Type	Comments
10 Sycamore Avenue	Conservatory	

Finance

Item	Net	VAT	Total
Clerk net pay	351.09		351.09
Clerk pension	98.25		98.25
Clerk electricity	4.80		4.80
Stamps	30.00		30.00
Printer Cartridge	12.49		12.49
Internet	15.99		15.99
Phone	67.33	10.91	78.24
Miracle Cleaning	76.00	13.32	89.32
D Cossey footpath cutting	35.00		35.00
Section 137 – Carnival Committee	100.00		100.00
Total for January	790.95	24.23	815.18

Finances to be agreed, **Proposed** by B Carberry, **Seconded** by T Gates, Unanimous.

All Councillors had been supplied with a copy of the accounts to 31st December 2005.

Correspondence

A letter had been received from the new Carnival Committee asking for a donation towards this years Carnival. This had been discussed under Finances as a 137 donation and thus included in the total paid for this month. Cllr Huxtable proposed a

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donation of £100.00 seconded Cllr Carberry, all in favour. Cllr Beales also asked for a review of how section 137 money was spent.

Ponds

Due to an opportunity having arisen between meetings to resolve the over populating of ducks in the village a vote had been taken prior to the meeting with 6 votes in favour to remove 150 ducks to another location. This was seen to be the most humane way to deal with the situation. This would leave approx 80 to 100 ducks in Martham. It was noted that this was still well over the 6-8 ducks recommended by the Environmental Officer! Cllr Jordan expressed his disagreement with votes being held between meetings and stated that all decisions should be made at public meetings of the Council, this comment was upheld by Cllr Huxtable. The Chairman apologised and stated that it would not happen again.

Footpaths

Nothing to report.

Footways/Highways

Cllr Jordan had met with Matt Lines of Norfolk County Highways to discuss the new entrance signs but had reiterated the problems on Low Road and Deepdale Avenue.

It was noted that the un adopted road from the co op car park to Rowan Road was badly potholed and needed repairs. The Clerk was asked to write to the Borough to ask who owned this stretch of road.

Cllr Beales had received an email regarding dog fouling on Black Street and had also been approached by a parishioner. The Clerk was asked to write to the Borough Councillor to ask about a street cleaner to ease this problem. Cllr Jordan had spoken with Mr Hemsworth of Norfolk County Council about dog fouling on the Playing Field and possible restrictions to prevent this, during this conversation Mr Hemsworth suggested a possible press article to highlight the problems with dog fouling in the whole of the village. Cllr Beales agreed to contact Environmental Health regarding this issue.

It was noted that the notice on The Green directing to Hemsby and Somerton had still not been replaced. Clerk to chase.

Cllr Horrocks stated that there was confusion over the new bus time tables and was informed that there were copies at the Clip.

Cllr Beales agreed to display some in the Information Board.

Village Green/Car Parks

Cllr Wright stated that the pond working party would be cutting the bottom of the trees around the pond and green in the near future as part of the yearly maintenance schedule.

The Chairman stated that Co-op car park improvements were needed in the future. He had noted that the disabled bays were not being used and took up a lot of room, he had also noted that the rear of the Co-op was not used for parking and that this area could be designated for Disabled Parking thus freeing up the front car park. The Clerk was asked to write to the Co-op manager to ask for financial backing to repair damage to the car park caused by delivery trucks and to ask if the rear car park could be designated for disabled parking. It was agreed that the Small Works working party obtain a quote to remark the bays beside the bottle banks, a quote to install a sign indicating disabled parking at rear of Co-op and a quote for the installation of 9 wooden posts, set in concrete, to be installed along the grass verge to prevent cars damaging the bank.

The Clerk was asked to write to the owners of the DIY to ask if alterations were going to be made to the entrance as it would only be worth reinstalling the wooden posts on the Repps Road green area when this work was done.

St Mary's Church fundraising committee had asked permission to hold a plant and cake stall on the green on 27th May and then fortnightly from 10th June until 2nd September. Proposed Cllr Manifold, seconded Cllr Carberry, all in favour to give them permission for this.

Representative Reports

Boat Dyke Trust

Cllr Jordan reported that a trustees meeting had been held with representatives of the Broads Authority in attendance. It was hoped that the slipway and car park would be installed in partnership with them.

First School

Nothing to report.

Allotments

It was reported that the hedges would be cut in the near future.

Youth

Nothing to Report.

Village Hall

Nothing to report.

Luncheon Club

Nothing to report.

Parish Plan

Nothing to report.

Transport

Cllr Beales informed the Council that from 1st April the Acle flexabus would cease. She agreed to contact the transport providers as services to Norwich were few and far between. She also outlined the County Councils proposals to cease funding student travel to and from Gorleston 6th Form and Gt Yarmouth Further Education Colleges. It was agreed that she, together with the Clerk, should write to Norfolk County Council strongly opposing this.

Village Signs

Nothing to report.

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Medical Provision

Nothing to report.

Staithe Road open space

Nothing to report.

Martham Guide

Nothing to report.

Asset Register

Nothing to report.

At this point the Chairman asked for permission to exclude the public to discuss an item in camera, all agreed and the public left at 10.00pm with the thanks of the Chairman.

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

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