

Minutes of Martham Parish Council Meeting

Held in the Martham Methodist School Room on 20 December 2006 at 19:30 hrs.

Those Present:

Councillors:

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

Presiding: M Huke

Others: B Cllr J Hudson

Clerk in attendance: Pat Devlin

Together with 3 members of the public.

Apologies:

B Huxtable C Cllr M Carttiss

PUBLIC FORUM

Christine Kirby reported that there were deep potholes in Sandy Lane and asked whether anything could be done. She was informed that this was a farm track with a footpath over. It was a shared access so no one person had responsibility for the upkeep. She was asked to continue monitoring the situation. The lights on the Christmas Tree had been broken by the borough dustcart. Apparently the wind had blown the cable lower than it should have been and it got entangled with the dustcart. The lights were now being repaired.

The Chairman told the meeting that the Village Sign was being renovated and would be back insitu in the Spring.

Borough Councillors Report

Cllr John Hudson reported that the trees on Black Street would be completely removed by the end of January. In the meantime the owner had trimmed back the tree by the streetlight.

The Borough Councillor was asked why in some areas bins were not emptied unless they were put out on the footway which normally caused obstructions to pedestrians. He said that there were some teething problems regarding the wheelie bins but these were gradually being sorted out. He agreed to ask the Borough Council to review the placing of bins for collection where they were on a main school route. He would report back to the next meeting.

It was explained that the Parish Council had still not received a response to their request for the emptying of litter bins on the new play area. He would pursue this matter on behalf of the Parish Council.

COUNCIL MEETING

Declarations of Interest

T Watson, B Wright – Allotment holders.

Minutes of Previous Meeting

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

Matters Arising

Rural Post Offices: Michael Carttiss sent a reply also asking that as many as possible attend the meeting on January 10th at County Hall. No information has been received about this. Clerk would find out details and inform councillors.

Hemsby Road Bus Shelter: Cllr Beales would be dealing with this after the Christmas break. Talks would be held with the contractors to ensure that enough space is left for a shelter to be accommodated.

Planning

Planning Applications Received for Parish Council Comments

Address	Application Type	Comments
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Minutes of Martham Parish Council Meeting Cont...

25 White Street Martham	Demolition of existing buildings	No objections
25 White Street Martham	3 detached dwellings	Objections to house being built on boundary of Adjoining bungalow. Would not be in keeping with existing street scene
Rectory House, Repps Road	Single storey side extension	No objections
Manor Farm	5 houses	No objections to dwellings but concern that it could become a cut through from Back Lane to Hemsby Road. Highways would be made aware of the bus stop and the Parish would seek assurances that there would be no vehicular access from the current development.

Planning permissions granted by GYBC

Address	Application Type	Comments
Thunder Hill Farm	Refurbishment & Extension	Granted
Nos 21.23.29.35 Damgate Back Lane	Oil storage tanks for central heating	Granted

It was noted that no 106 monies had yet been received and development at Back Lane was almost complete. The clerk would pursue this.

No plans had yet been presented for the Scout Hut and access at Staithe Road. The clerk would make enquiries.

Finance

Item	Net	VAT	Total
Clerk net pay	467.34		467.34
Clerks Expenses Ink cartridge	14.97		14.97
Stapler	20.31	1.18	21.49
Skippers	7.60	1.33	8.93
Miracle Cleaning Ltd 7/11/06 – 28/11/06 incl.	76.00	13.32	89.32
Andrew Tuddenham Services			
Grass cutting Playing Field	2270.00	397.25	2667.25
Waste Recycling	114.48	20.03	134.51
Secret Gardens & Prestige Properties Inv 165			
Repairs to Repps Rd Bus Shelter. Checking and clearing Rose Farm Footpath	75.00		75.00
Secret Gardens & Prestige Properties Inv 163			
Martham Greens cut and strimmed	125.00		125.00
Total for December	3170.70	433.11	3603.81

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

The Clerk explained to the meeting that the audit submission had been returned as some of the figures had been incorrectly written down and the commission were querying why the council had quite a large increase in revenue compared to the year before.

The Clerk would attend to this early in January and enlist the help of the internal auditor if required.

Correspondence

Mr Nicholas Jago – a further letter had been received from Mr Jago. This had been copied to the Open Spaces working party and the chairman. The content was briefly discussed and a decision was taken to forward a copy to our solicitor dealing with the matter, Mr Cadge. Copies would also be distributed to all other councillors.

Proposed Cllr Jordan, seconded Cllr Manifold – unanimous

It was further agreed that the clerk should send a letter enquiring about any progress that had been made regarding the Village Green issue.

It was pointed out that only individuals or corporate bodies could register land.

Minutes of Martham Parish Council Meeting Cont...

GYBC Planning – the department had agreed the removal of one ash tree at 5 Rollesby Road due to disease – this would be replaced by a native species such as a silver birch.

Norfolk Police Authority – Notice of budget meeting on January 18th 2007

Royal British Legion – Letter of thanks for work carried out on War Memorial

NRCC – Letter requesting information on community buildings in Martham. This would be passed for inclusion in the Parish Magazine

Broads Authority – Letter giving details of Fun in the Broads newsletters and posters and asking if any events in Martham needed including. Clerk would contact Carnival Team and Music Festival Team.

Martham Village Hall – Thanks for donation

NCC Legal Services – Letter regarding notice adjacent to Village Green on old Mace Shop

Martham Fun Carnival – Leaflet giving details of community grants available. Clerk to collect an application form for the Council to apply for grant toward Xmas Lights in Village Centre. It was agreed that a grant of £500 be applied for.

NCAPTC – Email detailing Norfolk Community Foundation Grants Programme

Anglian Coastal Authorities Group Sub-Cell 3b – Update on Kelling to Lowestoft Shoreline Management Plan

NALC – extract of report on White Paper regarding changes to Local Government

NCC Childrens Services – Letter updating progress on Martham Childrens Centre

Campaign to Protect Rural England – Letter and leaflet about improving energy efficiency in new developments

GYBC Environment & Health – Letter re Funding Opportunitis for Children and Young People

Greengrass – Poster advertising grasscutting etc.

Village Green – Old Doctors Surgery

A letter had been received from Coastal Villages Practice informing the Council that the Portakabin would be removed on the morning of January 6th. This would need a large vehicle with a lifting crane. Cllr Jordan had obtained copies of the deeds of the old surgery as requested. It showed the boundary line for the building in relation to the village green. The Chairman suggested that the council might consider leasing part of the Green to the new owners. It was stressed that the land could not be sold as it may well set a precedent. The Chairman said that when the property was sold the Parish Council would need to grant a right of way for access.

A letter would be sent to the neighbouring properties informing them that the land was being returned to the Parish. The Old Surgery would be added to the January Agenda

Training for Parish Councillors

Cllr Beales informed the meeting that the last councillor training was over two years ago. She had spoken to Stuart Chaplin at the National Association who said that sessions would be held in 2007 but no dates had been set yet. He was however willing to do on site training for a minimum of 10 councillors at a cost of approximately £140.00 for the evening. It was thought this could be expanded into a joint venture with neighbouring parish councils. Cllr Beales was asked to find out if specific areas could be covered ie. HR.

Footpaths

A report from the working party was attached to the minutes.

Cllr Horrocks said that as many of the missing signposts as possible would be replaced that day and the rest early in 2007

Footways/Highways

NCC Carl Dawdry had written to confirm that a footway assessment had been carried out on Rollesby Road on 9th May 2006 between 14.30hrs and 16.30hrs. The count had produced a relatively high score which meant that it was a good candidate for a detailed feasibility assessment within the next two years. The Clerk would inform the Parishioner who first asked that this should be carried out.

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Cllr Brookman said that a parishioner had left a message with the staff in the CLIP office about the lack of lighting on the footway before the new medical centre. This was now being addressed with the new development.

Cllr Jordan asked whether we had had any response regarding the reported potholes. The Clerk informed him that an acknowledgement had been received.

The hole on the green by Cess Road had now been repaired.

The Clerk was asked to chase highways about replacing the posts around the edge of that green to stop the parking. It would also be asked if the splay could be widened to ease traffic access onto Repps Road. It would be stressed that the problem was becoming such that an on site meeting would be welcomed.

Personnel

An update had been presented with the minutes.

Other personnel matters would be discussed in camera at the end of the meeting.

Communications

Cllr Jordan reported that the first Clip surgery had been held. One person had been in. The surgeries would continue and further advertising would be done.

Small Works- Staithe Road Allotments – A quotation had been received from Secret Gardens & Prestige Properties for the removal of the hedge between first gate and housing. Soil to be levelled and left tidy ready for reseeding in the Spring. Cost £240.00. The dipped area would be protected.

Cllr Jordan had said that all organic rubbish could go on the land.

Proposed Cllr Manifold seconded Cllr Watson – all in favour

Representative Report

Allotments – Nothing to report

Village Signs – A quote had been received from NCC for the erection of the 4 village signs. The total cost being £380.84 +VAT. It was unanimously agreed to accept the quote but the clerk would confirm that it included the survey for the utilities.

The Chairman and Vice-chairman would sort out the posts.

Luncheon Club – Cllr Watson reported that Martham is now the best club

Parish Plan – Nothing to report

Items for next agenda

Village Green – Old Doctor's Surgery

Bottle Bank

The Chairman took the opportunity to thank Cllr Watson for the excellent Christmas Meal he had organised for members of the Council.

It was then resolved that the meeting be closed to the press and public to allow personnel matters to be discussed in camera.

There being no further business, the main meeting closed at 21:30 hrs.

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

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