

**Minutes of the Meeting of Martham Parish Council  
held in the Martham Methodist School Room  
on 21<sup>st</sup> November 2007 at 19:30 hrs.**

**PUBLIC FORUM**

The Chairman opened the public forum by welcoming five members of the public, PC Cook and Borough Councillors Barry & Mary Coleman.

Apologies had been received from County Councillor Michael Carttiss.

Councillor M Coleman reported that there was a new number for reporting faulty street lights which was 08448 008 008. In answer to a question about six faulty lights in Black Street she confirmed these were being dealt with.

PC Cook had nothing to report but was asked to ensure that a courtesy call was made to the Boatyard in connection with recent thefts and vandalism there. Councillor Jordan reported on the positive outcomes of a recent visit by P C Cook to the Boat Dyke Trust. PC Cook was also asked to visit Martham Bakery about recent thefts at the premises.

Councillor B Coleman reported back in answer to previous questions raised about the amount of Section 106 money available from building developments at The Avenues and Elmside. Councillor Huke asked Councillor Coleman if it would be possible to find out the sites that the affordable housing section 106 funding would be invested in within the parish as none appeared to be earmarked.

Councillor Coleman also gave an update on a feasibility study to be carried out in March 2008 on the A149/B1152 junction that will provide costed options for improvements that will then be fed into NCC priority schemes for the future.

**COUNCIL MEETING**

**Those Present:**

*Councillors:* J Beales; T Brookman; B Carberry; T Gates; M Horrocks; M Huke; B Huxtable; K Jordan; T Watson; B Wright

***Presiding:*** M Huke

Clerk in attendance: Peter Dawson.

**1. Apologies**

It was agreed to accept apologies for absence from Councillor Manifold.

**2. Declarations of Interest**

Councillor B Wright declared a personal interest in item 13 as an allotment holder.

Councillor K Jordan declared a personal interest in item 14 as a Trustee of the Boat Dyke Trust.

**3. Minutes of Previous Meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> October 2007**

These having been circulated with the agenda it was resolved to AGREE the minutes. ***Proposed*** by B Carberry and ***seconded*** by T Watson. Unanimously agreed. The Chairman signed the minutes as a true record.

**4. Actions arising from the minutes**

The Chairman gave a briefing on the outcome of the meetings held with Gadge and Gilbert on 28<sup>th</sup> October 2007 concerning the Green and on 6<sup>th</sup> November 2007 with representatives of St Mary's Parish Church. In respect of churchyard maintenance it had been agreed to carry out a feasibility study in partnership with the church into a major long term improvement scheme for the whole of the churchyard. In the meantime the increase in maintenance grant for 2008/09 was agreed subject to approval by the Borough Council.

**5. Planning**

5.1 The schedule of comments on planning applications received for consultation was approved.

5.2 It was AGREED to support a request by the Campaign to Protect Rural England by including their suggested wording in responses to the Borough Council when appropriate new building developments take place. **Proposed** by *K Jordan*, **Seconded** by *T Brookman*. *Unanimously agreed.*

**6. Correspondence**

6.1 An application from St Mary's Church to use the Village Green for a Carol Service during the evening of 24<sup>th</sup> December was AGREED.

6.2 Premier Homes (Gladedale) had offered to give the Council a small piece of land fronting Daisy Close, off Hemsby Road. It was agreed to accept this in principle subject to certain reassurances that Premier Homes would landscape the plot, pay all legal and transfer fees and answer other questions during a site meeting with representatives of the Council. The Clerk was asked to contact Premier Homes to make the necessary arrangements for a site meeting.

6.3 The schedule of correspondence provided with the agenda for information was received.

**7. Finance**

The schedule of invoices circulated with the agenda was approved for payment. **Proposed** by *K Jordan*, **Seconded** by *B Huxtable*. *Unanimously agreed.*

**8. Footways/highways – nothing to report.**

**9. Footpaths**

Councillor Horrocks reported on the outcome of a site meeting with NCC footpath officials held on 6<sup>th</sup> November 2007. The Footpaths Working Party was asked to:

- Determine the number of special footpath signposts needed and the wording for them and report back on detailed costs.
- Organise the repairs to Sandy Lane if possible with the local landowners help, but if not by using Secret Gardens.
- Investigate the potential for the Council to take over maintenance of all footpaths and asking NCC to pass their funding element to us to support this.

**10. Communications**

- 10.1 A decision on replacing notice boards was deferred to December pending quotations.
- 10.2 It was reported that the new information leaflet adopted last month could be circulated to all households in the village at a cost of £70 and it was AGREED that the Clerk be asked to organise this.

**11. Recycling**

The advertising campaign for investing surplus income was noted and it was AGREED that this matter be considered at the December meeting.

**12. Small Works**

It was observed that the Co-op car park was in need of repair. The Small Works Working Party was asked to determine the requirements and organise suitable repairs.

**13. Allotments**

Nothing to report.

**14. Boat Dyke Trust Trustees**

The Boat Dyke Trust had given notice that two trustees were due to retire in February 2008 and requested the Council to make nominations. The Clerk was asked to advertise the vacancies on the notice boards and report back in January 2008 on nominations.

**15. Comments & Complaints Procedure.**

The Clerk presented a revised Comments and Complaints procedure and it was AGREED that this be adopted.

**16. The Future of Martham First School.**

Members received a report giving information about the future of the school and were invited to submit views to NCC on the future use of the land and/or buildings. After a long and full debate Councillor Huxtable **proposed** that the whole of the playing field remain a playing field rather than an extended graveyard. Councillor Jordan **proposed** an amendment to this: that the whole site be used for both a play area and an extended graveyard, this was **seconded** by Councillor Huke and the amendment was carried by five votes to four with one abstention. This having been carried it was adopted as 'option 1'.

Further debate took place and an 'option 2' was suggested based on retaining the existing buildings for alternative uses. It was AGREED that this be deferred until next month and members be asked to present positive, realistic alternative uses.

It was recognised that the most likely outcome for the site was that the land would be sold for housing and an 'option 3' was suggested that part of any development should favour affordable housing.

**17. Heavy Vehicles using Cess Road and Low Road**

A complaint had been made by a member of the public at the Council Surgery about the alleged danger to the public posed by lorries using Cess Road and Low Road. During a full debate members pointed out that the verge was being continuously damaged by vehicles that were too big for what are country lanes and it was emphasised that the roadside verges were just as important environmentally as hedgerows. It was noted that the police had been informally involved and that the heavy vehicle firm (Quirks) using the lanes had a valid and current operators licence. It was agreed that the Council had no wish to undermine a legitimate business

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that provided employment for local people but also wished to protect the safety of the public using the roads. It was felt that Deepdale Avenue was unsuitable for use by long vehicles using it to turn round. The Clerk was asked to write to the Traffic Commissioner and NCC highlighting the road safety issues and asking them to explore the possibility of providing a footpath along the road.

**18. Lease of Land at Staithe Road to the Scouts**

The terms of the lease to the Scouts were AGREED subject to revisions required by the Borough Council concerning road access rights. **Proposed** by *K Jordan*, **Seconded** by *B Huxtable*. *Unanimously agreed.*

**19. Items for Next Agenda**

- Recycling budget investment.
  - Notice boards.
  - Future use of buildings at Martham First School
- Any others to be notified to the Clerk at least eight days before the next meeting.

**20.** The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Wednesday, 19<sup>th</sup> December 2007.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 21.37 hrs.

Signed..... Dated.....  
Chairman