

**Minutes of Martham Parish Council Meeting
held in the School Room, Methodist Church, Repps Road, Martham
on 19th December 2007 at 19:30 hrs.**

PUBLIC FORUM

The Chairman opened the public forum by welcoming Borough Councillor Mary Coleman, the only person who attended.

Apologies had been received from County Councillor Michael Carttiss, Borough Councillor B Coleman and PC Cook.

In answer to a question posed at the November meeting Councillor Coleman reported that the Borough Council had not identified any particular site in the village as being suitable for affordable housing development. The Borough Council's Housing Department is carrying out a housing assessment survey and this may throw more light on the issue. There was no reason why the Parish Council could not make suggestions to the Borough Council if it had ideas for housing sites. The Chairman asked the Councillor if she could find out anything about plans for the re-development of Elmside House as this could potentially be a building suitable for conversion to provide affordable housing.

PC Cook sent a message saying that speed checks are being carried out on Black Street and he will provide a full update at the next meeting.

COUNCIL MEETING

Those Present:

Councillors: B Carberry; T Gates; M Huke; K Jordan and T Watson

Presiding: M Huke

Clerk in attendance: Peter Dawson.

1. Apologies

It was agreed to accept apologies for absence from Councillors: J Beales; T Brookman; M Horrocks; B Huxtable; P Manifold and B Wright.

2. Declarations of Interest

None

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting held on 21st November 2007

These having been circulated with the agenda it was resolved to AGREE the minutes. ***Proposed*** by T Gates and ***seconded*** by B Carberry. 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 representatives of Gladedale on 11th December 2007 concerning the gift of land adjacent to the new surgery in Hemsby Road. A number of conditions were discussed and Gladedale will ask the County Council to adopt both the footway and bollard lights before the Parish Council take over ownership of the open space. Gladedale indicated a willingness to make the Council a one off donation to support future maintenance costs and will be writing with a formal offer and more

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detailed proposals in due course. It was AGREED to await the written details of the offer before further consideration by full Council.

5. Planning

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

6. Correspondence

6.1 Norfolk Accident Rescue Service had written requesting a financial donation. In accordance with its powers under Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 Council decided that such a grant would be to the benefit of the whole community and it was AGREED to donate a sum of £25 (twenty five pounds). *Proposed by K Jordan, seconded by T Gates, unanimously agreed.* The payment was added to the list of payments under "Finance" below. **Action for the Clerk.**

6.2 A response was considered to letter 234/2007 from the Traffic Commissioner. It was AGREED that the Clerk be asked to arrange a site meeting at Cess Road with a representative of NCC Highways. Councillors Jordan and Watson agreed to attend the meeting as representatives of the Council. No further action would be taken until the outcome of the 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 T Watson, seconded by T Gates. Unanimously agreed.**

8. Footways/highways

The Clerk was asked to report to Highways that the illuminated sign at the top of Cess Road near Ealing House was not working and the bollard on the traffic island outside the DIY Store had been knocked down. **Action for the Clerk.**

9. Footpaths

9.1 The interim report provided by the Footpaths Working Party was received and the recommended actions to improve Sandy Lane were ratified. The Working Party (WP) was preparing a recommendation that the Council takes over maintenance of all footpaths from the County Council subject to an annual financial contribution from NCC and the WP would report back with details in the New Year.

9.2 Councillor Gates reported that a lady had suffered cuts to her hand when trying to open the gate at the Common Road end of footpath No15. It appears that the gate catch is extremely hard to open and is held in place by a large rusty open bar that drops down over the gate on either side of the top post. The Clerk was asked to write to the land owner to request he fit a more suitable, safer, catch.

10. Communications

It was noted that the new information leaflet had been delivered to almost all households in the village.

11. Recycling

Consideration was given to six suggestions for investing the surplus funds arising from recycling credits.

The suggestion concerning tidying the area in front of the Church Hall and planting shrubs/flowers was deferred subject to discussions about ownership of the land with the rector.

Action for Councillor Jordan.

The suggestion to plant more spring bulbs and perhaps wild flowers along the roadside verges approaching the village via Repps Road, Somerton Road, Hemsby Road and Rollesby Road was AGREED. The Clerk was asked to write to Highways about the proposal. **Action for the Clerk.**

It was agreed to take no further action at this time on the other suggestions including an additional one to employ someone, part time, to clear the results of dog fouling.

12. Small Works

12.1 It was noted that the Hemsby Road village sign has been erected again having been knocked down on 28th November.

12.2 NCC Highways has agreed to make good the holes and cracks between the road and the entrance to the Co-op car park near The Green. They refuse to fill the potholes on the car park at our expense when they are there doing their work so alternative arrangements will have to be made.

13. Allotments

The Clerk is arranging for 'planings' to be delivered by NCC and Cllr. Wright is organising their use to repair footpaths on the allotments. Cllr. Wright is investigating the potential for a water supply to the allotments.

14. Boat Dyke Trust Trustees

The information on grants requested at the last meeting was circulated with the agenda.

15. The Future of Martham First School.

There were no further suggestions and so the Clerk was asked to action the decision made at the November meeting. **Action for the Clerk.**

16. Parish Plan

Deferred.

17. Luncheon Club

Cllr. Gates and Watson reported that they attended the Christmas dinner on 18th December that had a record attendance of 38 people. The club is flourishing.

18. Items for Next Agenda

It was noted that annual maintenance contracts would be advertised during January and quotations discussed at the February 2008 meeting.

Any other items to be notified to the Clerk at least eight days before the next meeting.

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19. The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Wednesday, 16th January 2008.
There being no further business, the meeting closed at 20.58 hours.

Signed..... Dated: 16th January 2008
Chairman