

**DRAFT MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD IN THE SCHOOL ROOM, METHODIST CHURCH, REPPS ROAD, MARTHAM ON WEDNESDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2008 at 19.30 HOURS.**

**Present:**

**Mike Huke presiding as Chairman**

**Peter Dawson - Clerk**

**Together with 3 members of the public, six parish councillors and PC Cook.**

**Councillors Mary & Barry Coleman had sent their apologies for not being able to attend.**

1. The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming all those in attendance.

**2. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> May 2007.**

The minutes of the previous annual village meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> May 2007, having been circulated, were confirmed as a true record. The Chairman signed the minutes. Proposed Councillor J Beales, seconded Councillor M Horrocks.

**3. Chairman's Annual Report**

The Chairman then gave his annual report highlighting a very successful year for the Parish Council and in particular placing on record his thanks to every councillor for their hard work and contributions during the year.

Improvements had continued throughout the village, notably the welcome signs had been enhanced with close trimming to the surrounding grass.

Christmas lights were installed on four trees around the village green. The lights were generously funded by local businesses, organisations and charities who were warmly thanked. The lights were to become the catalyst for a new Christmas Fayre in 2008 which it was hoped would become an annual event.

Work had continued throughout the year planning a May Fair and Scarecrow Festival which had taken place very successfully during the weekend before the meeting. Julie Beales, Maggie Horrocks and Peter & Liz Carpenter were particularly thanked for the tremendous amount of hard work they had put in to making this a success.

All the working parties had continued their hard work during the year covering numerous activities.

Public advice surgeries had become well established at the CLIP office on the last Saturday of each month from 10am to 12 noon. These had been well attended and provided parishioners with direct access to the council.

Recycling facilities had been extended and over £1,760 raised for green projects within the village.

Footpath maintenance had proved difficult in the spring of 2007 due to adverse weather conditions and changes to the authorities responsible for the work. The Footpath Working Party and a parish volunteer had carried out a review of all the paths and the level of maintenance required. Detailed maintenance standards had been prepared ready for the coming season.

The maintenance of the village greens had included tree maintenance and replanting during the year.

All the allotments had been let and improvements completed to hedges and paths.

The formal leases for the former Staithe Road allotment site had been completed and with planning consent and funding in place site preparation would start soon which would see the Scouts provided with a site for a new building.

The council had continued being active in all planning issues with a number of concerns being raised on behalf of parishioners. Most notable was the success in preventing Elmside House in White Street from being demolished. Dialogue has been ongoing with the Borough Council, planning officers and builders to try to obtain affordable housing within the village.

The Back Lane traffic calming scheme which had been ongoing for two years is to start in June 2008.

Financial targets for the year had been met and problems from the previous financial year offset with an overall precept reduction of 27.23% for 2008/09 which for an average 'band 'D dwelling equates to a reduction of 30% against 2007/08.

The Chairman thanked the new Clerk who he felt had made significant contributions to the council and had started training towards the CiLCA qualification. He had also helped the Council:

- Amend the Code of Conduct in June 2007.
- Introduce on-line banking in August 2007.
- Amend Standing Orders in October 2007.
- Complete a financial risk assessment in October 2007
- Produce an improved complaints procedure in November 2007.

**4. Public Question & Answer Session.**

Mrs A Meakin asked if it was possible to discuss the closure of the path from Nursery Close to Black Street. The Chairman explained that the Parish Council would discuss the matter at its next full meeting to be held on 21<sup>st</sup> May 2008. Until then information could be given but he could not comment on the likely outcome of the debate on 21<sup>st</sup>.

There being no further business the Chairman then closed the meeting at 19.42hrs

Signed.....

Dated.....