

**Minutes of Martham Parish Council Meeting  
held in the School Room, Methodist Church, Repps Road, Martham  
on 16<sup>th</sup> January 2008 at 19:30 hrs.**

**PUBLIC FORUM**

The Chairman opened the public forum by welcoming three members of the public, County Councillor Michael Carttiss, Borough Councillor Barry Coleman and PC Cook. Apologies were received from Borough Councillor Mary Coleman.

A resident voiced strong concerns about the longstanding highway and verge problems in Cess Road and Low Road. Councillor Jordan provided a full report about a site meeting that had been held with Julian Maile of NCC on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> January about these very problems. Councillors Watson and Gates had also attended that meeting. Mr Maile had given an assurance that he would write to the owners of properties along the road who were responsible for overgrown hedges based on a list that Councillor Jordan would provide. Once the hedges had been cut back NCC would clear the spread verge and reinstated the road back to its original width. Councillor Carttiss advised that NCC were legally required to maintain the road in accordance with its original width which was thought to be 17'. Previous requests for lay-bys and footways had been rejected because of their expense and relatively low priority and the same applied to any potential road widening.

Councillor B Coleman drew attention to the proposals by Gladedale (Anglia) Ltd to demolish Elmside House and adjacent buildings and replace it with eleven cottage-style houses. This issue was on the main agenda of the meeting and was fully discussed then.

A question was asked about what appeared to be excessive lighting at the primary school late into the evening and Councillors Coleman and Carttiss said this was required as a security and insurance stipulation.

In answer to a question Councillor Coleman said he would try to find out when the fenced off paved area in Grove Close would be repaired.

Councillor Coleman asked if the lights on the Playing Field playground could be hooded to reduce light pollution and distraction to drivers on Rollesby Road. It was explained that the lights had been turned down twice and would not be needed long into the evening if new lamps adjacent to the site had been connected. Councillor Coleman said he would investigate their connection.

PC Cook reported that findings from the speeding survey in Black Street indicated that very few vehicles in fact breached the speed limit and that he has been in touch with the original main complainant about the matter. Police support officers would however continue to monitor the situation.

The public forum session ended at 20.16 hrs.

**COUNCIL MEETING**

**Those Present:**

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

***Presiding:*** M Huke

Clerk in attendance: Peter Dawson.

## **Minutes of Martham Parish Council Meeting Cont...**

### **1. Election of Chairman**

Councillor Huke was first elected Chairman on 19<sup>th</sup> January 2005 and according to Standing Order No 14 his tenure of office must come to an end after three years. It was proposed that Standing Order No 14 be suspended to allow Councillor Huke to remain in office as Chairman until the next Annual General Meeting of the Parish Council on 21<sup>st</sup> May 2008. Proposed **by J Beales** and seconded **by T Brookman. Unanimously agreed.**

### **2. Apologies**

It was agreed to accept apologies for absence from Councillor M Horrocks.  
It was noted that Councillor Manifold was absent but had not tendered a reason.

### **3. Declarations of Interest**

Councillor B Wright declared a personal interest in item 14 as an allotment holder.  
Councillor K Jordan declared a personal interest in item 18 as a Trustee of the Boat Dyke Trust.

### **4. Minutes of Previous Meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> December 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.

### **5. Actions arising from the minutes**

The Chairman reported that 'Signs of the Times' had accepted liability for paint peeling from the four welcome village signs and would repair them in the spring at no cost to the Council.

### **6. Planning**

6.1 Demolition of Elmside, Black Street. Premier Homes (Gladedale) had applied to the Borough Council to demolish Elmside and replace it with eleven cottage-style dwellings. The Chairman explained the details of the proposal. The full range of alternative options were discussed. It was resolved to express a preference to retain Elmside and object to its demolition. **Proposed** by B Huxtable and **seconded** by T Watson. Carried with one abstention.

The Chairman explained that he had arranged a meeting with the Planning Officer on 22<sup>nd</sup> January with a view to obtaining further information and that a formal objection would be compiled after that meeting.

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

### **7. Correspondence**

7.1 Proposed extension of speed limit in Rollesby Road. It was AGREED to support the proposals made by NCC but to suggest that the 30mph limit be extended further south to the boundary of the playing field and the Clerk was asked to inform NCC accordingly.  
**Action for the Clerk.**

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

At this point Councillor Huxtable left the meeting to attend another commitment.

### **8. Finance**

The schedule of invoices circulated with the agenda was approved for payment with the addition of £168.82 payable to Waste Recycling Ltd. **Proposed** by B Wright, **seconded** by B Carberry. *Unanimously agreed.*

## **Minutes of Martham Parish Council Meeting Cont...**

### **9. Footways/highways**

The Clerk was asked to report:

- Roadwork signs mounted on footways during road works rather than on the road.
- A blocked drain in School Road.
- The hole in the road opposite the church in Black Street not repaired as promised.

### **10. Footpaths**

The offending lock/catch to a gate at footpath No15 had been rectified.

### **11. Communications**

Councillor Brookman reported that the successful Public Surgery mornings had been running at the CLIP for twelve months and he suggested the arrangement be put on a more formal basis with the CLIP. The Clerk was asked to write to make arrangements for the use of the office for the next year. **Action for the Clerk.**

### **12. Recycling**

Councillor Beales proposed that some of the surplus recycling funds be invested in providing replacement trees in Rowan Road. The limitation of insurance liability and the need to consult with Highways were noted. The Clerk was asked to write to Highways with proposals. **Action for the Clerk.**

### **13. Small Works**

Arrangements for repairs to the gutter on the central bus shelter were noted.

### **14. Allotments**

Cllr. Wright reported that improvements had been completed to the road and pathways at the allotments over the Christmas period. Arrangements were being made to have hedges cut back.

### **15. May Fair**

Councillor Beales gave a briefing on preparations for the May Fair to be held over May Bank holiday weekend based on a scarecrow theme. It was AGREED that Peter & Liz Carpenter be co-opted onto the working group of J Beales and M Horrocks to help organise the fair. **Proposed** by *K Jordan*, **seconded** by *T Watson*. *Unanimously agreed.*

### **16. Young Persons**

Councillor Carberry reported that Children's Services had promised to re-open the Youth Club early in February 2008.

### **17. Financial Regulations**

Members received a report giving details of Financial Regulations which the internal auditor and the Audit Commission recommended should be adopted by the Council. It was AGREED to adopt the Financial Regulations as drafted. **Proposed** by *K Jordan*, **seconded** by *T Gates*. *Unanimously agreed.*

### **18. Boat Dyke Trust Trustees**

Vacancies for Trustees had been advertised for two months but no nominations had been received. Councillor Jordan said he was willing to continue as a Trustee and would be submitting an application form. Two further application forms had been requested that evening. It was AGREED to consider applications at the next meeting of the Council.

**Minutes of Martham Parish Council Meeting Cont...**

**19. Somerton Road Bus Shelter**

The Chairman reported that the tendered cost of lining the shelter with 9mm ply in addition to the original specified repairs was £330 and asked Council to approve the additional expenditure at the same time as noting that NCC were giving a grant of £375 to pay the original costs. It was AGREED to accept the variation to the specification to complete repairs to the shelter.

**Proposed** by *T Watson*, **seconded** by *T Gates*. *Unanimously agreed.*

**20. Items for Next Agenda**

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

Further items for the next agenda were Boat Dyke Trustees, and the Scout Lease for land at Somerton Road.

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

**21.** The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Wednesday, 20<sup>th</sup> February 2008.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 21.12 hours.

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