

**Minutes of Martham Parish Council Meeting
held in the School Room, Methodist Church, Repps Road, Martham
on 20th February 2008 at 19:30 hrs.**

PUBLIC FORUM

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

Mr Cater raised a number of concerns about vibration damage being caused to properties by heavy vehicles using Cess Road and confirmed to his personal knowledge dating back to 1976 that the road should be 17' wide.

Councillor Mary Coleman pointed out that funding for community planting etc was available via Councillor Sue Hacon, GY in Bloom. She went on to say that the area of paving that is fenced off in Grove Close is out to tender for replacement.

Councillor Brookman raised concerns with Councillor Coleman about the recent adverse report of the Audit Commission on the Borough Council's management of value for money that identified the Council as being one of the worst performing councils in the country in respect of financial management. Councillor Brookman sought reassurance that there would be no increase in Council Tax until these management weaknesses had been rectified and asked that the Parish Council be kept informed of what was being done to correct these failings.

Dissatisfaction was expressed by some Parish Councillors about the telephone service at the Borough Council and Councillor Coleman said she would investigate if she was provided with details who we were trying to contact and when.

PC Cook said that reported crime was at a very low level recently and that areas prone to speeding were still being monitored.

The public forum session ended at 19:57 hours.

COUNCIL MEETING

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

Clerk in attendance: Peter Dawson.

1. Apologies

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

2. Declarations of Interest

Councillor B Wright declared a personal interest in item 12 as an allotment holder.

Councillors Jordan and Gates declared a personal interest in item 13.1 as applicants to be Trustees of the Boat Dyke Trust.

- 3. Minutes of Previous Meeting held on 16th January 2008**
These having been circulated with the agenda it was resolved to AGREE the minutes. **Proposed by B Carberry, seconded by T Watson. Unanimously agreed.** The Chairman signed the minutes as a true record.
- 4. Actions arising from the minutes**
It was noted that the Youth Club had not re-opened. The Clerk was asked to write to NCC Children's Services and ask the reason.
- 5. Planning**
- 5.1 It was noted that the application to demolish Elmside, Black Street and redevelop the site was likely to be refused based on a planning officer decision but no official notice had been received at the time of the meeting.
- 5.2 The balance of the schedule of comments on planning applications received for consultation was approved.
- 6. Correspondence**
- 6.1 The offer by Gladedale (Anglia) Ltd of a one off donation to support the future maintenance costs of land adjacent to the Health Centre in Hemsby Road was considered and it was AGREED in principle to accept the proposal subject to more detailed discussions concerning financial help and lighting design. Delegated powers to agree these matters was given to the working party. **Proposed by B Carberry, seconded by T Wright. Unanimously agreed.**
- 6.2 It was AGREED to take part in the 'Proud of Your Community' scheme being promoted by the EDP and the Clerk was asked to draft an initial submission. **Proposed by M Huke, seconded by K Jordan. Unanimously agreed.**
- 6.3 The balance of the schedule of correspondence provided with the agenda for information was received.
- 7. Finance**
- 7.1 It was AGREED to adopt the Financial Risk Assessment as recommended by the Finance Committee. **Proposed by K Jordan, seconded by T Brookman. Unanimously agreed.**
- 7.2 It was AGREED that a donation of £222 be made to Martham Methodist Church for the hire of the School Room for the period 1st April 2006 to 31st March 2008 and that the payment be added to the schedule in 7.3.
- 7.3 The schedule of invoices circulated with the agenda was approved for payment. **Proposed by B Wright, seconded by B Carberry. Unanimously agreed.**
- 8. Footways/highways**
Councillor Jordan briefed members on the actions taken to get Highways to cut hedges along Cess Road.
- 9. Footpaths**
It was noted that Mrs Christine Kirby was leaving the village and a vote of thanks was recorded for the work she had done over the years as a co-opted member of the footpaths working party. Councillor Horrocks proposed that Mrs Marilyn Parker be co-opted to the footpaths working party which was unanimously AGREED.

10. May Fair/Communications

Councillors Beales and Horrocks reported on plans for the enhanced May Fair being held from 1st to 5th May.

11. Small Works

None.

12. Allotments

Cllr. Wright reported that three allotments had been handed back which would help reduce the waiting list.

13. Boat Dyke Trust

13.1 Council considered the filling of two vacant trustee posts. The vacancies had been advertised and three applications had been received. Based on the recommendations of the Personnel Working Party it was AGREED that Mr K Jordan and Mr I Bradford be nominated to fill the two vacancies as Trustees of the Boat Dyke Trust. **Proposed by T Brookman, seconded by M Horrocks. Unanimously agreed.**

13.2 Councillor Jordan briefed council members on the last meeting of the Boat Dyke Trust which was attended by representatives of the Broads Authority, Environmental Agency and the contracting firm HALCROW. They explained plans for the Upper Thurne flood barrier work which may affect planned projects at the staithe and footpath No2.

14. Village Green Usage

Three applications were AGREED for use of the green as follows:

- 28th April – First Martham Brownies sponsored event to raise funds for a water tank in Africa.
- 17th May – St Mary’s Church plant stall during the morning.
- 31st May; 14th June; 28th June; 12th July; 26th July; 9th Aug; 23rd Aug; & 6th Sept St Mary’s Church cake stall in the mornings

15. Public Surgery

Two issues were considered arising from the surgery held on 26th January and the Clerk was asked to report a hole in the pavement outside 15/17 Black Street to Highways and to write to residents in Nursery Close seeking further information about ownership of the path from Nursery Close to Black Street.

16. Items for Next Agenda

Elections.

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

17. The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Wednesday, 19th March 2008.

The open public meeting closed at 20.55 hours.

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

At this point the Chairman invited members of the public and press to leave the meeting in accordance with section 1 of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 on the grounds that publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest because of commercially sensitive information. The meeting continued in camera.