

**Minutes of Martham Parish Council Meeting
held in the School Room, Methodist Church, Repps Road, Martham
on 18th June 2008 at 19:30 hrs.**

PUBLIC FORUM

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

The Vice Chairman welcomed Mrs Elizabeth Moir to the meeting who was attending on behalf of Quidenham Children's Hospice to receive a donation from the Council for £1,000 raised during the May Fair Scarecrow Festival. Photographs were taken as the cheque was presented to Mrs Moir who thanked the Council for its generosity and in particular Julie Beales, Maggie Horrocks and Peter & Liz Carpenter who had worked so hard to make the Scarecrow Festival a roaring success.

Councillor Mary Colman reported that the Solicitor to the Borough Council was in the process of writing to the Parish Council saying it was the Borough Council that instigated recent action about the former Spar Shop that had become an eyesore over the last few years. Councillor Coleman expressed her disappointment that the Parish Council had not played a more active role in getting the property improved.

In reply to a question from Councillor Carberry, Councillor Coleman suggested that Rob Cole or Simon Mutton be contacted at GYBC with regard to dustbins not being properly replaced after being emptied.

Councillor Manifold asked PC Cook if something could be done about the number of cars parked in Repps Road, some of which were parked halfway across the pavement. PC Cook said he would visit the area immediately he left the public forum. Generally parking on a footpath is an offence but it is sensible to exercise a balance of discretion for both road and pavement users, said PC Cook.

The public forum ended at 19:45 hours.

COUNCIL MEETING

Those Present:

Councillors: J Beales; T Brookman; B Carberry; T Gates; M Horrocks; B Huxtable; K Jordan; P Manifold and B Wright.

Presiding: K Jordan (Vice Chairman) in the absence of Councillor Huke.

Clerk in attendance: Peter Dawson.

1. Apologies

It was agreed to accept apologies from M Huke and T Watson.

2. Declarations of Interest

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

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting held on 21st May 2008

Councillor Jordan proposed that the minutes be agreed subject to the following wording being added under paragraph three of the public forum “*The Chairman congratulated Councillor Mary Coleman on achieving improvements to the property that had been deteriorating for the last five years.*” Seconded by Councillor T Gates and unanimously **agreed**. Having been amended the Vice Chairman signed the minutes as a true record.

4. Actions arising from the minutes

None.

5. Planning

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

5.2 Councillor Jordan provided detailed information about proposed work to be carried out by the Broads Authority to long stretches of the banks of the River Thurne and in particular how this would affect Martham Staithe and adjoining footpaths and storage/compound facilities near the Staithe. It was **AGREED** that attention be drawn to the Broads Authority that vehicles and plant carrying out the work in Martham would have to travel down Ferrygate Lane via Black Street and Somerton Road both of which have busy schools. Operations should therefore avoid school opening and closing times.

6. Correspondence

6.1 Letter No 86 – Councillors Huxtable and Wright will attend the Local Government re-organisation briefing being held on 9th July 2008 by GYBC at the Priory Centre.

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

7. Finance

Subject to the addition of an invoice for £335.00 payable to NCC for allotment rent the schedule of invoices circulated with the agenda was approved for payment. **Proposed by J Beales, seconded by B Carberry. Unanimously agreed**

8. Footways/highways

8.1 Nursery Close to Black Street footway. The Clerk reported back on actions requested at the last meeting. It was noted that the Clerk and Councillor Huke had had meetings with the residents of Nursery Close and Mr Rhodes of 36 Black Street in an attempt to mediate between the parties following the blocking of the footpath by Mr Rhodes. Since the last meeting it had been confirmed that the footway in question has not been adopted by Norfolk County Council or Great Yarmouth Borough Council and therefore remains a privately owned path. A compromise had been suggested whereby a locked gate be erected with keys (or a code to a digital lock) given to those residents who have a right of access included in their property deeds but this had been rejected by Mr Rhodes.

The meeting was suspended to receive advice from Councillor Mary Coleman and Councillor Carttiss. The latter said that NCC has no powers to take over ownership of the path but equally residents have a right of access if their deeds allow for it and it may be advisable for the residents to join together to take legal advice. Councillor Coleman said she would seek legal advice from the Solicitor to the Borough Council and would consult the Planning Department if the Parish Council would also write to the Planning Officer. The meeting was re-opened.

In light that the footway had not been adopted by the principal authorities the matter remained a private dispute between residents. Based on the fact that the Parish Council had no formal powers to enforce a solution it was agreed that further mediation was unlikely to resolve the matter but the Clerk was asked to write to the Planning Officer to see if any planning conditions had been infringed. **Action for Clerk.**

- 8.2 Councillor Beales referred to a traffic accident in Repps Road near the Post office and the Clerk was asked to report that part of a railing was left sticking up through the pavement. **Action for Clerk.**
- 8.3 Councillor Beales expressed criticism of NCC which had started to remove 30mph repeater speed restriction signs along Black Street that had been there for at least 24 years and acted to remind motorists of the speed restrictions in the vicinity of the schools.
- 8.4 Strong concerns were voiced about the dangers presented by the open ditch that runs along the south side of Repps Road adjacent to Marlborough Green. Reasons were given about why it was there and the purpose it served.

9. Footpaths

- 9.1 It was noted that a new footpath guide had been produced giving details of five circular footpath walks in the village and that these would be available from the Post Office.
- 9.2 The Footpaths Working Party was asked to determine cutting arrangements for footpaths Nos 8, 17 and the footpaths formerly cut by Mr Cossey.

10. Communications

10.1 EDP Pride in the Community Awards

Having been short listed in this competition down to the last four villages in the categories based on population and best use of open spaces Councillors Brookman and Jordan and the Clerk had shown three judges round the village on Monday 16th June but the final results will not be known until a presentation at County Hall on Thursday 18th September 2008.

10.2 May Fair

The successful event had been closed with a final de-briefing session in preparation for next year.

10.3 Christmas Fair

Preparations have started. Chrissie Jackson of Radio Broadland will turn on the lights. Funds raised are likely to be donated to the Radio Broadland Kid's Appeal.

10.4 Annual Report

It was agreed that 1,500 copies of the Annual Report be purchased costing £313 (net of VAT) and that they be distributed to all village households using the 'Village Connection' magazine at a cost of £75. **Proposed by J Beales, seconded by B Carberry. Unanimously agreed.**

11. Small Works

Councillors Huke and Wright were congratulated on the splendid job they had done in cleaning and weeding round the village sign.

12. Allotments

Authorisation was given to terminate the tenancy of an allotment where the tenant had moved to France. Councillor Wright to action as appropriate.

13. Recycling

13.1 It was noted that the new recycling banks had been installed at the Sports and Social Club.

13.2 Councillor Beales reported that it may be possible to transfer the can bank from the old First School to the Social Club and she will report back on progress.

13.3 The Clerk was asked to chase up Rob Cole of GYBC about the promised provision of a clothing recycling bank. **Action for Clerk.**

14 Young Persons

Nothing to report

15 Parish Plan

Nothing to add to the written update provided with the agenda.

16. Staithe Road Open Space/Scouts HQ

It was noted that all the site works had been completed other than the entrance barrier. Councillor K Jordan proposed that the Village Green and Open Spaces WP be asked to organise provision of mixed hedges to the front and back boundaries of the site. Seconded by B Huxtable. *Unanimously agreed.*

17. Items for Next Agenda

- Common Road wild life haven.
- Bus shelter Repps Road – progress report.

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Wednesday, 16th July 2008 and the next Public Surgery is on 28th June 2008 when the representatives are Councillors Horrocks and Carberry. There is a meeting of the Finance Committee on 2nd July 2008.

The meeting closed at 20.47 hours.

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