

**Minutes of Martham Parish Council Meeting
held in the School Room, Methodist Church, Repps Road, Martham
on 15th October 2008 at 19:30 hrs.**

PUBLIC FORUM

The Chairman opened the public forum by welcoming two members of the public, PC Cook and PCSO Meri Blunsden,.

Apologies were received from Borough Councillors Barry & Mary Coleman and County Councillor M Carttiss.

Pride in Community Awards

The Chairman presented the meeting with the commemorative shield that had been awarded to the village as winners of the 2008 EDP Pride in Norfolk Award in the John Hayden Open Space category at the award ceremony held on 18th September at County Hall in Norwich. The award was achieved against strong Norfolk-wide competition and was accompanied with a prize of £100. It was AGREED that arrangements would be made to display the Shield at various venues throughout the village over the next year.

A new resident of the parish expressed his pleasure at living in the village and asked if it would be possible to look into providing a roundabout suitable for wheelchairs used by disabled children on the play area. Councillor Jordan agreed to investigate this. A further question was asked about the possibility of having a pavement along White Street on the Whittakers Carpet shop side of the road. It was explained that this was a Highways Department matter and with the complication of compulsory purchase of land, usage assessments, higher priority demands and the existence of a footway on the other side of the road it was unlikely that this would ever be provided.

P C Cook said the rubber speed strip should be deployed in Black Street within the next two weeks. Apart from the usual seasonal increases at this time of year crime in the village was relatively quiet. He was asked to record that the phone box on The Green had been badly vandalised again.

The public forum ended at 19.51 hours.

COUNCIL MEETING

Those Present:

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

Presiding: M Huke.

Clerk in attendance: Peter Dawson.

1. Apologies

None.

2. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Wright expressed a non prejudicial interest as an allotment holder in item 12 of the agenda.

3. Minutes of the previous Council Meeting held on 17th September 2008 and the Camera Meeting held immediately thereafter.

These having been circulated with the agenda it was resolved to AGREE the minutes. **Proposed** by T Brookman, **seconded** by B Carberry and **unanimously agreed**.

4. **Actions arising from the minutes**

- 4.1 There had still been no reply to the letter sent to John Investments Ltd on 21st August 2008 concerning the Nursery Close passageway.
- 4.2 Norfolk County Council had still not written concerning the future of the Youth Club building.

5. **Planning**

The schedule of comments on planning applications received for consultation was approved. **Proposed M Huke, seconded** by B Wright. **Unanimously agreed.**

6. **Correspondence**

- 6.1 Letter No 152 - Councillor Huke reported that he and Councillor Wright had had a meeting with Simon Mutton of the Borough Council about providing posts on the green in Marlborough Green Crescent. If posts were provided it would force people to park cars on the roadway thus exacerbating existing problems. Mr Mutton had agreed to produce a scheme to double the existing off-road parking facilities and thereafter provide posts as necessary.
- 6.2 Letter No 159 – Consultation on making bye-laws. Councillor Jordan agreed to deal with this.
- 6.3 Letter No 161 – Broads Authority consultation on membership size etc – Councillor Manifold agreed to deal with this.
- 6.4 Letter No 162 - Emergency Planning Seminar. If any member is interested please contact the Clerk.
- 6.5 Land Registry and Martham Boat Building & Development Co. Ltd. Registration title NK349788. The Clerk was asked to write to the Land Registry withdrawing any objection to the registration under this application.

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

7. **Finance**

- 7.1 The budget recommend by the Finance Committee for 2009-10 as shown at appendix 'B' and resulting in an increase in the annual precept of 5.18% was approved for submission to the Borough Council. **Proposed** by K Jordan, **seconded** by P Manifold. **Unanimously agreed.**
- 7.2 The schedule of invoices circulated with the agenda for payment was approved. **Proposed** by T Watson, **seconded** by T Gates. **Unanimously agreed.**

8. **Footways/highways**

The Clerk was asked to report a blocked gully/drain outside 82 Repps Road.

9. **Footpaths**

The Working Group is to meet soon to discuss repairs to Sandy Lane.

10. **Communications**

The first draft of the new 'Welcome Booklet' was reviewed and various suggestions were made to improve it. Members were asked to let the Clerk know before 10th November about further suggestions so that a second draft could be considered at the next meeting.

11. **Small Works**

Nothing to report.

12. Allotments

The Working party of Councillors Watson and Wright recommended that no increase in rent was necessary until 31st December 2009 and that at that time the letting period should change from 1st April - 31st March (financial year) to 1st January - 31st December (calendar year) which would help the letting process and preparation of vacant plots. The Working Party is also investigating the possibility of splitting allotments into more practical sizes and terminating tenancies where allotment holders are not properly maintaining them. There is currently a strong waiting list. The freezing of the rent increase until 31st December 2009 and the revision of the letting year was **proposed** by Councillor Wright, **seconded** by Councillor Jordan and **unanimously agreed**.

13. Top Priorities for the Next Three Years

To meet modern requirements and to help qualify for Quality Status it was pointed out that the Council should demonstrate active encouragement of citizenship which includes strong youth involvement. It was therefore suggested that this should be an important element of the key priorities for the next three years.

A list of three top priorities as shown at appendix 'A' was approved for action. **Proposed** by M Huke, **seconded** by T Brookman. **Unanimously agreed**. Councillor Huke was asked to contact the High School to discuss with the Head Teacher fresh ways of involving young people in the community.

14. Luncheon Clubs

Councillor Watson reported that both clubs are doing well and finances are strong.

15. Recycling

Details of income from recycling since the scheme started in April 2006 were reported and it was noted that since then over £3,700 has been raised which was being steadily invested in environmental projects and improvements around the village.

16. Churchyard and Church Hall

The Clerk reported that he had attended two meetings of St Mary's Church Hall Renovation PCC Working Party as a representative of the Parish Council. Whilst the Parish Council's main interest was improvement to the Churchyard, the Parochial Church Council (PCC) was concentrating on a major project to renovate the Church Hall. The plans include proposals to improve the eastern end of the churchyard and to provide a new path and entrance to the Church Hall including disability access at the rear of the hall. The project was ambitious and the church was seeking general support in principle from the Council and if possible help with section 106 funding towards the open space element of the project. In the meantime both frequency and quality of the churchyard grass cutting had been evident to the front of the church and the main paths since the Council had increased the annual grant in 2008. The church had also enlisted help from the Community Probation Service to tidy the wildlife area of the churchyard. It was **AGREED** that the Parish Council write in general support of the renovation of the Church Hall. **Proposed** by P Manifold, **seconded** by B Carberry. **Unanimously agreed**.

17. Items for Next Agenda:

- Welcome Booklet.
- Access path to Play Area.

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Wednesday, 19th November 2008. The next Public Surgery is on 25th October 2008 when Councillors Horrocks and Wright will be in attendance.

The meeting closed at 20.46 hours.

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

Subject: **Objectives 2008 - 2010**

Report to: Martham Parish Council – 15th October 2008

The proposal is to adopt key objectives for the next three years to underpin the village enhancement programme and to strengthen the social festivals.

1. Enhancements Community Involvement

- 1.1 2008 - Commence verge-side planting and village sign planting.
- 1.2 2008 – Start a Christmas Fayre.
- 1.3 2009 - Continue verge-side planting to completion.
- 1.4 2009 - Expand the scarecrow festival and May Fair.
- 1.5 2009 – Expand the Christmas Fayre fair with more activities.
- 1.6 2010 – Encourage involvement from other organisations to add to sporting activities during the scarecrow festival and May Fair to compliment the weekend i.e. 5-a-side competition.
- 1.7 2010 - Encourage involvement from other organisations to add activities to the Christmas Fayre i.e. carol singing etc.
- 1.8 2010 - Encourage and promote Village in Bloom.

2. Road Safety and Traffic Calming

- a. 2008 – Set up a Working Party to investigate potential solutions to traffic problems in Black Street.
- b. 2009 – Produce a management plan aimed at improving traffic problems in Black Street.
- c. 2010 - Produce a management plan aimed at reducing traffic speed limits throughout the village.

3. Activities for Young People

- 3.1 2008 – Investigate the potential for setting up a Youth Council and a wider range of youth activities in the village.

Appendix 'B'

2009-10 Precept Recommendations				
A	B	C	D	E
2007-08	2008-09	Budget	CONCURRENT FUNCTIONS	2009-10
Actual	Actual	Line No		Proposed
£1,500	£3,000	5	CHURCHYARD	£3,000
£100	£200	5	WAR MEMORIAL	£500
£250	£600	6	BUS SHELTERS	£1,700
£9,500	£10,000	16	RECREATION GROUND	£11,150
£3,000	£3,000	17	VILLAGE GREEN/STAITHE ROAD	£3,100
£350	£250	20	CAR PARKS	£300
£300	£300	21	PONDS	£500
£2,431	£2,455	27	CLERK'S SALARY from concurrent grants	£2,900
£1,500	£-	-	PLAY AREA	£-
£18,931	£19,805		TOTAL	£23,150
2007-08	2008-09	Budget	PRECEPT	2009-10
Actual	Actual	Line No		Proposed
£800	£800	1	ALLOTMENTS	£800
£300	£200	2	ACCOUNTS/AUDIT	£550
£500	£250	7	ELECTIONS	£-
£1,500	£1,000	8	FOOTPATHS	£1,000
£-	£-	9	GENERAL FUND	£400
£300	£-	10	GENERAL MAINTENANCE	£400
£650	£900	11	INSURANCE	£1,450
£200	£200	13	MEETING COSTS	£250
£1,700	£1,300	14/15	OFFICE EXPENSES	£1,800
£1,100	£1,400	19	LITTER PICKING ETC	£1,200
£2,000	£2,000	22	CHRISTMAS & MAY FAIRS	£1,000
£1,000	£500	12	LEGAL FEES	£1,000
£1,000	£1,000	26	EXIGENCIES	£1,000
£10,069	£5,101	27	CLERK'S SALARY part met from precept	£5,100
£400	£400	28	DONATIONS (Section 137)	£200
£500	£600	31	SUBSCRIPTIONS	£600
£250	£400	32	TRAINING	£400
£100	£300	33	TRAVEL	£-
£1,000	£1,000	34	VILLAGE HALL	£1,100
£475	£-	-	BOWLS CLUB	£-
£23,844	£17,351		TOTAL	£18,250
£42,775	£37,156		TOTAL	£41,400

Overall Precept increase

5.18%

Finance/ Precept Recommendation 2009-10.xls