

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

**PUBLIC FORUM**

The Chairman opened the public forum by welcoming two members of the public and Borough Councillor Mary Coleman.

Apologies were received from PC Cook, County Councillor M Carttiss and Borough Councillor Barry Coleman.

Mr G Curtis said he thought the notice on Sandy Lane pointing out that vehicles are not allowed was incorrect. According to the Countryside Access Office, Sandy Lane is a footpath and vehicular use is not allowed other than by farm vehicles.

Mr Curtis raised the matter of the correct route of Footpath No9 which he claimed he could prove runs beside the boundary hedge of Martham Boat Yard Co. and not across a cultivated meadow which a member of the public is currently using. This matter was on the agenda for the meeting following and Mr Curtis was assured that a letter would be sent to him following discussion of that agenda item.

Councillor Mary Coleman said that Mrs Moore sent her apology for not being at the meeting. The Councillor reported that the new street lamp opposite No 38 Black Street was awaiting connection and that she would be reporting others that are out at the Staithe Road end of Black Street. Mrs Coleman said she had no knowledge of a possible meeting between NPS and the Borough Council to consider future plans for the former First School but would make enquiries about it. She indicated that she would support using part of the playing field of the former First School as an extension to the churchyard.

Councillor Manifold said he made enquiries about a year ago asking that an un-named lane off Cess Road could be officially called Cess Lane as emergency services were having trouble finding it. It was agreed to ask GYBC Planning Services to consider this.

The public forum ended at 19.50 hours.

**COUNCIL MEETING**

**Those Present:**

*Councillors:* J Beales; 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**

An apology from Councillor Brookman was accepted as he was attending a Neighbourhood Watch meeting on behalf of the Parish Council.

**2. Declarations of Interest**

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

Councillors Jordan, Manifold and Watson expressed a non prejudicial interest in item 6.2 of the agenda.

Councillor Jordan expressed a non prejudicial interest in item 15 of the agenda.

3. **Minutes of the previous Council Meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> October 2008.**  
 These having been circulated with the agenda it was resolved to AGREE the minutes. **Proposed** by T Gates, **seconded** by B Carberry and **unanimously agreed**.
4. **Actions arising from the minutes**  
 4.1 Norfolk County Council had still not written concerning the future of the Youth Club building.  
 4.2 The Chairman reported that he had approached Flegg High School concerning youth activities in the village but had not received a response. A letter had been sent requesting a meeting with Mr Ward of the school.  
 4.3 Councillor Beales asked that the Clerk chase PC Cook about the speeding rubber strips in Black Street.
5. **Planning**  
 Subject to a letter being sent to the Borough Council pointing out the serious concerns held by members concerning potential drainage problems at 5 Station Gardens, that had been given planning permission for a detached bungalow, the schedule of comments on planning applications received for consultation was approved. **Proposed B Carberry, seconded** by T Watson and **unanimously agreed**.
6. **Correspondence**  
 6.1 Letter Nos 164 and 169. Notice that the graveyard would be full within 2/3 years. The Clerk was asked to send a copy of letter 169 to the Rector of St Mary's Church.  
 6.2 Letter Nos 166 and 166a. The route of footpath No9. It was noted that the correct authority for dealing with definitive footpath routes was Norfolk County Council and not the Parish Council and that any issues concerning trespass were a private matter between landowners and alleged perpetrators.  
 Councillor Watson proposed that a letter be sent to the person who was not using the definitive route. The proposal was not seconded.  
 Councillor B Huxtable **proposed** that a copy of letter No 166a from Norfolk County Council pointing out the definitive route of Footpath No9 and an explanation that trespass does not come under the jurisdiction of the Parish Council be sent to Mr Curtis.  
**Seconded** by K Jordan and **agreed by nine votes in favour to one against**.  
 6.3 A request from Martham Churches Together to use The Green to hold a carol service on 24<sup>th</sup> December at 6pm was approved.  
 6.4 The balance of the schedule of correspondence provided with the agenda for information was received.
7. **Finance**  
 The schedule of invoices circulated with the agenda for payment was approved subject to the amount payable to Alexander Marquees being increased to £747.00 plus VAT at £130.73, total £877.73 for the added supply of trestle tables for the Christmas Fayre. **Proposed** by K Jordan, **seconded** by T Gates and **unanimously agreed**.
8. **Footways/highways**  
 8.1 Councillor Watson asked if the Highways Department could be requested to provide a traffic island at the eastern junction of Marlborough Green Crescent and Repps Road as a safety precaution to help slow down vehicles as they enter the estate and provide shelter for people crossing the road which is wide at that point. The Clerk was asked to make the request to Highways.  
 8.2 Councillor Huke raised concerns about people speeding along the service road to the south of the village green and using it as a short cut to overtake vehicles entering the village by pulling out in front of them near the pond. The Clerk was asked to write to the Highways Department requesting that the road be split in two with a barrier whilst retaining access to properties.  
 8.3 The Clerk was asked to report a pothole in Rollesby Road near Hill Farm to the Highways Department.

**9. Footpaths**

It was noted that James Chapman had done a wonderful job of cutting back undergrowth along Sandy Lane and the Clerk was asked to write a letter of thanks to him. NCC had again promised to provide material to fill the holes in Sandy Lane.

Councillor Manifold reported that problems with motors cycle using Sandy Lane still continue and the Police have been involved.

**10. Communications**

The second draft of the 'Welcome Booklet' was approved subject to small amendments. The Clerk was asked to order copies for members to distribute. Following a short discussion it was felt that commercial adverts in the publication would be unsuitable.

**11. Small Works**

Permission had been received from NCC to place a seat near the Library in Black Street. The Small Works Working Party recommended the purchase of a 'Carsington' seat from Urbanscape Ltd at £445 to be to be paid for out of the Recycling Budget. **Proposed** by M Huke, **seconded** by J Beales and **unanimously agreed**. The Small Works WP was asked to make arrangements for secure installation of the seat.

**12. Allotments**

Councillor Wright reported that a newsletter had been sent to all allotment holders telling them about the rent freeze and new water supply. The tenancy of a block of eight plots held by one person had been terminated. These would now be prepared for letting which would substantially clear the waiting list.

The water supply had been connected to the entrance of the site on 18<sup>th</sup> November and economical ways of extending it to the centre of the allotments would now be investigated.

**13. Christmas Fayre**

Councillors Beales and Horrocks reported that all the plans were in place for the Fayre on 6<sup>th</sup> December. Posters were available for display. Demand for stalls had been so great that there will now be three marquees on The Green to take them. Children's fairground rides will be provided. There will be a 'dress a tree' event. Both councillors were thanked for the tremendous amount of work they had put in to organising the event.

**14. Freedom of Information Act**

The Information Commissioner had provided a new generic Model Scheme and requested that it be adopted by the Parish Council. Councillor P Manifold **proposed** the adoption of the new generic Model Scheme in line with section 20 of the Freedom of Information Act, **seconded** by K Jordan and **unanimously agreed**.

**15. Access path to the Play Area**

A provisional assurance had been received from Great Yarmouth Borough Council (GYBC) that a new path could be paid for using Section 106 funding subject to the amount of funds available and queries about earlier works. A reply had been sent to GYBC and written confirmation was awaited but in the meantime it was recommended that quotes be obtained for the work so that the cost could be more accurately established. **Proposed** by M Huke, **seconded** by B Wright and **unanimously agreed**.

**16. Items for the Next Agenda:**

Youth Club repairs and future use.  
Christmas Fayre.

At this point the public and press were asked to leave as the Council was going to hold an in camera meeting.

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Wednesday, 17<sup>th</sup> December 2008. The next Public Surgery is on 29<sup>th</sup> November 2008 when Councillors Horrocks and Wright will be in attendance.

The meeting closed at 21.13 hours.

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