

**Minutes of Martham Parish Council Meeting
held in the School Room, Methodist Church, Repps Road, Martham
on 21st January 2009 at 19:30 hrs.**

PUBLIC FORUM

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

A member of the public from Cess Road asked why the route of footpath No9 had been changed and could the muddy surface be improved. It was explained that the revised route now complied with the definitive route as prescribed by Norfolk County Council. The Clerk was asked to contact the Countryside Officer at NCC to see if he could ask the landowner to improve the surface of the footpath.

PC Cook said that speed measurement strips had been deployed in Black Street and he hoped the results would be available at the next meeting of the Council. He confirmed that Peter Williamson will be the new PCSO for the village taking over from Meri Blunsden who has joined the main force.

Councillor Mary Coleman reported that there was a possibility that a redundant lamp post from Black Street could be moved to the south side of Repps Road opposite the Co-op where there was a dark spot leading from Marlborough Green Crescent.

The public forum ended at 19.46 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 Huke declared a prejudicial interest in item 5.3 for business reasons.

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

3. Minutes of the previous Council Meeting held on 17th December 2008.

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

4. Actions arising from the minutes

None.

5. Planning

The schedule of comments on planning applications received for consultation was approved. **Proposed** B Carberry, **seconded** by T Watson and **unanimously agreed**.

5.1 The Chairman informed Members that in addition to the listed items notice had just been received that the proposal for a swimming pool at 47 The Green had been approved by the Borough Council.

5.2 The Chairman informed Members that since the agenda had been prepared it had been noted from the Borough Council's Development Control Committee agenda papers that the

Government Planning Inspectorate had allowed an appeal by Gladedale (Anglia) Ltd against planning refusal to demolish Elmside House in White Street and replace it with a terrace of eleven cottage style dwellings with parking to the rear. It was noted that the Borough Council and Parish Council had done everything possible to oppose the demolition but there was no further appeal process to follow, the Inspector's decision being final.

It was AGREED that a press release should be distributed stating the Council's position and disappointment that Elmside House will be demolished. **Proposed** M Huke, **seconded** by B Carberry and **unanimously agreed**.

At this point the Chairman, Councillor M Huke, declared a prejudicial interest for business reasons in the next item and left the room whilst discussions took place. The Vice Chairman, K Jordan, took the Chair.

5.3 The Vice Chairman informed Members that in addition to the listed planning items notice had just been received for a proposed change of use of a barn at Clarkes Farm, Ferrygate Lane to be used for mice and rat breeding which would then be euthanized, frozen and sold to pet shops as reptile food. Discussion was needed in order to submit any views which were requested before the next meeting of the Council.

Members expressed concerns about the operation being in close proximity to the Trinity Children's Centre; potential attraction of other vermin through waste disposal; potential nuisance to neighbours caused through noxious odours and possible escape of animals as the unit would not be attend for 24 hours a day. It was AGREED that Councillor Huxtable and the Clerk be authorised to compile a reply to the Planning Officer stating these concerns.

Proposed P Manifold, **seconded** by T Watson and **unanimously agreed**.

At this point Councillor M Huke returned to the room and resumed the chair.

6. Correspondence

- 6.1 Letter No 195 – It was AGREED that the Village Green be used for the Carnival on 3rd/4th & 5th July 2009.
- 6.2 Letter No 197 – Any Member who was interested in attending the Norfolk Police Authority Annual Budget meeting was asked to contact the Clerk.

7. Finance

The schedule of invoices circulated with the agenda for payment was approved subject to an additional invoice for £624.00 plus VAT of £93.60 being paid to Gadge & Gilbert for legal work. **Proposed** by K Jordan, **seconded** by B Carberry and **unanimously agreed**.

8. Footways/highways

Councillor Beales raised a question about the lack of footway lighting to the medical centre on Hemsby Road. It was confirmed that footway lighting will be put in place by the developer before the Council takes on responsibility for the green space and path leading to the centre. It was likely that this would be once all five of the new houses there had been sold.

9. Footpaths

Nothing to report.

10. Quality Council Status

Members were informed that the submission was well underway with only work on youth activities and promotion of local democracy needed by members. There is a requirement for average member attendance to be no less than 80% and some members were already below that figure for the current year which may jeopardise the submission planned for May. Members were asked to hand in training requirement forms by the end of the meeting so that a training programme could be organised subject to requirements.

11. **Small Works**
Councillor Watson handed in an invoice from the contractor who had completed the latest repairs to the Repps Road bus shelter.
12. **Allotments**
Councillor Wright reported that a block of plots would shortly be available for letting following termination of the tenancies because they were not maintained properly. As the plots were considerably overgrown it was agreed that tenders be sought to have them cleared and prepared for cultivation. This will involve the removal of trees and hedge cutting in the same area. It was estimated that the work could be financed from within the existing allotments budget. The plots would be divided into two and would help to clear the existing waiting list.
13. **Christmas Fayre**
Councillor Beales informed members that there would be an official handing over ceremony at 11am on 3rd February of the £664 raised during the Christmas Fayre. The venue is yet to be determined.
14. **Youth Activities**
The Chairman reported that Flegg High School had not yet responded to requests for a meeting to discuss the potential for the growth of activities for young people in the village. It was suggested that the Board of Governors be contacted with a view to consultation. Norfolk County Council had not responded to requests to properly maintain the former youth club building on the playing field. The Clerk was asked to write again.
15. **Review of Standing Orders and Code of Conduct**
The existing Standing Orders and Code of Conduct were reviewed and approved without change. **Proposed** by K Jordan, **seconded** by T Gates and **unanimously agreed**.
16. **Surgery Rota 2009**
A draft rota was considered and approved subject to various amendments. The Clerk was asked to circulate the revised rota to all members.
17. **Staithe Road Scouts HQ**
Consideration was given to a request from the Scouts for the Council to pay the planning fees and submit revised plans for their HQ. It was AGREED that the Council would submit the revised planning application subject to payment of the £675 by the Scouts which would be refunded once building work starts.
18. **Planting Schemes from Recycling Credits**
Proposals were made by Councillor Horrocks to provide four planters at strategic points to brighten and enhance the appearance of the village. The estimated purchase cost would be £1,723 including provision for planting during the first year. **Proposed** by M Horrocks, **seconded** by P Manifold and **unanimously agreed**.
19. **Repps Road Bus Shelter**
Designs had been considered but no other progress had been made. Planning permission was required and plans needed to be draw up and priced before next April in order to apply for grants in good time for the financial year 2009-10. The Working Party was requested to meet soon to progress the matter and to enlist the help of the Clerk to take this matter forward.
20. **Items for next agenda**
Play area on the playing field.
Public transport.

21. The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Wednesday, 18th February 2009. The next public surgery is on 31st January when Councillors Manifold and Wright should be in attendance.
22. At this point the public and press were asked to leave as the Council was going to hold an in camera meeting.

The meeting closed at 21.04 hours.

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