

**Minutes of Martham Parish Council Meeting
held in the School Room, Methodist Church, Repps Road, Martham
on 18th February 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 County Councillor Michael Carttiss. Apologies were received from Borough Councillor Barry Coleman and PC Cook.

A resident asked what progress had been made towards officially naming Cess Lane and made an alternative suggestion of The Cess. It was explained that the Borough Council had rejected the Council's request because one resident had objected to the name and the policy of the Borough Council does not accept a majority decision or give any additional weighting to the Parish Council as representative of the wider community. With the agreement of Members the Chairman then closed the Public Forum and opened the formal meeting of the Council in order to consider item 12 of the agenda concerning the naming of 'Cess Lane' whilst the interested resident could listen.

COUNCIL MEETING

Those Present:

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

Presiding: M Huke.

Clerk in attendance: Peter Dawson.

1. Cess Lane

Members spoke in continued support to clearly identify this lane that runs off Cess Road in order to provide easier identification for emergency services and in the interests of safety. The Police and Ambulance Service had informally indicated support for clearly naming the lane and letters were awaited from them. It was reported that the Fire Service had also indicated support for the idea. The historic context of the name of the area was discussed and it was said the lane was called The Cess in property deeds. It was AGREED that after letters of support had been received from the emergency services the Clerk be asked to write to the Borough Council again asking for a clear name to be adopted, road name plates to be provided and the street naming policy to be reviewed to give higher priority to emergency service and parish council views.

Proposed by M Huke, **seconded** by T Watson and **unanimously agreed**.

At this point the Chairman re-opened the Public Forum.

Borough Councillor Mary Coleman reported that the redundant lamp post in Black Street had been removed but it was not yet known if it would be re-used at the junction of Repps Road and Marlborough Green Crescent.

Disappointment was expressed that the Borough Council had refused permission for lamp posts on The Green to be used to hang new flower baskets which are to be provided by the Parish Council. The Clerk was asked to write to the Borough Council requesting early priority in the programme to replace street lamps with those that could take hanging baskets on the same basis as those provided in Filby.

The second part of the public forum ended at 19.50 hours.

COUNCIL MEETING CONTINUED

2. Apologies

An apology was accepted from Councillor T Gates.

3. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Wright declared a non prejudicial interest in the camera item agenda as an allotment holder.

4. Minutes of the previous Council Meeting held on 21st January 2009.

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

5. Actions arising from the minutes

None.

6. Planning

A proposal to provide plastic fishing platforms next to the River Thurne near the fishing pits was discussed and no objections raised. The schedule of comments on planning applications received for consultation was approved. **Proposed** B Carberry, **seconded** by T Watson and **unanimously agreed**.

7. Correspondence

7.1 Letter No 4/2009 - Any Member who was interested in attending the NALC training courses was asked to contact the Clerk.

7.2 Letter No 7/2009 – Recreation Ground Trust Minutes. Concern was expressed about the continuing poor state of repair of Playing Field Lane. It was pointed out that the potential long term solution was the adoption of the road by a property developer when adjacent land was used for housing. Reassurances were given by Councillor Jordan that the Playing Field Trust had patching plans in hand for the road.

7.3 Letter No 9/2009 – A resident of Cromwell Close had complained about the poor state of street cleaning in the area, dangerous broken glass and dog mess. Members were fully supportive of the points made by the resident and expressed concerns about the perceived falling standards of street cleaning services provided by the Borough Council. The Clerk was asked to write to the Borough Council in support of the complaint made by the resident and to highlight the issue of dog fouling and litter in the next issue of the parish magazine.

7.4 Letter No 12/2009 - It was AGREED that the PCC of St Mary's Church could use the Village Green for cake stalls from May until September 2009.

8. Finance

8.1 It was AGREED to accept the minutes and recommendations of the Finance Committee held on 4th February 2009. **Proposed** by B Carberry, **seconded** by P Manifold and **unanimously agreed**.

8.2 The schedule of invoices circulated with the agenda for payment was approved for payment. **Proposed** by K Jordan, **seconded** by J Beales and **unanimously agreed**.

9. Footways/highways

9.1 In answer to a question it was explained that the Black Street Traffic calming WP had not yet met.

9.2 It was suggested that access points to the Village Green for disabled people needed improvement. The Clerk was asked to provide a map of The Green in order that it could be marked up with existing and proposed access points and then advice be sought from the County Council Highways Department about the best approach to improvements.

- 9.3 It was pointed out that when the DDA work was done at the Repps Road bus stop no dropped kerb was provided and that there is no path across the green to access the bus shelter. Councillor Beales also mentioned that there is no dropped kerb access to the bus stop on the small central green by the bus shelter. The Clerk was asked to contact NCC about all three issues.
- 9.4 Lorry wheel damage was reported to the Repps Road green opposite the Co-op. This was to be reported and it was proposed that NCC be requested to pass complete management of the green to the Parish Council. **Proposed** by M Huke, **seconded** by T Watson and **unanimously agreed**.
- 9.5 Councillor Wight asked if anything had been heard from the Borough Council about the promised additional car parking spaces at Marlborough Green. It was confirmed that the Borough Council are chased about it regularly but had failed to respond. The Clerk was asked to write to the Borough Council again.

10. Footpaths

The Footpaths Working party was asked to meet and determine a cutting and maintenance schedule for 2009.

11. Quality Parish Council (QPC)

- 11.1 On advice from the Quality Parish Council Working Party it was AGREED to adopt the Training Policy as submitted which was required to satisfy part 10 of the submission for QPC status. **Proposed** by K Jordan, **seconded** by T Brookman and **unanimously agreed**.
- 11.2 The Clerk was asked to organise training for members over the course of the next year as indicated by the survey results carried out in January.
- 11.3 The submission for Quality Parish Council Status is on track for May 2009.
- 11.4 The Chairman confirmed that a letter had been sent to the Chairman of Governors at the High School requesting a meeting to discuss youth activities and the possibility of setting up a Youth Council. Approaches were also being made to the Primary School about consulting children on community activities.

12. Small Works

A new seat has been delivered and will be installed near the Library in Black Street when the weather improves.

13. Former Youth Club Building

Norfolk County Council had written to the Council requesting early surrender of its lease of the land that the former youth club building stands on at the Playing Field and offering to hand the building back to the Parish Council. The offer being subject to NCC putting the building into a proper state of repair.

A debate concluded that there could be several uses of the building that would benefit the village but ownership of the building was uncertain. It was AGREED that a working party of Councillor Huke, Councillor Jordan and the Clerk clarify ownership of the building, investigate alternative uses and report back to a future meeting of the full Council with recommendations. **Proposed by M Huke, seconded by B Carberry and unanimously agreed.**

14. Play Area on the Playing Field

Councillor Beales reported on comments made by the public about long standing problems of broken glass and rubbish at the play area that were putting people off using it. These views had been supported by Adrian Barnes a Playworker for GYBC following a public survey he had carried out about the facilities. The cleaning arrangements undertaken by the Coronation Recreation Ground and GYB Services were explained. It was noted that no formal complaints had been made to the Council over the last 18 months. Councillor Brookman offered to carry out random activity sampling inspections over a set period and it was AGREED to accept his offer in

order that the extent of any problems could be assessed. The Chairman asked the Clerk to send another letter to GYBC with regard to safety signs being erected on the play area

15. **Public Transport**

Councillor Beales outlined details of the local bus services which were said to be good from Martham to Great Yarmouth and on to Lowestoft but non-existent from Martham to Stalham, Wroxham and in the Cromer direction. She reported that it had come to her attention that Sanders Coaches would be willing to divert their existing service that runs from Great Yarmouth via Rollesby to Stalham through Martham, and in the reverse direction, if the Parish Council would support their application to NCC for a revision to the route. This was **AGREED**. *Proposed by J Beales, seconded by K Jordan and unanimously agreed.*

16. **Items for next agenda**

- Community Engagement Strategy for Quality Parish Council Status.
- Play area activity sampling report.
- Scarecrow festival.

17. The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Wednesday, 18th March 2009. The next public surgery is on 28th February when Councillors Gates and Wright should be in attendance.

18. 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 21.35 hours.

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