

**Minutes of Martham Parish Council Meeting
held in the School Room, Methodist Church, Repps Road, Martham
on 18th March 2009 at 19:30 hrs.**

PUBLIC FORUM

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

Councillor Mary Coleman reported that the redundant lamp post in Black Street could not be re-sited near the DIY in Repps Road as hoped but she had obtained agreement that the existing lamp on the north side of the road there would be improved to spread light across the road to the junction with Marlborough Green Crescent.

Councillor Manifold asked Mrs Coleman how bus fare compensation was calculated when concessionary fare users travel short distances because he had heard the bus company is given the full distance fare. He also asked if the full cost fell on the Borough Council or if grant aid was available. Mrs Coleman said she would try to find out.

Councillor Huxtable asked Mrs Coleman why the 2009-10 increase in Council Tax for the Borough Council was higher than any other district in the county. In reply Mrs Coleman said there had been cash flow problems with the Icelandic Bank investment and local government re-organisation costs were high. She said that staff cuts had been implemented to reduce costs and that the Council Tax increase was below government guidelines. The Chairman recognised that the Borough Council was involved with supporting major investment to the Outer Harbour, the seafront, St George's Park, the Town Hall and St George's Theatre.

The public forum ended at 19.48 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**
None.
3. **Minutes of the previous Council Meeting held on 18th February 2009.**
These having been circulated with the agenda it was resolved to AGREE the minutes. ***Proposed*** by P Manifold, ***seconded*** by J Beales and ***unanimously agreed.***
4. **Actions arising from the minutes**
 - 4.1 Councillor Beales reported that from 26th April 2009 Sanders Coaches had agreed to divert its No6 service so that it called at the Victoria Public House, Repps Road on its journey to and from Great Yarmouth and Stalham. The service also calls at Potter Heigham, Ludham, Catfield, Hicking and Sutton on its way to Stalham, and Rollesby,

Ormesby and Caister on its way to Great Yarmouth. From Stalham there are links to other buses serving Cromer, Sheringham and Holt.

- 4.2 In answer to a question from Councillor Jordan, The Chairman explained that he had had an informal planning meeting with the developer who was proposing to make improvements to Playing Field Lane if he was given planning permission by the Borough Council to build houses on the site of 10 Playing Field Lane. The formal consultation proposals were expected to be received before the next meeting of the Council.
- 4.3 The Chairman reported that following deferment by the Finance Committee further details had now been provided by the Carnival Committee of their accounts for 2008 and that these now appeared to be satisfactory. As a result he recommended that a grant of £200 be given to the Carnival Committee to help support the 2009 carnival. **Proposed** by M Huke, **seconded** by B Huxtable and **unanimously agreed**.

5. Planning

- 5.1 The schedule of comments on planning applications received for consultation was approved. **Proposed** B Carberry, **seconded** by T Watson and **unanimously agreed**.
- 5.2 The Chairman drew attention to a planning application received after the agenda had been compiled proposing re-development of Martham Ferry Boatyard and staithe side car park, Ferrygate Lane and asked Members for their views. It was pointed out by several Members that the Council had objected to similar proposals to develop the staithe side some years ago because it was believed the land was granted to the parish under the Enclosure Act and the public slipway should be retained and was not in private ownership. The Clerk and Planning Working Party were asked to investigate the answer given to the previous application and compile a suitable objection.
- 5.3 The Chairman informed Members that a planning application received after the agenda had been compiled proposed demolition of an existing garage and the building of a new bungalow next to Kooky Burrow, off Black Street. He outlined the previous objections lodged by the Council and was asked to consider these again when compiling a reply.

6. Correspondence

- 6.1 Letter No20/2009 – It was AGREED that the revised pricing structure for the bottle banks provided by Berryman be accepted and signed by the Chairman. **Proposed** K Jordan, **seconded** by B Carberry and **unanimously agreed**.
- 6.2 Letter No24/2009 – Community Connection had written to say the CLIP Office will close by May 2009. A discussion took place concerning potential alternative venues for Public Surgeries and it was agreed to consider the matter in detail at the next meeting of the Council.
- 6.3 Letter No25/2009 – It was AGREED that The Green could be used by Carl Gray Fun Fair during the May Fair week. After a short discussion concerning the level of rent to be charged it was AGREED by a majority vote that the fee would be £150 for both 2009 and 2010. **Proposed** B Huxtable, **seconded** by B Wright, those in favour 6, those against 2, with 3 abstentions. Councillor Beales raised the matter of the fair's operating hours and was asked to notify the Clerk of the preferences of the Scarecrow Working Party so that he could pass them on to Mr Gray.

7. Finance

The schedule of invoices circulated with the agenda was approved for payment. **Proposed** by B Carberry, **seconded** by T Brookman and **unanimously agreed**.

8. Footways/highways

Councillor Wright reported that he had received a complaint from the resident of 12 Cedar Close about dog mess in the area. See minute 12 below.

9. Footpaths

Councillor Gates reported that the Footpath Working Party had agreed a cutting and maintenance schedule for 2009 that would be put in place with a contractor.

10. Small Works

Councillor Watson reported that during the course of repairs to the telegraph pole on The Green that BT vans had caused deep rut damage to The Green. It was also reported that a vehicle accident had resulted in the telephone kiosk being destroyed and it was unclear if it was going to be replaced. Members expressed a strong preference for it to be replaced and if necessary with a traditional box like the redundant one at Somerton Road. The Clerk was asked to convey the wishes of Members to BT.

11. Quality Parish Council (QPC)

On advice from the Quality Parish Council Working Party it was AGREED to adopt the Community Engagement Strategy as submitted which was required to support the submission for QPC status. **Proposed** by K Jordan, **seconded** by M Horrocks and **unanimously agreed**.

12. Spring Clean Day

Partly in response to complaints about increased litter and dog mess in the village and also as part of general community activity to help Martham become greener, safer and a more attractive village a suggestion was adopted to hold a Spring Clean Day on Sunday 19th April. The Clerk was asked to publicise the event as widely as possible and speak to the Borough Council to try to obtain practical support. **Proposed** by M Huke, **seconded** by P Manifold and **unanimously agreed**.

Councillor Huxtable observed that the Borough Council should be dealing with street cleaning and clearing of dog fouling and that it seemed a pity that residents who pay their Council Tax should then have to do it themselves. It was AGREED that the matter of rural street cleaning be raised at the next meeting of the Parish Council's Liaison Committee.

13. Play Area

Councillor Brookman reported back on the random activity sampling inspections he had carried out at the Play Area over set periods during the past month. Some members had swept the playground during the past month and it was felt that the present cleaning arrangements were unsatisfactory. Councillor Jordan, in his capacity as a Committee Member of the Playing Field Trust, assured members that he would raise the issue at the next meeting of the Trust with a view to getting the play area swept regularly. It was pointed out that the Borough Council shares cleaning responsibilities with the Trust and the Clerk was asked to write to Environmental Services asking what they could do to improve the cleaning regime. In addition the Clerk was asked to remind the Borough Council that safety notices had still not been provided as required by law.

14. Scarecrow Festival

Councillor Horrocks reported that all the arrangements for the festival to take place on 3rd/4th May were in place. Advertising was being arranged and details were given of how prizes would be awarded. It was AGREED that the grant beneficiary of proceeds from the festival for 2009 would be St Mary's Church Hall Renovation Fund subject to the renovations actually taking place and if not that the Church be asked to consult with the Parish Council before the money was spent on any alternative project. **Proposed** by M Huke, **seconded** by K Jordan and **unanimously agreed**.

15. Items for next agenda

- Allotments.
- The lime trees in Black Street.
- Voluntary tree warden post.
- CLIP Office.

16. The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Wednesday, 15th April 2009. The next public surgery is on 28th March when Councillors Brookman and Carberry should be in attendance.

The meeting closed at 21.42 hours.

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