

**Minutes of Martham Parish Council Meeting
held in the hall of the Methodist Church, Repps Road, Martham
on 22nd September 2010 at 19:30 hrs.**

PUBLIC FORUM

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

The Chairman reported that sadly two Councillors were suffering with severe ill health which in one case had resulted in a resignation from the Council and in the other was likely to mean absence from meetings and working groups for a few months. Everyone expressed their best wishes to Maggie Horrocks and Billy Carberry for a quick recovery.

PC Cook had nothing to report but Councillor Beales asked him about an alleged incident at the play area of the Playing Field involving a young person and he said it had been investigated and nothing had been proved.

Borough Councillor B Coleman explained that he would be writing on behalf of several parishes and the Borough Council to Anglian Water about problems with sewerage disposal and advance draft copies would be sent to parishes so that they could register any recent problems they had encountered. He also hoped to arrange a meeting with Anglian Water to discuss related issues raised by Parish Councils.

The public forum ended at 19.46 hours.

COUNCIL MEETING

Those Present:

Councillors: J Beales; T Gates; M Huke; B Huxtable; K Jordan; J Moore and T Watson.

Presiding: M Huke.

Clerk in attendance: Peter Dawson.

1. Apologies

From Councillors M Horrock; B Carberry; P Manifold and B Wright were accepted.

2. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Watson declared a prejudicial interest in item 19 and left the room during the discussion of the matter.

3. Minutes of the meeting held on 21st July 2010.

Subject to the addition of Councillor B Wright who attended the meeting it was resolved to AGREE the minutes. **Proposed by T Watson, seconded by T Gates and unanimously agreed.**

4. Actions arising from the minutes

- Nothing had been heard from the Broads Authority regarding the request for moorings at Ferrygate pontoon bridge.
- Information Board in the Village Centre: The Clerk reported that the Communications Working Party had not had the opportunity yet to meet to consider this matter.
- The Chairman reported on progress made concerning affordable housing. A very successful scheme had been identified at Diss which was identical to that being investigated and had provided starter homes at low cost. It was agreed that the Chairman and one other councillor make an exploratory site visit to Diss to see what had been achieved.

5. Planning

The schedule of comments on planning applications received for consultation was approved and two further proposals, one for a change of use at 25 White Street and one to renew existing permission to use an agricultural store for commercial use at Grange Farm were accepted without objection. **Proposed by T Watson, seconded by T Gates and unanimously agreed.**

6. Correspondence

6.1 The Chairman expressed concern that in at least nine cases the Borough Council had allowed the removal or works to trees at Pyman Close/Bradfield Way over the last two months when the original planning permission had been granted subject to retention of trees at the site. It was AGREED that the Clerk and the Tree Officer write to the Borough Council seeking an explanation why so many trees could now be removed; why replacement conditions had not been enforced in all cases and if commuted sums could be given to the council to ensure replacement trees are planted even if it meant this being provided in other parts of the village.

6.2 Letter No123/2010. Design for potential footway at Rollesby Road. The Chairman asked both Borough Councillors and PC Cook if they would support the principle of a footpath in Rollesby Road and they agreed subject to its final design detail.

6.3 Letter No124/2010. Voting for Broads Authority Forum members. It was agreed to vote for Michael Flitt and Harry May. **Proposed by T Watson, seconded by T Gates and unanimously agreed.**

6.4 Letter No137/2010. Natural England and letter concerning the protection of the ram's horn snail. Noted.

6.5 Letter No144/2010. A Letter from The River Thurne Tenants Association dated 26th August 2010 was noted.

6.6 Letter No148/2010. Any member interested in attending the Community Led Planning Seminar being held by the NRCC and GYBC on 30th September 2010 was asked to liaise with the Clerk to make arrangements.

7. Finance

7.1 The report from the external auditors for 2009-10 was accepted and the Clerk pointed out that arrangements had been made for an interim annual audit in future subject to revised guidance from NALC or the SLCC.

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

8. Nursery Close to Black Street Passageway

The Working Party reported back on action taken over the past few months to try to get support from Norfolk County Council to apply for a Public Path Creation Order to reinstate the former passageway between Nursery Close and Black Street that had been blocked off by an adjoining resident in April 2008. Copies of correspondence with NCC were circulated showing that the County Council was not willing to provide any further financial support over and above that already committed. In the light of this information members were asked to make a final decision on whether the Parish Council should take the lead in applying for a Public Path Creation Order at its own expense.

At this point the Chairman suspended the meeting and invited Ann Meakin and Councillor B Coleman to make any points they wished. Mrs Meakin suggested that a further request be made to Great Yarmouth Borough Council to apply for a Compulsory Purchase Order and that if this was not considered appropriate residents would probably make a complaint to the Ombudsman. When members of the public had been given time to express their views the Chairman re-opened the meeting.

Members then debated the issues and it was decided that given the cost that would fall on the village council tax payers to pursue either a Compulsory Purchase Order or a Public Path Creation Order that no further action be taken and that this element of the matter be considered as closed. **Proposed by B Huxtable, seconded by T Watson and unanimously agreed.**

9. **Allotments** – nothing to report.

10. **Footways and Highways.**

It was noted that work to the footway in Hyrn Close had started.

11. **Footpaths**

Councillors Manifold and Gates were asked to see Mr J Chapman to get agreement about usage of in-field tracks.

12. **Small Works**

Various works had been put in hand to trim trees and fill holes on the Village Green. The annual village maintenance had been carried out to benches and fences to a high standard.

13. **Personnel**

It was with great regret that the Chairman reported that Councillor Maggie Horrocks had submitted her resignation from the Council. The Chairman said that Maggie had been an invaluable member for the past five years and the village was a much better place as a result of her hard work and that she would be sorely missed by the whole Council who, nevertheless, wished her all the best for the future and hoped that perhaps she would one day rejoin the Council. The Clerk was asked to inform the Borough Council of her resignation so that the procedure for electing a new councillor could be put in place.

14. **Youth and Community Centre**

The Chairman reported on a meeting that had taken place with the Borough Council's Development Control Officer on 24th August which had clarified the funding available from Section 106 money and that it had been agreed this could be used to enhance the Youth and Community Centre facilities at the playing field. The proposals were for a two storey extension to the building to provide indoor uncluttered space for activities like kick about games, badminton, gym, karate, exercise and dancing. The builder/provider of the section 106 money, Nigel Dyble, had agreed it could be used to enhance community facilities in this way. It was agreed to employ an architect to produce outline concept plans that could be costed and reported back to a future meeting of the Council for more detailed consideration before proceeding further. The Borough Council had also agreed that Section 106 funds could be used to carry out repairs to the car park and improvements to the external lighting. Quotes had been invited to tarmac the car park and replies were awaited. Only one quote had been received to improve the external lighting and it was AGREED to waive Standing Orders in this one case and approve acceptance of the quote for the work to be carried out. **Proposed by K Jordan, seconded by T Watson and unanimously agreed.**

Calor were due to carry out repairs to the central heating on 27th.

15. **Christmas Fayre**

Councillor Beales reported that all the arrangements are in hand for the Fayre on 27th November. It was agreed that the Christmas lights would be turned on earlier this year to support the Fayre. The Chairman reported that very regrettably the lights on the willow tree in the village centre had had to be scrapped as tree growth had broken the majority of the cables.

16. **Luncheon Club**

Councillor Watson reported that numbers attending at Hemsby had dropped over the summer resulting in a funding shortfall which was being corrected by running other events. A new Treasurer and Accountant had been appointed which should mean the otherwise delayed AGM will soon be held.

17. Pond to the East of the Village Green

The Chairman reported back on progress towards cleaning out and improving the pond which will include a ground pump, environmental planting and better path access. Several residents had volunteered to help with the project including one who had provided a concept drawing. The cost of cleaning out the pond, drilling a bore hole, providing a pump, connecting an electrical supply, planting and providing improved access was estimated at £12,000 and it was agreed that an application be made to apply for a grant for most of this from the National Lottery with the Council providing up to £2,000 from recycling income. The Chairman was asked to take the project forward subject to consultation with relevant residents and groups and obtaining more detailed costs in some cases. When the outcome of the grant application is known the matter will be considered further in more detail.

Councillor Moore said the ground radar survey of pond feeder pipes under the Village Green, that were thought to be broken, would be carried out on 24th.

18. Annual Grants

It was pointed out that the Government was bringing pressure to bear on local authorities not to have any increase in precepts in 2011 and to that end it was suggested that existing grants to organisations in the village be frozen at 2010-11 levels and that no new grants be given in 2011-12. **Proposed by T Gates, seconded by J Beales and unanimously agreed.**

19. Cess Road, Staithe

Councillors Huxtable and Jordan reported back on behalf of the Working Party on actions taken over the last two months and those planned next which were approved by members. Councillor Watson left the room during this item and took no part in the matter.

20. Items for the next Agenda – Members were asked to let the Clerk know of any items.

21. The next meeting of the full Council is to be held on 20th October 2010. There is a meeting of the Financial Committee on 6th October 2010. The next Parish Surgery is on 25th September when Councillor Huxtable is due to attend.

At this point the public and press were asked to leave and the Council held an in camera meeting.

The meeting closed at 21.52 hours.

Signed.....(Chairman)

Dated.....