

**Minutes of Martham Parish Council Meeting
held in the School Room, Methodist Church, Repps Road, Martham
on 16th September 2009 at 19:30 hrs.**

PUBLIC FORUM

The Chairman started the meeting by congratulating the Clerk on being presented with the award as joint runner up as Clerk of the Year for 2009 and all the Members endorsed his complimentary comments.

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

Mrs Coleman reported that the Rollesby Road street sign had been provided and that signs for Sycamore Avenue and Walnut Tree Avenue would be supplied soon.

In response to requests Councillor Carttiss said he would investigate clearance of the overgrown dyke in Repps Road; the provision of storm drains at the Repps Road/Marlborough Green Crescent junction and footway repairs in Black Street. In response to a question about the promised site meeting concerning the B1152/A149 roundabout Councillor Carttiss speculated that the delay was probably the result of spending cuts at NCC but would investigate and report back.

Councillor Watson expressed concern about the untidy state of Hyrn Close, parking problems and the lack of street lighting. He was asked to liaise with the Clerk about positioning of a street light so that the Clerk could write to the Borough Council requesting a lamp.

Delight was expressed by Members at the long awaited completion of drainage works in Black Street and Councillor Coleman asked if the Clerk would continue to chase NCC to complete reinstatement of the roadside verges near Grove Close.

Kurt Booth and two of his colleagues from Norfolk County Council Planning and Transportation Department gave a presentation on County Council proposals to trial new innovative road safety measures in Martham with the aim of reducing road casualties. He explained that research suggested that altering drivers' field of peripheral vision from a wide open view to a narrower, more restricted view through the use of strategically placed trees and planting adjacent to the carriageway can influence driver behaviour and cause drivers to reduce their speeds. He suggested that this approach may be beneficial in reducing road casualties on the immediate approaches to the village and provided maps of the areas he suggested for the scheme.

Generally Members very much supported the scheme as outlined with the exception of the Village Green. The officers from the County Council were asked to produce a more detailed scheme for submission to a future meeting of the Council and as the basis for public consultation.

The public forum ended at 20.24 hours.

COUNCIL MEETING

Those Present:

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

Presiding: M Huke.

Clerk in attendance: Peter Dawson.

1. Apologies

Apologies were accepted from Councillor Manifold.

2. Declarations of Interest

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

3. Minutes of previous meeting held on 15th July 2009 .

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

6. Correspondence

6.1 Letter No 122/2009. Anyone interested in attending these training courses was asked to contact the Clerk.

6.2 Letter No 138/2009. It was AGREED that the Clerk and Councillor Huxtable would attend the seminar on Big Lottery funding at Yarmouth Library on 1st October 2009.

7. Nursery Close to Black Street Passageway.

The Chairman reported that full information about the cost implications of seeking a Compulsory Purchase Order had not yet been received from the Borough Council. It was AGREED to defer further consideration of this matter to the next meeting. **Proposed by M Huke, seconded by T Watson and unanimously agreed.**

8. Finance

8.1 The schedule of invoices shown at appendix 'A' was approved for payment. **Proposed by K Jordan, seconded by B Carberry and unanimously agreed.**

8.2 Participatory Budget Exercise

The Clerk informed Members that the Borough Council had indicated that the Parish Council could be awarded a grant of £10,000 during 2010/11 as part of a new initiative to involve communities with spending decisions. Further details of the scheme were to be provided by Rob Gregory of GYBC who would give a presentation at the meeting of the Council on 21st October 2009. Members expressed delight at the news and were pleased to note that the Council had been selected to take part in the funding scheme largely as a result of achieving Quality Status.

9. Footways/highways

The Clerk was asked to contact the Highways Department and ask if they could take action to have hedges cut along Cess Lane.

10. Footpaths

10.1 Arising from a question at the last meeting the Clerk reported that Norfolk County Council had accepted responsibility for maintaining that part of footpath No9 that Mr Cossey previously cut.

10.2 Arising from the last meeting the Clerk reported that a meeting had been held with the County Council Countryside Officer who had confirmed that the current route of footpath No7 did not follow the definitive path but as it was within a matter of feet away he was unwilling to spend money moving the actual route because it would be uneconomic. At the same meeting with the Countryside Officer he had confirmed that landowners were only required to 'restore' footpaths that had been cultivated or disturbed and not 'maintain and cut' them.

10.3 Councillor Gates reported that despite written assurances provided by the landowner in April 2009, footpath No7 had not been reinstated. The Clerk was asked to contact the landowner and if necessary ask the NCC Footpaths Countryside Officer to serve an enforcement notice on the landowner.

11. Small Works

- 11.1 The Somerton Road bus shelter had been treated with wood preservative internally and graffiti has been removed. It was AGREED that special anti graffiti paint be purchased and applied to the bus shelter as a trial to test its effectiveness.
- 11.2 Councillor Beales pointed out that the summer plants in the planters on The Green were now past their best and she proposed that they be replenished to ensure a good winter display. She had spoken to a local florist who had indicated that she was willing to water the planters on a regular basis and provide new plants for them. It was AGREED that Councillor Beales make arrangements for refreshed planting with Naomi's Flowers, to be paid for out of the recycling budget. **Proposed by J Beales, seconded by M Horrocks and unanimously agreed.**

12. Allotments

Councillor Watson reported that speeding on the tracks serving the allotments remained a problem despite speed limit notices and warnings being given. It was AGREED that the Allotment Working Party Members be authorised to issue written warnings to offending allotment holders; terminate tenancies of persistent offenders and organise the provision of speed ramps if felt necessary. **Proposed by M Huke, seconded by K Jordan and unanimously agreed.**

13. Pride in Norfolk Awards - 2009

Councillor Brookman reported that he had attended these awards with Councillor Beales and the Clerk on 10th September at County Hall and was proud to announce that the Clerk to the Council had been presented with the award as joint runner up as Clerk of the Year for 2009. Members congratulated the Clerk on this achievement which complimented the Council achieving Quality Status and marked 2009 as an exceptional year for the Council. Certificates marking both achievements were on display.

Councillor Beales said that many of the award winners had made great strides involving young people in their communities. Holt was a leading example of this and had just won substantial Lottery funding to improve youth facilities. She suggested that Members carry out a fact finding visit to Holt to see how they had achieved this success and the Clerk was asked to contact Holt Town Council to see if arrangements could be made.

14. Public Toilets, The Green

Members debated the current poor state of the toilets on The Green and came to the conclusion that repairs are being carried out to a poor standard and that the provision of both ladies and gents facilities should be modernised. The Clerk was asked to write to the Borough Council to officially ask that the toilets be modernised. **Proposed by M Huke, seconded by K Jordan and unanimously agreed.**

15. Village Green Disability Access

Councillor Beales reported back as requested on 20th May with detailed recommendations for improvements to access the village Green. The recommendations were AGREED and the Clerk was asked to action them. **Proposed by M Huke, seconded by T Watson and unanimously agreed.**

16. Youth Activities

The Chairman reported on actions taken since the last meeting to prepare the Youth Club for re-opening at half term. The surrender of the lease held by Norfolk County Council had been completed. The perimeter trees had been removed and improved security to the windows arranged. Roller blinds had been priced. Boiler maintenance would take place on 21st October and building insurance was about to be put in hand. A CRB check had been requested in the name of Councillor Huke.

17. Car Park, The Green

Members noted that the car park had been repaired that day and the Chairman reported that the Co-op had again very generously paid half the cost of the repairs but there had been no response from other nearby businesses following requests for financial assistance.

18. Items for the Next Agenda

- Youth Club
- Christmas Fayre

19. The next meeting is to be held on Wednesday, 21st October 2009. There is a meeting of the Finance Committee on 7th October. The next public surgery is on 26th September in the Methodist Church when Councillors Beales and Huxtable are scheduled 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 21.29 hours.

Signed.....(Chairman)

Dated.....