

**Minutes of Martham Parish Council Meeting
held in the School Room, Methodist Church, Repps Road, Martham
on 21st December 2011 at 19:30 hrs.**

PUBLIC FORUM

The Chairman opened the public forum by welcoming six members of the public, Borough Councillor Barry Coleman and PC Cook. County Councillor Michael Cartiss and Borough Councillor Mary Coleman sent their apologies.

A resident of Repps Road raised the issue of speed monitoring equipment that had been deployed in Repps Road from 19th to 25th October 2011 and said she had subsequently asked Norfolk Constabulary for complete details of the data under a Freedom of Information request. The information showed that 92.3% of drivers entering the village and 97.7% of drivers leaving the village complied with the speed limits but that behind these figures 22,635 vehicles travelled along Repps Road during the seven day period which equates to 3,233 vehicles per day. She had been informed that prosecution tolerances are 10% + 2mph above the 30mph speed limit i.e. 35mph. During the monitoring period 11,074 vehicles were recorded as leaving the village and of these 10,226 were within the 35mph tolerance. This means that 848 vehicles were not within the tolerance and could have been prosecuted. This equates to an average of 121 vehicles per day breaking the prosecution speed level whilst leaving the village and similarly 104 vehicles per day (732 per week) break the prosecution speed level whilst entering the village. She urged the Council to do all it could to continue a campaign to reduce speeding in Repps Road.

In answer to suggestions Councillor Coleman said that unlike some other counties it was not now Norfolk County Council policy to provide additional speeding signs graded to indicate steadily reducing speed levels into built up areas or to provide chevron road markings or coloured surfaces on roads which become quickly worn through. He went on to say he would be happy to raise awareness of the speeding issue in his next newsletter due for publication in February 2012.

PC Cook gave an assurance that he would look into giving added attention to the use of speed cameras as and when appropriate.

Planning development at 2 Rollesby Road: A resident pointed out that the revised development plans for the former Comm Tech site only tinkered around the edges of the objections previously raised and requested the Council to object again to the revised plans. Councillor Coleman felt the key issue was parking space at the rear of the properties. The application would be considered by the Borough Council at a meeting of the Development Control Committee on 16th January 2012.

In answer to a question from Councillor Murrant concerning revised Police Community Services taking place from January, PC Cook said that he thought there would be little change locally.

Councillor Coleman reported that little progress had been made to obtain better signage for the Medical Centre after three years of trying.

The public forum closed at 19.56 hours.

COUNCIL MEETING

Those Present:

Councillors: J Beales; T Gates; M Huke; K Jordan; P Manifold; M Murrant; H Walford; & B Wright.

Presiding: M Huke.

Clerk in attendance: Peter Dawson.

1. **Apologies.**

Apologies were recorded from Councillors B Huxtable, N Shields & T Watson.

2. **Declarations of Interest.** Cllr. B Wright declared a personal interest in item 9 as an allotment holder.

3. **Minutes of the general and camera meetings held on 16th November 2011.**

It was resolved to AGREE the minutes of the above meetings. **Proposed by H Walford, seconded by M Murrant. Unanimously agreed.**

4. **Actions arising from the minutes.**

In answer to a question from Councillor Murrant the Chairman explained that a sign had been erected on The Green near one of the new disabled access points because the County Council was unable to paint white lines indicating the dropped kerbs until next spring. The access point had been blocked by indiscriminate parking and abused by being used as an access ramp for parking on The Green which was not allowed without prior permission of the Council.

5. **Repps Road Speeding**

Members discussed the findings of the speed monitoring mentioned during the public forum. There was general support for any action that would lead to slower speeds for traffic throughout the village and especially in Repps Road. It was pointed out that take up of speed reduction signs that could be put on wheelie bins had been very poor; that no-one had come forward when speed monitoring volunteers had been sought and that the County Council had planted trees, which were yet to mature, in an innovative speed reduction scheme in Repps Road. The Council would support any other responsible suggestions that people had to reduce speeding but some measures including changes to speed limit signs had taken up to two years for the County Council to implement in other parts of the village. It was AGREED to ask the Police to repeat the speed monitoring exercise again in the spring during school term time at more appropriate points along Repps Road and to encourage the wider deployment of occasional speed safety cameras in Repps Road. **Proposed by K Jordan, seconded by B Wright. Unanimously agreed.**

6. **Planning**

6.1 2 Rollesby Road development. The revised plans to redevelop the site and provide 8 three-bedroomed houses were discussed and the following observations made:

- The revised plans do almost nothing to address the Council's original objections which still stand.
- There were deep concerns about the lack of a footpath serving the rear service road, north into the village.
- It was noted that the Borough Council refuse service would not be willing to enter the service road as it was too narrow to turn round in. This means that wheelie bins for the properties will have to be put out on Rollesby Road which is unsuitable and dangerous. It also appears to mean that emergency service vehicles will not be able to turn round in the service road.
- The Council has further concerns about the integral garages which are too narrow for a driver to get out of even if the car fits in to start with and many modern large cars will not fit in at all.

It was noted that the Conservation Officer's comments were that the scheme continues to fall short for family needs.

It was AGREED to object to the proposed application on the above grounds and to repeat those objections previously lodged. **Proposed by K Jordan, seconded by B Wright. Unanimously agreed.** It was noted that up to three Members are likely to attend the meeting of the Development Control meeting on 16th January 2012 when the application is due to be considered by the Borough Council.

6.2 10 Playing Field Lane. It was noted that the Parish Council's objections to the proposal for an extra dwelling on this development had been overruled and that planning permission had been granted by the Borough Council.

- 6.3 The Clerk informed Members that the Borough Council's Planning Enforcement Officer had served a planning contravention notice on the owner of West Cottage, Hemsby Road, Martham for breach of refusal of a planning application to build a fence at the property.
- 6.4 The balance of the schedule of comments on planning applications received for consultation was approved. **Proposed by T Gates, seconded by P Manifold and unanimously agreed.**

7. Correspondence

- 7.1 Letter No. 144/2011. Vehicle Activation Sign in Black Street. It was recommended that this sign be placed on the verge at the south of the entrance to Grove Road. **Proposed by J Beales, seconded by K Jordan and unanimously agreed.**
- 7.2 Letter No. 146/2011. Adverse possession claim to road and lay-by to the east of 17 The Green. It was agreed to advertise this claim lodged with the Land Registry by the owners of 17 the Green in order to gather public support and testimonies of the history and public use of the road and lay-by and that the process for carrying out the campaign be determined by the Greens, Open Spaces, Car Parks and Staithes Working Party. **Proposed by K Jordan, seconded by B Wright and unanimously agreed.**
- 7.3 Letter No. 147/2011. Public Rights of Way Management. It was agreed to accept the offer from NCC to take part in discussions about the potential for taking a greater role in monitoring and maintaining public footpaths and that Members of the Footpaths Working Party be asked to represent the Council in negotiations. **Proposed by M Huke, seconded by P Manifold and unanimously agreed.**
- 7.4 Letter 148/2011. NCC Introduction of Part Night Lighting. The Clerk was asked to reiterate the previous objections to this plan in respect of Grove Close and Grove Road. **Proposed by M Huke, seconded by J Beales and unanimously agreed.**
- 7.5 Letter No150/2011. The Chairman read out a letter that arrived after the agenda had been prepared inviting Members to attend a Police Authority budgeting meeting to be held on 19th January. Any Member interested in attending was asked to make arrangements via the Clerk.

8. Finance

The schedule of payments amounting to £2,105.16 as shown at appendix 'A' was approved for payment. **Proposed by K Jordan, seconded by B Wright and unanimously agreed.**

9. Allotments.

It was noted that the annual bills would be sent out between Christmas and the New Year. Rents were due on 1st January and were £16 per annum for a full plot and £8.00 for a half plot. The contractor has promised to cut the hedge along Cess Road after Christmas.

10. Footways and Highways

The Clerk was asked to report potholes outside the Post Office, rubbish dumped and flooding at entrance to the Strawberry Farm in Low Road to NCC Highways.

11. Footpaths

- 11.1 Councillors Beales and Huxtable were asked to consider a request from the owner of 75 Black Street to cut down four trees running along the boundary of his property and the Oak Tree Close footpath.
- 11.2 The Clerk was asked to investigate missing signs on footpaths over Thunder Hill.

12. Small Works

It was reported that the seat in the bus shelter at Somerton Road had collapsed and will be replaced with the former seat from the Repps Road bus shelter once it has been refurbished.

13. Community Centre

Work is due to start on building the extension in February 2012. The boiler looks as if it is coming to the end of its life and needs to be a matter for consideration in the future.

Mr Dick Porter of Back Lane was the winner of the recent Community Centre fund raising quiz that raised £53.00.

14. Smee No1, Cess Road

This smee was formerly rented out to Mr Smith who has given up the tenancy and various alternative uses have been suggested. The Greens, Open Spaces, Car Parks and Staithes Working Party was asked to visit the site and make recommendations for suitable future use of the site. **Proposed by K Jordan, seconded by B Wright and unanimously agreed.**

15. Christmas Tree on The Green

Members were reminded that the Council had intended to plant a permanent tree on The Green that would also be suitable for Christmas lights but had not done so following objections from nearby residents. This had meant the tree was again paid for from a private donation. It was AGREED that a grant of £200.00 be given to share between the four village churches that jointly provided the village carol service to assist with costs of providing the annual event and tree.

Proposed by M Huke, seconded by K Jordan and unanimously agreed.

16. Cess Staithe

Councillor Jordan in his capacity as Chairman of Martham Boat Dyke Trust reported that the Charity Commission had issued a Scheme, on 15th November 2011, which formally gave ownership of Cess Staithe to Martham Parish Council, to hold as custodian trustee on behalf of Martham Boat Dyke Trust. Using this Scheme of Registration an application had been made to register ownership with the Land Registry. In the normal way of dealing with such applications the Land Registry had consulted with Martham Boat Building and Development Company Ltd about the application to register the Staithe as the legal property of Martham Parish Council acting as custodian trustee for the Martham Boat Dyke Trust. The Company had objected to the application. The Land Registry expects negotiations to take place with the Company to see if there is any common ground or any hope of an agreed settlement of the dispute. After the negotiations, if there is no agreement, the Land Registry will produce a Case Summary, which will be referred to the Adjudicator. The Adjudicator will either tell the parties to take their dispute to a Court or he will hold a hearing himself.

It was AGREED that the Greens, Open Spaces, Car Parks and Staithes Working Party liaise with the Martham Boat Dyke Trust and The River Thurne Tenants Association to advertise and develop a campaign to gather public support and testimonies of public use of Cess Staithe.

Proposed by M Huke, seconded by B Wright and unanimously agreed.

17. Items for the next Agenda.

To be reported to the Clerk before 9th January please.

18. The next meeting of the full Council will be held on 18th January 2012.

The public meeting ended at 20.53 hours.

EXPENSES 21st December 2011 Meeting			
	NET	VAT	TOTAL
Talk Talk	£ 17.42	£ 3.48	£ 20.90
St Mary's Church (newsletter contribution)	£ 200.00	£ -	£ 200.00
Anglian Water (Community Centre)	£ 136.64	£ 9.63	£ 146.27
P Dawson (Clerks expenses)	£ 85.38	£ 14.30	£ 99.68
Salaries	£ 591.28	£ -	£ 591.28
E-on	£ 33.94	£ 1.70	£ 35.64
Miracle Cleaning	£ 88.00	£ 17.60	£ 105.60
SSAF Window Films Ltd	£ 39.30	£ 7.86	£ 47.16
Office Depot	£ 39.11	£ 7.82	£ 46.93
HMRC	£ 500.48	£ -	£ 500.48
Anglian Water (Allotments)	£ 54.77	£ -	£ 54.77
Berryman	£ 213.71	£ 42.74	£ 256.45
TOTAL	£ 2,000.03	£ 105.13	£ 2,105.16

RECEIPTS 21st December 2011 Meeting			
BCR (clothes recycling)	£ 26.50	£ -	£ 26.50
NCC (recycling)	£ 564.63	£ -	£ 564.63
Community Centre lettings	£ 436.85	£ -	£ 436.85
NCC (recycling)	£ 289.17	£ -	£ 289.17
TOTAL	£ 1,317.15	£ -	£ 1,317.15

Signed.....(Chairman)

Dated: 18th January 2012