

**Minutes of Martham Parish Council Annual General Meeting
held in the School Room, Methodist Church, Repps Road, Martham
on 18th May 2011 at 19:30 hrs.**

PUBLIC FORUM

The Chairman opened the public forum by welcoming four members of the public and Borough Councillors Barry & Mary Coleman; Dishad Turton of the James Paget Hospital Board of Governors; Charlotte Stannard of the Norfolk Rural Community Council and PC Cook. Apologies were received from County Councillor Michael Cartiss.

The Chairman congratulated Mary Coleman on being re-elected as the local ward councillor.

PC Cook reported that action is being taken to investigate vandalism to the Repps Road bus shelter.

Dishad Turton explained that her role was independent to that of James Paget Hospital administration and she acted as a representative to the community to take up issues with the hospital. She invited feedback on any issues to do with the hospital. She explained the way in which services for patients and their families are being reviewed and invited questions from anyone attending the meeting.

Charlotte Stannard of the Norfolk Rural Community Council explained how the Thinking Fuel Scheme worked in local communities and the successful use of the scheme in Winterton and Hemsby. She offered to attend a public meeting in Martham to help start the scheme if the Council was willing to support it.

A resident raised again the continuing problem of dog fouling in the village, especially in Black Street. A Parish Councillor referred to the same problem at the Playing Field. The resident of Black Street offered to act as a spotter of offenders and said he would be happy to be a witness in court if legal action was taken by the Environmental Rangers. Borough Councillor Barry Coleman explained the burden of proof required for a successful prosecution to take place.

A resident of The Green and his wife asked the Council to write to the Land Registry to defend an adverse possession claim over a jointly used cess pit which is situated on part of the Village Greens.

The Public Forum closed at 20.24 hours.

COUNCIL MEETING

Those Present:

Councillors: J Beales; T Gates; M Huke; B Huxtable; K Jordan; P Manifold; J Moore; N Shields; H Walford; T Watson and B Wright.

Presiding: M Huke.

Clerk in attendance: Peter Dawson.

1. Election of Chairman

Councillor P Manifold nominated Councillor M Huke to serve as Chairman for 2011/12 and Councillor K Jordan proposed that Standing Order No14 be suspended for this purpose. This was seconded by Councillor J Beales and was **unanimously agreed**. Councillor Huke was therefore elected as Chairman for the year 2011/12 and he signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office as Chairman.

2. Election of Vice Chairman

Councillor P Manifold nominated Councillor K Jordan and Councillor B Wright nominated Councillor J Beales to serve as Vice Chairman for 2011/12. Councillor Jordan received 5 votes in favour and Councillor Beales 4 and so **Councillor K Jordan was elected to serve as Vice Chairman for the year 2011/12.**

3. **Apologies.** None.

4. **Declarations of Interest.**

Councillor Wright declared a non prejudicial interest in item 18 as an allotment holder.

5. **Minutes of the general meeting held on 20th April 2011.**

It was resolved to AGREE the minutes of the general meeting held on 20th April 2011 as circulated with the agenda. **Proposed by T Watson, seconded by T Gates. Unanimously agreed.**

6. **Actions arising from the minutes.**

- It was noted that Footpath No5 had been marked across the open field.
- It was noted that Norfolk County Council Highways Department had confirmed that work would be programmed to provide three dropped crossings to provide improved access to the Village Greens.
- The Clerk reported that he had not had a reply concerning repairs to the car park.

7. **Cess Road Smea**

The speaker did not turn up as planned. Deferred.

8. **Domestic Fuel Partnership Scheme**

Consideration was given to a suggestion to support a community led initiative for residents to save money through bulk buying heating oil in partnership with AF Affinity following on from a presentation given by Charlotte Stannard of the Norfolk Rural Community Council. It was AGREED to promote the scheme and accept the kind offer from Ms Stannard to attend a public meeting in Martham to explain and promote the scheme, if possible in July.

9. **Planning**

9.1 Martham Ferry Boat Yard Development. Several objections were raised and questions asked about the proposals. The Chairman, Councillor Huxtable and the Clerk were asked to compile a suitable reply objecting to the proposals.

9.2 The balance of the schedule of comments on planning applications received for consultation was approved. **Proposed by T Watson, seconded by T Gates and unanimously agreed.**

10. **Correspondence**

Letter No53/2011. Dog fouling. The issues raised during the public session were noted and the Clerk was asked to contact the Environmental Rangers about notices that could be put on general rubbish bins where dog mess can be deposited. The Council agreed to support any action the Environmental Rangers could take to prevent irresponsible dog fouling. Councillor Moore agreed that a notice about dog fouling could be put up on his fencing around Moregrove Farm pond. The Clerk was asked to write to Head Teachers in the village schools asking if pupils could produce posters pointing out the offensive nature of dog fouling which the Council could use in a campaign and for advertising.

Letter No55/2011. Future Carnival Arrangements53/2011. Information noted.

Letter No57/2011. Training provided by NALC. Training sessions held at Norfolk County Council were felt to be the most effective.

Letter No58/2011. Consultation on Reduced Library Opening Hours. It was AGREED that a reply should be sent strongly objecting to any reduction in opening hours at the Martham Library and that a copy be sent to the Library for information. **Proposed by K Jordan, seconded by P Manifold and unanimously agreed.**

Letter 62/2011. Cess Pit, The Green. A resident had written in concerning claims of ownership of a cess pit situated near the main pond on the village green and had raised the same matter during the open public session. The Clerk was asked to write to the Land Registry making it clear that the Council owned the whole of the Village Greens including the cess pit and would oppose any alternative claims of ownership. The Clerk was asked to provide a copy of the letter to the complainant. **Proposed by K Jordan, seconded by B Wright and unanimously agreed.**

11. **Finance**
The schedule of invoices totalling £3,240,67 as attached was approved for payment. **Proposed by P Manifold, seconded by K Jordan and unanimously agreed.**
12. **Footways and Highways.**
No issues raised.
13. **Footpaths.**
13.1 The Clerk was asked to contact the landowner and ask him to cut the field side hedge to the north of Footpath No10.
13.2 The Clerk was asked to contact the Broads Authority to find out when Footpath No2, Ferrygate Lane Staithe to Somerton, would be re-opened.
13.3 The Clerk was asked to get the hedge and weeds along Footpath No4, near Moregrove Farm pond, cut back and added to the regular maintenance contract.
14. **Communications**
The draft 2010/11 Annual Report was AGREED and the Clerk was asked to obtain sufficient copies for Members to hand deliver. **Proposed by K Jordan, seconded by B Huxtable and unanimously agreed.**
15. **Scarecrow Festival**
Councillor Beales reported that attendance on the Sunday had been better than on the Monday and there had been less scarecrows than in 2010. The funfair had been a lower profile feature than last year due to part of it being in Yarmouth. High winds had damaged a second marquee that had to be taken down. Radio Norfolk had run a feature about the festival that helped the advertising. Details of income raised would be reported to a future meeting. **Councillor Manifold proposed a vote of thanks to Councillor Beales and all her colleagues for the hard work they had put into making the festival a success which was unanimously agreed.**
16. **Carnival**
A letter had been received from Barrie Thornton of Hemsby saying that his team would not be taking on the organisation of Martham Carnival from 2012. It was AGREED to continue to monitor the situation.
17. **Small Works**
Cleaning and repair work to the Repps Road bus shelter had been put in hand.
Councillor Moore was thanked for placing the planters donated by Flegg High School and the Clerk for planting them.
Councillor Moore agreed to ask the Fire Service to regularly water the central planters on the Village Green during the summer.
18. **Allotments**
It was reported that five plots were not being properly maintained and that letters terminating the tenancies would be sent shortly.
19. **Ponds**
The Council's insurance company expects the Council to carry out an annual assessment of the risks it is exposed to and identify any actions it considers necessary to minimise those risks. Accordingly the Council was presented with a Village Greens & Ponds Risk Management Policy and Risk Assessment. It was AGREED to ask the Greens and Open Spaces Working Party to consider this in detail and report back to Council with its recommendations. **Proposed by M Huke, seconded by K Jordan and unanimously agreed.**
20. **Committee and Working Parties**
Representatives of committees and working parties were reconsidered. Fresh working party representatives were AGREED in accordance with the schedule shown at appendix 'A'.

21. Picnic Tables on The Green

Councillor Shields proposed that these be provided on prominent parts of the Greens. Suitable sites were discussed including near the Fish & Chip shop when the pond is refurbished and on the smaller greens. It was AGREED that interested Councillors would accompany the Chairman on a site visit to determine suitable positions and types of picnic benches.

22. Extra Parking in the Village Centre

Councillor Shields suggested that the two pubs in the village be approached and asked if they would allow shoppers to park on their car parks during the day. Councillor Jordan agreed to make an informal enquiry about the suggestion with the landlord of the King's Arms PH.

23. Bus Stop Bay at the Small Green

A suggestion had been made to cut out a lay-by in the small green in the centre of the village near the existing bus shelter so that buses could pull off the road when stopping for passengers. It was pointed out that this issue had been suggested a few years ago and the Council was against the suggestion. It was AGREED to take no action. Councillor Beales pointed out that pavement level changes made by the County Council to assist the less mobile getting on and off buses at the small green were too far east of the actual stop, seat and shelter.

24. Items for the next Agenda.

- Community Centre.
- Picnic tables on The Greens.
- Presentation about smee management.
- Minutes of the meeting held on 16th February 2011.
- Extra Parking in the Village Centre

25. The next meeting of the full Council will be held on 15th June 2011. The next Parish Surgery is on 28th May 2011 when Councillors Gates & Jordan are due to attend.

26. At 21.49 the public and press were asked to leave and the Council held an in camera meeting.

Signed.....(Chairman)

Dated:15th June 2011

EXPENSES 18th May 2011 Meeting				
	NET	VAT	TOTAL	Chq. No.
Talk Talk - monthly web and phone calls	£ 20.81	£ 4.16	£ 24.97	DD
P Dawson	£ 578.98	£ 5.44	£ 584.42	1470
S Beales	£ 69.27	£ -	£ 69.27	1471
E-on	£ 12.08	£ 0.60	£ 12.68	1472
M Print	£ 313.04	£ 62.61	£ 375.65	1473
Calor	£ 18.33	£ 0.92	£ 19.25	1474
Pauline James	£ 66.00	£ -	£ 66.00	1475
Secret Gardens	£ 410.25	£ -	£ 410.25	1476
Miracle Cleaning	£ 88.00	£ 17.60	£ 105.60	1478
Berryman (Recycling)	£ 234.68	£ 46.94	£ 281.62	1479
Came & Co (Insurance)	£ 1,290.96	£ -	£ 1,290.96	1481
TOTAL	£ 3,102.40	£ 138.27	£ 3,240.67	
RECEIPTS 18th May 2011 Meeting				
BCR (clothes recycling)	£ 28.50	£ -	£ 28.50	
Broadland Woodturners	£ 10.00	£ -	£ 10.00	
Footpath Guides	£ 18.00	£ -	£ 18.00	
TOTAL	£ 56.50	£ -	£ 56.50	
Chairman			15th June 2011	