

**Minutes of Martham Parish Council Meeting  
held in the School Room, Methodist Church, Repps Road, Martham  
on 19<sup>th</sup> October 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.

Apologies were received from Borough Councillor Mary Coleman and County Councillor Michael Carttiss.

A neighbour spoke to object to the planning proposal for change of use of the former doctors surgery at 14 The Green saying he had traffic concerns and thought usage of the building as a funeral service and chapel of rest was inappropriate on the edge of the village green. Another neighbour spoke strongly in favour of the proposal. Michael Murrant, the proprietor of the business in question, explained how the service would work from the premises which excluded maintenance of vehicles which were garaged elsewhere. He said that the number of people visiting the premises and parking nearby would be less than when it was a doctors surgery.

PC Cook listed the local police priorities over the next three months which had been formed following public consultation.

Councillor Coleman gave an update on progress and consultation being undertaken before the barrier opposite the playground in Rollesby Road is provided.

He urged the Council to get positively involved with the scheme to promote Norfolk Village sports and pointed out the grants that are available. Councillor Walford mentioned his involvement with the scheme. Councillor Coleman went on to explain how it had been possible to provide grant assistance for repairs to the village hall.

The public forum closed at 19.50 hours.

**COUNCIL MEETING**

**Those Present:**

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

**Presiding:** M Huke.

Clerk in attendance: Peter Dawson.

1. **Apologies** - None.
2. **Declarations of Interest.** Cllr. B Wright declared a personal interest in item 9 as an allotment holder. Cllr. N Shields declared a personal interest in the planning proposal regarding 14 The Green as a business proprietor trading very near The Green.
3. **Minutes of the Meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> September 2011.**  
It was resolved to AGREE the minutes of the meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> September 2011. **Proposed by B Huxtable, seconded by J Beales. Unanimously agreed.**
4. **Actions arising from the minutes.** None.

## 5. Planning

- 5.1 14 The Green . The Chairman gave details of the planning history of the building and invited Member's comments in respect of the planning application for a change of use of the property from former doctor's surgery to funeral office, waiting area, chapel of rest and store.  
Some members spoke in favour of the proposal and the need for businesses and services in the village. Some members expressed concern that when the Parish Council was originally consulted about the building being used as a doctors surgery the view was that that use was only acceptable subject to the building reverting to domestic use when it ceased to be a doctors surgery. The current proposal was said to be misleading as it referred to a change of use when in fact permission was already in place for the building to be used for beautician services (replacing the former doctors surgery) and the funeral business would be in addition. There were varying views about how much additional traffic and parking demands would result from the business in comparison with when it was a doctors surgery and some of the concerns centred on the fact that the premises are only accessible across an unadopted road and parts of the village green.  
The Borough Council had allowed an extension to reply to the proposals until 21<sup>st</sup> October 2011 and in the circumstances the Planning Working Party was asked to compile a reply to the Borough Council expressing the Council's main concerns. **Proposed by B Huxtable, seconded by P Manifold. Unanimously agreed.**
- 5.2 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.**

## 6. Correspondence

- 6.1 Letter No. 118/2011. NCC had written asking for parish partnership involvement with delivering highway improvements. No action.
- 6.2 Letter No. 124/2011. Bell Tower at the former First School. It was noted that the County Council had agreed to give the former bell tower to the Parish Council provided the Council made arrangements for, and paid for, the cost of its removal.
- 6.3 Letter No. 127/2011. The Council had been informed by the Land Registry that Mr & Mrs Nicholas-Jago of 17 The Green are claiming adverse possession of a cess pit (or silt filter) near the main pond on the village Green. It was AGREED that the Clerk and a Working Party of Councillors M Huke and K Jordan be given delegated authority to defend this claim when it is heard by an adjudicator. **Proposed by T Watson, seconded by T Gates and unanimously agreed.**
- 6.4 Letter No.128/2011. Trinity Sure Start Children's Centre open afternoon on 20<sup>th</sup> October 2011. In answer to a question Councillor Beales explained that this was an opportunity to show how the services at the centre had expanded since it had opened.

## 7. Finance

The schedule of payments shown at appendix 'A' and totalling £4,763.42 was approved for payment. **Proposed by K Jordan, seconded by B Wright and unanimously agreed.**

## 8. Member Vacancy

It was AGREED to waive Standing Orders 9 & 10 for this matter. **Proposed by K Jordan, seconded by P Manifold and unanimously agreed.** The vacancy had been advertised for the statutory period and four applications had been received. They were from Anthony HYDE; Mark JOHNSON; Michael MURRANT and Peter SALMONS. A ballot was carried out and Michael MURRANT was co-opted as the new Councillor by a majority vote.

9. **Allotments.** Nothing to report.

10. **Footways and Highways**  
The Clerk was asked to contact the Housing Department to request the hedge be cut on the left of Cess Road as you exit Hynr Close.
11. **Footpaths**  
The Clerk reported that all 200 copies of the Footpath Guide had been sold over the past three years making the Council approximately £140.00 net profit. It was AGREED that a further 100 copies of the (updated) guide be purchased with a revised selling price of £3.00 each to cover increased printing costs.  
The way marker signs on footpaths 5/6 are missing. The Clerk to report these.
12. **Small Works**  
It was noted that works to several trees on the village green had been carried out and that further work was recommended to the Christmas lights in other trees that was likely to cost in the region of £360. It was AGREED that this work be carried out. **Proposed by K Jordan, seconded by p Manifold and unanimously agreed.** The Chairman was thanked for spending the whole day helping the contractor prune the trees on the Green.
13. **Communications.**  
It was noted that the Communications Working Party had not yet met to discuss the future of the public surgeries.
14. **Community Centre**  
The Chairman reported that use of the Community Gym was exceeding all expectations and the Health Authority may be willing to provide a keep fit manager at the centre.
15. **Just4You Youth Group**  
Attendance was now topping 50 people each Friday and was beyond all expectations. Those attending had few demands and appeared to be very happy with the existing format.
16. **Play Area.** Nothing to report.
17. **Broadland Planning Parish Forum.**  
Councillors Jordan & Huxtable reported back on the forum meeting they had attended on 28<sup>th</sup> September 2011. The Forum had concerns about the negative effect of proposed new planning legislation. The delegates had not been impressed with the Broads Authority's approach to planning in general and suggested that at the next meeting the Council's concerns about parishes being taken seriously be expressed.
18. **'Thinking Fuel' Oil Syndicate**  
The penultimate paragraph of the proposed Constitution for the group provided by Norfolk Rural Community Council was amended to make it clear that the Clerk had been appointed as co-ordinator for one year only and that the appointment would be reviewed on an annual basis.
19. **Items for the next Agenda.**
  - Norfolk Village Sports
  - Cess Road smee
  - Community Centre
20. There is a meeting of the Finance Committee on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> October 2011 at the Community Centre when annual grants and the budget for 2012-13 will be considered.  
The next meeting of the full Council will be held on 16<sup>th</sup> November 2011.

21. The Chairman invited members of the public to leave the meeting in accordance with section 1 of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 on the grounds that publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest because of information that was sensitive and/or the discussions were subject to legal professional privilege.

The public meeting finished at 21.22 hours.

Appendix 'A'

<b>EXPENSES 19<sup>th</sup> October 2011 Meeting</b>			
	<b>NET</b>	<b>VAT</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
Talk Talk - monthly web and phone calls	19.86	3.97	23.83
BT	38.52	7.70	46.22
Salaries/wages	591.68	0	591.68
M print	37.67	7.53	45.20
Calor (Community Centre)	382.50	19.13	401.63
The Clerk (postage stamps)	17.28	0	17.28
Secret Gardens	1,960.25	0	1,960.25
Berryman	174.98	35.00	209.98
Miracle Cleaning	88.00	17.60	105.60
E-on	9.85	0.49	10.34
Rodney Scott	426.39	0	426.39
Charisma (plants for Daisy Close)	239.53	38.91	278.44
NCC (Allotment rents)	335.00	0	335.00
Anglian Water (Community Centre)	279.65	16.93	296.58
Norfolk Rural Community Council (subscription)	15.00	0	15.00

<b>RECEIPTS 19<sup>th</sup> October 2011 Meeting</b>			
NCC (recycling)	242.20	0	242.20

Signed.....(Chairman)

Dated: 16<sup>th</sup> November 2011