

**Minutes of Martham Parish Council Meeting
held in the School Room, Methodist Church, Repps Road, Martham
on 16th March 2011 at 19:30 hrs.**

PUBLIC FORUM

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

Mrs Meakin made further statements and posed more questions relating to the former passageway from Nursery Close to Black Street. She disputed some of the things said at the last meeting and repeated some questions already asked. She again produced plans that have already been seen which she claimed supported access rights of some Bell Meadow residents to the path but did not produce copies of deeds showing these access rights as referred to during the meeting held on 16th February. She made reference to the Chairman's lack of support in the matter.

In support of Mrs Meakin another resident said he thought the Council had set out to be as unco-operative as possible since the path was blocked by a resident of Black Street and that some residents of Bell Meadow definitely had a right of access to the Nursery Close path.

The Chairman reminded those present that it was only his vote of support in November 2009 that broke a deadlock and resulted in the decision to apply for a CPO of the land in question and that it was subsequent legal advice that gave rise to the application not being pursued.

Councillor Barry Coleman confirmed that it was the Chairman who had supported the CPO in a balanced vote and applauded the Chairman for the considerable amount of patience he had exercised when dealing with the whole matter.

County Councillor Michael Carttiss said he had been involved with the case ever since the first site meeting was held after a resident had blocked the passageway and that he thought the Chairman had exercised extraordinary patience in dealing with the matter which if he were in a similar position would have closed to public debate long ago.

Councillor Carttiss reported that the Children's Services Overview & Scrutiny Panel of NCC had decided it no longer had a need for the former Martham First School building and that it would dispose of it. Plans for its future development would be published soon and a further round of public consultation about the future of the site would be carried out locally.

A resident of Black Street drew attention to a planning development proposal at Grove Close which would mean the loss of parking spaces there that are used by the public. He was concerned that this would exacerbate the parking problems that already exist in that part of Black Street. Borough Councillor Barry Coleman explained the background to the application to develop the land and car park owned by the Housing Department. He acknowledged that some people parked there but that this was unofficially and on privately owned land. The Chairman said the Parish Council had not yet been consulted about the proposals but that parking matters normally had little bearing on planning applications. He said he would contact the gentleman who had made the enquiry when the planning consultation paperwork was received.

Borough Councillor Barry Coleman advised the meeting that the Borough Council had recently adopted a new policy that would provide small grants to village halls for repairs and maintenance subject to locally raised match funding.

Borough Councillor Mary Coleman said the pothole on the zebra crossing in the centre of the village had been filled but she felt it looked rather temporary and she would discuss the matter further with Highways Department. It was noted that action had been taken to ask Anglian Water to attend to a number of broken water hydrant signs around the village.

In answer to a question from Councillor Manifold, PC Cook said he would keep a watch on offending quad bike users that were again using footpaths to race around the Sandy Lane/Cess Road area.

The Clerk was asked to get the Council's contractor to cut the hedges to the north side of footpath No10 and to ask the land owner to reinstate footpath No9 as soon as possible.

The Public Forum closed at 20.08 hours.

COUNCIL MEETING

Those Present:

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

Presiding: M Huke.

Clerk in attendance: Peter Dawson.

1. Apologies.

Apologies were accepted from Councillors Shields & Walford.

2. Declarations of Interest.

Councillor Wright declared a non-prejudicial interest in item 8 as an Allotment holder.

3. Minutes of the meeting held on 16th February 2011.

It was resolved to AGREE the minutes as circulated with the agenda. **Proposed by K Jordan, seconded by P Manifold. Unanimously agreed.**

4. Actions arising from the minutes.

Councillor Gates asked that consideration be given to improvements to the Welcome Village Signs as minuted at the last meeting and listed as an intended agenda item for this meeting.

Two proposals were put to members to make the signs more visible:

One; for a single white backing to the existing four signs;

Two; for the signs to be retained as double sided by providing a white backing to the existing pierced panels and then duplicating the panels on the reverse side forming a sandwich effect so that the pierced panels could be clearly seen from both sides.

It was AGREED to make the signs single sided with a white plastic backing to the existing panels.

Proposed by K Jordan, seconded by T Gates and unanimously agreed.

5. Planning

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

5.2 Councillor Huxtable expressed his disappointment at the decision of the Planning Department to allow the removal of five lime trees at 50 Repps Road especially as these were in the conservation area.

6. Correspondence

6.1 Letter No 30/2011. Broads Planning Forum on 6th April 2011. It was AGREED that Councillors Huxtable and Jordan attend as representative of the Council.

6.2 Letter No 32/2011. Broads Festival of the Outdoors. Consideration was giving to taking part in this event and Councillor Beales said she would make further enquiries about it.

6.3 Letter No 39/2011. Grant request from Norfolk Age UK. In accordance with its powers under Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 the Council decided that such a grant would be to the benefit of the whole community and it was AGREED to donate a

sum of £50 (fifty pounds). **Proposed by T Watson, seconded by B Huxtable and unanimously agreed.**

- 6.4 The balance of the schedule of correspondence provided with the agenda for information was received.
- 6.5 Under general information Councillor Watson notified the Council of the recent untimely death of Tom Quirk who was a leading figure in the village. Council members unanimously recorded their sadness at the news and expressed deep sympathy with his family. Mr Quirk had supported many events and organisations in the village over the years and his passing would be a great loss to the community in general. Councillor Watson said he would be attending the funeral for personal reasons and would be happy to also represent the Parish Council.

7. Finance

- 7.1 The schedule of invoices circulated with the agenda and a supplementary list were approved for payment. **Proposed by K Jordan, seconded by B Wright and unanimously agreed.**

8. Allotments

Councillor Wright reported that all the annual rents had been paid. He would be reminding some tenants about their duties to cultivate plots. The hedges around the allotments have been cut.

9. Footways and Highways.

The Clerk was asked to report areas of Black Street and White Street that are sinking to the Highways Department.

10. Footpaths.

The Clerk was asked to contact the Council's contractor and get the hedges cut along the north side of footpath No10 at the Oak Tree Close end.

11. Small Works.

It was noted that another post on the Village Green near the Co-op had been knocked over and needed replacing. It was suggested that reflector plates be fitted to the posts where they are missing.

12. Luncheon Club

The number of members at the Martham club remains constant. Lunches at Wherry Way are being supported but not at the expense of the Martham and Hemsby clubs.

13. Community Centre

The Chairman reported that the Planning Permission for the extension had been submitted.

14. Scarecrow Festival

Councillor Beales reported that arrangements for the festival to be held on 1st/2nd May were in hand and that advertising had been started included posters, information leaflets and application forms all of which were also available at www.martham.gov.uk.

15. Location of Planters Donated by Flegg High School

Arrangements were in hand by Councillor Moore to collect the tubs and it was agreed to place four of them on the corner of the small green in Repps Road opposite the Co-op and DIY.

Proposed by T Watson, seconded by B Huxtable and carried with 7 votes in favour and none against. Two members abstained.

The positioning of the large single remaining tub to be used for the Holm Oak is to be determined by a small working party that will meet next Sunday. An apology was given to Councillor Huxtable for not including him more fully in the selection of the holm oak.

16. Items for the next Agenda.

- Presentation about smee management.

17. The next meeting of the full Council is to be held on 20th April 2011. There is a Finance Committee meeting on 13th April 2011. The next Parish Surgery is on 26th March 2011 when Councillors Huxtable & Manifold are due to attend.

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

The meeting closed at 20.55 hours.

Signed.....(Chairman)

Dated: 20th April 2011