

**Minutes of Martham Parish Council Meeting
held in the School Room, Methodist Church, Repps Road, Martham
on 21st July 2010 at 19:30 hrs.**

PUBLIC FORUM

The Chairman opened the public forum by welcoming ten members of the public, County Councillor Michael Carttiss, PCSO Peter Williamson, PCSO Pam Potter, Tania Fiddy from Norfolk Rural Community Council and Tracey Slater & Sue Bolan from Great Yarmouth Borough Council. Apologies were received from Borough Councillors Mary & Barry Coleman and PC Cook.

It was noted that the hedge on the north side of Hemsby Road had been cut since the last meeting and Mr Dyble was thanked for cutting the hedge along the eastern side of Broom Close.

The owner of Conyard Farm, Cess Road asked what he should do to get speed bumps installed at the Cess Road end of Sandy Lane. He was advised that Sandy Lane is in private ownership and he should approach the landowners.

A resident suggested that the green in front of Daisy Close be turned into a traditional wild flower meadow and provided background information on how to cultivate such an area and the benefits it would bring. The matter was discussed by Council later under item 9 of the agenda.

PCSO Williamson reported that recent vandal damage at the Primary School and the theft of a boat from the Ferrygate Lane staithe had been attended to and resulted in two people being charged with theft of a fishing boat.

County Councillor Michael Carttiss reported that Norfolk County Council faced additional costs of £45m for 2010-11 whilst its grant from Government had been increased by only £12m. In May the new coalition government announced further cuts in public expenditure which meant a further £26.5m had to be saved. Saving would include management structure changes which would see 65 posts go and cuts to the Highways budget mean there will be no improvements at the A149/B1152 Repps Road junction.

The public forum ended at 19.49 hours.

COUNCIL MEETING

Those Present:

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

Presiding: M Huke.

Clerk in attendance: Peter Dawson.

1. Apologies

From Councillor Moore for attending late due to a Fire emergency call.

2. Declarations of Interest

Councillors Wright and Manifold declared a non prejudicial interest as allotment holders. Councillor Watson declared a prejudicial interest in item 12 and left the room during the discussion of the matter.

3. Minutes of the meeting held on 16th June 2010.

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

4. Actions arising from the minutes

- 4.1 The Chairman reported that he had not yet had the time to organise a meeting of the Footpaths Working Party and local landowners concerning public access to field edge tracks.
- 4.2 The Chairman reported that he and Councillor Moore had not yet had time to organise a meeting with the Scouts about the proposed canoe club.
- 4.3 It was noted that since the meeting with Borough Council officials about the public toilets that they had been decorated and a note of thanks has been sent.

5. Affordable Housing

Tania Fiddy from Norfolk Rural Community Council and Tracey Slater & Sue Bolan from Great Yarmouth Borough Council attended the meeting to give advice on how parishes could get involved with the provision of affordable housing in rural areas. They provided handouts and described what was meant by the term Affordable Housing (AH), the forms it takes and how AH schemes can be delivered using a variety of funding possibilities. They suggested that the Council set up a small working party to investigate further the process of developing an Affordable Housing project in the village which they would be happy to assist with. This was AGREED and Councillor Carberry, Huke, Huxtable and Wright agreed to serve on the working party.

6. Planning

- 6.1 The schedule of comments on planning applications received for consultation was approved. **Proposed by B Carberry, seconded by T Gates and unanimously agreed.**
- 6.2 The Clerk was asked to write to the Broads Authority requesting that they provide two moorings, one each side of the Ferrygate Lane pontoon ferry so that boats could tie up whilst getting help to open the ferry when it blocks the river.

7. Correspondence

- 7.1 LetterNo91/2010. Norfolk Accident Rescue Service had written requesting a grant to support their work. In accordance with its powers under Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 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 P Manifold, seconded by T Watson and unanimously agreed.** The payment was added to the list of payments under "Finance" below.
- 7.2 LetterNo92/2010. It was decided to take no action in respect of a grant request from Victim Support.
- 7.3 Letter No94/2010. The Head of Central Services of the Borough Council had written asking that Councillors provide or confirm updated information regarding their Register of Interests. Copies of all the current forms were checked and verified. Councillor Jordan filled in a new form and all the other Councillors present confirmed that their current details were correct and did not need amending.
- 7.4 Letter No97/2010. Speed Limit Order at Somerton Road. A question was raised about the extent to which this will go to the full east boundary of Flegg High School. The Clerk was asked to take up the matter with NCC.
- 7.5 Letter No99/2010. Any member interested in attending Code of Conduct refresher training being provided by GYBC on 7th October was asked to liaise with the Clerk to make arrangements.
- 7.6 Letter Nos100 & 101/2010. Complaints regarding the state of ponds. It was noted that the central village pond had been cleaned before the Carnival and that improvement plans regarding the pond to the east of the Green were being discussed under item 11.
- 7.7 Letter No104/2010. SLCC Conference at Norwich on 21st September. It was AGREED that the Clerk be authorised to attend this conference and any member who was also interested in attending was asked to liaise with the Clerk to make arrangements.
- 7.8 A questionnaire had been received from Norfolk County Council entitled 'Caring About Rural Speeds'. The Clerk was asked to fill it in based on observations and opinions expressed by members.

At this point Councillor Moore joined the meeting.

8. Finance

The schedule of invoices circulated with the agenda was approved for payment subject to the addition of the Section 137 grant shown in 7.1 above. **Proposed by K Jordan, seconded by B Wright and unanimously agreed.**

9. Daisy Close – Wildflower Meadow.

A resident had suggested that the green in front of Daisy Close be developed as a wild flower meadow rather than a formal green. The Chairman outlined the advantages and disadvantages of the suggestion and added that the Council was also thinking about providing seating and bus shelters in the same area. In addition the current owner of the Smee just off Cess Road had indicated that he may be willing to give it up in favour of it being used in a more environmentally friendly way which may include a wild flower meadow as well as other suggestions. It was AGREED that the members of the Small Works WP and the Green Spaces WP invite any member of the public interested in the proposal to meet and discuss all the alternatives and to make recommendations to a future meeting of the full Council. The Clerk was asked to consult with Daisy Close residents and other interested parties about the proposals.

10 Smees

The Clerk reported that the benches and an information board had been installed at the Common Road (Smee No2) conservation site which meant the project had been completed subject to regular maintenance arrangements to keep it tidy. Full details had been reported back to the Broads Authority that had given grant assistance to help with the project. The Clerk was thanked for the work he had carried out personally to improve the site.

11. Pond to the East of the Village Green

The Chairman provided background information about suggestions for improvements to the pond and offers of help from residents. A discussion took place as to why water no longer feeds into the pond; whether feeder pipes under the Village Green are broken; the potential for a solar driven ground pump; planting possibilities and access improvements.

An offer from Councillor Moore to carry out a ground radar survey of pipes under the Village Green was accepted. It was AGREED that the Green Spaces WP consider the outcomes of the survey, consult with any member of the public interested in the proposals and make improvement recommendations to a future meeting of the full Council.

12. Cess Road, Staithe

Councillor Huxtable reported back on behalf of the Working Party that the Boat Dyke Trust had given a grant to help with investigations into the legal position concerning ownership of the Cess Road Staithe. Councillor Watson left the room during this item and took no part in the matter.

13. Footway/Highways

- 13.1 It was noted that NCC had watered and weeded around the new trees entering the village.
- 13.2 The Clerk had sent a further letter to the Highways Department about the footway in Black Street following a complaint from a resident.
- 13.3 Disapproval of parking on the kerb and Village Green in Old School Road was expressed.
- 13.4 The Clerk was asked to contact GYBC and ask for weeds to be removed from the short cut between Repps Road and Hynr Close.
- 13.5 Solutions to parking abuse in Hynr Close were suggested as being a requirement before the footway was repaired.
- 13.6 The Clerk was asked to write to the owner of a property on Marlborough Green/Helen Avenue about an overgrown hedge.

14. Footpaths

Path No13 needs cutting. The Clerk was asked to speak to the contractor.

15. Small Works

The Clerk was asked to speak to the contractor about repairs to the roof of the Somerton Road bus shelter.

16. Youth and Community Centre

The Chairman presented a detailed report of the last years' activities and financial position at the Youth and Community Centre. He reported that improvements to the building and facilities had been completely paid for by grants and that the indications were that future running costs could be covered from letting and attendance fees. He was pleased to say that the number of young people attending was steadily increasing and the activities they wanted were being developed based on their own ideas. It had become apparent that entrusting the growth of the club and future activities to volunteers alone was an unfair burden on them and he recommended that the stage had now been reached where a part-time qualified Youth Worker should be employed for three hours a week to provide planned activities and growth of Friday evening activities for the young people attending the Club. He also recommended that improved financial arrangements be made, as detailed in the report, under the control of the Clerk to provide a petty cash for the Youth Worker, details of which would be reported quarterly to the Finance Committee.

It was AGREED that:

- 16.1 Mrs J Beales be employed as the Youth Worker and paid £20.00 for three hours work per week.
- 16.2 The proposed Youth and Community Centre letting form and hire rates were approved.
- 16.3 The financial arrangements to provide a working float of £200.00 for the day-to-day running of the Youth and Community Centre were agreed.
- 16.4 The proposed Marquee hire form and hire rates were approved.

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

17. Information Board in the Village Centre

Councillor Jordan reported that the Communications Working Party had not had the opportunity yet to meet to consider this matter.

18. Police, Community and Health/Medical representative.

Councillor Moore was confirmed as the Council's Police, Community and Health/Medical representative. **Proposed by P Manifold, seconded by M Huke and unanimously agreed.**

19. Items for the next Agenda:

- Luncheon Club
- Information Board
- Christmas Fayre

20. It was agreed to change the date of the next meeting of the full Council from 15th to 22nd September 2010. The next Parish Surgery is on 31st July when Councillors Huxtable and Jordan are due to attend.

The meeting closed at 21.32 hours.

Signed.....(Chairman)

Dated.....