

MINUTES OF MARTHAM ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
WEDNESDAY 10th MAY 2017, 7.30pm
AT THE COMMUNITY CENTRE, PLAYINGFIELD LANE, MARTHAM,

Present: Paul Hooper (Chair) Sarah Hunt (Clerk)
12 Parishioners were also present.

The minutes of the previous Annual Parish Meeting held on 11th May 2016 were agreed as a true and correct record and signed by the Chairman.

Parish Council Chairman's Statement 2016/17.

May 2015 was an election year, and the Parish Council members were all elected. Three members have left during the year, and three members have been co-opted to fill the places. The Council welcomed Paul Hurkett, Tony Gates and Janet Henning.

Mr Stephen Beales had resigned as caretaker of the Community Centre after many years.

The majority of the Council income is precepted money, and the sum has remained with a 0% increase for the second year. In addition the Council receives Concurrent Functions grant money, which is being reviewed, and the Council Tax Support Grant which is issued by Central Government and currently passed on by Great Yarmouth Borough Council – this is also under review.

Legal fees formed a large part of the Council's outgoings with the Land Registry First Tier Tribunal Case. The application was dismissed and the Parish Council were awarded a large proportion of their costs.

The Village Green continues to be a centre of events in the village – and the village has many community events organized by members of the Parish.

The Scarecrow Festival this year was awarded a Tourism Award by the Borough Council.

The garden club continues to look after the largest planters on the Green. In 1952 the Women's Institute donated two benches to the Parish, these could no longer be refurbished, and were replaced with bright and lovely metal benches paid for by the Scarecrow Festival proceeds.

The litter pick took place once again – supported by the young members of the Scouts, Brownies, Rainbows and Guides.

Trees continue to be managed and replaced as necessary.

Trees that are an important part of the village landscape can be protected by application for a Tree Protection Order through the Great Yarmouth Borough Council website - or by contacting the Clerk who will complete the process on your behalf.

Planning continues to involve the Parish Council. The Council is not a planning authority, but a consultee on applications within the Parish. There is a challenging future for the Council, with 450 houses already approved, and more coming through. The Council continues to push for the inclusion of affordable housing and mitigation for the village.

The Parish Council hosts public meetings with all planners concerning major developments, and members of the Parish are welcome to attend these.

The telephone box has been moved from Somerton Road, and a new base has been installed at the Community Centre ready for its return.

The war memorial is now grade II listed.

There is a new dog park on the Cess Road Smee opening shortly.

The village has a Good Neighbour Scheme started, and also a Neighbourhood Watch.

All these things contribute to the village, and the Parish Council will always help in any way they can.

There are some free allotments.

Grants have been made once again to the Church and Coronation Recreation Ground Trust.

The Parish Council maintains some of the footpaths within the Parish – if there are any issues please contact the Clerk.

The local PC Gary May sent a report to the meeting.

There have been 463 calls from the Parish in the last year requesting police action or assistance.

Current local policing priorities are Rural Vehicle Speeding and Youth Antisocial Behaviour.

Local officers have had training on the latest speed enforcement equipment approved and will be able to utilize this once training is complete.

SNAP meetings are publicized locally and are open to everyone, these set local policing priorities.

County Councillor Haydn Thirtle

Apologies were received along with thanks for the level of support at the local County Council elections.

Good Neighbour Scheme – Noel Mitchell

The scheme is now underway. Start up costs were covered by Community Action Norfolk who provided guidance and training. The Parish Council allowed use of the Community Centre.

There are now ten trained volunteers, all of whom have had the necessary DBS checks.

Some have received additional training in specialist areas and links are being made with other groups.

Five people man the mobile phone on working days for a fortnight each in rotation. Calls for assistance are allocated to an appropriate team member who arranges to visit and provide the requested help.

Everything is confidential – but carefully recorded.

There is no charge, but donations are accepted.

Flyers have been distributed to almost every home in the Parish.

It is a good way to pay back to the community – and more volunteers are needed.

Martham Boat Dyke Charity – Richard Rogers

The charity has undergone changes over the last three years, and has a new Chair, new Clerk and some new Trustees.

The Charity is in a stable financial position, and is now a Charitable Incorporated Organisation. It operates to clearly defined Operating Procedures and has a waiting list for moorings.

The sole purpose of the Trust is to generate income and make use of that through grants for the benefit of the parishioners of Martham.

During the last year 12 grant applications have been received, two are ongoing and all others were satisfied totaling £2,776.00.

Applicants are also signposted to other, more appropriate organisations for support.

Historically grants were given to local clubs and organisations. The Trustees are keen to reach individuals who may benefit from a small grant.

History Group - Pat Mitchell

Membership is now 83. Monthly winter meetings are held in the Methodist Chapel.

Speakers are varied and trips are organized.

The annual dinner was once again held at Filby Bridge Restaurant.

The committee was re-elected en bloc in September, but new members are welcome.

Scouts – Matt Wickens

Martham hosts Beavers, Cubs and Scouts – there are no Explorer Scouts, for that members have to attend Caister or Acre.

Beavers are aged 6 – 8 years and there is an 18 long waiting list. Leaders are needed. A recent trip to place to Bewilderwood where 1500 Beavers were hosted.

Cubs are 8 – 10 years and parents help.

Scouts are 10 – 14 years, the current group has the highest number of members for many years. The group is fortunate to have many opportunities for nights away and activities.

Fundraising is, of course, a big part of the groups activity – recently the group purchased a new camping trailer, and a kayak trailer is being refurbished by volunteers. Additional supportive help is always needed.

The group is part of a worldwide network, and attendance is often possible for members at camps around the County, Country, and even world.

Neighbourhood Watch – Korene Abrahams

Korene sent apologies, there are now co-ordinators in place for many areas of the village, but more volunteers are needed.

Flegg High School have offered to pay for the signs.

New Wine Christian Fellowship – Allan Jeavons

The group meets at the High School and was formed by two couples. It is a standard modern Christian evangelical church.

Church unity within the village is very good, and all four groups work together and share events.

The church networks internationally and supports organisations globally as well as events within the village.

A craft group is also run to give a social event separate to the church.

The meeting closed at 8.46pm after a discussion on planning matters within the Parish.