

Minutes of the Martham Annual Parish meeting
Held on Wednesday 13th May 2015
Community Centre, Playingfield Lane, Martham
At 7.30pm

Present: 21 Parishioners plus the Clerk.

Chair: Mr Mark Johnson

Clerk: Mrs Sarah Hunt

1. Approval of minutes of the previous Annual Parish Meeting held on 7th May 2014. Proposed Mr Steven Beales, seconded Mr Paul Hooper. Signed as a true and correct record by the Chairman.

2. Chairman's Statement of Parish Highlights 2014/15.

As a relatively new Councillor, and a new Chairman, it had been a steep learning curve. The Concurrent Functions that the Council receives from Great Yarmouth Borough Council in addition to the precepted money is currently being squeezed and the Council anticipates changes over the next few years.

The litter pick was a fantastic success once again, with 21 bags of rubbish and over 50 people involved this year. Thanks to the Rainbows and First Martham Guides for their support.

The pond continues to be Central to the village and to engage the Council, signs have been put up with regard to feeding the ducks and food is now available from several local shops.

The Gardening Club have once again maintained the planters on the Green. The Legal Process with regard to access across the Village Green continues to be ongoing.

More use of the Green is encouraged for recreational purposes, and the Circus is once again attending this year. There is a new contractor looking after the Grass Cutting, and the Parish Council is pleased with the work undertaken so far.

The Village Sign was in very poor condition, although just how poor wasn't apparent until it was taken down for refurbishment. An excellent job was done by Fiona Davies, and an enormous thank you is due to the organisers of the Scarecrow Festival who used some of the funds raised to pay for this vital work.

Councillor Bob Huxtable continues to be the tree warden for the Parish Council, he has recently received additional training, and liaises with Great Yarmouth Borough Council to undertake inspections. Recently the Parish Council has replaced several trees on the Green.

The memorial has been cleaned, and trees cut back, in the churchyard in a joint project with the Church.

The toilets are a talking point in the village, with Great Yarmouth Borough Council intending to close them at the end of this season. The Council has formed a working party who are looking at the affordability of taking these over on behalf of the village as we move forwards.

The Parish has been successful in the bid for Vodaphone 3G, and this will be coming to the village shortly.

There is a Community Plan being addressed by a group of volunteers, started and supported by the Parish Council and the second meeting of this group is currently scheduled.

Important dates in the village calendar continue to be the Scarecrow Festival and the Carnival, and the organisers work tirelessly to ensure they remain successful.

The Parish Council has drafted a Resilience Plan following the Mushroom Farm Fire, when local residence had to be evacuated to the Community Centre, and this is close to being finalized.

The playground has attracted a lot of complaints recently, a joint meeting of all interested parties was called by the Parish Council, a clear up has taken place and the area continues to be worked on.

In response to questions and concerns raised at the Community Led Plan meeting a separate meeting is being hosted on the 3rd June where the Strategic Planning Team from Great Yarmouth Borough Council have been asked to present to the village and receive questions over the developments planned. Please can questions be sent through, in advance, to the Clerk and Chair.

The Chair responded to questions from the floor:

The Parish Council has applied for Damgate Back Lane to be designated as a Public Right of Way, will this incur ongoing maintenance costs? It is envisaged that ongoing costs would be met by Norfolk County Council as this would become part of the footpath network of the County that they have responsibility for.

BID Money, paid to Great Yarmouth Borough Council by businesses through taxation has been spent primarily in Great Yarmouth, with only a small grant coming to the Scarecrow Festival. The meeting was reminded that groups could apply for funding, and the next year is now open.

The accounts had been circulated and the churchyard maintenance figure of £5,400 was questioned. This figure included the work on the memorial, grass cutting and planting at the memorial, and the grant received from Great Yarmouth Borough Council through Concurrent Functions and passed along to the Church for Churchyard Maintenance.

3. Presentations were made by the following:

Karen Rayner – Vicar, St Mary's.

Karen is the new Vicar at St Mary's in the village and was licensed in January of this year. The Church of England is asset rich and cash poor, especially in rural areas. Karen said she felt privileged to be in charge of the four parishes – Repps/Thurne/Clippesby/Marham. Currently she is living in Bowman Close, however in time will move to the new rectory. Since January a lot has happened. Time has been spent at the Primary School and Flegg High School, the church is looking to develop links to both. More family orientated services are being brought in. There is a vision and plan for each of the four churches. The Church of England is there for everybody, not just at pivotal times such as churches and funerals when there is joy and sorrow, or for celebrations, it is a system that offers a ministry to everybody regardless of

belief, and at all times. The Church is part of our Community in Martham, whilst people don't have to opt in it is there for you if you live here 'The future depends on how we treat each other' – we can choose to treat each other very well, be inclusive, caring, co-operative in our approach. The Community Led Plan is a real opportunity for the village to show that. 'From small things great things can happen', it is up to all member of the Community to make Martham a welcoming, inclusive and caring place to live. Karen ended by explaining that she was looking forward to developing more community links in the village.

Police Report – delivered by Chairman.

Martham continues to have a relatively low crime rate, and reported incidents of anti-social behaviour.

From 1st April 2014 to 31st March 2015 there were 409 calls for Police advice or assistance from the Parish, this compares with 416 in the preceeding year. There were a total of 110 crimes within the Parish, comparing to 78 the preceeding year. The majority of this increase is attributable to a change of recording procedures along with a couple of spates of burglaries to industrial premises and sheds/outbuildings and thefts from boats on the boat dyke.

Priorities during the last year have included:

Speeding on Repps Road

Marine Crime

Heating oil thefts

Anti-Social Behaviour – Skate park.

There is now only one PCSO for Martham due to budgetary restraints. This has resulted in less routine engagements in the local Parishes.

Trinity Centre – Anne Severino

The centre is recruiting for a new Centre Leader in the next few weeks. It is a purpose built building adjacent to the Primary School. It works with families with children under 5, and is inclusive and supportive, it is also a gateway to other services. It is regulated by Ofsted. There are 53 centres in Norfolk and they can all develop to deliver to local needs. At Martham there are 650 families registered. The Centre has to show it is improving outcomes for children under 5, and that is their core purpose. They work with both parents and siblings - members of the community are welcome to come and visit.

Boat Dyke – Dennis Roberts

Dennis Roberts explained that the Boat Dyke Trust was formed by the Parish Council in 1999. It owns land either side of Ferrygate Lane up to the centre of the Dyke which is leased for mooring. The money is then given away 'To promote general charitable purposes for the benefit of the inhabitants of Martham'.

The Staithe is maintained, grass cut, litter collected, and the moorings supervised by Trustees with a paid part-time Clerk. The Trust is a legal entity and is governed by a Scheme document. They are accountable to the Charity Commission. The Trustees meet once a month and are holding an AGM on the 26th May at the Sports and Social Club. Everyone is invited.

A drive has been underway for the last year to raise the profile of the Trust, and meeting summaries are now distributed and publicized online.

This year the income will be in the region of £9,000. One third is invested for future use.

Any person or organization can make an application for a grant provided they are based within the Parish boundaries. All applications are treated with confidentiality.

If anyone is interested in applying they can contact the Trustees or the Parish Council Clerk initially. Application Forms are available on the Parish Council website.

Sometimes part-funding is available.

The process takes around 8 weeks.

Community Led Plan – Vick Smith

The first meeting was well attended with over 70 people present. This meeting was Council instigated, and Councillor led, but as the process develops it will be led by a Steering Committee drawn from the Community, with the support of the Parish Council. There will be a survey of parishioners, and everyone is invited to get involved and ensure their views are recorded and factored in. The group will seek to establish local issues, set priorities, and then take action. A committed group will be needed to carry this project forwards, and 40 – 50 people have already indicated their willingness to be part of the process. The second meeting is scheduled and it looks as if Martham will have a plan developed, once a chair is elected the group are free to direct the process, with the Parish Council to fall back on for Structure and administrative support. It will be interesting to see what this group of individuals can bring for the village.

Scarecrow Festival – Julie Beales

The 2015 Festival was hectic as always – and 2016 is now being planned. Four committee members deliver the majority of this festival, with the support of the Parish Council. The fair is looking to extend the visit next year. This year, the 8th year, has been the biggest so far. The weather was not kind on Sunday, but Monday was sunny and it was very well attended. A BID grant was eventually obtained towards printing costs. The event was very well supported in the village by business providing prizes, and it brings lots of people into Martham. A huge thank you to everyone in the village for joining in. Stalls on the Village Green come from as far afield as Kings Lynn.

Bowls Report – delivered by Paul Hurkett

This is a local group that has received Boat Dyke support. It was started at the present location in 2004/5, and has built the premises. Children are welcome to come and try club on Saturday mornings, this is a time which is very welcoming to visitors and gives everyone the chance to have a go. There remains plenty of room for new members, it is an active club, operating at all levels, with youngsters coming through to carry on the sport.

Youth Club – Mark Llewellyn

The Youth Club has been running now for almost a year. Initially there were two groups, 6 – 11 and 11 – 16 with four members in each. Once Saturday just before Christmas just under 75 young people attended. The group is getting involved with village events, such as the litter pick, and looking at

weekend activities, Summer holidays and weekends. Volunteers are desperately needed. It does not have to be every week, but occasional help would be very much appreciated.

Scouts – Matt Wickens, 1st Martham Scout Leader

Matt introduced himself to the meeting. Scouting seeks to promote fun, teamwork, and a spirit of adventure. The Headquarters is at Staithe Road in Martham, opened in June 2009 and was a new build. Beaver Scouts are ages 6 – 8 and meet on Wednesday evenings. Cub Scouts are 8 – 10 and meet on Tuesdays. Scouts are 10 – 14 and Meet on Tuesdays. They all attend an amazing range of activities. The Scouts has undergone a lot of change, and is a fun and exciting opportunity for young people to experience many things. Currently the group has space for more cubs and scouts – more 'minor' adult volunteers could be recruited, along with membership of the executive committee – the local group is actively seeking opportunities to be involved in the community more.

History Group – Pat Mitchell, Secretary

The Group continues to thrive with membership now standing at 63, with the youngest member still attending Primary School.

The venue has changed to the Methodist Chapel, which is warm, has all the technology, and the chairs are always out. The Village Hall is still used when larger audiences are anticipated. Posters will direct people to the correct venue.

Seven indoor meetings have been held in the last year, on topics from Village Ponds to the Midland and Great Northern Railway.

In the Summer visits are made, Caster St Edmund Roman Town Site was visited, and Mulbarton Church which now houses a stained glass window which originated in Martham. In June 44 caught a coach to London to visit the Houses of Parliament. The afternoon was sight seeing.

The Dinner was held at Wayford Bridge.

The group still seeks a venue for an archive as they are still contacted by individuals with items of historical interest.

The annual subscription is £10, look out for posters and go onto the website for more information.

The meeting closed at 8.48pm.

Signed:

Dated: